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WEDNESDAY
13 September 2017

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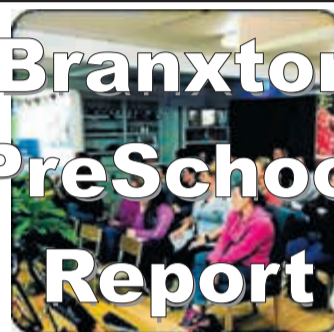
A winner

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CWA Report!

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Branxton PreSchool Report

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Countdown On!!

Governor of NSW grants Patronage to Branxton Greta Memorial Cycleway project

Cessnock City Council congratulated Branxton Greta Business Chamber (BGBC) for their hard work in securing the support of His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales for the Branxton Greta Memorial Cycleway project. President of the BGBC Brett Wild received correspondence from Government House confirming that His Excellency the Governor agreed to grant Vice-Regal Patronage for the proposal,

an exciting development as efforts are made to secure funding. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent applauded the BGBC for their commitment to the local project and commended those instrumental to securing such high level support. "It is absolutely fantastic to hear the Governor of NSW will be the official patron of this unique and wonderful project. This is a testament to the perseverance of the members of the chamber

who are working tirelessly to see the cycleway come to life." Councillor Melanie Dagg said the proposed memorial element involves dedications to the courageous local men who made the ultimate sacrifice during World War I, remembrance of contributions made to the various wars and peace keeping operations since, and the planting of Lone Pine seedlings along its length. "I'd personally like



to thank Brian Furner, Brett Wild, the Branxton and Greta RSL Sub-Branches and the Branxton-Greta Business Chamber. Their support, drive and dedication has been instrumental in us getting this far and I don't doubt their fortitude in fighting for the cycleway's completion," said Cllr Dagg. Mr Wild said to have the Governor of NSW as the official patron is very exciting for our community and shows this project is a stand out. "To attract such esteemed support for the Branxton Greta Memorial Cycleway project puts us in a very positive position for the future. I look forward to continuing to work together with Cessnock City Council to attract funding for this very important piece of infrastructure." The project valued at around

\$2.6 million includes a 4.5-kilometre cycleway connecting Branxton and Greta via the New England Highway. The plan also includes the planting of 287 Lone Pine trees in memory of the 287 Branxton and Greta residents who served in World War I. Additionally the BGBC has lodged an application for \$730,000 for the memorial aspects of the cycleway, with another \$350,000 needing to be fundraised in addition to this. Cessnock City Council recently submitted an application to the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program for this project.

Photo: His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales who has granted Vice-Regal Patronage for the proposed Branxton to Greta Memorial Cycleway.

New Gp Surgery in Branxton...



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Address all communications to:- The General Manager,
 PO Box 152, Cessnock 2325 NSW

SECTION 101 NOTICE, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT, 1979, APPROVED DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES

The public are hereby notified pursuant to Section 101 of the Environmental Planning Assessment Act, 1979 (as amended) that the following applications have been granted consent during the period from 1 August 2017 to 31 August 2017.

| Locality | Reference | Decision Date | Property Address | Application Description |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|---|
| BRANXTON | 008/2017/00000432/001 | 16-Aug-2017 | 3 Wentworth CL | Carport |
| EAST BRANXTON | 009/2017/00000148/001 | 29-Aug-2017 | 5 Middle ST | Above-ground swimming pool and child-resistant barrier |
| GRETA | 008/2017/00000350/001 | 15-Aug-2017 | 34 Wyndham ST | Shed |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2017/00000379/001 | 1-Aug-2017 | 39 Tooze CCT | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2017/00000394/001 | 7-Aug-2017 | 21 Moylan VSTA | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2017/00000404/001 | 8-Aug-2017 | 31 Harkin RD | Swimming Pool |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2017/00000407/001 | 14-Aug-2017 | 3 Jolley RD | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 009/2017/00000157/001 | 17-Aug-2017 | 42 Bendeich DR | Single Storey Dwelling With Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2017/00000397/001 | 23-Aug-2017 | 18 Bendeich DR | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2017/00000450/001 | 30-Aug-2017 | 7 Hoban RD | Single Storey Dwelling With Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 009/2017/00000150/001 | 30-Aug-2017 | 38 Bendeich DR | Single Storey Dwelling With Attached Garage |
| NULKABA | 008/2017/00000405/001 | 10-Aug-2017 | 18 Tallowood DR | Patio Cover |
| POKOLBIN | 008/2017/00000393/001 | 7-Aug-2017 | 7 Liquid Amber PRIV | Swimming Pool |
| POKOLBIN | 008/2017/00000311/001 | 22-Aug-2017 | 342 Deasys RD | Tourist & Visitor Accommodation - Alterations & Additions |
| POKOLBIN | 008/2017/00000419/001 | 31-Aug-2017 | 2 Scribbly Gum LANE | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |

Unique Number of DAs: 15

Number of DAs: 15

Total Value of DAs:

Copies of development consents are available at Council's Customer Service Centre for public inspection, free of charge, during the Council's ordinary office hours

P.O. BOX 152
 CESSNOCK

Stephen Glen
 General Manager

PUBLIC EXHIBITION Bridges Hill Park Playground Concept Design

At its meeting of 6 September 2017, Council resolved to place on Public Exhibition the Bridges Hill Park Playground Concept Design.
The Public Exhibition period will be from Monday 11 September 2017 to Friday 13 October 2017. The documents can be viewed at the following locations:
 Council's Administration Building (Customer Service Section);
 Cessnock Public Library;
 Kurri Kurri Public Library;
 Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au
 Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up **until 4.00 pm Friday 13 October 2017** via email recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or post.

PUBLIC EXHIBITION Miller Park, Mount View Park & Turner Park Masterplans

At its meeting of 6 September 2017, Council resolved to place on Public Exhibition the Draft Miller Park, Mount View Park & Turner Park Masterplans.
The Public Exhibition period will be from Monday 11 September 2017 to Friday 13 October 2017.
 The documents can be viewed at the following locations:
 Council's Administration Building (Customer Service Section);
 Cessnock Public Library;
 Kurri Kurri Public Library;
 Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au
 Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up **until 4.00 pm Friday 13 October 2017** via email recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or post.

PO BOX 152
 CESSNOCK 2325

STEPHEN GLEN
 GENERAL MANAGER

COMMUNITY UPDATE

DALWOOD ROAD, EAST BRANXTON DRAINAGE & ROADWORKS

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 signalled 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 1st September 2017



Winners are Grinners



© Photo: Able assistant Ray Walton with champion Errol holding trophy and Jim Sheedy

Local legend & prior 'Cessnock Senior Citizen of the Year' Errol Jordan has added another notch to his extensive legendary belt; he has taken the title of 'Footy Tipping' winner of Elizabeth Gates Village in Singleton.

At the final compilation of scores, completed by 98 year-old Bill Burke, Errol was in the lead by a short margin – as he was for most of the 26 rounds.

Residents, staff and friends take part in the 'footy tipping' competition. Each Wednesday morning Bill totals the individual tips and there is plenty of banter when the results are displayed.

Errol applied his extensive rugby league knowledge & also studied the current form of each team prior to selecting his preferences (not) as did many other participants. Unfortunately but fortunately for Errol others choose a haphazard approach but still enjoyed the thrill of the competition with an eye on the much coveted prize.

Errol gained 123 points achieving the trophy – an old pewter jug cleared of cobwebs. Sparing no expense a presentation ceremony was held with a beaming Errol thanking his supporters. Regular visitor to the village Ray Walton was proud of his mentor congratulating Errol on "showing the young ones how it is done".

Reigh Lewis and staff member Lorraine Hassett were tied in second on 121 points. Coming in 3rd place was euchre player extraordinaire Jim Sheedy on 120 points.

Euchre player and footy tipping participant Peter Collins admired Errol's continued winning in tipping and especially in the weekly euchre games with Errol's partner Val Trees. Peter and Jim are often left flummoxed by the skill and moves of Errol and Val.

Branxton resident, past staff and current volunteer of the village, Louise Kearney, rounded out the top 10 on 101 points and has issued the challenge for 2018 season.

Now if Errol could turn his hands to the thoroughbred racing game in the same manner as the footy tipping they could all be on a winner.

Happy 80th Birthday to Val Randall



The 'Doyenne of Community Service' in Greta, Val Randall, has just celebrated her 80th birthday with a High Tea at the Palm Court Tea Salon in Maitland last Saturday, the 9th Sept.

She shared the occasion with her many friends & family.

Val looked absolutely radiant, a beautiful occasion for a beautiful & wonderful lady.

From 'The News', the community & the many beneficiary's of your tireless community involvement 'Happy Birthday'.


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Husband Creche

Is he getting under your feet
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Ladies we have the answer

The Branxton Greta Menshed is organising a husband crèche every Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Drop him off at our husband crèche. We'll take good care of him and he may even learn something

Just pay \$2.00 for his morning coffee
 'Branxton Greta Menshed' 49 Branxton Street
 Greta in the grounds of the old St Marys Primary School

What's Happening & other matters

with Mike Lowing

(I have given over my fortnightly column to Stephen Lind from North Rothbury. His views are not necessarily those of the editor)

On this Citizenship nonsense

When the Constitution of Australia was drafted, all the people of the Dominions were British Subjects. That is, the Dominions of the States of Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and the various parts of the British Empire.

So when reference is made in the Constitution to persons of a foreign or alien background, i.e., non British subjects, it was not referring to the peoples of the Dominions.

