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WEDNESDAY
2 August 2017

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School News

Bonanza Trivia Night



...vying for the inaugural title. The money raised will be divided between the MS Foundation, Deaf & Blind Children & the Lions Blind & Vision Impaired program with 40% retained by the club for possible future emergencies & for local charitable distribution. To help the fund raising along an auction & raffle were also held. "The charity of our sponsors was overwhelming," said Lion Brian Thomas. "On behalf of all those people who donated items and sponsored the very successful evening I would like to officially thank them for their kindness & generosity. I would like to also thank all those people who helped make the night the success it was; our Lions volunteers," said Brian. Eddie Barretts' table took the Trivia crown.



Branxton Lions Club members are still sporting huge smiles after staging one of the most successful fund raising efforts the club has undertaken in recent times. The Trivia Night held on the 22nd July at Branxton Golf Club raised over \$7000 thanks to a packed house; 27 tables of 10 all

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Mixed billing practice

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Photos:- Above x 2 ~ sponsored prizes. Top right ~ Lions volunteers checking the results Top left ~ the crowd

We would like to thank our sponsors

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 - ICE BOX LIQUOR
 - IVANHOE WINES
 - KEITH TULLOCH WINES
 - LAKES FOLLY
 - MCGUIGANS WINES
 - MOOREBANK VINEYARD
 - PEPPER TREE WINES
 - PETERSONS WINES
 - PETERSON HOUSE
 - POKOLBIN VILLAGE PHARMACY
 - RICHARDSON AND WRENCH
 - ROYAL FEDERAL HOTEL BRANXTON
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 - TAMBOURLAINE WINES
 - TATTLERS WINES
 - TEMPT AND VIXEN
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 - THOMAS ALLEN WINES
 - THRIFTY HARDWARE BRANXTON
 - TOLSAF CRANES
 - TULLOCH WINES
 - TYRELLS WINES
 - VINDEN ESTATE
 - WINE COUNTRY WEDDING VENUES

The lions club sincerely thanks the sponsors for their generosity.



Roald Dahl's Charlie and The Chocolate Factory

10 - 12 August 2017

Adapted and Directed by Andrew Hall
St Phillip's Christian College, Cessnock - Middle School
Production

Arts funding available

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC is encouraging artists, performers and organisations in the Lake Macquarie, Cessnock, Maitland and Port Stephens LGAs to share ideas both big and small for infrastructure and arts projects in the Hunter to deliver long-term cultural benefits to the community.

The \$100 million Regional Cultural Fund is part of the Deputy Premier's \$1.3 billion Regional Growth Fund to improve economic outcomes as well as local amenities and standard of living across regional NSW communities.

Mr MacDonald said the Fund would support the building of new artistic and cultural spaces such as galleries, theatres, libraries, museums and halls, as well as the upgrading or repurposing of existing arts, screen, culture or heritage infrastructure.

"The Regional Cultural Fund supports arts, screen and cultural organisation proposals for small, medium and large infrastructure projects that will deliver long-term cultural benefits to the Hunter" Mr Macdonald said.

"Galleries and museums will also be able to apply for operational funding to support the delivery of services, providing distinct experiences to visitors and promoting increased participation in creative and cultural activities.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro said regional NSW has long been home to producers of diverse arts and culture across a wide variety of disciplines including visual arts, performing arts, Indigenous arts, dance, music, exhibitions, publishing, film, television, radio and heritage works. Minister for the Arts Don Harwin said investing in arts and culture programs and facilities provides recreational and educational benefits as well as increased tourist visitation, which in turn helps art practitioners expand their networks and enter new markets.

Expressions of interest for the Regional Cultural Fund open on 17 July 2017. Successful applicants will be invited to provide additional information. Up to \$25 million will be made available in the first round of funding.

For further information, including guidelines for applicants, go to www.create.nsw.gov.au.



CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL TREE GIVEAWAY

Have you purchased or built a new home during the 2016/2017 financial year? Did you know you can get up to eight free plants for your property from Cessnock City Council?

There is a range of trees and shrubs available from ground covers like Creeping Boobalia through to shrubs including Murraya, Bottlebrush and Grevillea, which can reach three metres in height.

Application forms are available from Council's Customer Service Officers, Vincent Street, Cessnock or via Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au. Completed application forms must be received no later than 5pm Friday 18 August 2017.

Any enquires regarding the application for supply of trees and shrubs should be directed to Councils Vegetation & Civic Spaces Coordinator, Lyall Green, on 4993 4100.

PO BOX 152 S GLEN
CESSNOCK NSW 2325 GENERAL MANAGER



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.

Photos below taken Friday 28th July 2017



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'



Has your phone stopped ringing?
You need to advertise your business

Call Mike at 'The News'

4938 1773

Increase in fire activity in local area



The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is urging Hunter Valley residents to take extreme care when using fire and remember it is their responsibility to control the fire so that it doesn't escape and cause damage. "When undertaking burning activities, landholders need to notify their neighbours and local fire authority 24-hours before lighting a fire," Inspector Holland said. "Residents and landowners need to take care when using fire and remember it is their responsibility to control the fire so that it doesn't escape and cause damage. "When undertaking burning activities, landholders need to notify their neighbours and local fire authority 24-hours before lighting a fire." Inspector Holland said residents planning to conduct hazard reduction burning should first contact their local Fire Control Centre and check if a fire permit is required. Residents are also reminded that the statutory fire danger period for Singleton and Muswellbrook shire council areas will commence on 1st September 2017 and fire permits will be required. Fire Danger Rating and Total Fire Ban information is posted daily at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au. Inspector Holland said all Hunter Valley residents should take the current conditions seriously and make sure they have a completed and practiced Bush Fire Survival Plan, in order to protect their family and property should they be threatened by fire. "If you are not prepared for the bush fire season then you must act now," Inspector Holland said. "Everyone should be using this time to prepare their property, which includes clearing gutters and removing fuel from around homes. "All households should have a well practiced Bush Fire Survival Plan so residents know what to do, particularly on days of increased fire danger, because there is no room for complacency when it comes to bush fire safety."

Helping hand for local heritage

In welcome news for owners of heritage places across the region, Cessnock City Council has announced applications for its 2017/18 Local Heritage Fund are now open. If your heritage place is looking a little worse for wear and in need of repairs or a fresh coat of paint to give it a new lease of life, you could be eligible for up to \$2,000 under the fund. In a nutshell, the purpose of the Local Heritage Fund is to provide financial assistance to owners of heritage items for conservation projects, maintenance works or building code upgrades.



☞ The Commercial Hotel in Branxton prior to the reprinting of historical signage



☞ The Commercial Hotel in Branxton after the completion of the reprinting of historical signage

Recently completed projects include the painting of the Goldsmith building facade, reprinting of historical signage at the Commercial Hotel, Branxton and a roof replacement at the Kurri Kurri Visitor Centre. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent is calling on all owners of heritage listed items to apply. "These grants not only provide local heritage owners with a kick start to do some renovations, but they are also a fantastic way to help preserve our local history." Applications for funding are open until Thursday 31 August 2017 and projects need to be completed by Thursday 15 March 2018 in order to claim the

grant. For more information, including the application form, please visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/planning-and-development/Heritage/heritagegrants

Woman suffers facial fractures during assault

Tuesday, 01 August 2017
Police in the state's Hunter Region are investigating the circumstances surrounding the assault of a woman in her Singleton home last night. About 9pm (Monday 31 July 2017), a 42-year-old woman answered a knock at the door of her Harriet Street home. A woman, who is known to the resident, was at the door with a man. A confrontation occurred between the two women resulting in the two visitors forcing their way into the home. The man and woman punched and kicked the 41-year-old resident before leaving the premises. The woman, suffering a fractured eye socket, cheek bone and nose, managed to walk to her neighbour's home where emergency services were called. She was taken to John Hunter Hospital where she remains in a serious but stable condition. Investigations into the assault will continue today by detectives from the Hunter Valley Local Area Command.

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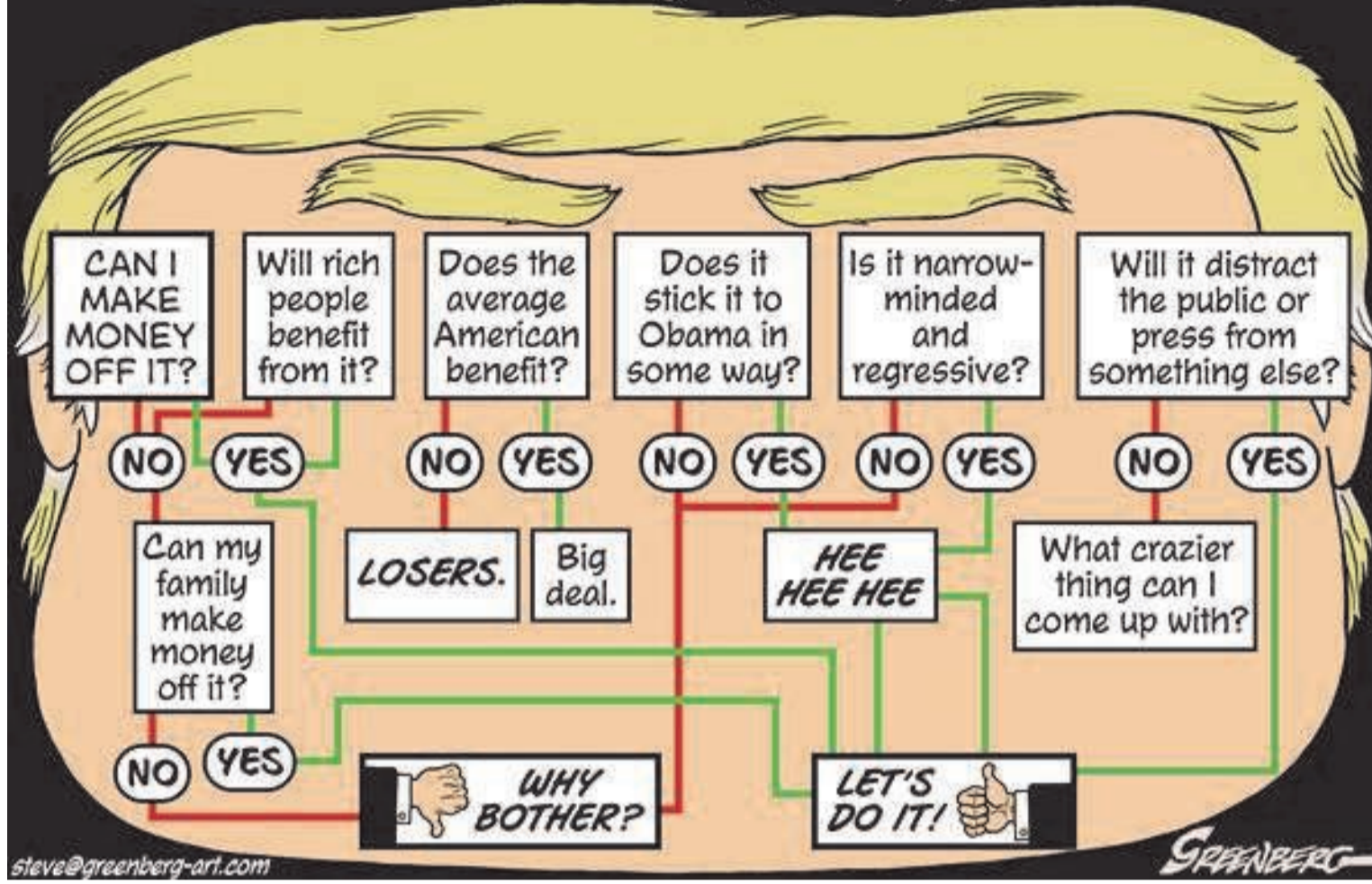


How Trump budget policy gets made

What's Happening & other matters

with Mike Lowing

An interesting couple of weeks ... Federally it seems like every MP has dual citizenship, and everyone is falling foul of section 44 of the constitution. The section that has all parties running for cover states, inter alia, that 44. Any person who (i.) Is under any acknowledgement of allegiance, obedience, or adherence to a foreign power, or is a subject or a citizen or entitled to the rights or privileges of a subject or citizen of a foreign power shall be incapable of being chosen or of sitting as a senator or a member of the House of Representatives. Seems unarguable to me! It also seems that Peter Dutton might be telling untruths about what he told the UN about resettling refugees, but it turns out he was telling the truth about the info he got about the Good Friday Manus Island shooting. Locally we are in the midst of being harassed by every ISP with the new NBN service & with that those that have jumped have realised that the NBN is slow or not what they expected and that it is not cheap. They (the ISP's) have also conveniently forgotten to tell their marks that the old current copper service will run until February 2019 so I have decided to wait until all the problems are sorted before I decide on an eventual ISP provider. One little porky I was told by one harassing ISP was that our phone system will be obsolete when the copper service is turned off. When questioned she had to admit that it will work but may not be as good as it is with they current copper service.



steve@greenberg-art.com

GREENBERG

Had a call from Sally Carrat who's the treasurer of the Lower Hunter group of the Australian Breastfeeding Association (ABA). She asked me to let the local community know that they are hosting their annual fund-raising event, coinciding with World Breastfeeding Week. This year they are holding a "Are you smarter than a Breastfeeder?" Trivia Night on the 5th August with lots of prizes. The (Maitland) Park Bowling Club has donated a room for the night and all over the Hunter business' have been very generous in donating prizes for the winners on the night. "Money raised from the evening goes towards supporting the group's volunteer work within our community. It helps us with such things as running the Breastfeeding Education Classes and paying for training seminars for our volunteer counsellors" said Sally. The ABA is a voluntary organization established in 1964 to encourage and support mothers who wish to breastfeed their babies and to create in the community an awareness of the importance of human milk.

All over the Hunter volunteers from the ABA have been approaching their local shops and business' to ask for donations towards prizes for the fund raising event. Tables are still available for the night but at \$15 a head (\$120 per table) are selling quickly. If you'd like to have some Trivia fun why not contact Amy, on 0410 817 499 to buy a table and help support your local ABA. Incidentally they have a Breastfeeding Helpline 1800 mum2mum (1800 686 268) which is a free-call helpline providing counselling advice to support breastfeeding mums.

Talking of Trivia Nights the Branxton Lions Club had a wonderfully successful Trivia Night at the Branxton Golf Club on the 22nd July with approx 250 people turning up and hopeful of claiming the prize of trivia king/queen.. With 80 plus sponsors the night had a host of prizes that were keenly sought after. Well done. Cheers, Mike



'Myopic dill'
 'Myopic dill', snorted my wife after reading the complaint under "Smiley/non Smiley Faces" in the last issue of The News. I must agree. If this person has not the wit to see how the developments of Wine Country Drive from a country secondary road to a dual carriageway main

thoroughfare and entrance to a new town must involve:-
 * maintaining safe passage through the area
 * massive underground drainage works to provide for the increased run off that will result from the shopping precinct that is planned for the high side of the road

* doing the work to the highest standards so that once done it need not be revisited for maintenance or redesign for years.
 * provide the necessary safe entrance laneways for the new housing areas and the shopping precinct.
 Clearly this person's view of the world is determined by the ideology of SWAG and the 'Greens'. This is the mob that used public money (that's yours and mine) in efforts to stop Huntlee New Town developments. Such is the collective bitterness of this crowd after losing their case in the Land and Environment Courts that they still must degenerate and scoff at Huntlee. The only thing that SWAG achieved was to cause division in the community, put LWP (the developers) to millions in legal expenses and delay the project

by at least two years. How much money (our money) SWAG spent on their legal costs has never been disclosed to my knowledge. Let's have it out there. It should be noted that there has been far less road kill since traffic has been slowed. In the North Rothbury old village is a giant Kangaroo named George. He lives for most of the time on John Clarks block in Mitchell Street. Persons driving through the village should drive with extra caution. The fellow speeding down Mitchell Street this last week is lucky to be alive after his vehicle startled George who took off in front of him. His brakes left rubber on the road and his eyeballs are still in the back of his head. While I have the floor; in 1969 in Malaysia it was an offence to rumourmonger. I think we should adopt this law in Australia to stop



people like Bill Shorten and the ABC from spreading rumours (lies) about what the Government might or might not do viz., inequality ie., that gap between the rich and the poor and his infantile socialist concept of his redistribution of other people's money to buy the votes of the poor and the outrageous claims about climate change, renewable

energy blah blah blah. How people I consider intelligent such as Albo (Anthony Albanese), Tanya Plebiscic & Joel Fitzgibbon can remain quiet while Shorten bangs on about what if scenarios that have no basis in fact without making public comment, I do not understand. I suppose it's the old socialist "one in all in" ideology. To give you an example "more money for education will improve student outcomes". This has not happened in the last twenty years despite tenfold

increases in money spent. The answer to the energy crisis is more windmills. The fact is the energy crisis is being caused by the diversion of investment monies (tax payer's money) from base load power provision to windmills. Cactus Interruptous! The answer to wind turbines is the RPG7. The seas are going to rise because of melting ice caps. I haven't seen the water levels change in Sydney Harbour since I first saw it in 1964. The level of water in Port Phillip Bay is still where it was when I first learned to swim in 1952. And by the by if you happened to be scheduled for a colonoscopy, unsweetened black tea does not qualify as clear fluid. Steve Lind, North Rothbury

• Photo above: 'George'

Emergency Phone Numbers

Dial 000
 FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE. It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected. When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct. ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED

For non-life threatening calls.....
 Police Assistance Line (PAL).... 131 444

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Branxton.....	4938 1244	Energy Australia.....	131 388
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Rothbury.....	4991 1733	Centrelink Self Service	136 240
Bishops Bdg	4015 0000	Medicare.....	132 011
Nth R'bury...	4015 0000	Native Animal Rescue	0418 628 483
Rothbury.....	4015 0000		
Pokolbin.....	4015 0000		
Rothbury.....	4991 1733		
Scotts			
Flat.....	6574 5186		
Central			
(Cessnock)...	4015 0000		

Letters to the editor can be sent to:
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BUS TRIP TO 'AGQUIP'
 Sponsored by our local Retired Mine Workers
When: Wednesday 23rd August 2017
Cost: \$35 (includes morning tea)
 They will pick-up Cessnock, Branxton & Singleton ALL WELCOME
 For further information phone **6572 2404**



The Branxton Community Hall was a great venue to hold our first All-in-One Day on Tuesday, 18th July, as we had plenty of room for all the displays and approx. 40 guests and members and the sun filtering through the large windows made it feel like "Spring" rather than "Winter".