This situation continued until 1949.

In fact when we look at the men who enlisted in the 1st and 2nd AIF a large percent were from England, Ireland, Scotland NZ and even Queensland. No one questioned their loyalty or background and this was the case in 1965 when the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, was deployed to South Vietnam. We had Poms, Scots, Kooris, Tiwi Islanders and ethnicities from all over. We fought together. These people were trained to kill and were armed.

Our politicians are not armed, *thank heavens* and unfortunately not trained. So what has happened since then? Citizenship laws have been introduced and Australians now travel on Australian Passports, not British as used to be the case.

In 1969 when I was posted to Malaysia/ Singapore my British wife had to register as an Australian citizen to obtain an Australian passport to accompany me which she did. She had to renounce her British Citizenship however.

This was hurtful for her and she still grieves. Just as you, the reader would too, if you had to renounce your birthright to stay with your partner. Would you do that? It's not something to be taken lightly.

This is no longer a requirement as Australians can have dual Citizenship.



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

UNEMPLOYED

I was born in NZ while my Australian parents were working there for the War effort and came home when I was 6 months old.

In those days parents did not have to register babies born overseas. British subjects arriving in Australia prior to 1949 were accepted as citizens of this country.

I had always considered myself Australian and served in Vietnam in the Australian Defence Force. My daughter was born in the British Medical Hospital Singapore. When I tried to register her as an Australian Citizen at the High Commission, as Australian, I was refused. They suggested I was not Australian but my wife was and could sign the necessary papers. My wife declined saying it was my *RIGHT* to look after our baby girl. It took a decision from the then Minister to allow that I was indeed Australian.

Now my daughter, my wife and I all have a 'Certificate of Citizenship'.

For six months my daughter was both a British subject and a Singaporean but would have been denied entry to Australia. That's what happens when politicians meddle and bureaucrats' interpret. She was conceived in Australia to which the Milkman at Scheyville can attest.

My friend Chang who I went to school with is Chinese. He was born on board a British ship evacuating people from the Japanese advances in South East Asia. Consequently, he was a British Subject. When he

arrived in Australia, in 1942 the citizenship requirements only required evidence of the name of the ship and the port and date of arrival.

So things have changed as different hues of Government have fiddled with the requirements of citizenship. This has all happened without regard to the original intent of the constitution and is such a balls-up; the smart arses in the Labor Party have been able to confect the so called citizenship crisis amongst the Parliament.

This is now a complete snow job and it is disappointing that the press and the Commentariat (The Fourth Estate) have given it such a degree of legitimacy. Clearly they know nothing of the history of their own country and are too bloody lazy to find out. The Labor Party of course know this and play them for suckers all the time.

It is OK for them to think the press can be snowed but it reflects badly on the Labor Party to think they can do this to the public (The Third Estate).

In my opinion the Greens and the Labor Party have conspired to produce this fiasco in an attempt to unseat the Government and they should be condemned for it and for assuming the public will buy their rubbish. And what of the cross benchers like Darren Hinch? Alas, they have fallen for the joke it is.

Still we all live in hope that the men and women on the High Court are better educated and are far more intelligent than the Fourth Estate.

It will be most interesting to read their collective determination on this matter. *Major Stephen Lind (Ret'd)*



Wake up politicians
A JWS Research Poll published this week shows that same-sex marriage was only a concern for 6 percent of the population, well below the top 10 issues where the majority of us are concerned about jobs, health and immigration.

So please listen, elected politicians, you have been distracted and duped by a

minority group skilled in the media. You were elected to be the captain of your ship, your electorate, and as the captain you have to keep the ship away from the rocks for the good of all. Your role is not to leave the bridge and go down to the lower decks to placate an unhappy minority.

Our ship, this nation, is dangerously close to the

rocks, financially and morally, and some of you have decided to cross the floor because of the sexual leanings of yourselves or those close to you. This is not what you are paid for, and we are paying your wages! We gave you our trust and you are betraying us.

I'm one of 5 million Australians working 60-80hrs/wk to survive in small business, angry and frustrated at the increasing impediments being imposed by the minority left. They are busy demonising traditional family values, coal, dredging, power stations, fracking, mining and anything else that appears good for the nation, its employment and regional development.

But I am mostly offended that you elected leaders are not focused on the major concerns for Australians which is jobs and a future for their kids.

As you are bereft of leadership next week you should focus on sidelining SSM and honour the commitment that you were elected on, and then sell 51 percent of the ABC, so that they are accountable to the electoral public. The worthy subsidy to special control has become an unworthy subsidy to special opinion and social manipulation. All you politicians who cannot put the majority of Australians before yourselves, leave and fund your own mental meanderings and let us get the good country back to being great.

Dr Stuart Ballantyne, Runaway Bay

PM misleads the Hunter community on Liddell
No one would be happier than me if the future of coal-fired generation in the Hunter could be extended; but not one energy company has shown any interest. But my advice is that the

Prime Minister has misled the Hunter community by deliberately and desperately describing a "request" he made of AGL to extend the life of Liddell power station as a "discussion". This is not only misleading, it also risks raising false hope amongst those who work in the industry.

Indeed, AGL CEO Andy Vesey has tweeted in response to the Prime Minister's claim and has clearly contradicted his statement.

We know AGL slapped down Barnaby Joyce when he raised the question of building new clean-coal generators. He was told it was too expensive, would take too long, and the Company would not ask its shareholders to risk it. It's even more unlikely AGL - which has been running television commercials promoting its withdrawal from coal generation - would invest the money needed to extend Liddell.

Then again, I suppose it depends on how much taxpayers' money the Prime

Minister is prepared to throw at AGL to run the plant for just another 5 years? Australia is confronting an energy crisis because it is now more than five years since Tony Abbott unravelled what John Howard, Brendan Nelson, Malcolm Turnbull, Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard said they would do: place a price on carbon.

Because of Tony Abbott's intervention and Malcolm Turnbull's refusal to embrace the Clean Energy Target, investment in all forms of energy generation capacity has fallen dramatically. It's past time Malcolm Turnbull acted to end the investment drought by joining Labor in embracing the Finkel

review recommendations in full.

The Hunter stands well placed to remain the powerhouse of NSW and indeed this country. There are plenty of opportunities there. But the least likely opportunity is the extension of the Liddell Power Station, a plant which is now almost 50 years old. The Hunter communities have come to accept this but again Malcolm Turnbull has decided, in a desperate attempt to cling to power, to perpetrate this cruel hoax upon those communities.

The Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP Member for Hunter

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Branxton..... 4938 1244
Lochinvar..... 4930 7209
Ambulance..... 131 233
NSW Fire Brigade
Branxton..... 4938 3396

Rural Fire Brigades

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Broke..... 6579 1491
Greta..... 4015 0000
Bishops Bdg 4015 0000
Nth R'bury... 1300 657 000
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Scots
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(Cessnock)... 4015 0000

Electricity

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1300 657 000
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Medicare 132 011
Native Animal Rescue
0418 628 483

Letters to the editor can be sent to:

**The Editor, The BGV News,
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or

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Let's celebrate Biodiversity Month



To celebrate Biodiversity Month this spring, Cessnock City Council has put together a fantastic program of events for our whole community to enjoy.

Biodiversity Month aims to promote the importance of protecting, conserving and improving biodiversity both within Australia and across the world. The Cessnock Local Government Area is home to a very diverse range of plant and animal species which live in distinctive and unique ecosystems, just like we do!

Cessnock City Library will play host to five of the seven events from 5.30-6.45pm each Tuesday during September and the first Tuesday in October. Each library event has a special guest speaker and aims to build your knowledge and skills when it comes to local plants and animals. These include Gardening with local native plants; Planting for pollinators; Encouraging frogs and insects; Get your kids outside and learning; and What weed is that?

There will also be a 'Talk and Walk' event on Thursday 5 October where locals will hear from Birdlife Australia's Mick Roderick about why Cessnock is a


key location for many woodland bird species. This will be followed by a walk in Werakata National Park to look for and identify local birds. Biodiversity Month celebrations conclude with the Biodiversity Bonanza and Native Plant Giveaway from 9am to 1pm on Saturday 7 October at the Cessnock Men's Shed and Community Garden.

Come along to view displays, talk to experts, join the Habitat Stepping Stones program and collect two free native plants and a bag of compost. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent encourages locals to go along to one or all of these events.

"There are some fantastic speakers secured for these events, which will be both fun and educational for adults and children alike."

All Biodiversity Month events are free, but bookings are essential. Reserve your place today by contacting the team at Cessnock City Library on 4993 4399.

For more information, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/sustainability.



A True Story
An old drover walks into a barber shop in Black Stump Crossing, Northern Territory, for a shave and a haircut. He tells the barber he can't get all his whiskers off because his cheeks are wrinkled from age. The barber gets a little wooden ball from a cup on the shelf and tells the old drover to put it inside his cheek to spread out the skin. When he's finished, the old drover tells the barber that was the cleanest shave he'd had in years, but he wanted to know what would have happened if he had accidentally swallowed that little ball. The barber replied, "Just bring it back in a couple of days like everyone else does".

Community Notice from Greta Tidy Towns Committee

GRETA CAMP FAMILY GET-TOGETHER

Local families and individuals connected to the Greta Migrant Camp are invited for an informal gathering to share memories and food.

On Saturday 21th October 2017

At 11am to 3pm in the Greta Community Hall, behind the Museum.

Please bring a plate, sweet or savoury to share. Tea and coffee provided. Purchase raffle tickets to win a money prize.

Enquires – please call into the Greta Museum or phone Neridah on 0427657150 or Peter: 0478896722

Or email: gretamuseum@gmail.com

This is the second of any number of potential yearly get-togethers, depending on response, so come and be counted. If you can't make it this time leave your contact details at the Greta Museum so we can tell you about the next one.



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Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

Mayoral column 1 September 2017

We held the final of our 2017 Mayoral Debate on 23 August between Mount View High School and St Philips Christian College and in my opinion it was the best debate to date. The debating gets better and better each year, but the students really stepped it up a notch this time around. The topic for the final was 'that Australia would be more effectively governed without a Senate' and while the debating game was strong; St Philips took out the title for the third year in a row. I would like to congratulate everyone who took part and I am certainly looking forward to what next year brings. The Branxton Lions Club held their 60th Anniversary celebration on Saturday 26 August. For 60 years, this club has worked tirelessly for the Branxton and Greta community and continues to find innovative ways to help those in need and build a better place to live. The iconic 18-carat gold Melbourne Cup came to Cessnock as part of its 2017 National Emirates Tour on Sunday 27 August and it was great to see local racing fans come down to see it. Horse racing has been a huge part of our region for many years and this rich racing history is still alive today, which contributed to us being included in the tour. The \$16.7 million Hermitage Road upgrade and cycleway project officially opened with an event last Wednesday. This joint project between Singleton and Cessnock councils and funded by the NSW Government under the Restart NSW Resources for Regions is a prime example of what can be achieved when everyone works together. This project has truly been an important investment in our communities and in particular for our thriving tourism sector.

Hunter Valley Wine Country is in for another welcome boost following the launch of the Australian Government's \$50 million Export and Regional Wine Support Package. The Hunter Valley is Australia's oldest wine producing region and wine businesses across our region are well deserving of a share in this critical funding. I certainly encourage all local wine businesses to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Many would have noticed construction of the Waste Transfer Station is almost complete and with just a few finishing touches to go, we can confirm the site will be up and running in October. Once complete, this modern, state of the art facility will provide our community with a safer, more convenient service. It will also mark the start of a new era of waste management in our local government area, delivering a much higher rate of resource recovery and recycling opportunities.

We are pleased to once again offer residents with a free drop-off service for old mattresses and ensembles from 8am to 12pm on Saturday 23 September 2017. We alternate this service between Cessnock and Kurri Kurri every six months and this time around it will be held at the Hunter Business Enterprise Centre car park in Kurri Kurri. Since we started this popular service, we have collected a whopping 3,931 mattresses, which is just incredible. I am certainly looking forward to the 2017 Spring Awakening event which is taking place this Friday 8 September. The event will kick off with the popular lantern

parade and I encourage everyone in the community to come down to the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre at 5pm on the day to join the dazzling procession of lanterns to the TAFE grounds. As always, it is sure to be a fun-filled family-friendly evening of delicious food, fire displays, live music, roving performers, creative workshops and more!

Cheers, Bob



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

No one would be happier than me if the life of Liddell Power Station can be extended. I just doubt it's possible. But one thing is certain, it's impossible in the absence of high electricity prices, the very thing we want to avoid. In 2015 AGL announced that it would close the generator when it turns 50. Like any machine, an electricity generator can only run for so long before the cost of keeping it going becomes too great. AGL has concluded that after 2022, Liddell will no longer be commercially viable. Politicians have known for a long time that the lives all of our big coal-fired generators must come to an end. Bayswater, Eraring and Vales Point will follow Liddell but hopefully, not for at least ten years and maybe not for twenty years. For a long time now I've been saying we need to plan for their closure. To make sure that we retain our title as the power house of NSW and to keep as many jobs in the sector as is possible by building new gas and renewable generation here. But the energy companies are reluctant to invest in new generation while they don't know what the energy market rules are, or what they are going to be in the future. That's also the reason we are currently facing an energy crisis, demand is outstripping supply because consumption is growing but generation capacity is not growing fast enough. Five years ago Tony Abbott started promising to abolish the so-called "carbon tax". In fact it wasn't technically a tax, it was a market mechanism for pricing carbon, something John Howard, Brendan Nelson, Malcolm Turnbull, Kevin Rudd, Julia Gillard and Bill Shorten have all, at some point, promised to do. Abbott's promise was popular among many but it was reckless. When he abolished it after the 2013 election, he put nothing in its place. It's ironic that the abolition of the "carbon tax" is now forcing electricity prices up! Everyone knows (some just don't admit to it) that like most developed countries, we need a market-based mechanism for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. It's also true that such a scheme is inevitable; it's just a matter of time. So investors want to know what the new scheme will look like. They won't invest until they do. The current Prime Minister hand-picked the Chief Scientist (Alan Finkel) to have yet another review. He recommended we re-establish a market-based mechanism. He calls it the Clean Energy Target (CET). The CET is yet another form of market-based mechanism for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. But the Prime Minister won't embrace it. Not yet anyway, too many in his Party oppose it. So the uncertainty continues and the energy crisis looms

larger. Out of political desperation and in an attempt to avoid blame for rising electricity prices and possible blackouts, last week Malcolm Turnbull declared he was talking with AGL about keeping Liddell operating for a few extra years. He then said he was talking to them about selling it. Either way, it means his latest policy is to maybe do something different in 5 years. That won't keep the lights on or keep prices down this summer! In any case I still doubt it will happen and if it does, it will come at enormous cost to the taxpayer and will further delay our transition to new generation technologies. We risk missing the boat. One thing is certain, we need to act and act quickly.

Cheers, Joel



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

WHERE WILL OUR INJURED WORKERS END UP AND WHO WILL PAY?

In the coming months, in NSW, there will be more than 4500 injured workers who will cease to be covered by the workers compensation scheme. This is because the Government changed the rules in 2012 – prior to this workers were covered until they got back to work. These injured workers are not back to normal, not back to work, not pain free or injury free – they are simply going to pass the 5 year limit of support that the Government has given them. In many cases, these injured workers are now receiving payments that are less than half of their normal pay; a rate that is often just a little more than an unemployment benefit. There is no sane person on the planet that would be willing to go without a much higher wage if they could actually work. The workers compensation scheme is funded by the employers that all pay into it. Those businesses that have more injuries in the workplace pay more. Those businesses that have fewer injuries in the workplace pay less. The basic idea is that the workers compensation scheme, not the tax-payer, pays for the injured workers. So what will happen to the 4500+ injured workers once they are kicked off the workers compensation scheme? Well, in the first instance, they will be forced across to Centrelink or the National Disability Scheme. This is bad for both the injured person and the tax-payer. For medical treatment they will be forced across to the Medicare Scheme and/or their Private Medical Fund (if they can still afford one). This is bad for both the injured person and the tax-payer. Already relying heavily on family and friends for support, the likely reality is that this will increase. I want to emphasise, I want to double and triple emphasise, that I intend no offence or blame on the injured persons. These people, many with incredibly painful physical injuries, and mental health injuries, are innocent victims in the cruel workers compensation laws put into place in 2012. These people don't want to be a burden on their workplace, their work mates, their families and friends or the broader community. But no-one has a time machine to go back and prevent the injury, so we are where we are. Our injured people, many now with permanent disabilities, deserve our full compassion, and they certainly have mine. But here's the rub, the ongoing needs of the injured workers were meant to be met by, and should be met by, the workers compensation scheme, not the tax-payer. The Government changes to

workers compensation gives a free-ride to the companies that cause the injuries, give a cruel-ride to the injured workers and give a costly-ride to the tax payers. The Government would like nothing more than for us to blame the injured and helpless. My column this week is not intended to lay any blame at the feet of the injured; but it is intended to lay 100% blame at the feet of the Government.

Cheers, Clayton



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Upper Hunter

Don't Forget Your Pet When Planning Ahead

I am pleased to advise that the NSW Nationals/Liberal Government has launched a pet emergency card to prevent furry, feathered and finned friends from being left home alone when their owner dies or is seriously ill or injured. Our pets share as much of our lives as any family member and to many pet owners, they're just as important. Our 'best friends' are there for us every day, offering unconditional love. What happens to them if we're not there? The pet emergency card will bring peace of mind to pet owners who now have a way of ensuring others know to look after their pets in case of serious injury or death. The conveniently sized card is designed to fit in your wallet. There is space on the card for a pet owner to write their pet's name and the details of who to contact in case of emergency. The law already allows pet owners to make arrangements for the ongoing care of their animal companions after life events both unexpected and inevitable. Owners can make provision for pets in their will, power of attorney and enduring guardianship documents. NSW Trustee & Guardian prepares these documents for thousands of people in NSW each year. NSW Trustee & Guardian can help get you started on your planning ahead documents, and if an accident or illness leaves you without the capacity to make decisions, your appointed attorney can look after your financial affairs while your enduring guardian will make medical and lifestyle decisions for you. Emergency pet cards are free and can be ordered through the NSW Trustee & Guardian website www.tag.nsw.gov.au. To prepare a will, power of attorney or enduring guardianship documents, call 1300 364 103 or visit www.tag.nsw.gov.au. **More Funding to Celebrate our Multicultural Community** Funding is now available for local cultural festivals and events that bring our local community closer together. The NSW Government's Celebration Grants program provides funding of up to \$5000 for our not-for-profit community organisations and local councils. Our community hosts an array of colourful festivals that bring people together in celebration of culture, food and dance. I encourage local community organisations and Councils to apply for a Celebration Grant to support our thriving multicultural calendar. Applications open three times a year and projects are assessed on how many people are likely to attend,

whether the project will benefit intercultural understanding and be cost effective.