All who attended were welcomed with the lovely homemade vegetable and pumpkin soup which Noeleen and Marie are making an annual ritual, or tea and coffee, whichever they preferred. The fact that there was not a lot left, only goes to show how popular the soup is becoming, so thanks Noeleen and Marie – it was lovely.



and tourists each year. Thank you so much Sarah for your time and all the effort you put into your talk. It was very interesting and the pictures were wonderful.

Unfortunately, Sarah was unable to stay for lunch but that did not stop everyone else from enjoying the great hot lunch prepared by members, followed by homemade slices and cakes. During the lulls, raffles and lucky door prizes were drawn.

Katie Shearer had the honour of cutting the Birthday Cake which was made by Noeleen and iced by Roslyn. Katie also looked after the Trading Table for the day. Thanks Katie. The results of the International School Poster Competition are as follows:
1st – Emily M., Logan D., Pyper J., Max B. and 2nd – Beau S., Ariella S., Ryah H., Kadilee F., Angus L.

The 16 other students will receive Participation Certificates. All are in Year 4.

Thanks Greta Public School Year 4 for your time and effort. Mrs Jennifer Carr, Group International Officer, who judged the posters, commented on how good they all were and the difficulty she had in choosing 1st and 2nd. It was very close. We will be keeping the 1st Prize Poster which goes onto the Hunter River Group Competition in September. All the best.

It was a lovely, relaxing day for the All-in-One Day and something we should have done long before. Thanks to Marie and Helen for their great table designs and all members and non-members for their contribution before and on the day and a special thanks to all who attended on the day. Hope you



joyed the day as much as we did.
Denise McGoldrick, Publicity Officer.

Photos:
Above right ~ 'All-in-One Day' display
Above left ~ Greta Public School students with their posters
At left ~ the cake
At left bottom ~ Katie Shearer doing the honours and cutting the cake.



Guests were able to wander around the various displays of handicraft and the school competition posters that Greta Public School had done for Nepal and a cultural display. Unfortunately, Pauline Hunt, Ag and Env. Officer was unable to attend so may be able to include her display at another function.





Guest speaker, Sarah Fenton, who has her own mobile travel agency, gave a wonderful talk and picture powerpoint presentation on Nepal which all the guests and members found very interesting. It was easy to see why Nepal attracts so many trekkers

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!

 If you require assistance please call Mike on
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Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

FROM THE MAYORS DESK

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Cessnock Youth Week Organising Committee for being short-listed as a finalist for Best Youth Week Program 2017. Cessnock Youth Week gets bigger and better each year and this is thanks to a group of passionate people who continue to show their dedication to young people in our community.

The Committee is no stranger to the Local Government Awards, having been awarded Most Innovative Youth Week Program in 2014 and taking out Best Youth Week Program last year. This year, the awards will take place in Sydney on Thursday 3 August and as a special recognition of their achievements, Council has decided to send two members of the committee to the event. Irrespective of the outcome at the awards, we also plan to hold a special Mayoral Reception in the coming weeks to congratulate everyone involved in putting the Youth Week program together.

I was also thrilled with the announcement the Qantas Wallabies will be holding a training camp in Cessnock from Sunday 6 to Friday 11 August ahead of 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. I am proud the Wallabies have recognised the Cessnock Sportsground as a world class facility and this is yet another great opportunity for us to show off our top notch sports ground. I am very much looking forward to welcoming the Wallabies to our wonderful region and we will be sure to announce their schedule to the community when it comes to hand. We also have special guest, Jamila Gordon, coming to speak at our annual School Leaders' Breakfast at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre on Tuesday 1 August. Jamila's story is nothing short of inspirational as she escaped the Somali civil war, arrived in Australia when she was just 18 years old and is now a hugely successful business-woman. Her story proves that dreaming big and remaining positive can lead to great things and I am certain our school leaders will walk away from the event feeling inspired.

On a more serious note, the notorious illegal dumping ground on McLeod Road in Loxford has been cleaned up and I am hoping it stays that way. Our team worked closely with the NSW EPA, Crown Lands and Goninan & Sons to remove 78.6 tonnes of waste, install fencing and put in three gates for access to services. It is always such a shame to see rubbish dumped in our region and one of the concerning things in this case was the amount of children's items, indicating families are some of the key offenders. I strongly encourage people to do the right thing when it comes to disposing waste as it affects our environment, tourism and the amenity for the rest of the community. If you are yet to have your say on the Kurri Kurri District Strategy, submissions close at 5pm on Wednesday 2 August. I went along to all three community drop in sessions, where Council staff were on hand to explain the strategy in more detail and answer questions. I spoke to many people in our community at these sessions and I was pleased to hear such positive

comments about the strategy. To view the strategy and have your say, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/exhibition/kurrikurridistrictstrategy. We are also calling on people to have their say on the East Cessnock Flying-fox Camp Management Plan as submissions close on Monday 31 July. We have worked closely with the community on this one and I would like to thank everyone who has given input so far. Visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/exhibition/DraftFlyingFoxManagementPlan for more information.

I'm also pleased to announce the drainage improvements on Hillview Road in East Branxton are now complete, which I will officially open today with Mayor of Singleton Council, Sue Moore. This joint project involved both roadworks and the installation of larger culverts to minimise any chance of future flooding in this area. Cheers, Bob



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

For those of us lucky enough to be born and bred in Singleton, it's sometimes easy to take for granted all of those things that make our part of the world a fantastic place to live and work. But every now and then we get an opportunity to look with fresh eyes, and this week I had two such occasions. The first was the Citizenship Ceremony held on Monday, when we welcomed a new group of Australians to our community. It's one of the many privileges of being Mayor to play a small role in a process that holds such importance for people from other parts of the world, who identify so closely with our values and way of life that they choose to become Australian citizens. I'm proud that people from all over the world can come to Singleton and build a new and prosperous life for themselves and their families, and are not only welcomed but embraced by the community. I again congratulate those people on achieving their citizenship, who I'm pleased to now call fellow Aussies. It was also my privilege to host a Mayoral Welcome for the Mayor of Takahata and students from Takahata High School on Tuesday. The group was in Singleton as part of a cultural exchange program facilitated through Singleton High School's Japanese sister school relationship, giving students from both countries a wonderful and unique opportunity to learn about other ways of life.

I'm always happy to share all that is wonderful about Singleton, and I sincerely hope our guests enjoyed many of the attributes we love about our piece of the world while they were here – and I thank them for reminding us locals who might sometimes forget as we go about the things we do every day. It's a happy coincidence that these events were timed during Local Government Week this week, when communities come together to celebrate the importance and contribution of local government. This year's theme - Discovery, Diversity and Democracy – encourages us all to look with fresh eyes at the vast range of services delivered by our Council, to

seek a new appreciation of the way in which those services are delivered, and to appreciate the role we all have in shaping the future of our community. That could be as simple as recognising the exceptional achievement of someone we know, who in excelling in their field of endeavour has also been a wonderful ambassador for Singleton. If you know someone who fits that description, I strongly encourage you to nominate them for this year's Wambo Coal Singleton Hall of Fame. Nominations close on 30 September 2017. Find all the details at www.halloffame.singleton.nsw.gov.au

Cheers, Sue



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

A visit to Versailles during my recent holiday in France seemed a timely reminder of the consequences of out-of-touch leadership. In the end, the elitist, arrogant and born-rule attitude of King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette cost them their heads. In a more recent but less dramatic uprising, the major parties failed to make the final cut in France's Presidential election. Of course France's surprising election outcome follows shock election and referendum results in the United Kingdom and the United States. There have been other unexpected outcomes in other European elections too, and Germany could yet provide the next tremor.

In an earlier column I suggested people need to think about what the alternative might look like before seeking radical change. I stand by that view and time will tell whether our European and American friends should have thought harder. But voters have few choices and voting for someone different can easily become their only option. Politicians have many choices and ignoring the feelings of their people is the dumb choice. That's the message I saw in France and it's the message I hear at home. With real wages falling, prices rising and income inequality growing, too many people are feeling left behind. Equal opportunity for all is not possible in those circumstances. Politicians have an obligation to lead and persuade; to make the right and tough decisions. But ultimately we are obliged to represent the will of the people and business-as-usual is not what they want. Not here, and not elsewhere.

Many European politicians have learned that the hard way. Not as harshly as King Louis and his wife, but dramatically and painfully just the same. Will Australia's politicians make the same mistake? I thought Labor Leader Bill Shorten made a very useful contribution in his recent speech. Acknowledging a problem is the first step to fixing the problem and Shorten is the first major party leader in Australia to do so. Those who want to argue that all the data suggests the people have never had it so good do so at their peril. Like Marie Antoinette's "let them eat cake" line, it can only end in grief.

Cheers, Joel

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Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR DOES A PARLIAMENT RECESS MEAN A HOLIDAY FOR AN MP?

I frequently get asked what an MP does when Parliament is not sitting. And this is more so the case when something like a "winter recess" is called for Parliament. All such enquiries are completely understandable. To be honest, I wouldn't have been able to answer these questions myself, prior to becoming an MP.

The first thing to understand is that Parliament generally sits in chunks of time. The chunks generally line up with school terms. In the middle of the year, our winter, Parliament takes a break, a recess, for 5 weeks. At the end of the year, our summer time, Parliament generally takes a recess for about 8 weeks. In April and October Parliament also takes a recess of 2-3 weeks for each. You are probably now thinking, well when does Parliament work? Good question. In truth Parliament sits for about 22 weeks of the year, which is 22 of the remaining non-recess weeks of the year.

When Parliament is not sitting, the local MP is often back in the Electorate; the area and the people that they represent. The days can be full of meetings with locals that have a concern or problem with the way that they are being treated by Government or with regard to something that the Government are doing that is not liked. The time can also include going out on-site to visit a person, or a group, at the site of a problem that they are having or an idea that they have for a better future. And of course, many people just need a bit of help in sorting through the complexity of various Government Departments. The rest of the time in the Electorate is taken up by doing research and background work on the issues that people have raised, making representations on their behalf to various Ministers and Ministerial offices and of course following up when a Minister or their office does not respond. In addition, there are the various forms of communication that people use to touch base with the local MP including phone, mail, email and social media. I do my best to keep up with all of this, but it is not easy and I am not always 100% successful. None of us are perfect, right?

In general, my time in the Electorate, meeting and working with local residents, is the best part of the job. I got into this line of work to try to help people and that is what my local work allows me to do – with some wins and some losses. It's not that I don't enjoy the debate of Parliament; it's just that it can be a bit surreal and removed from the real world and real people. I can't imagine a collection of life's experiences and people better than that offered here in the Cessnock Electorate; from West Wallsend to Wollombi and from Branxton to Barnsley and from Pokolbin to Paxton and Putty and everywhere in between.

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



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Upper Hunter

NSW Calls for National Quad Bike Safety Rating System

The NSW Government is calling for the introduction of a national five-star safety rating system for quad bikes, to help save lives on farms. Since 2011, 115 people have been killed in quad bike accidents on Australian farms, with 32 in NSW alone.

NSW Government would call on the Federal Government to introduce a safety rating system, and would provide any support necessary to help develop and implement the scheme. A rating system is the next big step to reducing deaths and injuries from quad bike incidents.

A safety rating system for quad bikes was a key recommendation of the NSW Deputy Coroner's 2015 inquest into quad bike deaths. The NSW Government is committed to improving rider safety through a multi-faceted approach. The NSW Government is providing incentives to encourage farmers to improve the safety of their quad bikes, education programs to support safer usage and now we want to give consumers better information to support their decision making.

A rating system would build on the NSW Government's \$2 million Quad Bike Safety Improvement Program, which provides free training and helmets for those who complete the course, as well as rebates for protective devices, and safer side-by-side vehicles.

For further information on the program visit www.safework.nsw.gov.au or call 13 10 50. To apply for rebates, visit www.nswfarmers.org.au

Community Groups to Benefit from Improved Infrastructure Grants

I wish to advise that our local community organisations in our Upper Hunter electorate will have more opportunities to apply for funding of local projects as part of changes to the NSW Government's Infrastructure Grants.

The changes will make it easier to apply for a wide range of Infrastructure Grants across arts and culture, emergency preparedness and sport and recreation. The Nationals in Government are ensuring that more communities have the opportunity to access the funding more often.

The new funding guidelines will mean the NSW Government can fund a wider range of projects. A simpler application process will cut red tape and allow for faster assessment.

I encourage our local community organisations to learn more about the new guidelines and consider applying for grants, with the first new funding round opening on August 1. Instead of one round of funding each year for grants up to \$1 million, there will now be four rounds. New funding ranges are \$50,000 to \$200,000 for arts and culture, \$10,000 to \$200,000 for emergency preparedness and \$100,000 to \$300,000 for sport and recreation.

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torn.

What Causes Strains?

A strain is caused by twisting or pulling a muscle or tendon. Strains can happen suddenly or develop over days or weeks. A sudden (acute) strain is caused by:

- A recent injury
- Lifting heavy objects the wrong way
- Overstressing the muscles. Chronic strains are usually caused by moving the muscles and tendons the same way over and over.

Where Do Strains Usually Occur?

Two common sites for a strain are the back and the hamstring muscle in the back of the thigh. Sports such as soccer, football, hockey, boxing, and wrestling put people at risk for strains in the back or legs. People who play some sports use their hands and arms a lot. Examples are gymnastics, tennis, rowing, and golf. People who play these sports sometimes strain their hand or arm. Elbow strains can also happen when playing sports.

What Are the Signs and Symptoms of Strains?
A strain can cause:

- Pain
- Muscle spasms
- Muscle weakness
- Swelling
- Cramping
- Trouble moving the muscle.

If a muscle or tendon is torn completely, it is often very painful and hard to move.

How Are Sprains and Strains Treated?

Treatments for sprains and strains are the same. To reduce swelling and pain in the first day or two, doctors usually say to:

- Rest the injured area. If the ankle or knee is hurt, the doctor might tell you to use crutches or a cane.
- Put ice on the injury for 20 minutes at a time. The doctor

might say to do this 4 to 8 times a day.

- Compress (squeeze) the injury using special bandages, casts, boots, or splints. Your doctor will tell you which one is best for you and how tight it should be.

- Put the injured ankle, knee, elbow, or wrist up on a pillow.

- The doctor may recommend taking medicines, such as aspirin or ibuprofen. After treating pain and swelling, doctors usually say to exercise the injured area. This helps to prevent stiffness and increase strength. Some people need physical therapy. You may need to exercise the injured area or go to physical therapy for several weeks. Your doctor or physical therapist will tell you when you can start to do normal activities, including sports. If you begin too soon, you can injure the area again.

It is important to see a doctor if you have a painful sprain or strain. This helps you get the right treatments.

Can Sprains and Strains Be Prevented?

To help prevent sprains and strains, you can:

- Avoid exercising or playing sports when tired or in pain.
- Eat a well-balanced diet to keep muscles strong.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Try to avoid falling (for example, put sand or salt on icy spots on your front steps or sidewalks).
- Wear shoes that fit well.
- Get new shoes if the heel wears down on one side.
- Exercise every day.
- Be in proper physical condition to play a sport.
- Warm up and stretch before playing a sport.
- Wear protective equipment when playing.
- Run on flat surfaces.

Singleton Council takes action to raise standard for animals at its Animal Management Facility



Singleton Council has acted on advice from the RSPCA to install cloth blinds to provide weather protection for animals at the Singleton Animal Management Facility.