Only not-for-profit community organisations and local councils staging festivals and events for the entire community are eligible to apply. Applications close **29 September 2017**. For more information about Celebration Grants and the Multicultural NSW Grants Program, visit <http://multicultural.nsw.gov.au/>

Cheers, Michael



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

As the biggest contributor of mining royalties to the NSW annual budget, it would be fair to expect Singleton to be filed at the top of the pile in the latest round of the NSW Resources for Regions program. Singleton Council has lodged two Expressions of Interest worth a combined total of \$12.87 million for the next round – including \$4.62 million for an exhibition space at Townhead Park and \$8.25 million for the continuation of the Town Centre Revitalisation Project – representing a measly 4 per cent (or thereabouts) of the \$498,285,667 that comes from mining royalties in Singleton each year. It's no secret to say we were disappointed to receive only half of the comparatively small \$7 million we requested in the previous round of Resources for Regions, which meant that although we were halfway to delivering the second stage of the Town Centre for our community, we were still halfway short. Council raised concerns about our allocation in writing, as well as in discussions with the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Infrastructure, the Minister for Resources and Energy and Member for Upper Hunter Michael Johnsen. We also took advantage of the visit from the entire NSW Cabinet, including Premier Gladys Berejiklian, to point out the importance of Singleton to the NSW economy and the significant impact of mining on our town and our community's infrastructure. Treasurer Dominic Perrottet was a notable absentee, although with good reason as he prepared to hand down the State budget: paving the way for projects and infrastructure for the people of NSW, paid for in part by \$498,285,667 from the proceeds of industry right here in Singleton. The terms of the Resources for Regions program decree it is limited to those communities that can demonstrate a significant impact on infrastructure and/or services to the community as a result of mining. If 17 coal mines operating within a local government area – producing about 57 million tonnes of coal each year with a gross regional product of \$3.712 billion – and the heavy vehicles and machinery, environmental considerations and social implications that come with them doesn't demonstrate a significant impact, then I'm at a loss. Singleton Council isn't asking for a lot in this latest round of the Resources for Region program: just 4 per cent of the money that comes out of our area every year for the benefit of NSW. But \$12.87 million will deliver projects that will make a significant difference to the people who live and work in Singleton, and contribute to a creative, vibrant, economically diverse and healthy community. Cheers, Sue

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who did not have celiac disease but this is yet to be conclusively confirmed. Gluten sensitivity can lead to similar symptoms of Coeliac disease such as stomach cramps, diarrhea, and bloating. However there is no associated damage to the small intestine. The only way to know if you have Coeliac disease or

between five and ten. With our increasingly busy lives, we are often seeking a treatment for coughs and colds and the first stop is usually the pharmacy. Cough treatments will not cure a cough; but they may help relieve the cough symptoms. Treatment depends on the symptoms and the type of cough. If you have a dry, non-productive cough, a treatment that soothes the throat and/or suppresses (stops) the cough may help. If the cough is chesty and productive, a cough treatment that will help break up the mucus making it easier to cough may provide relief. A cough medicine that suppresses a cough is not suitable for a chesty cough. Colds are caused by viruses. There are no medicines that can cure a cold. Some medicines such as cough suppressants, expectorants and mucolytics, antihistamines, pain relievers and decongestants may ease the symptoms of colds and flu. Antibiotics do not work against viral infections and so are not useful for treating colds. You can get more detailed

a gluten sensitivity is to be tested by a health professional. It cannot be self-diagnosed based on symptoms. Coeliac Awareness Week is held annually between 13 and 20 March and aims to raise awareness of coeliac disease and its symptoms, and promote the message of the importance of getting tested. Go to www.coeliac.org.au Your pharmacist is can assist if you have any questions, so Ask Piggotts!



Coughs & Colds

The recent cold snap may have you thinking about winter, and coughs and colds that often accompany the change in seasons. Coughs and colds are very common. Each year, adults can develop between two and four colds and children

information on coughs and colds from the Self Care Fact Cards titled *Coughs and Colds and flu*, available from pharmacies providing the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's Self Care health information, or ask Piggotts!

Cheers, Lee

As the weather warms up and we slowly defrost after the cold and windy winter (except for the occasional warm day), Branxton/Greta CWA members are preparing for a couple of busy weeks with the Broke Fair on Sunday (10th Sept), and also the Camp Quality Ride4Kids Morning Tea on Sunday (17th Sept) at the old St. Brigids School, Station Street, Branxton. Estimated arrival time 9.00am. There will be markets there at the same time, so anyone attending to support the Camp Quality riders may like to have a browse round the markets after they have left. The Camp Quality 1,000 kms Ride4Kids is an annual event which approx.. 50 bicycle riders plus 20 support crew do to help raise money for their charity. Camp



1 Camp Quality riders and support crew with other supporters in 2015

Quality's purpose is to create a better life for every child living with cancer in Australia, right from diagnosis throughout treatment and in remission or bereavement, their programs support the whole family at home, back at school and away from it all. We are very happy to have the

opportunity to support such a worthy cause. Our Cookery Officer, Roslyn Shearer, has now set a date for the Annual Land Cookery Day, which will be on Monday, 13th Nov. More information about that in the next article after we have our next meeting. As always, new members are welcome and if you are interested or

would like more information please contact Marie Shearer, Secretary, on 0402015850 or email branxtongretacwa@hotmail.com

Denise McGoldrick
Publicity Officer.

Glass half full for Hunter Valley Wine Country

Hunter Valley Wine Country is in for a welcome boost following the launch of the Australian Government's \$50 million Export and Regional Wine Support Package. The package is an exciting one-off allocation over four years, which aims to increase wine exports by up to \$565 million to a record \$3.5 billion and promote wine tourism in regional areas. Other projected outcomes include delivering higher returns to grape growers and attracting 40,000 more international tourists to Australia's wine

regions, including the Hunter Valley. Managed by Wine Australia, the package will support the Australian wine sector's focus on export markets through the delivery of four programs. These include accelerating growth in international demand; creating China-ready businesses; capturing growth in wine regions; and transforming cider businesses. Of the \$50 million, \$32 million will be directed to major marketing campaigns promoting Australian wine to China and the USA. \$3 million in grants will be made available to smaller wineries wanting to get into the export market,

along with \$10 million to develop regional wine tourism and cellar door experiences. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent welcomed the announcement and encourages all local wine businesses to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. "The Hunter Valley is Australia's oldest wine producing region and wine businesses across our region are well deserving of a share in this critical funding." "This program will be a welcome boost for the whole of the Hunter Valley Wine Country and I am pleased to



see the Australian Government recognise the importance of regional wineries," added Cr Pynsent The draft guidelines for grants will be released for consultation on 1 September 2017. For more information, visit www.wineaustralia.com/whats-happening/export-and-regional-wine-support-package



Please a crowd with this succulent barbecued lamb served with chargrilled veggies and homemade chimichurri sauce

Ingredients

- 2 teaspoons smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon fennel seeds
- 1/4 cup (60ml) olive oil
- 1kg Coles Lamb Butterflied Leg Rosemary & Garlic
- 300g Kent pumpkin, seeded, thinly sliced
- 1 zucchini, thickly sliced diagonally
- 1 red capsicum, seeded, quartered
- 1 yellow capsicum, seeded, quartered
- 1 baby fennel, cut into wedges
- 1 red onion, cut into wedges
- 1 bunch asparagus, woody ends trimmed, cut into 5cm lengths
- 100g sugar snap peas
- 4 red radishes, thinly sliced
- 120g pkt Coles Australian Baby Rocket

Chimichurri

- 1/2 cup mint leaves
- 1/2 cup flat-leaf parsley leaves
- 1/4 cup coriander leaves
- 1/4 cup oregano leaves
- 1/3 cup (80ml) extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard

Herb-loaded lamb with chargrilled veggies



Method

- Step 1
Combine paprika, cumin, coriander, oregano, fennel seeds and 2 tbs of the oil in a large bowl. Add the lamb and turn to coat. Set aside for 30 mins to develop the flavours.
 - Step 2
Meanwhile, heat a covered barbecue on medium-high. (Alternatively, preheat oven to 180C.) Place pumpkin, zucchini, combined capsicum, fennel, onion, asparagus and peas in a large bowl. Drizzle with remaining oil. Toss to coat. Season. Cook vegetables on grill, in batches, for 1-2 mins each side or until just tender. Set aside to cool slightly.
 - Step 3
Cook lamb on grill for 5 mins each side or until golden brown. Reduce heat to medium. Cook in covered barbecue or oven for 15 mins for medium or until cooked to your liking. Set aside, covered, for 10 mins to rest.
 - Step 4
While the lamb is resting, to make the chimichurri, place the mint, parsley, coriander, oregano, oil, vinegar and mustard in a food processor and process until smooth. Season.
 - Step 5
Transfer the lamb to a serving board. Thickly slice. Arrange the chargrilled vegetables on the board with radish and rocket. Drizzle with chimichurri to serve.
- view full method
- Nutrition**
2049 kj
Energy
33g
Fat Total
10g
Saturated Fat





Report

Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) data showing a steady decline in domestic violence offences in regional NSW. The quarterly data released

last Thursday 7 September 2017) shows domestic violence offences have dropped 24.5 per cent in the Darling River Local Area Command in the 24 months to June 2017. NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller APM said proactive and whole-of-government initiatives have changed the way offenders and communities respond to domestic violence. "NSW Police have been extremely proactive targeting offenders of domestic violence and that approach is seeing a reduction in offence rates," Commissioner Fuller said. "Proactive programs like the Suspect Target Management Plan and the Darling River LAC initiative Operation Solidarity which launched in October last year to specifically target domestic violence offences across the region, have had a significant impact on repeat offenders. "The model has been so successful it has garnered interest from interstate law enforcement agencies." Statewide, most major crime categories have remained stable or continue to trend downward with three major offence categories recording significant falls, dropping to their lowest levels in 15 years.

- Break and enter-dwelling - down 4.9 per cent
- Steal from person - down 12.1 per cent
- Fraud - down 7.7 per cent

Only one of the 17 major categories, steal from retail store, has shown an increase, up 5.4 per cent, which is possibly the result of increased reporting of incidents and prosecutions. "Putting the community first and ensuring frontline police have the ability and support to prevent, disrupt and respond to crime quickly and efficiently is beginning to pay dividends," Commissioner Fuller said. "While the results are heartening, there is still more work to be done to build a more efficient structure for the future of policing in NSW." Possession of cocaine has trended up by 33.7 per cent, while most other drug offences have trended down or remained stable. In line with the state-wide trend, crime is either stable or declining across regional NSW apart from a few exceptions. Two regional areas

(Newcastle LGA and Broken Hill LGA) have shown increases in several major offence

categories, including sexual assault, property and motor vehicle theft.

"The appointment of a dedicated Regional Deputy Commissioner and the introduction of dedicated Region Enforcement Squads (RES) for regional areas; will further enhance police capabilities to target and respond to all levels of rural crime," Commissioner Fuller said.

"Police officers across the state work diligently every day to put the communities

they serve first and I am pleased to see these results are continuing to reflect their hard work."

Fire fighter charged with making fake calls to Triple Zero (000) – Port Stephens

Tuesday, 05 September 2017 09:37:11 AM

A fire fighter will face court after allegedly making a number of false calls to the Triple Zero (000) emergency line. Strike Force Wenske was established in August 2017 by officers from Port Stephens Local Area Command assisted by the State Crime Command,

Property Crime Squad, Arson Unit, to investigate hoax reports of fire and motor vehicle accident.

Following inquiries, investigators attended a Port Stephens home on Monday 4 September 2017 and arrested a 20-year-old man, who is a probationary member of the New South Wales Rural Fire Service. He was taken to Raymond Terrace Police Station and charged with three counts of make false call to emergency services number, eleven counts of make vexatious calls to an emergency services number, and assault with

act of indecency. It will be alleged in excess of forty calls were made from pay phones and a mobile phone to contact Triple Zero (000) and report fictitious bush fires and motor vehicle accidents.

The man was granted conditional bail to appear at Raymond Terrace Local Court on Friday 20 October 2017.

Police remind community of National Firearms Amnesty final month

Thursday, 07 September 2017 12:28:46 PM

The NSW Police Force is

reminding the community there is less than one month left of the National Firearms Amnesty. Since the amnesty commenced on 1 July 2017 to yesterday (Wednesday 6 September 2017), 14,466 firearms and firearm-related items have been handed in for registration, sale or destruction across NSW. This includes 5886 firearms surrendered to police and dealers, 7204 handed in for registration and 1376 acquired by dealers. Surrendered items of interest include nine SKS assault rifles, three .45 ACP Colt 1911 pistols, and 13 silencers.

Cessnock City Council launch 'More Police on the Beat' campaign

Cessnock City Council is urging the NSW Government to give our local police command the support and resources they need to keep our community safe. A motion passed at a general Council meeting during August saw Councillors agree, the growing pressure on police working in the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) must be addressed as a matter of urgency. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent labelled the need for an increased police presence and improved police stations in the LGA a community priority and expectation shared by all. "Cessnock, Kurri Kurri and surrounds are experiencing rapid growth, however the resourcing of our local police force does not reflect this."

"Our police do a wonderful job in protecting our community but their resources are stretched thinly, making it difficult to operate to the best of their ability." "These concerns have been shared with Council by the men and women in uniform, who do not feel adequately equipped to deal with an increase in demand on local services."

Mayor Pynsent was the first to sign an online petition he launched today urging the state government to give the Cessnock LGA command the support they deserve.

In particular the petition is calling for an increase in staffing levels and for the ageing infrastructure of our local police stations to be addressed.

Residents across the LGA are being urged to throw their support behind the 'More Police on the Beat' campaign and sign the petition. For more information or to sign the petition visit www.change.org/p/nsw-government-cessnock-more-police-on-the-beat.

In addition to this Cessnock City Council will write to the NSW Government in a bid to gain their support to see the establishment of a strategic emergency services precinct adjacent to the Hunter Expressway.

Police welcome latest crime statistics

Thursday, 07 September 2017 11:17:40 AM

NSW Police have been encouraged by Bureau of



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Clr Melanie Dagg - Cessnock City Councillor - Ward C

With the recent passing of the first anniversary of my election to Council I can't help but reflect on the past year - and what a year it has been - an incredibly steep learning curve, but one I have enthusiastically embraced. There have been many frustrations and personally a few stumbles but we as a Council and particularly my Labor team have achieved a great deal, for which I am very proud.

My hope (maybe naively) has always been that ideas would be fairly presented and respectfully debated with decisions made on the merits of the case and in the spirit of bipartisanship, and for the vast majority of my fellow Councillors that has been our reality. Whilst I've been occasionally disappointed I remain hopeful that all 13 of us can positively contribute to the direction of this Council and the future progress of our LGA.

Locally, I've managed to tick a number of items off our community wishlist - but there is always more to do. Over the past year I have spoken to many residents, community groups, clubs and businesses about matters of concern and done my best to deliver a positive outcome. I've never worked harder than I do now as your Councillor, and with your support we can continue to achieve.

I am incredibly proud to serve on your behalf and remain grateful for the trust you have placed in me. I will continue to serve with integrity, honesty and transparency. It truly is an honour.

Thank you. I can be contacted by email melanie.dagg@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or phone 0409 404 898 and you can also find me on facebook, twitter and Instagram.

Clr. Melanie Dagg



What's Been Happening at Branxton Preschool.....

Branxton Preschool celebrated Early Childhood Education week on 7th - 11th August. We had a display of the preschool children's artwork in the Branxton Bakery. This was an amazing display of stories, pictures and paintings. The children were very proud to show our community their work.

We also had a visit from Sandy at Cessnock Library. She came in to share stories and songs with the preschool children. Promoting a love of reading and bringing stories to life is what Sandy does with ease.

We also held a parent workshop on Early Literacy and Language Development. Shay and Natalie conducted the parent evening and this was very well attended by our families. Literacy and Language packs were also available and we worked in partnership with All Areas Speech Pathology as Mady attended and made herself available should parents have any questions about their children's language development.

Then on Friday 11th August we launched our Preschool Street Library. This is a community library that is located at Branxton Bakery. You can borrow a book, swap a book or donate a book. This is for our entire community to access. It is there to enhance access to reading materials for young children. We encourage you to pop in and share a story with your little ones.

Preschool received a huge boost in funding from the State Government

Start Strong Program. As well as our fees being as low as they were in the year 2000, we have some major upgrades happening here at Preschool.

Revamps of the foyer area, office space, educators programming offices and this next week we will have a major overhaul within our yard. We have a new STEAM shed being built (science, technology, engineering, art & maths), sensory path and new climbing frames going in. \$40,000 worth of upgrades and we can't wait to show you all the finished product. We will be hosting an open day in mid October to celebrate 30 years here at Branxton Preschool. We hope that many ex students, preschool families (old & new) as well as people in the wider community come along to celebrate and see the amazing achievements within our beautiful community based preschool over the years. We are so proud of the continued improvements and growth within our preschool. This is something we should all celebrate as it takes many people to make dreams become a reality and this preschool certainly is amazing! We will let you know the date very soon.

If you would like to know more about Branxton Preschool, please do not hesitate to contact us on Ph:

49381990 or follow us on Instagram or check out our

www.branxtonpreschool.com website



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 21st 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



REIA housing affordability report now out

Housing loan affordability has declined across Australia, however, it is good news for those who are renting with affordability generally improving in the second quarter of 2017, according to the Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA).

The latest Adelaide Bank/REIA Housing Affordability Report found the proportion of median family income required to meet average loan repayments increased by 0.2 percentage points to 31.4 per cent.

REIA President Malcolm Gunning said at the same time, the total number of loans and the number of loans to first home buyers increased by 9.6 per cent and 14.0 per cent respectively, with increases in all states and territories except Tasmania.

"First home buyers now make up 14.3 per cent of total owner occupied housing. This rate has been dropping steadily over the past 5 years but seems to have stabilised over the past 18 months," Mr Gunning said. "Over the quarter, the proportion of median family income required to meet rent payments reduced by 0.6 percentage points to 24.3 per cent.

Mr Gunning said this improvement was recorded across all states and territories except in Tasmania and the

Australian Capital Territory. "Historically, rental affordability declined markedly from the June quarter 2007 reaching its lowest point in the March quarter 2010. Since then rental affordability has been showing a trend improvement reflecting the pickup in investment in housing from the end of 2011," Mr Gunning said.

New South Wales NSW had the largest percentage increase in loan repayments and continues to be the least affordable state or territory in which to buy a home. The proportion of income required to meet loan repayments increased to 38.0 per cent, an increase of 1.9 percentage points over the quarter and 0.5 percentage points compared with the corresponding quarter 2016. The proportion of income required to meet loan repayments is 6.6 percentage points higher than the nation's average.