Repairs have also been undertaken to the internal wall of the facility following a break-in earlier this year.

The RSPCA inspected the site on two occasions, the latest on 18 July 2017, following concerns raised about the standard of conditions recently.

General Manager Jason Linnane said Council was also looking into two further requests to install a barrier between kennels, as well as a small wall inside each kennel for further weather protection.

“Council appreciates the recommendations of the RSPCA and has acted on those recommendations to put measures in place to ensure the welfare of the animals at the facility is maintained,” he said.

“Careful consideration has been given to the material used in the blinds to provide additional weather protection, but still allow the dogs to see out for external stimulus as well as let light in.

“Council is committed to the welfare of all animals while at the facility and in the rehoming process, and we have a very dedicated team of rangers tending to the animals seven days a week to ensure they have adequate bedding, food and care.

“As well as continuing to work with the RSPCA, Council staff are also visiting other local government areas to benchmark

the standards of animal management facilities with a view to informing options for the current facility, or a potential new building.”

The current Animal Management Facility has six kennels, which limits how long Council can hold dogs beyond the legislated requirements. A total of 169 dogs and 35 cats passed through the facility in the 2016/17 financial year.

Linnane said Council was finalising the design for a new Animal Management Facility to be presented to the ordinary meeting in September 2017, along with a finance and cost analysis for construction in accordance with Council’s resolution from 24 April 2017.

He said the Animal Management Facility operated to protect the community from stray animals, as well as ensure the safety and welfare of lost dogs and cats.

“Council’s ultimate aim is to reunite animals with their owners,” Mr Linnane said.

“We detain animals for the shortest period of time possible and work quickly to try to find the owners of animals in our care using a range of channels, including microchipping records and posts on Council’s Facebook page to reach as many people as possible.

“The Companion Animals Act stipulates that we can only release dogs to their registered owners within 14 days.

“However, many dogs are unable to be reunited with their owners due to out-of-date registration details or the dogs not being microchip identified, and we urge all dog owners to ensure their animals are under effective

control in accordance with the Companion Animals Act to ensure they

do not require the services of the Animal Management Facility.” For further information about the Animal Management Facility or what to do if your pet has been taken to the

facility, visit www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/animalmanagementfacility

From page 6

MEMBERS SAY...
MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Upper Hunter Community Groups to Benefit from Improved Infrastructure Grants

.....The Infrastructure Grants program has supported some great projects across NSW including local sports ground facilities, public swimming pools, children’s play areas, museums, art galleries, back-up power generators and accommodation for volunteers and the community.

I am proud to be a member of a Government that in delivering these Infrastructure Grants is making a real difference to rural and regional communities, bringing together people to enjoy new or improved sports, recreation, arts and cultural facilities, or help improve community safety in times of emergency.

During this term of government, \$50 million from the program is being provided to communities across NSW. For more information including details on how to apply for grants, visit <http://www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au/Pages/about-us/our-initiatives/infrastructure-grants.aspx>



1 hour 25 minutes

This is a simple beef goulash recipe that once in the saucepan gently simmers for one or more hours until the meat is really tender. It goes well with noodles, mashed potatoes or dumplings.

Ingredients

Serves: 2

- 500g casserole steak
- 1 dash oil
- 30g butter
- 1 small onion, finely diced

Beef and Carrot Goulash

- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 carrot, finely sliced
- 250ml beef stock
- 1 pinch salt and pepper, to taste

Directions

Preparation: 5 > Cook: 1 20 > Ready in: 1 25

1. Wash the meat, pat dry with paper towel and cut into bite sized pieces.
2. Heat oil in a saucepan and sear the meat on all sides. Remove from the heat and set aside.
3. Add some butter to the hot saucepan type and briefly fry the onion until translucent.
4. Add tomato paste and stew briefly. Pour in the stock then add the meat and the carrots.
5. Cover the saucepan and stew for 60-90 minutes over a low heat. Season with salt and pepper then serve.



Report

Statistics indicate too many dangerous drivers and vehicles on the road – Traffic & Highway Patrol

A review of end of year financial statistics have shown that despite police efforts, there are a high number of unauthorised drivers, and defective or unregistered vehicles on NSW roads.

End of financial year statistics show that there were 23,237 unauthorised (suspended, disqualified, or unlicensed) drivers, 86,832 unregistered vehicles, and 25,175 defect notices issued for unroadworthy cars.

When compared with the previous financial year, there has been an increase of 4912 infringements issued for vehicles defects, which serves as a warning to all road users to maintain their vehicles. Statistics have shown a minor decrease in unauthorised drivers caught behind the wheel, with 42 less legal actions being taken, when compared to the previous financial year.

End of financial year statistics have also shown an increase of 7320 unregistered vehicles detected on the road, when compared with the previous year. Assistant Commissioner Michael Corboy of the State's Traffic & Highway Patrol Command said driving an unregistered or defective car, or driving while not authorised to drive, is putting all road users at risk.

"We have already seen more than 220 deaths on our roads this year. Tragically, many of these deaths were avoidable.

"Despite our efforts, we continue to see dangerous drivers and cars on our road that simply should not be there.

"People that drive while they are suspended, disqualified or don't hold a valid licence for any reason, are not only selfish, they are an outright danger to themselves and other road users.

"As well as unauthorised drivers we see cars that are unregistered, have bald tyres, worn brakes or missing lights.

"It is disheartening to see serious or fatal crashes that could have been avoided by some simple vehicle maintenance.

"Worn or damaged tyres is a common defect that seriously compromises a drivers ability to stop or steer, and greatly the risk of a crash.

"Our message is simple, if you do not hold a licence, or if your car is not roadworthy or not insured, get off the road, before you kill someone, or before we catch you," Assistant Commissioner Corboy said.

Trends in drink and drug-driving showing some decline – Traffic & Highway Patrol Command

Police are encouraged by statistics that show drink-driving rates are declining, however, with 25,000 caught in a year; drink-driving and drug-driving are still key issues across New South Wales. End of financial year statistics show that there has been a decrease of 1406 drivers charged with drug-driving, and a decrease of 1562 charged with drink-driving.

Assistant Commissioner Michael Corboy of the

state's Traffic & Highway Patrol Command said statistics indicate some road users are getting the message, however, there are still too many who drink or take drugs and drive.

"A decline in drink and drug-driving, shows that the message is starting to get across, and that the community will not tolerate those who put themselves and others at risk.

"However, it is still alarming to see that there were more than 17,000 drink-drivers, and more than 8,000 drug-drivers on our roads in the last financial year.

"Every one of those drivers or riders have shown a complete lack of regard for not only their own life, but the lives of all others using the road.

"Evidence is clear that drink and drug-drivers are costing lives on NSW roads.

"We will not stop, and we make no apologies for catching and prosecuting anyone who thinks it's okay to drink or take drugs and drive," Assistant Commissioner Corboy said.

Alcohol is a depressant, and;

-Slows your brain so that you can't respond to situations, make decisions or react quickly
-Reduces your ability to judge how fast you are moving or your distance from other cars, people or objects

-Gives you a false sense of confidence – you may take greater risks, thinking that your driving is better than it really is

-Makes it harder to do more than one thing at a time – while you concentrate on steering, you could miss seeing traffic lights, cars entering from side streets or pedestrians

-Affects your sense of balance – a big risk if you ride a motorcycle

-Makes you drowsy – you could fall asleep at the wheel.

The ten worst suburbs throughout the state for drink driving during the financial year were:

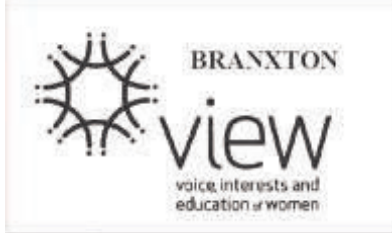
1. Byron Bay (205)
2. Coffs Harbour (176)
3. Dubbo (155)
4. Griffith (144)
5. Port Macquarie (144)
6. Goulburn (99)
7. Ballina (85)
8. Blacktown (83)
9. Orange (81)
10. Tweed Heads (79)

If you take stimulants such as ecstasy, or any form of amphetamine (speed, crystal meth, base) you are likely to;

-Believe you drive better than you actually can
-Drive aggressively and take more risks
-Be overstimulated and lose concentration
-Have blurry or limited vision, and/or
-See things on the road that aren't where you think they are.

The ten worst suburbs throughout the state for drug-driving during the financial year were:

1. Armidale (174)
2. Port Macquarie (152)
3. Goulburn (145)
4. Liverpool (113)
5. Nowra (107)
6. Taree (104)
7. Mudgee (87)
8. South Tamworth (79)
9. Young (77)
10. Griffith (75)



and as a two course lunch is included, please advise our secretary, Evelyn 4038 1513 as soon as possible, if you would like to join us. We begin our day 10.30 am for 11.am start. Lots of



Branxton VIEW Club will celebrate 29 wonderful years at our birthday function to be held at Greta Workers Club on Thursday 10th August. Everyone is most welcome to attend

fun and friendship assured. The popular trading table will have lots of home cooked items, books, produce and many other delightful items. Popular bush poet,

Heather Searles will entertain us with her award winning poetry and her books will be available for sale on the day. There will be other surprise entertainment, lucky door prizes and raffles. All monies raised on the day support our four Learning for Life students through the Smith Family program. We hope to see you there-forget about the wind and the cold and treat yourself to a day full of fun.

Our VIEW PLEDGE says it all. "I pledge to promote the interests of VIEW, to extend friendship to all and help those in need."

Branxton Community Hall is the venue for our annual donna-lou Fashion Parade to be held on 21st September. Lots of affordable clothing – latest fashions- will be available for purchase on the day. EFTPOS is available and fashions range from size 8 to size 26. cost is \$15 which includes a light lunch-10 am start. so come along, bring your friends for another great fund raiser for our VIEW club.

May the winter sunshine bring you joy - Spring is on the way. Keep warm, well and happy. Peace and love to everyone Judy Spillard

Disgraceful

Cessnock City Council is pleased to announce the notorious illegal dumping ground on McLeod Road in Loxford has been cleaned up and is hoping it stays that way.

Cleaning up the 22.4 hectare site was no easy task and Council worked closely with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Crown Lands and local company Goninan & Sons to get the job done.

The project involved removing 78.6 tonnes of waste, installing fencing around the site and putting in three gates for access to services. The waste removed from the site included 7.92 tonnes of asbestos, 28 tyres, 12 needles, whitegoods and general household rubbish.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said he was disgusted the site got to this point and is calling on the community to clean up their act.

"One of the concerning things in this clean-up was the amount of children's toys and items such as prams and car seats, indicating families are some of the key offenders."

"If kids are in tow when parents are dumping rubbish in bushland, it sends a message that this is OK, which is highly concerning," added Cr Pynsent.

In an effort to educate the community and prevent further illegal dumping, Council also distributed a brochure to all residents in Loxford, Kurri Kurri, Clifleigh, Standford Methyr and Weston.

This project was funded by the NSW EPA through the Waste Less Recycle More initiative, funded by the waste levy.



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

www.cowans.com.au ☎ 6547 4416

CATHOLIC PARISH

BRANXTON & SINGLETON

BRANXTON-GRETA PARISH MASS TIMES

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

Come celebrate Kurri Kurri's 115th Birthday Celebrations



To celebrate this fabulous milestone the Kurri Kurri District Business Chamber and Festival Committee is hosting the Towns 115th Birthday Celebrations on Friday night 27th of October at Kurri Kurri Bowling Club. The organizers are hoping for a great roll up for the night's activities with a fabulous band featuring "The Sun Rockets" to entertain us on the night with great Rock and Roll, *Check out their FB page*

The evenings activities will

include Champagne and Canapé's on arrival followed by a sumptuous 3 course dinner, coffee, tea and entertainment. Dress for this great event is after 5 wear, so ladies this is an opportunity to look your best. Cost of ball tickets are a modest \$70 a head and can be booked through Maria Chapple on 4937 1417, or email Maria on bch91065@bigpond.net.au Tickets can also be purchased at the Kurri Kurri Visitors Centre 199 Lang Street, Kurri Kurri The organizers are truly thankful for the support that the Kurri

Kurri Bowling Club has put into hosting this event for the people of the Kurri Kurri district. The club is providing a courtesy bus for local people. **RSVP:** for the Festival Birthday Celebrations Dance is Friday 29 September.

Further information on the dinner dance and the Kurri Kurri Community Festival can be obtained through the committee on 4938 0510/ 0427 380 510 or our face book page."Kurri Kurri Community Festival"

Enrolling now for 2018 Kirkton Public School

At Kirkton Public School we are excited to offer a range of academic, sporting, cultural and social opportunities for students, including:

- L3 Learning environment
- Premiers Reading Challenge
- Debating and Public Speaking
- Premiers Sporting Challenge
- School swimming program
- Soccer and Netball competitions
- NAIDOC Celebrations
- Small class sizes.....just to name a few.



We invite you to contact our school now to register your interest for 2018. We have vacancies in all years across Kindergarten to Year 6.

Please see below our **Kindergarten Orientation Program** dates beginning in Term 3. Call our school office for further details.

Thursday 10 th August	9.00-12.00
Thursday 24 th August	9.00-12.00
Thursday 7 th September	9.00-12.00
Thursday 21 st September	9.00-12.00

Our Kirkton community looks forward to meeting you soon.

797 Standen Drive

Lower Belford NSW 2335

t: 02 6574 7152 m: 0427 473 405 f: 02 6574 7227

e: kirkton-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

w: www.kirkton-p.school.nsw.edu.au



First homebuyers package



By Tim McKibbin – REINSW CEO

The package of measures to support first homebuyers released by the NSW Government is a step in the right direction. However, a lot more needs to be done. The package will see stamp duty exemptions extended to first homebuyers of existing homes up to \$650,000 from 1 July 2017 and then reducing proportionally to dwellings up to \$800,000. This will also apply to new homes.

Whilst welcome, I believe the stamp duty concessions need to be increased further to reflect the current median dwelling prices. More also needs to be done to address bracket creep, which has not been reviewed for more than 30 years.

Buyer beware

By Tim McKibbin – REINSW CEO
There are many pitfalls you need to avoid when purchas-

ing a property, which is why it is important to prepare as much as possible beforehand. For example, ensure you have pre-approval finance in place, so you know your purchasing limit. It is important to seek some legal advice upfront, and to organise pre-purchase inspection reports, including strata, building and pest. Good communication is critical. If you find a property you like, let the real estate agent know and ask how the offer and acceptance process works. Finally learn to know the difference between your head and heart. Buying is 80 per cent emotional – whilst this might be OK when buying clothes, you need to be a lot more logical when buying a property!

Saving money on building and pest reports

By Tim McKibbin – REINSW CEO

Currently any prospective buyer must pay to get a pre-purchase pest and building inspection report completed on a property they are interested in buying, even though other buyers will have already had the same reports done.

This is inefficient and expensive. The NSW Government has recently legislated that a real estate agents must keep a log of any property inspection reports completed on a property. A prospective buyer can then

approach the report's authors to purchase a copy of the report for a discounted price. Despite the benefit purchasers gain from this initiative we believe that a far more efficient means to achieve this outcome would be a mandatory requirement for a pest and building report be included as part of the contract. This is the current requirement in the A.C.T. and works very well.

What determines a property's price?

By Tim McKibbin – REINSW CEO

We are constantly bombarded with news about the property market and in particular the increasing cost of housing. It is not uncommon for purchasers to hold vendors and real estate agents to blame for the cost of housing. However it is true, are vendors and agents to blame? There are many others factors, including the limited supply of property in the market which increases competition and therefore price.

A real estate agent's role is to generate interest in the property from as wide an audience as possible. Ultimately however, it is the purchasers who decide the price of the property. The best and most obvious example is an auction. So, the biggest problem purchasers face in their bid to

buy a home is the desire, perceptions and buying power of their fellow purchasers.

Strata

The new *Strata Schemes Management Act 2015* and *Strata Schemes Management Regulation 2016* commenced on 30 November 2016 and has seen more than 90 changes to the strata laws. The new Regulation, along with the *Strata Schemes Management Act 2015* and the *Strata Schemes Development Act 2015*, modernises the legislation, reduces red tape, avoid disputes and supports the sector. The building defect bond scheme reforms (Part 11 of the *Strata Schemes Management Act 2015* and Part 8 of the *Strata Schemes Management Regulation 2016*), will start on 1 July 2017. This will ensure that builders, developers and the strata community have time to prepare for the changes and comply with requirements.

The reforms have taken five years of public consultation, including over 3,000 submissions, Fair Trading Commissioner, Rod Stowe, explained, "The last major reform was in 1973, and parts of the legislation are no longer relevant in this day and age. "The number of submissions from the public and major stakeholders indicates a substantial level of engagement and interest." As an agent it is vital that you understand how the strata law changes affect the properties that you list, sell, lease and manage. As your professional association we have developed this topic page to give you a one-stop shop to find all the information, advice and documents you need to ensure that you can comply with the law and continue to provide a valued service to your clients.