New South Wales recorded an improvement in rental affordability with the proportion of income required to meet median rent payments decreasing to 28.6 per cent, a decrease of 0.4 percentage points over the June quarter and a decrease of 0.3 percentage points compared to the same quarter last year. First home buyers make up only 13.0 per cent of the State's owner-occupier market - the lowest level across the nation. The average loan to first home buyers increased to \$365,600, an increase of 1.2% over the quarter and an increase of 1.3% compared to the same quarter last year.

Advice; complying with strata window safety



Strata schemes which are non-compliant with the new window lock legislation, which begins on 13 March 2018, need to take steps as the date closes in. This is according to REINSW Strata Chapter Chair, Gary Adamson, who has advised strata managers of what to do. The new law requires strata building windows to be fitted with safety devices to enable them to be locked at 12.5cm. It is being brought in by the

have undertaken the work is the "procrastination of the owners in the strata plan". For those schemes that are still non-compliant, Gary recommended to advise the strata committee **in writing** that:

- they have been notified of the requirements
- it is incumbent upon the strata committee to ensure the requirements are complied with by the due date, 13 March 2018
- you (the strata manager) will not be held responsible for any accidents or injuries occurring as a result of the refusal of the owners corporation to comply with the statutory requirement.

"The longer strata clients delay the approval of the installations and the closer it gets to the timeline for compliance, the more likely there will be a growing shortage of trades people to undertake the work and at a greater cost. This is not the strata managers fault but rather the recalcitrant strata plans, and strata managers should ensure that they have correspondence on file to identify that the problem is with the owners corporation and not the strata managers office."

NSW Government to prevent children falling from windows. Gary said the legislation has been in place since 2015 and would expect that all strata managers have notified their clients of the requirements and listed the matter on the agenda of general meetings. He added that the only reason they shouldn't

In addition, the committee members should be advised that they may be held personally liable for any accidents occurring as a result of their failure to ensure compliance by the due date. **How is it going to affect the work of a strata manager?** Gary said: "From a strata manager's perspective it is just one more time consuming compliance issue to address

(subject to the instructions of the owners corporation). "There will invariably be additional time involved for which there should be a time-based fee recouped from the owners corporation in arranging for the necessary meeting and quotes, issuing work orders and arranging access to each lot for the trades people to undertake the installations."

What issues could arise? Gary said: "The longer strata clients delay the approval of the installations and the closer it gets to the timeline for compliance, the more likely there will be a growing shortage of trades people to undertake the work and at a greater cost. "This is not the strata managers fault but rather the recalcitrant strata plans, and strata managers should ensure that they have correspondence on file to identify that the problem is with the owners corporation and not the strata managers office."

What are your top tips to comply? "All strata managers should be on top of this matter and therefore "ready". "What they need to do for slow-moving strata clients is advise them that as this is a statutory requirement they will have to notify their insurer under the terms of the insurance policy that they are non-compliant.

"In the event of an injury arising on, or after the due date, the insurer would be within their contractual rights to deny a claim. "Under these circumstance the owners corporation will be left without cover and any third party action would no doubt result not only in the owners corporation, but also the individual strata committee members being sued for damages."

RBA keeps interest rates at record lows



The Reserve Bank of Australia has kept interest rates on hold at 1.50 per cent at its September 2017 board meeting. REINSW President John Cunningham said it appears that interest rates are now unlikely to change before the end of the year. "The RBA is walking a fine line and the banks continue to wield strong influence," Mr Cunningham said. "Listing volumes are up across most markets and strong sales are happening soon after auction. "While every boom comes to an

end, the market peaked in April and has subsequently stabilised. Buyers and sellers should expect a buoyant and active spring season and then a few years ahead of more modest capital growth. "Buyers must prepare themselves for interest rate rises in the future, but any movement seems unlikely to happen until next year," Mr Cunningham said. The RBA will next meet on Tuesday, 3 October 2017.

HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE

Hunter Valley stars in record-breaking international visitation to NSW



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

The popularity of the Hunter Valley as a world-wide tourism destination has played a significant role in NSW's record-breaking success in a recent International Visitor Survey. NSW recorded the strongest results ever recorded in an International Visitor Survey, with the State welcoming just over four million overseas visitors who spent \$10.1 billion in NSW in the year ending June 2017. Rural and

regional NSW has also set visitation records, posting its highest volumes of international visitors, nights and expenditure on record, welcoming 813,000 international visitors who stayed 14.8 million nights and spent \$1.1 billion, up more than 22 per cent. The Hunter Valley captures 18.1% of inbound Australia-wide international wine tourism, well ahead of the Margaret River at 13.4% and the Barossa at 9.4%. The increasingly popular Hunter region is just a two-hour drive north of Sydney, and in easy proximity to the Central Coast and Newcastle, as well as to gateway arrivals via Sydney Newcastle Airport and in the future, Newcastle Cruise Ship terminal. At home to more than 150 wineries, the Hunter Valley is bursting with all the delights of its highly-acclaimed food and wine culture. The HVWTA is gearing up to shout its attractions far and wide through a major destination marketing campaign in the coming months. The Association is also developing proposals for regional conferencing opportunities. Chairman of the HVWTA The Hon George Souris AM congratulated Destination NSW and the Minister for Tourism Hon Adam Marshall MP for the work it had done building the state's appeal as an international tourist destination.

Cheers, Jo

Stop what you're doing and pick up a book for National Reading Hour

Australian Reading Hour

Cessnock City Council is gearing up for a special PJ storytime to celebrate this year's Aussie Reading Hour. Cessnock City Library is inviting local children along at 6pm on Thursday 14 September to wear their comfiest pjs, hear an hour of wonderful stories, enjoy craft and finish off with a yummy bed time snack. Reading Hour is a national event aimed at encouraging reading among young Australians, as research shows children who

read from an early age are better off. It's also a reminder for parents, caregivers and families that reading together doesn't have to be a massive undertaking in their increasingly busy lives. Rather, it encourages the 'anytime, anywhere' mantra, building a foundation whereby reading is a gift, given freely. The simple message for 2017 is, 'share a book for 10 minutes a day, an hour a week, and give the gift of reading'. For more details or to make a booking for this free event, please phone Cessnock Library on 49934399, email Sandy on



Sandra.ryan@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or drop in and see us at the library.

The Reading Hour emerged from the National Year of Reading 2012, and is an ongoing campaign from Love2Read, funded by the ALIA Australian Public Library Alliance and in partnership with the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

Magic happens at Cessnock City Library these holidays!

Calling all young witches and wizards – come along to Cessnock City Library this October, where the magic's happening all holiday long! We are excited to announce JD Howlett, magician extraordinaire, will be weaving his magic in a show for all the family on Thursday 5 October. For older witches and wizards, we'll be hosting a special Practical Magic workshop, there's only one rule, no muggles allowed! Younger witches and wizards will be lucky enough to make their own magic wand and learn a couple of magic tricks to take home. They'll also have the opportunity to create a magical prehistoric terrarium. The library school holiday fun program also includes the opportunity for our new robots to meet our local curious young scientists. The program kicks off on Monday 25 September. Visit Cessnock or Kurri Kurri Library to book your spot, pick up a flier or ring us at Cessnock Library on 49934399 or Kurri Kurri Library on 49371638. Bookings for activities open on Monday 12 September, spots are expected to fill up, so get in quick. Don't forget our regular storytime and rhymetime programmes will continue throughout the holiday period, assisting in the development of literacy skills throughout our community, and fostering a lifelong love of reading. For more information on our holiday program visit <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/>.



Greta Branxton Rugby League Football Club



GRETA WORKERS

Annual General Meeting Announcement

Greta Branxton Rugby League Football Club will be holding their AGM at;

**Greta Workers Club
Sunday 8th October 2017
10:00am**

All club members and people within our community are invited to attend.

All committee positions will be available for re-election.



Greta Branxton Colts look forward to seeing you there.



As part of the National Men's Shed Week, the Branxton Greta Men's Shed and Womens Craft Group are holding an open day on Wednesday 27 September at the Branxton Greta Men's Shed, 49 Branxton Road Greta (in the grounds of the old St Marys Public

School). Inside the shed, many shedders devote most of their time to worthwhile community endeavours that deliver great benefits for the wider community by undertaking major projects, donating arts and crafts, participating in community events, and actively promoting men's health and wellbeing. Branxton Greta Men's Shed would like to extend to you a formal invitation to visit our Men's Shed during Men's Shed Week on Wednesday 27 September from 9:00 to 12:00. Our shed members would be honoured to have the opportunity to speak to you about what they do at the shed, and the community projects they undertake.

AGM
20th September 2017
Mid Hunter Palliative Care Volunteers
Mid Hunter Palliative Care Volunteers
PO Box 91
Singleton 2330
T: 6572 2121
F: 6572 2126
M: 0407 072 610
Sue Pope
Coordinator

Queen Victoria & Abdul Movie Fundraiser
Just as it was long the Movie
Saturday, 16th September
at 3:00 pm
For Refreshments & Nibbles
Reading Cinemas
Ken Tubman Dr, Maitland
Tickets \$20 - available at op shop
Please contact Margaret - 0418 870 434

St Brigid's Markets @ Branxton
9.00am to 1.00pm
Dates for 2017
Sunday 17th September
Sunday 17th December

Helen 0427 047 024
www.facebook.com/stbrigidsmarkets

For Sale

FERNHILL ROAD, DALWOOD

AUCTION

Saturday 14
October 2017
10am
"On-Site"



14.7HA Vacant land on Fernhill Road, Dalwood NSW 2335 Lots 12 & 19.

The only improvement is an old well from previous residence which is no longer.

BRANXTON



'Down Town' Location

This weatherboard & terracotta tile family home has so much to offer. 3 large bedrooms main with built-ins, large lounge room with slow combustion fire & reverse cycle air conditioning, large eat-in kitchen, double garage & annex for the men & covered entertainment area for all your outdoor events. All this on a 950square metre block

ASKING \$365,000

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

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

GRETA

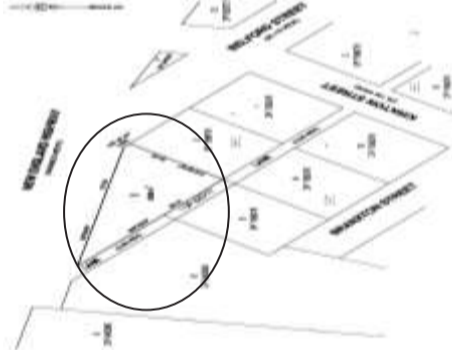


OLDER STYLE HOME IN NEED OF SOME TLC

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

BELFORD



Vacant Land 2559m²

Vacant Land with building approved Lot 1 DP 1205549 Well over half an acre of good level block.

ASKING \$160,000 ONO

BRANXTON



Excellent family home in very popular street

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

ASKING \$365,000

For Lease BRANXTON
5 bedroom modern family home on 3 acres
\$450/week

For Lease BRANXTON
Lovely renovated Federation family home
\$430/week

For Lease GRETA
Modern 3 bedroom home
\$330/week

For Lease BRANXTON
3 bedroom older style home
\$370/week

We have had an extraordinary number of enquiries for home units & rental properties. If you can help please call Helen on 4938 3300





Discovering local Family's Past

Things You May Not Know About

with Neridah Kentwell

.....GRETA

else I knew to be able to tell Richard. She had fond memories of, when she was young, of the old framed photos of Charles and his family in Richard's father's garage where they had been stored. I showed her everything I had discovered to date and she passed it onto Richard and his wife Frances. However, no one

A World War I Soldier's Story Continued

including examples of mistakes easily made in genealogy

Private Charles Thomas Pickering Smith died in France in 1916 after fighting in the First World War, and is one of those remembered on the Greta cenotaph. He would also have had a Silky Oak tree planted in Greta to honour his memory. His story has been documented in a previous issue of The News (12 April 2017) from the viewpoint of his mother, who had to sacrifice her only living son to the war effort (she lost another son William Lawson and other daughters, as babies). There is no doubt Charles wanted to go and help the fighting as he had already been enrolled in the local Militia group for the home defence of Australia by its local citizens for two years. The gold medal he was given, it has since been discovered, was presented at a send-off BEFORE he left to fight, by the people of Greta, and not bestowed on his parents after his death as presumed. The research at the time seemed to prove he had no siblings left after 1919 when his sister Mary died and thus his parents were left childless in their twilight years. However, the story continues... A surprise phone call from a relative of Charles's, by marriage not blood, came one Thursday, a day that the museum isn't normally



■ Private Charles Smith

open. After an interesting conversation I was keen to run down and meet the lady, Sue, who had come to Greta to see Charles Smith's name on the Greta cenotaph and who had noticed the museum with its contact numbers on the door. She had already gone all the way to France to see Charles's grave, to honour his name for the family and to be able to report to her cousin Richard H., apparently Charles's only living blood relative, who is very unwell and was not sure how much longer he has to live. I was thrilled to get to hear more about the family from an insider's viewpoint and Sue was keen to find out anything

could work out how Richard was related to Charles because I believed I had discovered there was no one left of the family after Charles died in 1916 and his sole surviving sister Mary Smith died in Greta in 1919. The need to solve this puzzle was too great so I began an ongoing email conversation with Richard's wife Frances, who lived some distance away, with information which was added by Richard to the best of his ability. One of the photos they sent through had been inscribed to Mary, Charles's sister and was of Charles and a younger sister called Alice, who I had no idea existed. I had somehow completely



■ Sister Alice & a young Private Charles Smith

missed her birth record but was then able to find it listed in the NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages. The only reason I could go about researching this particular Smith family was that Charles's father, like Charles, had three Christian names which made them stand out from the crowd of Smiths, and his mother Margaret's middle name was Lawson, apparently named after a Lady Lawson in England where she was born, who was her godmother. But these middle names, or at least their letters, needed to be mentioned for a researcher to know they had the right one and death certificates, in particular, may not contain this information. Richard wanted Charles's and his family's portraits to come home to where they had been living originally, that is the township of Greta. When the pictures arrived they included a hand written letter, barely legible, from Iris L., a cousin of Richard's father William H., who talked about the family history in a somewhat disjointed way (as people do when they are talking about things already known to family) to William H. and appeared to have sent him all the

paintings that Sue had seen in the garage, which Richard then inherited from his father. But who and where had they come from before Iris owned them? Richard then remembered Iris hadn't married and so I was able to track down her mother Alice Smith's marriage, using her last name. But it still didn't answer the question of how Richard H. had descended from these Smiths as Alice had only had two daughters that got to grow up, Iris and her sister Valda whom Iris mentions in the letter. A surprise occurred when Richard H.'s brother turned up one day to visit Richard while we were still corresponding by email, who said their grandmother's name was definitely Mary Smith. (It had been previously stated that Richard only had a stepson who wouldn't be interested in inheriting the family photos, which made him appear to be an only child.) I had been convinced that Mary Smith had died in 1919 and there were no Mary Smiths listed that had married a H. But to be certain I had to send off for the death certificate of the Mary who had died in 1919, who had a father



■ Margaret & Charles parents of Private Charles Smith

William, a mother Margaret and who had passed away in Greta. When the death certificate arrived it wasn't the Mary Smith that was sister to Alice and Charles, although they had such a lot in common, so the Smiths hadn't lost their eldest daughter at the end of the First World War after all! I decided to look further for another death certificate and this time there was a Mary H's death certificate listed, which fit in with her descendant Richard H. and his father William H, despite the lack of a marriage certificate. Eureka! This time the right Mary had been chosen and her death certificate almost told her whole story. Early death information taken from church records usually doesn't say much but this death occurred in the 20th century. Death certificates can also often give the wrong information as the person in question is no longer around to correct it, and if they haven't talked about their life much the details aren't known to fill in the blanks, and this is a good reason to not entirely trust death certificates. However Mary H., nee Smith's, eldest son William H., the informant, appeared to know his mother's story fairly well. She had been born in a Newcastle suburb, married at 25 years to another William H. and had named her eldest son William Louis Richardson after her father., and he was Richard's grandfather. Her second son was named

after her brother Charles, and unusually and unlike her mother, she had no other children, nor lost any that her son knew about anyway. Although she died in the Neringah Hospital at Wahroonga in Sydney, they had been living in Windsor/Mulgrave and she was buried in the Church of England Cemetery in Windsor next to her husband, in a double plot they had previously bought. The big genealogical lesson learnt here was that just because someone looks very much like they could be the person you are looking for, it isn't necessarily them until it is completely proven. You can never presume! So Greta Museum now has their local lad Charles Smith, in picture form, back where he belongs, along with his parents, and younger sister who was living in Greta with her husband and daughters until the day she died, at age 43, from tuberculosis. Come in to see them, or see Private Smith's medal presented by the people of Greta from back in 1915 and ponder on life and families.

Greta Museum also has a new range of sweets, sold by weight, and a number of wooden toys to choose from, as well as other new 'old style' wares. Open most Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11am to 3pm. Contact Neridah on 0427657150 or Peter on 0478896722, or email gretamuseum@gmail.com

WANTED

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LEASE
 There is a strong demand for residential rental accommodation in the local area & our office needs more properties to sate the current demand. If you are contemplating renting your property please contact either Helen or Mike on 4938 3300

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE
 P: 4938 3300

"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living, Branxton
 Recent sales

SOLD UNIT 2 **SOLD** UNIT 10 **SOLD** UNIT 12 **SOLD** UNIT 18

SOLD **SOLD**

Countdown is on for 'Charity Rugby League Day'



The footy season may be ending but the true grand final day is still to come.