WILD DOG/FOX CONTROL 1080 BAITING

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

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

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

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

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



Love's Labour's Lost



but what happens when the Princess of France and her ladies show up? Joanne McAndrews, Director and leader of Reamus Youth Theatre, first became involved with Reamus Youth Theatre in 2016 because her passion is Shakespeare - and here was a group of young adults working on Shakespeare in Maitland.

"For our 2017 play I wanted a Shakespeare play that was fun but at the same time would really challenge the skills of Reamus as a group and require a deep understanding of the Shakespeare text to make it work."

"Love's Labour's Lost was the perfect choice. It is an earlier Shakespeare play that has a lot of good male and female roles, is very witty, uses a lot of word play and also contains a lot of rhyme. Each actor must really understand what their character is saying and

must listen and respond to each other."

"Many people today are scared of Shakespeare or think that it is a language that they can't understand. In *Love's Labour's Lost* we hope to prove to those people that Shakespeare can be understood. It has been amazing to watch the show come to life and to see how much each of the actors has grown."

Reamus Youth Theatre's *Love's Labour's Lost* opens at Maitland Repertory Theatre on Friday August 11, and continues until Saturday August 26, on Friday and Saturday evenings with two Sunday matinees on August 13 and 20.

Tickets are all \$17. Bookings can be made online at www.maitlandreptheatre.org, at Maitland Visitor Information Centre on 4931 2800 (10am - 3pm daily) or tickets can be bought at the door from thirty minutes before performances.

What: Reamus Youth Theatre's *Love's Labour's Lost* - at Maitland Repertory Theatre
Where: Maitland

Repertory Theatre, 244 High Street, Maitland (opposite Maitland Town Hall)
When: Opening at 8:00pm on Friday 11 August 2017 for 8 performances. Performance Dates/Times: Evenings at 8pm - Aug 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26
Matinees at 2pm - Aug 13, 20
Why: See light hearted Shakespeare at the home of Shakespeare in the Hunter.
Bookings: Online at www.maitlandreptheatre.org or at Maitland Visitor Information Centre on 4931 2800 (10am - 3pm daily)
Free Tickets: Reamus Youth Theatre is giving away 2 double passes to the opening weekend shows.
Cast: King of Navarre - Robert Lewis
Biron - Alex Simpson
Dumain - Adam Hall
Longaville - Liam Walsh
Princess of France - Elly Keller
Rosaline - Sara Barlow
Katherine - Lara Butler
Maria and Jaquenetta - Ashlyn Horder
Boyet - Milly Lambert
Don Adriano De Armado - Billy Sullivan
Moth - Ashlee Brown
Costard - Isabelle Moy
Holofernes - Meg O'Hara
Sir Nathaniel - Millie Chorlton
Dull and Marcade - Jenny Grigg

Funding available

Our community is set to benefit from \$150,000 of investment in valuable community projects with the third round of the Stronger Communities Programme launched in the Hunter electorate.

The Stronger Communities Programme offers grants of between \$5,000 and \$20,000 to community organisations and local governments for small capital works projects that aim to improve community participation and vibrancy throughout the Hunter.

Expressions of interest applications are now open with submissions due by 5pm Friday 11 August 2017.

To be eligible for a grant an applicant must; be a community based not for profit organisation in its own right and not owned by state government; be a local governing body and a legal entity with a current Australian Business Number (ABN).

"The Stronger Communities Programme offers a unique and valuable opportunity to make a real difference in our electorate. There are countless great ideas and projects that are simply lacking the funding to make considerable impact within the community," Federal Member for Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon said.

"I encourage organisations within the Hunter electorate to submit an expression of interest application before August 11 to ensure they are in the running for their projects to be funded." Input from the community is a key to the program with successful projects selected by the Federal Member of Parliament in conjunction with a community consultation

Reamus Youth Theatre's next production, *Love's Labour's Lost*, tells the story of a young king and

his lords who have sworn to study, fast, barely sleep and not see or talk to women for three years...

BRANXTON GRETA BUSINESS CHAMBER

NETWORKING BREAKFAST

8th AUGUST 2017

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB

7am - 8.30am

GUEST SPEAKER

HUNTLEE REPRESENTATIVES

Payment and RSPV due by 5th August 2017.

Direct Deposit Details:
Name: Branxton Greta Community Business Chamber Inc
Bank: The Mutual
BSB: 646 000 Acc No: 100041204
COST: \$15.00 each
RSVP: Tammara Ward; info@branxtongreta.com.au



committee which will be made up of local representatives who will assist in prioritising projects of lasting and real benefit.

Examples of projects that may be funded under the programme include the construction and fit-out of men's sheds; fit-out of community centres, health centres including kitchen upgrades and equipment purchases such as computers, TVs and furniture and fittings; sporting facility upgrades including new scoreboards, seating, new turf, fit-out of changes rooms, new canteen, new lights, upgrade water systems, gymnasiums, skate parks streetscapes and bike paths.

SUBMIT AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NOW - Expressions of interest forms can be filled out online Submissions of expression of interest will close at 5pm on **Friday, 11 August 2017.**

Examples of projects that may be funded under the program include:

- Construction and fit-out of men's sheds;
- Fit-out of community centres, health centres including kitchen upgrades and equipment purchases such as computers, TVs and furniture and fittings;
- Sporting facility upgrades including new scoreboards, seating, new turf, fit-out of changes rooms, new canteen, new lights, upgrade water systems, gymnasiums, skate parks; streetscapes;



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

- Bike paths; or Purchase of equipment for local SES.

To be eligible for funding, an applicant must:

- Be a community based non-for-profit organisation in its own right and not be owned by a state or territory government; or
- Be a local governing body; and
- A legal entity with a current Australian Business Number (ABN).

Recipients of round two include:

- **\$14,832** to the Aberdeen Junior Cricket Club Inc. for the upgrade of Jefferson Park cricket pitch and practice nets.
- **\$6,000** to the Bucketty and District Rural Fire Brigade for the A Place for Community project.
- **\$20,000** to the Singleton Neighbourhood Centre Inc. for an upgrade to their bathroom and kitchen facilities.

\$17,805 to the Cessnock Multipurpose Children's Centre for the renovation of Dudley Street playground.

Do you need more information?

Please head to my website at www.joelfitzgibbon.com/grants

Spring Fling

Charity Fashion Show

Join us for a fun afternoon with fashion and friends for \$10 entry

Sat 26th Aug @ 2.00pm
Refreshments will be served

Branxton Community Hall
Branxton NSW

ANGLICAN BOUTIQUE OP SHOP, BRANXTON

Check out our facebook page!

You are invited to

Branxton's Annual Dress in Pink High Tea Fashion Extravaganza

featuring **Sue's Clothing Rutherford**

With local models

Wednesday 11th October 2017
10.00am

Branxton Community Hall

Tickets \$15 to be prepurchased to Women's Cancer

Catering by Branxton Greta CWA Ladies
Helen 0427 047 024
Proudly supported by Cessnock City Motor Group

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

For Sale

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UNDER CONTRACT



EAST BRANXTON

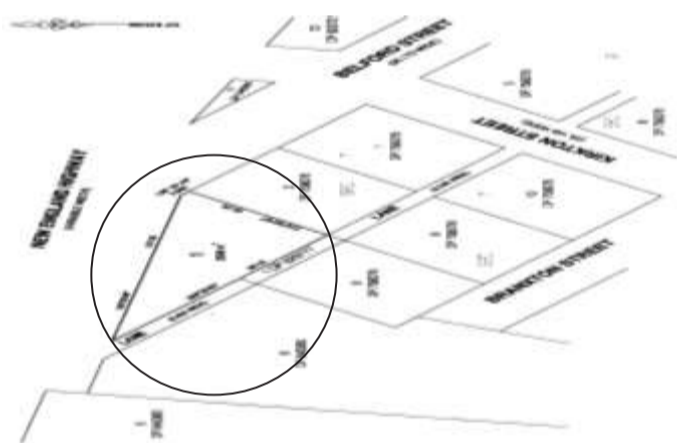


AN ideal opportunity to renovate one of the oldest homes in Branxton! This home is on approx 1100sm corner block. The

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.



BELFORD



Vacant Land ~ 2559m²

Vacant Land with building approved
Lot 1 DP 1205549

Well over half an acre of good level block.

PRICE \$160,000 ONO

GRETA



OLDER STYLE HOME IN NEED OF SOME TLC

This is an older style 3 bedroom weatherboard & tin cottage set on large enclosed block.

Features include, lounge-room, sep. kitchen with good sized rooms. One for the handyman.

ASKING \$285,000

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

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

For Sale

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300



NORTH ROTHBURY

Lots 521, 523 & 524 Littlewood Road,
Vacant blocks

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.

\$POA

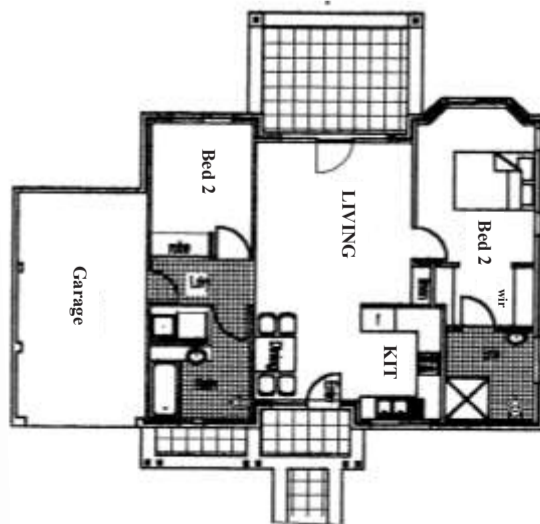


BRANXTON

"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

ASKING \$389,000



BRANXTON

Two-bedroom unit 'Branxton Gardens' Senior Living

Features include ~ heritage designed 2 bedroom strata unit with an ensuite to the main bedroom, walk-in robe, a lock-up garage, natural gas & your own private courtyard. It is totally landscaped & also features security gating.

ASKING \$299,000

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NSW Missing Persons Week 2017



New statistics show teenagers between the ages of 13 and 15 are reported missing to NSW Police more than any other age group each year.

The year's Missing Persons Week campaign 'Still waiting for you to come home' highlights the high number of young people who are reported missing to police each year and the impact on the family and friends. In 2016, 13 to 15-year-olds accounted for nearly 30 per cent of the 10,909 missing person reports made to police.

So far in this year, there have been 5,790 missing persons reports, of which 49 per cent are under the age of 18.

Launching the 2017 campaign at Police Headquarters in Parramatta this morning (Sunday 30 July 2017), Acting Superintendent Missing Persons Unit Commander Kristy Walters said the impact on families and friends is significant. "For families of missing persons, not knowing if their loved one is safe is a traumatic experience that never goes away," Acting Superintendent Walters said.

"When someone goes missing, it not only affects their immediate family, but it can have a ripple effect on their networks and wider com-

munity. "The detectives who work tirelessly with families to try and locate their loved ones who are still missing are also profoundly affected by their plight," Acting Superintendent Walters said. The campaign also aims to promote awareness of the issues around young people going missing. Acting Superintendent Walters said it's hoped by highlighting missing person cases throughout the week will generate new information that could help bring them home.

"I encourage people to reach out and check in with your loved ones – it could be that one simple gesture that gives someone the support they need to manage their situation." Acting Superintendent Walters said.

NSW Police Force will highlight one missing person profile each day during the campaign. Anyone with information

about the whereabouts of the missing persons featured is urged to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or use the Crime Stoppers online reporting page:

<https://www1.police.nsw.gov.au/>

Information you provide will be treated in strict confidence.

For more information on the campaign members of the public are encouraged to visit the National Missing Persons website at

www.missingpersons.gov.au

Missing Person Zac Barnes

Police are appealing for information, as part of Missing Persons Week, to help locate a teenage boy who was last seen near Maitland in November last year.

About 8pm on Sunday 13 November 2016, then 18-year-old Zac Barnes from Metford was last seen at the intersection of Haussman Drive and Tripp Close, Thornton.

Police have been told he exited a vehicle driven by a friend and was last seen on foot on Haussman Drive. It's believed he may have attended a house nearby in the area.

Concerned family members contacted officers attached to Central Hunter Local Area Command who have been conducting inquiries in an attempt to locate him. Police are continuing their investigation to establish the exact circumstances surrounding his disappearance and are keen to hear from anyone who may have had contact with him.

Mr Barnes is described as being of Caucasian appearance, about 190cm tall, with short brown hair and a receding hairline, and of a large build.

He was last seen wearing a faded tie-dye blue singlet, dark blue board shorts and work boots.

Anyone with information about the whereabouts of Zac Barnes is urged to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or use the Crime Stoppers online reporting page:

<https://www1.police.nsw.gov.au/>

Information you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence. We remind people they should not report crime information via our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Do you REMEMBER when.....

Memories of Greta

By Kimbalee Hodges

THE GRETA & BRANXTON GAZETTE

Greta has a long and extensive history, dating back to its settlement in the 1820's. However, did you know at one time, Greta had twelve tennis courts? Or that during the Second World War, Greta was host to countless swing dances that many visiting soldiers would attend?

You may not remember these details from Greta's history, but Ella Allen of Greta sure does!

Mrs Allen, who has lived in Greta for 82 years, recalls some of the finer days from Greta's History. "All of the boys from the Army Camp used to come into town when the War was on" she says. "They used to come in [to Greta] to all the dances" As many Gretaites would be aware, the Greta Army Camp served as a training facility for Soldiers during WWII. "All of my friends and I had pen-pals from the Army Camp. I was only 14 when War broke out so it was a very turbulent time." But Ella also has some happy memories from that time. "I met my Husband at the Army Camp, it was really a fun time"

Growing up in Greta offered many simple pleasures that we, unfortunately, cannot enjoy today. "We used to go swimming in the Dam all the time" Ella said. "There used to be a boat jetty out there as well." The Dam Mrs Allen refers to is of course Whitburn Dam, located in Anvil Street, Greta.

But has Greta changed in the last 82 years? "Greta is definitely getting a lot bigger. Also, we all have to lock our doors and windows at night. We never used to do that years ago." Mrs Allen said.

Photo above: The Greta Branxton Gazette masthead 3/1/1891

Funding for Infrastructure Grants

Community organisations in the Hunter will have more opportunities to apply for funding of local projects as part of changes to the NSW Government's Infrastructure Grants, Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald

MLC said today. Mr MacDonald said the changes will make it easier to apply for a wide range of Infrastructure Grants across arts and culture, emergency preparedness and sport and recreation.

"The NSW Government is

giving more communities the opportunity to access the funding more often," Mr MacDonald said.

"The new funding

guidelines will mean the NSW Government can fund a wider range of projects. A simpler application process will cut red tape and allow for faster assessment.

"I encourage our local community organisations to

learn more about the new guidelines and consider applying for grants, with the first new funding round opening on August 1."

Instead of one round of funding each year for grants up to \$1 million, there will now be four rounds. New funding ranges are \$50,000 to \$200,000 for arts and culture, \$10,000 to \$200,000 for emergency

preparedness and \$100,000 to \$300,000 for sport and recreation. Mr MacDonald said the Infrastructure Grants program

has supported some great projects across NSW including local sports ground facilities, public swimming pools, children's play areas, museums, art galleries, back-up power generators and accommodation for volunteers and the community.

Minister for Racing Paul Toole said Infrastructure Grants can make a real difference to communities, bringing together people to enjoy new or improved sports, recreation, arts and cultural facilities, or help improve community safety in times of emergency.

"During this term of government, \$50 million from the program is being provided to communities across NSW," Mr Toole said.

For more information including details on how to apply for grants, visit <http://www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au/>



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4938 7325

MILLER PARK SPORTS CLUB
6 MAITLAND RD EAST BRANXTON
4938 1226

GRETA WORKERS

**MEMBERSHIPS
NOW DUE
TWO CLUBS
ONE MEMBERSHIP**

FRIDAY 4th AUGUST
THE LEADBELLIES
FRIDAY 11th AUGUST
AT THE HOP

MEMBER'S BADGE DRAW

WEDNESDAY
2nd AUGUST - \$5,000
SUNDAY
6th AUGUST - \$5,000

OAKS RESTAURANT
GREAT AUSSIE FOOD
LUNCH & DINNER
TUESDAY — SUNDAY

A.G.M.

SUNDAY
27th AUGUST
9.30am

MILLER PARK

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW
THURSDAY 3rd AUGUST
\$5,000
SUNDAY 6th AUGUST
\$5,000
MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

HAPPY HOUR
MILLER PARK WEDNESDAY
5.00 — 7.00pm
GRETA THURSDAY
4.00 — 6.00pm
\$3.40 a Schooner

**"THE PARK"
RESTAURANT**
WEDNESDAY — SUNDAY
GREAT FOOD
CLUB PRICES

RAFFLES
FRIDAY
MEAT RAFFLE
7.00PM
SUNDAY
MEAT RAFFLE 6.00pm



REVIEW

'The Late Show' by Michael Connelly & The Top 10 Fiction Bestseller List
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This week Monica McInerney's *The Trip of a Lifetime* is at the top of the Fiction Bestseller List. This novel is a rich and highly entertaining story about family, love, lies and memories, and the true meaning of 'home', continuing the saga of her well-loved Quinlain family. A couple of favourites have reinserted themselves on the bestseller charts, including Michael Connelly's ripping thriller *The Late Show*, and Margaret Atwood's extraordinarily prophetic novel *The Handmaid's Tale* – which has been turned into an American television series. Homegrown talent Michael Robotham has just released his latest *The Secrets She Keeps*, a compelling psychological thriller about a desperate secret that could destroy everything that two women hold dear. At Number 4 this week is Danielle Steel's *The Duchess*, a story about an

age of upheaval and the struggles of women in a male-ruled society, painting a captivating portrait of a woman of unquenchable spirit, who in houses great or humble is every

ounce a duchess. In Peter Robinson's *Sleeping in the Ground*, a shocking mass murder occurs at a wedding in a small Dales church and a huge manhunt follows. Right behind it is John Grisham's exhilarating *Camino Island*, which tells the story of the most daring and devastating literary heist in history, and the subsequent journey to reclaim it. Thriller fans should get stuck into *Murder Games* by James Patterson or Paula Hawkins' long-awaited second novel *Into the Water*. *Truly Madly Guilty* is Liane Moriarty's most recent incarnation and has remained on the Top 10 bestseller list since publication. Liane Moriarty uses her unique, razor-sharp observational skills to sift through the emerging fault lines of seemingly happy families.

1. *The Trip of a Lifetime* by Monica McInerney (Michael Joseph)
2. *The Late Show* by Michael Connelly (Allen & Unwin)
3. *The Secrets She Keeps* by Michael Robotham (Hachette)
4. *The Duchess* by Danielle Steel (Macmillan)
5. *Sleeping in the Ground* by Peter Robinson (Hachette)
6. *Camino Island* by John Grisham (Hachette)
7. *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood (Vintage)
8. *Into the Water* by Paula Hawkins (Doubleday)
9. *Truly Madly Guilty* by Liane Moriarty (Pan)
10. *Murder Games* by James Patterson (Century)

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Book review: The Late Show by Michael Connelly I was a bit of a latecomer to Michael Connelly and his long-running Harry Bosch series (but have been watching the TV show for good measure), so it was great to see that he's got a new protagonist in LAPD Detective Renee Ballard, who – despite 14yrs on the job – has been shunted to the midnight shift (The Late Show) because she dared accuse a senior officer of harassment.

Renee Ballard works the night shift at the LAPD in Hollywood, beginning many investigations but finishing none as each morning she turns her cases over to day shift detectives. A once up-and-coming detective, she's been given this beat as punishment after filing a sexual harassment complaint against a supervisor. But one night she catches two cases she doesn't want to part with: the brutal beating of a prostitute left for dead in a parking lot and the killing of a young woman in a night-club shooting. Ballard is determined not to give up at dawn. Against orders and her own partner's wishes, she works both cases by day while maintaining her shift by night. As the cases entwine, they pull her closer to her own demons and the reason she won't give up her job – no matter what the department throws at her.

I very much enjoyed this new novel and character from Connelly. Renee Ballard is certainly interesting and – it seems – has quite the back-story. Initially the lack of that back-story felt like a bit of a gap. I wondered if we'd met her in a Bosch / Mickey Haller novel I'd not read – and that may well be the case, however we do eventually learn a bit more of her history as this novel unfolds. In the end I decided the lack of context (re Renee) was not necessarily a bad thing, although the fact I felt a bit of a gap I guess says something.

She's been a cop for 14 years but had previously planned to be a journalist. Her father drowned when she was just 14yrs old and she lived alone 'on the beach' for a couple of years before her grandmother found her and took her in... and there's obviously some baggage around her mother. She's with LAPD and in LA (somewhere... I'm not familiar with its suburbs and neighbours) but part of her seems to dwell in her childhood home of Hawaii. And she seems to kinda live in her van with her dog. As she's now working nights she sleeps on the beach in a tent during the day, occasionally visiting her grandmother (where her stuff seems to be stored) for meals etc. And then there's the fact that she's obviously talented and (mostly) well-thought-of but... accusing her former lieutenant of sexual harassment (which is only glossed over here) means she's been sidelined to the night shift – where she comes across an array of interesting cases which are then handed off to detectives working the day shift, to investigate. In this outing we also meet her former partner who apparently didn't stand by her after her former lieutenant refuted her harassment allegations... which is a sore point as the pair were close. So... there's ALL of this interesting stuff, but we only get snippets here and there. Eventually it was enough. Almost... And I do wonder if Connelly plans to share more context in future novels rather than dumping it all on us at once. And in that case, I'm happy I'm here on the ground floor and privy to the world he builds around Renee. Indeed, the fact I think of her as Renee (rather than Ballard) is a sure sign I've bonded with her character. The cases Renee (ahem, Ballard) pursues in this first of the series are both substantial ones and I really liked that they didn't

converge (as is so often the case) but both stood alone without muddying the narrative waters. I tend to groan if there are more than one case (and know I've said that very thing about Lynda LaPlante's new young Jane Tennison novels), but Connelly manages the two, rather distinct, cases well and I liked that one was fairly straight forward and the other more twisty. I didn't pick the twist and / or the whodunnit (despite my over-worked little grey cells – from extensive crime fiction reading, rather than intelligence #obvs!), which is a good thing and appreciated that Connelly didn't opt for the obvious clichés in that respect. There's also a nice little 'f*ck you' at the end of this book. So in case it wasn't obvious, I'm LOVING this new series by Connelly and cannot wait for the next instalment.

ABOUT:-

Michael Connelly (born July 21, 1956) is an American author of detective novels and other crime fiction, notably those featuring LAPD Detective Hieronymus "Harry" Bosch and criminal defence attorney Mickey Haller. His books, which have been translated into 39 languages, have garnered him many awards. Connelly was the President of the Mystery Writers of America from 2003 to 2004. Connelly had planned on following his father's early choice of career in building construction and started out at the University of Florida in Gainesville as a building construction major. After earning grades that were lower than expected, Connelly went to see Robert Altman's film *The Long Goodbye* (1973) and was enchanted by what he saw. The film, based on Raymond Chandler's 1953 novel of the same name, inspired Connelly to want to become a mystery writer. Connelly went home and read all of Chandler's works featuring Philip Marlowe, a detective in Los Angeles during the 1940s and '50s, and decided to switch majors to journalism with a minor in creative writing. He was a student of Harry Crews.



Connelly is the subject of the video documentary *Blue Neon Night: Michael Connelly's Los Angeles* (2004). He occasionally makes guest appearances as himself in the ABC comedy/drama TV series *Castle*. Along with fellow crime authors Stephen J. Cannell, James Patterson, and Dennis Lehane, he is one of *Castle's* poker buddies.

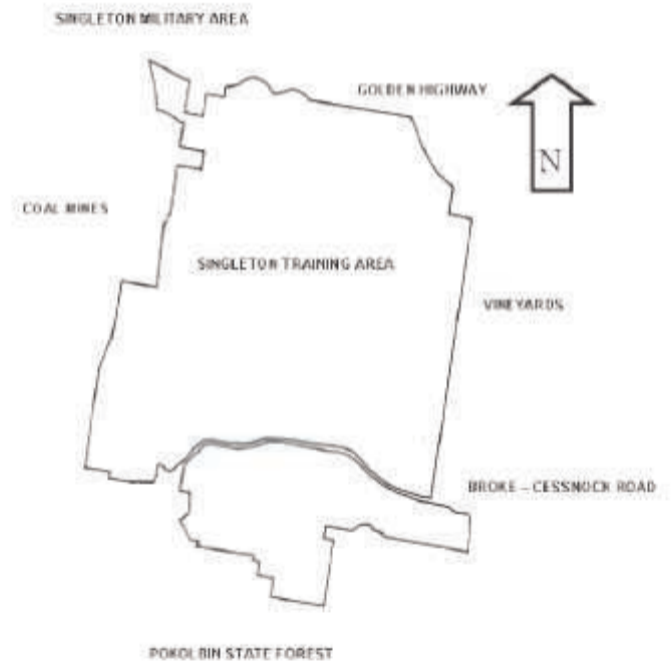
Connelly's novel *The Lincoln Lawyer* was made into a film in 2011, with Matthew McConaughey playing defense lawyer Michael "Mickey" Haller.



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Singleton's highest achievers sought for nomination for 2017 Wambo Coal Singleton Hall of Fame



Peabody Manager Environment and Community at Wambo Steven Peart, Wambo Coal Hall of Fame chairman and Deputy Mayor Cr Godfrey Adamthwaite and Mayor of Singleton Cr Sue Moore are looking forward to recognising exceptional achievement with this year's Wambo Coal

Singleton Hall of Fame. Nominations for Singleton's highest achieving individuals, families and organisations will open on 31 July 2017 in our local government area's annual celebration of excellence, the Wambo Coal Singleton Hall of Fame. Run since 2009 in a partnership

between Singleton Council and Peabody, the owners of Wambo Coal, the Hall of Fame was established to recognise those people who were born in, or have a strong association with Singleton and who have attained prominence at a state, national or international level in their field of endeavour. Nominations are being encouraged for people in the categories of:

- Arts, Science and Education
- Business, Industry and Tourism
- Public Service
- Sport
- Community Service
- Meritorious Families

Inductees are recognised with a paver engraved with their name and year of addition as a permanent symbol on the footpath outside Council's Administration Building.

Wambo Coal Hall of Fame chairman and Deputy Mayor, Cr Godfrey Adamthwaite is urging everyone in the community to think about someone they know who should be recognised on the Wambo Coal Hall of Fame this year. Nominations will open on

Monday 31 July 2017 during Local Government Week, and close on Friday 1 September 2017.

"The Wambo Coal Singleton Hall of Fame is an important record of all of those individuals, families and community groups who have ties with Singleton and who have gone on to excel in a particular field, be it business, sport, or community pride," Cr Adamthwaite said.

"We are extremely fortunate in Singleton that we punch well above our weight when it comes to the number of talented, determined and hardworking people who have achieved great things, in a range of fields, and in doing so are wonderful ambassadors for Singleton."

"There are some extremely distinguished names already on our Hall of Fame, and I'm looking forward to the nominations we will receive this year." Peabody Manager Environment and Community at Wambo Steven Peart said the long-standing partnership between Peabody and Council was a testament to the importance of the Hall of Fame for the community.

"Wambo Coal is one of the oldest coal mines in the Hunter Valley and we're really proud to give back to the community that supports us," he said. "The Hall of Fame is a really positive way of promoting and recognising the great achievements of local people

and we look forward to working together with Council to support the community well in to the future." For more information or for a nomination form, contact Singleton Council on (02) 6578 7290 or visit www.halloffame.singleton.nsw.gov.au/nominate

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Don't get Hacked!

We now use the internet for almost everything that has to do with money. Banking, receiving bills, subscriptions, paying for PAYG and GST through internet portals . . . the list goes on. With internet usage for financial services soaring in recent years, and with so much money passing to and fro, cyber-crime has also soared.

The 'WanaCry' ransomware that swept around the globe in May this year affected over 200,000 computers. Organisations including the United Kingdom's National Health Service and FedEx were hacked in an attempt to ransom the stolen information for Bitcoin currency.

It isn't just big organisations that are targeted for this kind of malware.

Ranging from identity theft through to data attacks, cyber-crime affects businesses both small and large, as well as private individuals. The effects can last not just for days or weeks, but sometimes for months.

All businesses need to undertake cyber security and prepare a cyber incident response plan that is updated regularly.

Business information that can be hacked doesn't just include your vital business and personal financials it also includes your client, employer and supplier information.

Making sure this kind of information is secure is vital. Customers and employees need to be sure they can trust you with their sensitive information. Losing that information to hackers can damage your reputation and affect your business long after the hack has been undertaken.

With smartphones dominating the mobile phone industry, hacking these little computers which hold so much of our sensitive information has become a top priority for hackers.

Hacks include sending you an email or even an SMS that has been configured to install malware on your phone.

Hackers can steal data directly from your smartphone. That tiny yet powerful computer holds so

much financial information including passwords that once they are in, hackers can sell off your valuable information. They can also use it to access accounts or subscribe to services that will be charged to your bank account.

Read the 'Cyber Scare' report by the NSW Small Business Commissioner or for more information about how to spot cyber-crime visit [Australian Federal Police](#).

Have you been hacked?

Email spam, phishing, scams and computer hacks have become so commonplace that in 2014 the Australian government set up the Australian Cybercrime Online Reporting Network (ACORN).

ACORN provides not only information about cyber-crime, it also provides a platform for reporting criminal activity. In fact in 2016, ACORN received over 45,000 reports of fraudulent activity. If you have been the victim of a scam or hack, you can report it at [ACORN](#).

Top 10 free PC programs everyone should have

There are millions of free and open source projects available, many of them better than any commercially available product. Below is a short listing of what we think are the best out there, broken down into ten categories.

Antivirus and malware protection

Most PC users realize that they need protection on their computer or may have an installed antivirus program from their computer manufacturer. What most don't realize is that there are free programs that are just as good and in some cases better than the commercial products. Below are our recommendations.

Antivirus program: Avast! Malware and Spyware protection: Malwarebytes Backup solutions

There are dozens of free and commercially available backup programs for computers. Unfortunately, many of those backups are stored locally, meaning if your house were to catch fire, get robbed, or if you lost your backup discs, all your data would be lost. To

avoid loss of important data, we suggest users use online backup services.

Online backup solution: Mozy or Dropbox

Browsers

Although Microsoft Internet Explorer comes pre-installed on Windows computers. There are several excellent free alternatives that everyone should try. These free alternatives can often be faster, have more options, and in many cases be more secure than Internet Explorer.

Internet Browser: Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome

Compression utility

When downloading files on the Internet you'll eventually encounter a .zip, .rar, or other compressed file. Dealing with these files can be easy with our below free file compression utility.

File compression utility: 7-Zip

Disc ripper and creation utility

Creating an audio or data CD/DVD, ripping the data from an audio CD, or creating a CD from a .ISO file can also be done freely using our below free recommendation.

CD burner utility: CDBurnerXP

E-mail

E-mail is yet another service that can be done freely. Most users today use online e-mail solutions like the one listed below. However, for those still using an e-mail client such as Microsoft Outlook we strongly suggest one or both of the below suggestions.

E-mail client: Mozilla Thunderbird

Online e-mail: Gmail FTP, SFTP, and SSH Utility

Users who maintain their own web page or need to upload or download files to or from a server have to use an FTP utility or an SSH client. There are many commercial programs capable of doing this but our below free recommendations beats them all.

FTP client: Filezilla

SSH client: MobaXterm and Putty

Image editor, paint program, and picture organizer

There are many great free solutions for editing, creating, and organizing your images on your computer. Many of the programs capable of doing these tasks can be several hundred dollars, but all of the below programs are completely free.

Image editor: GIMP

Paint program: Paint.net

Picture organizer: Google Photos

Multimedia

There are dozens of different multimedia programs with different capabilities and limitations. Below are our

top free multimedia programs for watching video files and recording audio.

Audio editing and creating tool: Audacity

Video and DVD Player: VLC and MPC-HC

Office Suite

An Office suite such as Microsoft Office is often one of the most expensive programs that a user can install on their computer. Why install these expensive programs when there are free solutions that are just as good.

Office suite: OpenOffice Notepad and Source code editor: Notepad++

General PC

Cleaning Tips

Below is a listing of suggestions to follow when cleaning any computer components or peripherals as well as tips to help keep a computer clean.

Never spray or squirt any liquid onto any computer component. If a spray is needed, spray the liquid onto a cloth.

You can use a vacuum to suck up dirt, dust, or hair around the computer. However, **do not** use a vacuum inside your computer as it generates static electricity that can damage your computer. If you need to use a vacuum inside your computer, use a portable battery powered vacuum or try compressed air.

When cleaning a component or the computer, turn it off before cleaning.

1. Be cautious when using any cleaning solvents; some people have allergic reactions to chemicals in cleaning solvents, and some solvents can even damage the case. Try always to use water or a highly diluted solvent.

2. When cleaning, be careful not to accidentally adjust any knobs or controls. Also, when cleaning the back of the computer, if anything is connected make sure not to disconnect the plugs.

3. When cleaning fans, especially smaller fans, hold the fan or place something in-between the fan blades to prevent it from spinning. Spraying compressed air into a fan or cleaning a fan with a vacuum may cause damage or generate a back voltage.

4. Never eat or drink around the computer.

Limit smoking around the computer.

Cleaning Tools

Below is a listing of items you may need or want to use while cleaning your computer.

Cloth - A cotton cloth
Water or rubbing alcohol -
Portable Vacuum
Cotton Foam swabs - Whenever possible, it is better to use lint-free swabs such as foam swabs.

MOVIE REVIEW

War for the Planet of the Apes



In *War for the Planet of the Apes*, the third chapter of the critically acclaimed blockbuster franchise, Caesar and his apes are forced into a deadly conflict with an army of humans led by a ruthless Colonel. After the apes suffer unimaginable losses, Caesar wrestles with his darker instincts and begins his own mythic quest to avenge his kind. As the journey finally brings them face to face, Caesar and the Colonel are pitted against each other in an epic battle that will determine the fate of both their species and the future of the planet.

Hail Caesar, indeed.

One of the most gripping movie character arcs in recent memory comes to a conclusion with *War for the Planet of the Apes*: that of Caesar (Andy Serkis), a lab-born chimpanzee who gained unusual intelligence as a result of human experimentation; escaped his abusive captors; and led a revolt of similarly advanced apes, even as the human population began to dwindle due to the outbreak of a deadly virus.

This all took place in the thrilling reboot/prequel, *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, and the Shakespearean political drama (I kid you not), *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*. *War* finds Caesar, some two years after the events of *Dawn*, facing a choice: continue living in increasingly antagonistic relationship with the remaining humans or actively work toward their ultimate subjugation. That we are right there with Caesar in his agonizing predicament is a testament to Serkis' groundbreaking work in motion-capture performance (his turn in *Rise* was Oscar-worthy), as well as the impeccable CGI effects, which give every simian detail a startling verisimilitude. "My God. Look at your eyes. Almost human," a character observes of Caesar, who is staring him down with a mixture of anger, suspicion, and pity. Exactly.

Directed, as was *Dawn*, by Matt Reeves, *War for the Planet of the Apes* opens with a stunning battle sequence, in which a team of human soldiers assaults an ape compound hidden in the forest. Although the fighting itself is panicked and chaotic, the camera movements and editing scheme are restrained, even calm. A slowly gliding

overhead shot

of the fray allows us to take in the full scope of the violence and suffering. Later, when Caesar plunges into a rushing river, we see his leap from far away, in long shot; the camera patiently holds on the water, without a cut, until Caesar emerges gasping for air right in front of us. All along, Michael Giacchino's score offers ominous rumbles and insinuating slices of strings. There is a soberness to the shape and sound of *War for the Planet of the Apes* that rightly matches the movie's serious consideration of conflict.

There is a curious turn, however, after this first act. Just as the movie seems preparing to spread wide an epic canvas, it curiously retreats to become a prison movie. The bulk of the film takes place in a snowy concentration camp for apes, overseen by a Kurtz-like madman known as The Colonel (Woody Harrelson). There are some standout scenes here, and certainly defining moments for the central conflict within Caesar's character, yet I couldn't help feeling that the narrative shift put the three-film sweep on pause, exactly when it seemed to be building toward a monumental climax. It would be easier to forgive this detour if I was more taken with The Colonel, who arguably gets more attention than any human has yet in the trilogy. Despite Harrelson's best efforts—he can do scary-crazy as well as anybody—*War* asks too much of the character. Much of the film's theme are wrapped up in The Colonel; indeed, all three get explicated in a lengthy, laborious dialogue scene between The Colonel and Caesar. Simply put, there is



too much humanity in this ape movie.

Far better are the scenes involving Maurice (Karin Konoval), the mournful orangutan who serves as Caesar's counselor and conscience, and Rocket (Terry Notary), his brave, right-hand chimp.

Especially haunting are the visions Caesar has of Koba (Toby Kebbell), his now-deceased adversary from *Dawn*, who reappears to taunt Caesar that he was right all along about the worthlessness of humans.

These are all more compelling characters than The Colonel or Nova (Amiah Miller), a mute human girl whom the apes encounter on their way to the prison. (As for Steve Zahn's Bad Ape, another new character, I found his presence to be distractingly Dobbysque.)

Despite such hiccups, *War for the Planet of the Apes* regains its footing for a finale that is appropriately momentous, then elegiac. An especially astute touch is the way the climactic battle is decided not by men or apes, but by the brute force of nature itself. These films have been rooted in an understanding that humanity, for all its accomplishment, is still subservient to a created order. *War for the Planet of the Apes* honours the remarkable creature who—partly out of desire, but mostly out of tragic necessity—re-ordered things in irrevocable ways.

3.5/4



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

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



I've always been fascinated with obscure sciences or research projects. You often see documentaries on something like, say aviation, and apart from the obvious interviews with pilots and plane builders, there is always an obscure guy who pops up his head and puts in

his two cents worth. One minute, a veteran pilot will be chatting away about the changes in the industry over the past 50 years, then an engineer will explain about advances in design of aircraft and then suddenly there is this weird-looking guy with a caption underneath.....Fred Fortescue – Remedial Air Flight Pattern Systems Analyst. Fred comes on periodically to either defend or challenge what somebody else has said. What gives him the jurisdiction to be able to do this? He's a Remedial Air Flight Pattern Systems Analyst, that's what! I mean, do they make these things up for the documentary? "Hey, we need a guy to complement these pilots and engineers in a believable role; how about we call him an 'Air Flight Pattern Expert'." "No, not believable enough." "I know, we'll call him a 'Remedial Air Flight Pattern Systems Analyst'.....and we'll get Fred from sales to fill the role!"

A guy handed me a card the other day.....'Stuart Liversage- Assistant Golf Operations Executive'. Wow, 2IC, I thought. Later that day I saw him emptying rubbish bins around the course and picking up range balls by hand. There are no such things as cellar hands anymore in the wine industry, they take on titles such as 'Assistant Technical Director of Wine'. Looking in the jobs section of the newspaper you will view ads for cleaning staff... 'We are looking for an appropriate applicant to take on the role of Sanitary and Office Maintenance duty officer.....'

You get my drift. So you can forgive me for my reaction when watching the highest rating commercial television station 6.00 pm news at the beginning of last week. The very first item was about young drivers in hotted-up cars, street racing and performing general malpractice activities such as burnouts, on our roadways. Firstly, they interviewed Police Commissioner Mick Keelty, who described this phenomena as unnecessary, dangerous and potentially fatal and that the proposal be put forward to not only to confiscate the offender's cars but to use them in crash testing. They showed some footage of these young people irresponsibly drag racing on some public roads and then came 'To find out more, we spoke to one of the leading Australian experts.....' So on comes this chap about 40 years old and the interviewer begins to ask him several questions. As he answers the first question on how rife this activity has become in recent times, a caption below pops up on the screen..... 'David Davidson-Hoon Researcher!' (not his real name-I don't remember it because I was laughing so much). I couldn't believe my eyes. In today's society, with garbos being called 'Waste Management Consultants', here is this guy, confidently talking away about some typical (albeit dangerous) teenage behavioural activities with the title 'Hoon Researcher'. Seriously? You have to laugh.

You can just imagine David's parents when he finally graduated. His mother would have told the world, "David's now a fully qualified hoon researcher... Ken and I are so proud.....he attended Australia's most elite and prestigious Hoon College and was dux of his year."

You can imagine David on a blind date. "So what do you do for a living, David?" "I'm a hoon researcher, how about you?"

"That's enough talk....take me darling!!!"

Can you picture the streets of Cabramatta, with gangs of youths full of booze and drugs, drag racing their hotted-up Commodores along a main road, and there's David, dressed in his trademark white chinos, collared shirt and round spectacles, eagerly taking notes on a clipboard as this mayhem unravels.

"Oh, there's David everyone, hi David!"

"Oh, hi guys, don't stop. I'm just taking some notes.....nice burnout, Randy."

"...and this year's Nobel prize for science goes to David Davidson for his exceptional work in the field of hoon research" dreams David, as he wakes up in a cold sweat with his hand on it.

"Mate", says one of David's friends, "have you ever thought of changing your title from hoon researcher to

something else?"

"What do you mean?" replies David in shock.

"Well, maybe you should stylise your job description a little to give it more credence."

"How dare you!" yells David, "I studied for six long years at Hoon College to earn this title."

"I'm just suggesting to massage it a little. Mate, they're going to be interviewing you later today for the 6.00 pm news, what about 'Adolescent Motor Transport Psychologist?'"

"No, Jonathon!" cries David, "I've wanted to be a hoon researcher since I was a little boy and I'm proud of what I am....go away!" as he runs away and locks himself in his bedroom.

"I think hoon researching just came naturally to David", says his brother Charles, an Assistant to the Assistant Regional Refreshment Packaging Officer for Coca Cola- Amatil. "I remember when we were kids and we were driving along and these P-Platers pulled up at the lights next to us. They had this heavy metal music blaring and they were smoking and when the lights turned green, they revved up the engine in their Monaro and screeched away, leaving a trail of burnt rubber and smoke. Mum and Dad shook their heads and told us that people like that would amount to nothing and that one day they would kill someone...and themselves. I looked over to David who had eagerly watched this unfold and I noticed a concerned expression on his face. He didn't say a word, he didn't have to, it was obvious what he was thinking. I said then and there, 'Mum and Dad, I think David would make a great hoon researcher'."

Mum turned around and looked to David, who was still staring out the window. "I think you might be right, Charles. I think we might have a hoon researcher in the family." David could no longer hold his transient face and shyly smiled. That's when the penny dropped." As with many of the social sciences, without hoons David has nothing to research. Could that mean that indirectly, David's research could be encouraging hoons and their behaviour? His detailed work over the years would certainly bring about a way of trying to understand the precursors of becoming a hoon and documenting this information for the public to access. So let's be frank. David, as one of Australia's leading hoon researchers, is hoping that hoons will always be around, in fact multiplying and diversifying and giving birth to a new generation of hoons, who will take the art of being hoons to a frighteningly new level?

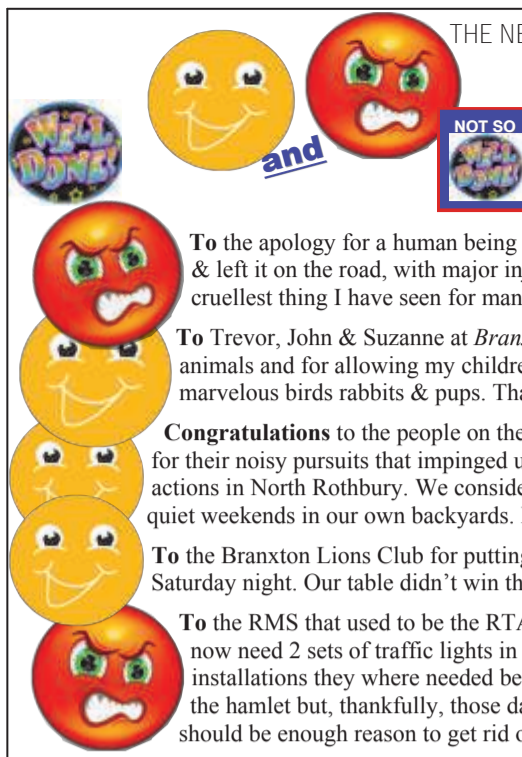
In David's defence, I'm not going to stop making wine because of a few social implications with alcohol abuse. In actual fact, I encourage you strongly to drink as much wine as you can, the more the merrier. So you can't blame David for wasting our hard-earned tax dollars on researching why today's youths drive their cars quickly and race against one another because they've grown up watching trashy American movies and playing these Play Station thingys, can you?

"David, you were wonderful", smiles David's blind date as she falls back into the pillows. "I hope you didn't tell me you were a hoon researcher just to get me into bed."

"I'm a hoon researcher and will always be a hoon researcher."

"Oh, enough talk....take me again you sexy beast!!!"

Cheers, Andrew



To the apology for a human being who hit a kangaroo with his car in Lovedale & left it on the road, with major injuries, without putting it down. That is the cruelest thing I have seen for many a day.

To Trevor, John & Suzanne at *Branxton Pet World* for all their help with my animals and for allowing my children to wonder around and enjoy all your marvelous birds rabbits & pups. Thank you.

Congratulations to the people on their motorbikes that have found another venue for their noisy pursuits that impinged upon our lives by your noisy & inconsiderate actions in North Rothbury. We consider it an impingement of our right to have nice quiet weekends in our own backyards. Please keep it up.

To the Branxton Lions Club for putting on such a great Trivia evening last Saturday night. Our table didn't win the trivia but we sure had fun trying.

To the RMS that used to be the RTA that used to be the DMR ... why do we now need 2 sets of traffic lights in Branxton. At the time of original installations they were needed because of the huge volume of traffic through the hamlet but, thankfully, those days have well gone. The upkeep cost alone should be enough reason to get rid of them.



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: Tractor & Slasher. Fiat 415, 4 cyl, roll bar, hi & lo range, spare PTO shaft & original operators manual. Recently serviced \$5500 P: 0428 684 400
For Sale: Ride-on Greenfield mower. 16HP, 4-stroke OHV. Operators manual plus tilt trailer to suit. \$3750P: 0428 684 400
For Sale: 325 Litre Kelvinator Fridge Freezer. 12 years old & in good condition \$100 P: 4938 1836
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/sfonton
E: sfonton@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 ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841
Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292
Work Wanted: Lawn Mowing; best rates - large or small area. P: 0459 123 397
Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601
Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701
Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567
Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081
Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.
Work Wanted: experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804
Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153
Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989
Work Wanted: Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards - rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538
GO TO FOR FURTHER DETAILS
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/>

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



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 Margarette Butler's house at 1696 Wine Country Drive, North Rothbury.
Wed 2 Aug ~ Branxton Public School Education Week evening at RTHS 6pm
Fri 4 Aug ~ Branxton Public School Education Week Assembly 11:35am
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
Thur 10 Aug ~ Kirkton Public School 'Kindergarten Orientation Program 9am ~ 12 noon. Phone 6574 7152 for further details
Fri 11 Aug ~ Branxton Public School P&C Outdoor Movie Night from 4:30pm
Sun 20 Aug ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm
Tue 22 Aug ~ Branxton Public School Book Week Costume Parade
Thur 24 Aug ~ Kirkton Public School 'Kindergarten Orientation Program 9am ~ 12 noon. Phone 6574 7152 for further details
Sat 26 Aug ~ the Parents & Friends of St Phillips, Nulkabah Art Show. The theme is 'To Infinity And Beyond'. Entry is free. Entry forms can be obtained by phoning Jacquie on 0417 009 912.
Tues 5 Sept ~ Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting; 4pm at Branxton Golf Club
Thur 7 Sept ~ Kirkton Public School 'Kindergarten Orientation Program 9am ~ 12 noon. Phone 6574 7152 for further details

Tues 12 Sept ~ B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton
Sun 17 Sep ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm
Thur 21 Sept ~ Kirkton Public School 'Kindergarten Orientation Program 9am ~ 12 noon. Phone 6574 7152 for further details
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



Junior Dancers

We welcome two new staff members to Branxton Public School. Miss Hadden is teaching Kinder Koalas and Mrs Payne is teaching 1-20. We know they will love their time at BPS. Our NAIDOC celebrations were a wonderful acknowledgement of our indigenous history with Mr Cousins explaining the significance of the different sections of the new Aboriginal garden and how it complements our school mural. Our Wonnarua elders were in attendance and we all enjoyed the dancing by the Rutherford Technology High School boys group. After recess all students were involved in Aboriginal themed activities including music, maths, craft, games and dancing. Our Junior Dancers did a fabulous job at the Hunter Dance Festival in Week 2. They were super cute in their costumes and Mrs Taylor was very impressed with the respectful behaviour throughout the day and night. Please support our school's Earn and Learn sticker collection through Woolworths. Sheets to fill have been sent home and extra stickers can be sent into school. This program helps our school to purchase extra resources for our classrooms.



Jake

The boys soccer team won their recent game against Thornton. They are now through to the sixth round of the PSSA competition. Well done! Congratulations to Jake who represented our school and Hunter Region at the State Cross Country. He had a fantastic day and came 23rd in his age group. Great effort Jake. Week 3 is Education Week with the theme "I Learn, We Learn". We will be having an Assembly to showcase our talented students on Friday 4th August at 11:35am. Parents are welcome. Some of our students will also perform at the Education Week Evening Presentations at Rutherford Technology High School on Wednesday 2nd August. The P&C have organised an Outdoor Movie Night for Friday August 11th. Cars 3 will be screened in the playground with snacks, drinks and glow products available. Come along and enjoy a great community event. Gates open from 4:30pm.



Indigenous Dancers

This year we will be celebrating Book Week on Tuesday 22nd August with a picnic lunch, Book Fair in the library and a Book Character Parade. This year the theme for book Week is "Escape to Everywhere". Plenty of time to plan your costume! 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

- Wednesday 2nd August – Education Week evening at RTHS 6pm
- Friday 4th August – Education Week Assembly 11:35am
- Friday 11th August – P&C Outdoor Movie Night from 4:30pm
- Tuesday 22nd August – Book Week Costume Parade

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



Greta Public School

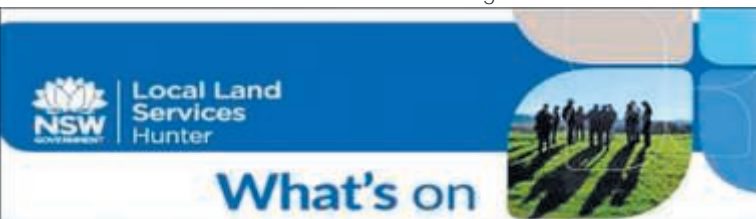
With Sarah-Jane Hazell
Relieving Principal, Greta Public School



NAIDOC Week

Our students hit the ground running on our return to school after the holidays. NAIDOC week fell in the school holidays and we held the majority of our recognition activities in the first week of school. Late last term we were lucky enough to have a visit from Uncle Johnny who told the story of his family and their experiences in the stolen generation. This term we followed this up by an excellent performance by Lucas Proudfoot who shared songs, dances, and stories with us. Throughout the week students undertook a range of classroom activities across all subjects to deepen their understanding of Aboriginal Culture and the week culminated with a short assembly, Indigenous games organised by year 6 and a BBQ provided by the P&C.





Using chemicals

The use of chemicals on farms in NSW is regulated by legislation to ensure minimal negative effects on human health and the environment, and to ensure safe food for Australia and the countries we export to.

All farmers who use chemicals are deemed to be farm chemical users and have to keep records of all chemical usage.

It is normal practice to both consider the weather before, during and after applications of pesticides, when recording chemical usage.

The term pesticide is a general term. Within this we group pesticides into

- herbicides (applied to plants to control weeds),
- insecticides (applied to control particular insects) and
- fungicides (applied to plants to control specific fungi).

Biological control agents are regularly used in place of chemicals in many food crops.

Spray drift is a serious issue associated with chemical application where sprayed chemical drifts onto adjacent or non-target situations. All chemical users are obliged, by law to ensure spray drift does not occur.

How Local Land Services can help

Local Land Services (LLS) offers support and advice to help farmers and farming groups maintain safe, profitable and productive farms.

LLS work closely with organisations such as the Department of Primary Industries to provide up to date technical advice, support and pass on the latest scientific knowledge.

Training and courses

LLS is pivotal in the delivery of education programs such as the PROfarm range of short courses, including *Chemical safety*, *Chemical risk management*, *Chemical application* and *fumigation on farms*. We will coordinate local producer groups on timely and locally relevant topics such as nozzle selection, avoid inversions (weather related event), monitor temperature and humidity and select the right type of formulation for ground or aerial spraying.

Advice and assistance

Call 1300 795 299 to get in touch with a Local Land Services Officer.

Industry collaborators and resources

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

The *NSW Pesticides Act* controls the use of pesticides in NSW. EPA has some great information surrounding the act.

NSW Department of Primary Industries

The Department of Primary Industries works to develop and sustain diverse, profitable food and fibre industries, and ensures best practice management of our natural resources.

Spray Drift Fact Sheet

This fact sheet has some great tips on spray drift best practise safety and management.

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)

The APVMA is an Australian government statutory authority established to centralise the registration of all agricultural and veterinary chemical products in Australia.

Blood On The Track

with Tara Madgwick



2016 Listed Glasshouse Handicap at the Sunshine Coast where he defeated Saluter and Stratum Star.

Flamboyer and Cabeirien are out of the unraced Zeditave mare Zedatier who was also bred by Breen and Doughty. She is out the Tierce mare Tiercette.

Purchased by Gai Waterhouse as a yearling for \$14,000 from the Newhaven Stud draft, Tiercette won three races in Sydney.

A daughter of the stakes-placed Twig Moss mare Oust, Tiercette became a very reliable broodmare. Eight of her 10 foals have got to the races and won, highlighted by the \$450,000 earner Tierqualo (Sequalo) whose nine wins were highlighted by the Listed Falvelon Quality and Listed Queensland Day Plate.

Tiercette is also the dam of the stakes-placed Eminence Grise (Sea Road) the dam of the stakes-placed near stalwart Flamboyer (Clang) who has earned over \$557,000 with nine wins and 17 placings. His highlight came in the

His earnings are almost double that of second placed Manhattan Rain, who had the Golden Slipper winner She Will Reign, third placed Fastnet Rock who had the Blue Diamond winner Catchy and fourth placed I Am Invincible who had the Magic Millions winner Houtzen.

Major contributors for Snitzel have been the Group I ATC Sires' Produce Stakes winner Invader, Group II BRC Champagne Classic winner Tangled, Group III ATC Widden Stakes Teaspoon and Group III CRC Black Opal Stakes winner Trapeze Artist.

Snitzel has also owns a Group I in New Zealand this season with the ARC Auckland Diamond Stakes hero Summer Passage.

Debut 2YO Winner for Foxwedge

It's been a ground breaking season for Newgate Farm's foundation sire Foxwedge, who will be crowned Aus-



tralia's leading second crop sire for 2016/2017 and added a promising debut two year-old winner to his tally on Wednesday. Prepared by Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young, Baduzzi made her debut in the 1100 metre maiden at Echuca with very little fanfare and emerged a smart winner. She mustered speed from an inside gate to work forward and find the fence before forging clear at the top of the straight. She kicked strongly to the

line for Michael Walker to hold off all challengers and win by three-quarters of a length. A \$110,000 NZB Premier purchase for her trainers from the Curraghmore Stud draft, Baduzzi runs for a syndicate that includes Newgate Farm's Henry Field, who bred the filly in partnership. She is the seventh winner from seven to race from good producing stakes-winning Gold Brose mare Golden Pedigree. Baduzzi is the 51st

Australian winner for Foxwedge this season and is his ninth Australian two year-old winner. With seasonal progeny earnings topping \$3.5 million, Foxwedge has a clear margin over his rivals and is set to cover a full book of mares this spring at a fee of \$22,000.

UK Fastnet Rock Stakes-Winner Headed to Australia

Champion Australian sire Fastnet Rock has more than made his mark in the Northern Hemisphere and added a 120th stakes-winner to his tally with a York stakes success for three year-old filly Entsar. Enstar scored a length and a quarter win in the Listed British Stallion Studs EBF Lyric Fillies' Stakes over 1m 2 1/2 furlongs and has now won three of nine starts. "Entsar will now go to Australia as a broodmare," said Alison Begley, representing the owners.

DETAILED SALEYARD REPORT



Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton report date 26/7/17

Yarding 740 ~ **Change - 205** (Comparison Date 19/7/17)

Change 205

The dry seasonal conditions contributed to a larger penning of fair to good quality cattle, with the younger drafts making up the bulk of the yarding. The majority were suitable for the restocker and feeder orders, with some excellent younger cattle in prime condition sourced by the butchers. There were around 70 cows penned, with very few grown steers and heifers in the offering.

The younger cattle trended cheaper, while the cows lifted in value week-on-week.

The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock trended 20c cheaper, making from 290c to 379c, with similar decreases recorded for the heavier drafts, as they averaged 323c/kg. The medium weight vealer heifers also to the restockers eased 25c to average 287c, with the best making 319c/kg. Yearling steers were mainly light weights and eased 5c, with restockers paying from 310c to 332c/kg to secure their selections. Yearling heifers to the restockers were back 15c, the lighter end made from 248c to 280c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers sold well for the higher yielding pens, however the plainer drafts struggled in the competition, with the best sold for 349c/kg.

Cows sold according to yield and quality, with the better pens lifting in price, while the plainer drafts trended cheaper. The plainer 2 scores averaged 6c dearer ranging from 160c to 210c, while the heavier weights made 222c/kg.



Score report date 25/7/17

Yarding 890 ~ **Change 270** (Comparison Date 18/7/17)

Numbers increased due to the surrounding areas remaining dry and the quality remained fair to good. The bulk were younger cattle, with the majority suitable for the restockers and lot feeders, and fair percentages of prime cattle suitable for the butchers were also scattered throughout the market.

The usual buyers competed, with the younger drafts remaining close to firm, and the older heifers and cows trended cheaper. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers ranged from 282c to 374c depending on breed, with the heavier drafts reaching 358c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers made from 290c to 324c/kg, with only breed and quality contributing to any price variations. The yearling steers improved by 4c, with the medium weights making from 310c to 333c/kg. Yearling heifers sold at similar prices, from 274c to 331c/kg. The prime conditioned young cattle to the butchers lifted 7c, the best making 358c/kg. There were too few grown steers to quote, while the grown heifers sold at cheaper prices to range from 210c to 230c/kg. Cows trended 6c cheaper, the plainer medium weights averaged 182c, while the better covered heavy weights ranged from 210c to 218c/kg. The best heavy weight bull topped at 260c/kg.

TRLX Tamworth report date 24/7/17

Yarding 1122 ~ **Change 152** (Comparison Date 17/7/17)

There was an increase of 200 head. Yearling cattle made up the bulk of the offering with a limited supply of vealers. There was also a limited supply of well finished heavy grown steers and cows were well represented. Quality and condition was mixed throughout the grades with crop-fed cattle showing the best condition. The usual buyers were in attendance and demand varied. There were insufficient vealer steers to quote. Light and medium weight yearling steers saw demand was similar to last week, and the market trended close to firm, quality accounted for some price change. There was increased demand for heavy feeder steers with the yearlings selling up to 4c/kg dearer. Yearling heifers to restockers and feeders sold on a firm to slightly cheaper market trend with the quality quite mixed. There were few good lines available. Well finished heifers to the trade sold to a dearer trend with limited supplies on offer. The well finished heavy grown steers sold firm to slightly dearer. Medium weight 2 and 3 score cows remained firm. The well finished heavy weights sold to a cheaper trend with and improvement in quality.



REFLECTIONS

SCRIPTURE

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the

cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. "Tell no one about this vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead."

Matthew 17:1-9

REFLECTION

Today's mountain walk



was a huge experience for the three who would always be with him. They saw Jesus in his glory. Somehow they knew the real identity of Jesus – beloved son of the Father: more to him than meets the eye. We climb a mountain and we see new views. We see the city from a new vantage point. Beauty we never saw before. We need times to

climb mountains and get away from the ordinary. Lent is a time like that – as we give something up, we take something on. Every time I pray Like Jesus, we need places where we hear the words – *you are my son, daughter, and the beloved.* We know too that if we believe that, our lives will be challenged. Whenever we climb the

mountain of the Lord – make any journey with him, we are changed. As every mountain is different, every moment with the Lord is well worthwhile! Someone said, 'Every time I pray I think of ... and I know I must be kinder!'

About the effect of prayer and meeting Jesus, Pope Francis says: "We now return home with a good seed: the seed of the Word of God," he said. "The Lord will send rain and that seed will grow. It will grow and it will bear fruit. We thank the Lord for the seed and for the rain that he will send us, but we also want to thank the sower because you were the sower and you know how to do it."

HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

Clear Image Hunter Valley Wine Show 2017 Celebrations Luncheon on Friday 25 August at Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley

Tickets are selling fast! It's that time of the year once again where Wine Country come together to celebrate the winners of our talented Hunter Valley winemakers and producers at the Clear Image Hunter Valley Wine Show 2017 Celebrations Luncheon at Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley. On Friday, 25 August 2017,

The Hunter Valley hosts international guest Tahitian Noni in a bid to win their China Distributor Incentive in 2018.



The Conference and Incentive markets are a key strategic focus for the Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association (HVWTA) and the HVWTA had the pleasure of showing off the Hunter Valley to two key conference organisers from a major Chinese company, Tahitian Noni. The organisers have chosen Australia are now choosing between Sydney or the Gold Coast for their Tahitian Noni China Distributor Incentive in 2018. If Sydney wins the bid to host this event, the Hunter Valley will play a major role providing accommodation, optional activities and experiences for 300 Chinese delegates in 2018. It is estimated that this event will have an economic impact of \$1.5 million. Thank you to Hunters Quarter, Hungerford Hill, Hope Estate, Audrey Wilkinson and Hunter Valley Gardens for hosting our guests.

over 350 wine and tourism industry along with national media will celebrate the success of our wine producers. Elaine Chukan Brown is our International judge this year. Based in Sonoma, California, Elaine Chukan Brown serves as the American Specialist for Jancis-Robinson.com, is a contributing writer to Wine & Spirits, and a columnist for Wine Business Monthly. Her work has also been featured in *The World of Fine Wine*, *The Robb Report*, *Decanter*, *MensHealth.com*, *GuildSomm.com*, *San Francisco Magazine*, among others, and appears on her own website, *WakawakaWineReviews.com*. Elaine is known for having created illustrated tasting notes, which have been described by @KermitLynchWine as "a new standard in wine reviews." Prior to her career in wine, Elaine served as a philosophy professor at Northern Arizona University. Wine Country are very excited to have Elaine join our judging team and experience arguably some of the best wines produced in Australia

You can do anything, but not everything. —David Allen

Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away. —Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

The richest man is not he who has the most, but he who needs the least. —Unknown Author

You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take. —Wayne Gretzky

You must be the change you wish to see in the world. —Gandhi

The third-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the majority. The second-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the minority. The first-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking. —A. A. Milne

Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgement that something else is more important than fear. —Ambrose Redmoon

LIVE MUSIC EVERY SATURDAY



SAT 5TH

3 OF A KIND

SAT 12TH

THE REMEDY

SAT 19TH

SUN HILL DRIVE

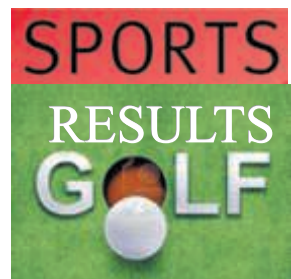
SAT 26TH

OUTLAW AVENUE

50 Maitland Rd Branxton

49381335

www.royalfederal.com.au



Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 20-7-17 Individual Stableford

Div 1 winner – George Anderson 33pts and (SOD) R/u Errol Munzenburger 27pt
3rd Ron Hebbe 26 (c/b)
Div 2 – Rob McMillan 32pts R/u Graham Scobie 30pts
3rd John Atton 29pts
Ladies – winner-Jan Harris 26pts
R/u Jan Scobie 25pts
3rd Marg Hunt 23pts
NTPs Ladies - Robin Friis
Mens – Gary Wilton
Members Draw - Not won

Results 27-7-17 Individual Stableford - 3 club event

Div 1 winner- Eddie Barrett 23 pts (c/b)
R/u George Anderson 23 pts
3rd Paul Anderson 22 pts
Div 2 Winner and SOD - Barney Ward 33pts
R/u Rob McMillan 32pts
3rd Steve Condron
Ladies Winner - Marg Hunt 23pts(c/b)
R/u Jan Scobie 23pts
3rd Jan Harris
NTPs Ladies - J Scobie
Mens - Ivan Harris
Members Draw - not won
Cool start and a small field made for a pleasing day.

Branxton Lady Golfers Wednesday 27th July

Event: Round 6 Monthly Medal/Veterans Championship.
Winner: Robyn Hoffman with a Nett of 68
Nearest to the pin: Kerrie O'Connell
Least Putts: Robyn Hoffman

Branxton Golf Results 22nd July VBC Golf Day 2BBB plus singles in conjunction

Winners: Neil Jordan and Eddie Garland 78 pts
Runners Up: Roger Yandle and G.Armstrong 66 pts
Third: G. McFarlane and Phil Baker 65 pts
4th: Col Hughes and Noel Hughes 62 pts
5th: Steve Primmer and Peter Mathews 62 pts
6th: Murray Johanson and Cameron Johanson 56 pts
Singles Winner:

K.Howard 41 pts
Runner Up: Eddie Garland 41 pts
Third place: M. Makin 38 pts
4th Place: P. Mathews 37 pts
5th Place: R. Moylan 37 pts

Nearest the Pins:
A Grade: 2nd/11th Mitch Butler 304 cms 4th: PeterWilton: 218 cms 9th/18th: Tom Foster 310 cms
B Grade: 2nd/11th:Neil Jordan 76 cms 4th: W.Bartlett 106 cms 9th/18th: W.Bartlett 127 cms
C Grade: 2nd/11th: (none) 4th: Roger Yandle 287 cms 9th/18th: G.Bull 409 cms
Saturday's VBC Sponsored Day proved to be very popular with 70n starters enjoying the sunny conditions. The incomparable pair of Eddie Garland and Neil Jordan blew the field away, winning the 2BBB multiplier event very easily with their 78 pts 12 pts clear of runners up Roger Yandle and G. Armstrong. Third place went to G. McFarlane and the long hitting Phil Baker, with the Hughes brothers 4th with 62 pts, Steve Primmer and Peter Mathews in

5th place and the father and son combination of Murray and Cameron Johanson 6th with 56 pts. All players who didn't win a voucher won a ball. K. Howard won the individual event with an impressive 41 pts, on a countback from Eddie Garland who really had a great day after winning the team's event. M. Makin, P. Mathews and R. Moylan completed the minor places, all playing better than their handicap. W. Bartlett proved to be the sharp shooter of the day, winning two nearest the pins in B Grade, both just over a metre away—very impressive. Neil Jordan's shot to the 2nd/11th proved to be the shot of the day, finishing only 76 cms away—no wonder he and his partner Eddie won the day's event so easily. One interesting story to evolve from the day's play was from John Martin's group. Apparently, they played at Riverside Oaks on the outskirts of Sydney last weekend, with John holing out on one hole from the fairway—and hasn't stopped telling everyone about it—especially his playing partners. He neglected to tell us about his air swing on the same day—needless to say! On Saturday, he did it again, holing out on the 13th hole—on his third shot for a par! After hitting two trees he put his third shot into the hole and win the spoils with their internal competition—how sweet!!!It goes to show how golf can change so quickly—no wonder it is spelled FLOG backwards!

Hunter Valley Golf Club Sunday 16th July

Andrew Campbell with 38 points claimed the Weekly Challenge from Ken Judge with 37 points
Tuesday 18th July A three way countback was required to split the placing's in the Tuesday Stableford with Steven Kane getting the nod from David Peel and Garry Marsden after all finished on 37 points. Ball winners were: Ken Scott-MacKenzie 35, John Stewart 35, Dan Taylor 35, Dale Macklinshaw 34, Chris Taggart 34, Ian Newell 34, Michael Watson 34, Gary Arnold 34 and Grant Clacherty v33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Cowan (3rd) Ray Hodson (4th) Gary Arnold (8th) Dale Macklinshaw (10th) and Robert Wilton (17th)

Wednesday 19th July Melita Watson handing in the only sub Par round in the Ladies Stableford with 37 points from Jan Hovey 35 and Sue Peel 3rd with 34 points. Ball winners were: Jeanette Irwin 34, Robyn Dunlop 33, Dale Hamilton 33, Karen Baillie 32 and Lynette Russell 32 c/b . Next Week the Ladies will play the 27 hole Foursomes Championship.
Thursday 20th July Greg Ireland finished the better of playing partner Garry Marsden to get the judge's nod for the win when both finished with 40 points in the Vets Stableford, Peter Mathews took 3rd with 38 points. Ball winners were: Dale Macklinshaw 37, Darrell Preston 36, Kevin Smith 36, Wayne Cowan 35, Paul Ireland 35, David Peel 35, David Irwin 34, Ken Harris 34, John Stewart 33 and Peter Payne 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Cowan (3rd) Peter Payne (4th) Eric Smith (8th) Michael Watson (10th) and Mark Barrow (17th). Next week the Vets will have Shotgun start at 7:30 am playing a 2 Person Ambrose.

Saturday 22nd July Freezing condition greeted the early starters in the Medley Stableford

before the day turned on some great scores across the Grades. A Grade went to Brad Burgess with 38 points on countback to Moore Park GC junior Jeff Pullen, B Grade to Bruce Chambers with 36 points on countback to Peter Milas who also survived a countback and C Grade to Wayne Cowan with 'the round of the day' 41 points from playing partner Ian Newell who returned 38 points. Ball winners were: Tony Field v37, Neil Day 37, Ken Springbett 36, Corey Lamb 35, Colin Mills 35, Darren Crear 35, Angello Korlevic 35, Anthony Bower 34, Eugene Kaufman 34 , Brad Minard v34, Dean Morison 33, Ray Hodson 33, David Peel 33, Nick Looby 33, Nathan Mudd 33, Darren Thomson 33, Scott Jones 33, Paul Bullock 32, Nathan Nancarrow 32, Steve Piggot 32, Le Hieu 31 and Mark Faulkner 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Nathan Nancarrow (3rd & 10th) Nick Nancarrow (4th) and Brad Burgess (17th). Next week will see the opening rounds of the Men's and Weekend Ladies Championship's playing Stroke

Sunday 23rd July The Weekly Challenge has been won by Michael Chapman with a solid 39 points from Jason Cowburn 2nd with 38 on countback to Rewadee Sirisatien from Moore Park GC. Ball winners were: Steve Piggot 37, Eddie Barrett 36, Andrew Ling v35, Shannon Bluhm v35, Tyler Loadman v34, Roxsie Ling v33 and Aaron Fox v33 c/b

Tuesday 25th July Strong scores featured in the Tuesday Stableford with Steve Piggot leading the way with 40 points from Peter Payne winning a 6 way countback with 38 points with Luke McArthur 3rd. Ball winners were: Lindsay Self 38, Matt Killick 38, Wayne Cowan 38, Bob Prentice 38, Harvey Mason 37, Chris Taggart 36, Graeme Flynn 36, Garry Clarke 35, Ken Scott-MacKenzie 35, Dale Macklinshaw 35, Tim Dunn 35 and Rick Madden v34 on countback. Nearest-the-Pins went to Robert Wilton (3rd) Peter Payne (4th) Mark Barrow (8th) Steve Piggot (10th) and Ray Newton (17th)

Wednesday 26th July Pam Snaddon and Sue Peel claimed the 27 Hole Foursome Championship with 138 scratch in a very close finish with Jenny Chambers and Dale Hamilton 1 shot back. The 27 Hole Handicap winners were Karen Baillie and Brenda Mannix with 109.75 net from Jill Slatter and Kerrie-Anne Skinner with 113 net. The daily competition 18 hole winners were Pam Snaddon and Sue Peel with 94 scratch and Handicap winners Karen Baillie and Brenda Mannix with 75.5 net. Ball winners as yet have not been notified. Next week the Ladies will play Stableford.

Thursday 27th July The Vets 2 Person Ambrose resulted in a win for John Stewart and Graeme Flynn on countback to playing partners Rex Talbot and Ken Springbett after both returned 63.25 net. Ball winners were: Garry Marsden & Paul Ireland 63.5, Wayne Cowan & Doug Wand 64.5, Ken Wright & Steve Piggot 65, Ray Hodson & Ray Newton 65.25, David Peel & Ian Newell 65.25, Wayne Berry & Darrell Preston 65.75, Grahame Sheldon & Wayne Barber 66.5, Ken Harris & John Carmody 66.75, Greg Amlah & Mark Barrow 69.25, Steve Rawlings & John Pascoe 69.25, Dale & Jenny Macklinshaw 69.5, Dave Fury & Paul Bullock 70.25, John

Harrison & Ray Boyd 70.25, Heinz Kesterman & Eric Smith 70.75, Keith Dunlop & Peter Wilson 72 and Robyn Dunlop & Lorraine Clack 77.75. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ray Newton (3rd) John Stewart (4th) Dale Macklinshaw (8th) Ray Hodson (10th) and Ian Newell (17th). Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford. **Saturday 29th July** Defending Club Champion Angello Korlevic has shot an opening round 71 to clearly lead the 2017 Championship with two rounds remaining, closest to Angello is Paul Davies in B Grade who has returned a great round of 79 while Michael Tsakissiris is leading C Grade with 90. Leading Men in the handicap section are Paul Bullock A Grade 73 net, B Grade leader is Jeff Morton with 67 net and C Grade is tied with John Barbour and Peter Atterwell sharing the lead with 66 net. Julie Van Den Berg is the leading Lady with 94 with Lorraine Clack leading the handicap section with 75 net, Tracey Morison is the current runner up in both scratch and net. The daily competition winners were: A Grade Angello Korlevic 70 net from Paul Bullock 73, B Grade Paul Davies 65 net from Jeff Morton 67 and C Grade to John Barbour 66 on countback to Peter Atterwell 66 net. Ball winners nor NTP's have been released as yet. Round 2 of the Championship will be next weeks event

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB SAT 29th JULY SINGLES STABLEFORD 51 PLAYERS

A GRADE WINNER RILEY MCCLUNG 39pts
A GRADE RUNNER UP LEE HEUSTON 37pts
A GRADE THIRD CAMERON JOHANSON 36pts
B GRADE WINNER DANIEL TURNER 37pts
B GRADE RUNNER UP ROBERT MILLER 35pts
B GRADE THIRD KELVIN MATHER 35pts
C GRADE WINNER DAKOTA WATSON 34pts
C GRADE RUNNER UP LENNARD PORTER 33pts
C GRADE THIRD PETER KELLY 33pts
BALLS TO 30pts
NTPins: 13th: K.Mather 122 cms 2nd/11th K.Mather 406 cms 4th: D.Turner 200 cms 9th/18th 190 cms

Saturday's stableford produced many lower than average scores, with a DSR of 71 and the ball competition going down to 30 pts. The gusty westerly winds, which affect the most difficult holes on the course obviously made life difficult for everyone. Local junior, Riley McLung, celebrated his 14th birthday on fine style, winning A Grade with an excellent 39 pts from his 6 handicap. He played very solidly all day, with a couple of lip out putts near the end being a testament to his overall fine play. Lee Heuston continues to play well finishing runner up with his 37 pts with Cameron Johanson third with his 1 over scratch score and 36 pts third. Daniel Turner won B Grade with a pleasing 37 pts , jsu ahead of Robert Miller's 35 pts and Kelvin Mather's 35 pts. Daniel and Kelvin also hot some excellent shots to the par threes, winning nearest the pins. Kelvin proved to be the sharp shooter of the day winning two nearest the pins on the 13th and the 2nd/11th. In fact, his shot to the 13th, only 122 cms away on this very difficult hole indicates some fine iron play. Dakota Watson won C Grade with her 34 pts, just ahead of Lennie Porter and Peter Kelly. Next week's event is the Monthly Medal, a stroke event.



What do you do when it's cold and windy outside?
Even though the days are getting a little bit longer and there is a hint of spring in the air during the day, temperatures are still dropping close to zero overnight. This means it can be extra hard to find the motivation (or the inspiration) to get out of bed for an early morning exercise session, and even harder to get yourself moving after work.

When it is dark outside and it is more tempting to sit on the lounge watching Game of Thrones reruns than it is to do some exercise, it's important to remember that exercising in cold (and windy) weather has special benefits (as well as some special considerations). **Exercise in Winter is good for you!** ~ In winter we are often driving to and from work in the dark, as well as spending most of our day inside an office, so it can be hard to remember that there is an "outdoors".

We are luckier here in the southern hemisphere than our northern hemisphere counterparts, but we can still miss our daily dose of fresh air and sunshine. Exercising outdoors in the fresh air even (or especially) in winter can be a terrific mood booster. Research shows that exercising outside releases more endorphins than exercising indoors, and even more endorphins can be released when we feel like we are battling the elements. The sense of achievement you get from going outside on a cold and windy day, knowing that you have done something that others only think about, is also priceless! When we stay inside over winter we also miss out on valuable exposure to sunlight and Vitamin D. Spending time in the sun, even on cold or windy days, can help make sure you are getting enough of this essential vitamin.

Get off the lounge! ~ More time exercising and less time on the lounge means less time eating! Long walks on the weekend can get you outside in the fresh air, expose you to Vitamin D AND get you away from the refrigerator. Why not plan a weekend with your loved ones and go walking somewhere you have never been before? The cooler weather can be the perfect time to go and explore a National Park or the local bushland without the fear of snakes or bushfires! **Burn more calories!** ~ There is also evidence to show that exercising in cold weather burns more calories! You tend to not stop for as many breaks, and you need to work harder to keep your body warm – that sounds like a win-win situation to me!

Exercising in cold weather still needs a bit of preparation!
Wear Appropriate Clothes ~ It's important to wear warmer clothes, but not too warm! I was told once that if you are warm when you are standing on the starting line of a race, then you are wearing too many clothes! The same goes for fitness classes or other forms of exercise. Wear plenty of layers that you can strip off as you warm up, but remember that you may have to carry them with you if you take them off while you are running. I once left a jacket folded up on the side of the path when I was running around Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra and when I ran back along the path 20 minutes later it was gone! **Choose safe surfaces** ~ On cold mornings footpaths and roads can be slippery, so it is better to run or exercise on grass or dirt surfaces if you are worried about falling over.

Stay in well-lit areas ~ When it is dark, it is better to exercise in parks with flood lighting or along roads with good street lighting so you can see where you are putting your feet. It is also important that drivers as well as other people exercising can see you, so wear bright colours or a headlamp.

Take a friend ~ There is safety in numbers, so if you aren't sure about exercising alone in the dark, take a friend! An exercise buddy can also be good motivation to get you out the door when you are warm inside.

Drink plenty of water ~ You sweat almost as much during winter as you do during summer. The difference is that in winter your perspiration is either caught in the layers of clothing or evaporates more quickly due to the lower humidity. Also, high winds can dehydrate you. On top of that being indoors in warm air-conditioning can dry you out, so make sure you stay hydrated!

Spend a bit more time warming up and less time cooling down! ~ In winter it is important to spend a bit more time warming up. This helps your muscles and also helps your heart and lungs – cold air going into your lungs can affect your oxygen uptake so make sure you start out slowly and give your body a little bit more time to warm up. When you are finished exercising, make sure you have dry clothes to change into at the end of a workout as clothes full of perspiration can quickly cool down and chill your body.

If you are heading out from home to go for a run or a brisk walk, do a longer walk to warm up and a shorter walk to cool down.

Make sure you are doing something you enjoy!~ Exercising in winter can be hard enough without dragging yourself out the door to do something you don't enjoy! To spice up your workouts, join a fitness group, a running club or go to a gym. You will enjoy doing some new workouts, and also meet some like-minded people to help keep you motivated.

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 almost finished 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! The next challenge will start in the first week of September. In the meantime, classes will still be running at the park so come along and give them a try!

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). Call Louise on 0439 383478 if you want to find out more or visit www.louisecairns.com.au

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NewSPORT



Greyhound Racing...



Local Report

with Sam

CHRISTMAS IN JULY
Maitland Greyhounds held their 'Christmas in July' meeting last week and the highlight was race six the GRETA GBOTA WINTER SPRINT FINAL worth \$1700 to the winner. The race was won by SLENDIFEROUS, a black bitch by BARCIA BALE and trained by Glenn Smith. Glenn had to be super confident as he travelled 790km from Park Ridge in Queensland to get the cash. It wasn't a good night for the Hunter locals with Dave Irwin travelling from Grafton to win three races, three winners coming from the Central Coast and the CHRISTMAS IN JULY STAKES was won by Sam Sultana from Londonderry. On the bright side Jason Mackay landed a super win for the locals in race 9 with RILEY TOKAAM (bred by Greta GBOTA branch secretary Helen Pullman) winning by 9 lengths in the time of 31.71 over 565m. Members of the GRETA GBOTA attended the presentation of the GRETA GBOTA WINTER SPRINT

FINAL with young Maddie Kedwell presenting the trophy. Not everyone enjoyed a feed, a drink and a good social night out.

FLYING HIGH IN JULY
James Porter and Sharee Robertson kicked off the month with two winners on the very first day, CHUNKY BUT HUNKY and ZOE FLASH both winning at The Gardens. James went on with the job notching up another 3 winners for the month with CHUNKY BUT FUNKY, TOSS THE BOSS and CHUNKY BUT HUNKY who won again at The Gardens in the last meeting of the month. Chris Kedwell took the credit for 2 winners with MR HONEYBADGER and RED ONES. (everyone knows his wife Sarah and the kids puts in all the hard yards!). Bradley Sabotic kept the kibble coming with his 3rd win at Wentworth Park with MIDNIGHT MYSTIC, the only dog in his kennel of nine racing. More winners could be just around the corner, his dad has been spotted trialling a couple of nice looking pups. Frank Cini landed a win at Maitland with HIGH BALLING who high-tailed down the straight to win by a big margin

paying \$11.20, leaving Chris Kedwell's MR HONEYBADGER and Garry Kedwell's TARO TRON in his wake.

THE BRIDESMAID
Gary Ernst better known as 'Big Gazz The Lure Driver' has been knocking on the door for a winner. His only dog SHAKES a black dog by SHAKEY JAKE out of SANNETTE KATE has run seven 2nds and two 3rds in the past 3 months at Maitland, all over the 450m. He won at his very 1st start over the 450m at Maitland before last Christmas and returned after 4 months on the sideline; everyone is hoping his next start could snowball into plenty of wins before this Christmas.

SUNNY SUNDAY AT MUSWELLBROOK
Local trainers supported last Sunday's meeting with 9 races on a 10 race program having full fields plus reserves. 8 dogs represented Greta, James Porter with MISS MALAYSIA, JETHROWTULL (2nd) MR MAYHEM and ZOE FLASH (1st) Peter Akers with DOUBLE AYE (3rd) and WICKED THIS WAY. Yasmin Ellis with SKETCHY ALLEY (3rd) and Jonny Sledzianowski. A group of astute punters hired the 'Here



GRETA GBOTA WINTER SPRINT FINAL winner 'Slendiferous'. Prizemoney for the sprint final was \$1700 which went to Queensland.

To Thair' bus to have a big plunge on birthday boy Jonny Sledzianowski's dog DJANGO'S MATE, only to find it was a late scratching. One punter said "look on the bright side, it might have got beat, let's back the Greta dog ZOE FLASH in the last."

The next meeting of the GRETA GBOTA will be held at the GRETA WORKERS CLUB on Sunday 6th August at 7pm. Come along and join the friendly branch, roll up early and enjoy a meal, a drink and some tall stories from Midnite.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME, MORE MEMBERS WILL HELP KEEP THE BRANCH STRONG AND HEALTHY SEE YA AT THE TRACK
SAM



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