Serious training has begun for local coalminers preparing for the 2017 A-Plus Contracting Hunter Valley Mining Charity Rugby League Knockout Competition in support of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. A-Plus Contracting have been the major sponsor from the outset & principal of the company, Andrew Hughes, said that as long as it is contested they will be involved. "The Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service is paramount to our Hunter

Valley emergency services and needs all the support it can garner. Just ask anyone of the thousands of people who, in some cases, owe their lives to this wonderful service. Please do all you can to support the day which supports the rescue service," said Andrew. The event is organised by the Singleton Volunteer Support Group, 350 local mining employees will make up the 18 teams who'll represent their respective mines and compete in the day-long rugby league 10's competition at Singleton's Pirtek Park on October 7. This year, the local support

group will welcome two new teams to the men's competition from the Boggabri and Mudgee regions, with the Boggabri Bears and Moolarben Misfits. As well as the much-anticipated addition of a "Women of Mining Series" which will see 30 of the regions female miners hit it out in a best of three series. 2017 A-Plus Contracting Hunter Valley Mining Charity Rugby League Knockout Competition team line-up:
 1. Austar Swamp Rats
 2. Glendell Gladiators
 3. Hunter Valley United Cobras

4. Maules Creek Maulers
 5. MTW Barbarians
 6. Mount Thorley Warkworth Razorbacks
 7. Mt Arthur Meerkats A
 8. Mt Arthur Meerkats B
 9. Ravensworth Rhinos
 10. Rix's Creek Rattlesnakes
 11. Saxonvale Raiders
 12. Wambo Wolves
 13. Werris Creek Wild Cats
 14. Mt Owen Mustangs
 15. Boggabri Coal
 16. Moolarben Misfits
 17. Valley Vixens (Ladies)
 18. Hunter Hawkettes (Ladies)
- Last year the charity day raised \$60,000 for the Rescue Helicopter with more than 1,500 spectators, family and friends expected to turn out for this year's event. Event Organiser, Danny Eather believes that this year's competition is shaping up to be the best so far. "With the addition of teams from Boggabri, Gunnedah and Mudgee, it is a true reflection of the how widespread the positive impact that the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service has on the Hunter, New England and Central West

communities" said Mr. Eather. "With the addition of the new AW139 helicopter aircraft, our communities have access to a world-class service which they will never have to pay whilst fundraising efforts such as Charity Rugby League Day are in existence and supported by the community" he added. The local business community has once again rallied to show its support with A-Plus Contracting, Pirtek, Mine Wealth & Wellbeing, Slater & Gordon, Minetek, Jennings Print, Betts Bowers Haulage and Hunter Isuzu Utes all signing on as major event partners. More than 80 additional businesses have sponsored the individual teams to help teams with their fundraising targets. Coal Services Mines Rescue, Group 21 Rugby League Referees Association and Singleton's Rotary and Lions clubs are once again

providing in-kind support and assistance throughout the day. Each year the Rescue Helicopter undertakes more than 1500 missions including transporting people from accident scenes, transferring critically ill patients between hospitals and undertaking search and rescue operations throughout Northern NSW. It is with the continued efforts of the Singleton Volunteer Support Group which ensures that no one has ever paid to be assisted by the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.

Popular Quotes

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."
 — Dr. Seuss

"I'm selfish, impatient and a little insecure. I make mistakes, I am out of control and at times hard to handle. But if you can't handle me at my worst, then you sure as hell don't deserve me at my best."
 — Marilyn Monroe

"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."
 — Oscar Wilde

"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."
 — Albert Einstein

Fire permits suspended in Hunter Valley District

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) has suspended fire permits from the beginning of the Bush Fire Danger Period starting on the 1st September until further notice in the Muswellbrook and Singleton Local Government Areas because of local climatic conditions. NSW RFS Operational Officer Leanne Bell said the decision to suspend fire permits has been made in order to help keep the local community safe from bush and grass fires. "In dry and windy conditions fires can start quickly and spread rapidly. Warmer than average

temperatures and below average rainfall are forecast for the coming months," Operational Officer Bell said. "Just one spark from a planned hazard reduction or a pile burn can cause a fire to spread and threaten life and property." "While fire permits have been suspended, we encourage residents to play their part by preparing their property for fire which includes removing flammable materials from around their yards, clearing leaves from gutters and checking hose lengths." "It is also important to make or

update your Bush Survival Plan and have a conversation with your family to ensure that everyone knows what to do and where they will go in the event that they are threatened by a bush or grass fire." Anyone wishing to light a fire during the Bush Fire Danger Period must obtain a permit from their local Fire Control Centre. Serious penalties, including fines and/or imprisonment, apply for starting a fire without a permit during the Bush Fire Danger Period. "Permits ensure that fire is used safely and to minimise the

danger to landholders, their property and the community," Operational Officer Bell said. Permits may be authorised in exceptional circumstances, such as public safety or essential business works. To request an exemption, contact the Hunter Valley Fire Control Centre. For further information on how you can protect your property, or to get the guide to making your bush fire survival plan, visit the NSW RFS website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or call the Hunter Valley Fire Control Centre on 6575 1200.

Incubator event fund opens for Hunter

The NSW Government has announced that rural and regional events held from January to June next year, can now apply for grants under Round One of next year's 2018 Incubator Event Fund. Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC said the Fund, managed by the State's tourism and major events agency Destination NSW, offers annual grants of up to \$20,000 to new and existing smaller-scale events. "Hosting events in the Hunter not only delivers important economic and community benefits to our region but helps to put our region on the map," Mr MacDonald said. The 'Love Seafood' event held in Nelson bay during August this year is an example of an event that was supported by a previous round of the Incubator Event Fund "Whether organisers are after assistance for marketing, public relations, venue hire or attendee research, the 2017/18 Incubator Event Fund provides those staging an event, for its first or second time, with a platform to help attract more visitors to destinations in rural and regional NSW, such as the Hunter" "We know regional events play an important role in growing our local economy, and I encourage event organisers to learn more about this wonderful NSW Government opportunity which is now on offer." Minister for Tourism and Major Events Adam Marshall said the Government recognises the value events bring to local communities economies. "The 2017/18 Incubator Fund is part of the NSW Government's \$43 million record investment in regional tourism and aims to support community events across rural and regional NSW with a pathway for future growth and development," Mr Marshall said. "Through Destination NSW, we have secured and retained more than 290 rural and regional events since 2011 and we look forward to continuing to expand our wonderful NSW Events' Calendar." Applications for Round One are open until Sunday, 1 October 2017 with Round Two, set to open in February next year for events held in July to December 2018. To lodge an application and to view the 2018 Incubator Event Fund's key criteria and terms and conditions, visit www.destinationnsw.com.au/rfep. The Incubator Event Fund is part of the Regional Flagship Events Program which also includes the Flagship Event Fund and Event Development Fund.

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have something new to dig into. And her publisher would like to indicate, as clearly as possible, that “Big Little Lies” is more of the same. So where “The Husband’s Secret” had cover art depicting an

exploding rose, the new book features an exploding lollipop. “The Husband’s Secret” was full of women with ethical and emotional issues, men with possibly criminal ones, and contentious goings-on at a school. “Big Little Lies” has all that and more. Had Agatha Christie written it, it might have been called “The Kindergarten Murder.” Ms. Moriarty keeps her books long and gossipy, primarily by stalling. She introduces several sets of major characters, cuts back and forth among them, and scatters the narrative with foreshadowing about the terrible, terrible night — in this case, the Elvis Presley-Audrey Hepburn costume party at the school — on which something terrible happened. The book is peppered with parents’ voices commenting cryptically and amusingly about whatever it was. Was the root cause a French nanny? An erotic book club? Head lice? As evidenced by “The Husband’s Secret,” Ms. Moriarty’s fans will happily plow on through endless minor incidents to find out. After a calamity has been established, we jump back to a chapter called “Six Months Before the Trivia Night.” (“Trivia Night” was what the Elvis and Audrey thing was aptly called.) And the book establishes what a power-crazed group parents of kindergartners can be. The book is set on a scenic peninsula outside Sydney, Australia, near one of the world’s most beautiful beaches (perhaps Bondi), where there is only one school, which must accommodate children of very different economic backgrounds. So there are rich, bossy power mums and mousy stay-at-home types. One of the mice is the literally plain Jane, a single mother trying to make ends meet. New to the region, she gets into trouble before school has even started. At the end of orientation day, a hotshot mother with a

ABOUT

Liane Moriarty (born 15 November 1966) is an Australian author. She is the older sister of author Jaclyn Moriarty. After leaving school, Moriarty worked in advertising and marketing at a legal publishing company. She then ran her own company for a while before taking work as a freelance advertising copywriter. In 2004, after obtaining a master’s degree at Macquarie University in Sydney her first novel *Three Wishes*, written as part of the degree, was published.

Five further novels have been published: *The Last Anniversary*, *What Alice Forgot*, *The Hypnotists Love Story*, *The Husband’s Secret*, *Big Little Lies* and her newest novel released in July 2016, *Truly Madly Guilty*.

In August 2013 Liane’s fifth novel *The Husband’s Secret* was released in the US and within two weeks had climbed the charts to become a #1 New York Times Bestseller. Much champagne was drunk.

The Husband’s Secret went on to sell over 3 million copies worldwide. It remained on the New York Times bestseller list for over a year and was a top 10 bestseller in the UK where it was a Richard and Judy Book Club selection. CBS Films has optioned the film rights.

She lives in Sydney with her husband, son and daughter. When she’s not writing she can be found reading, demanding coffee, clutching her forehead and occasionally falling to her knees on the soccer field sidelines (the grief, the joy, the drama!) demanding chocolate, skiing like she’s thirty years younger than she is, recovering from skiing injuries, doing the school run, walking around the block to avoid writer’s block, talking to old friends about getting old, listening to her children explain the wonders of MineCraft, watching TV series far too late into the night and reading, which has already been mentioned, but deserves a second mention.



family trees, real harm is being done over a supposedly innocent matter. Ziggy doesn’t even know his father’s name. And all hell will break loose if Jane reveals it. The ferocity that Ms. Moriarty brings to scenes of masculine sadism really is shocking. A seemingly fluffy book suddenly touches base with vicious reality, in ways that may give “Big Little Lies” even more staying power than “The Husband’s Secret.” She’s done her homework well in describing the uh-oh moments, the tiny slights, the faint changes in the atmosphere around a charming, loving Dr. Jekyll who is about to turn into Mr. Hyde, and the battered

| Top 10 - Fiction | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Pos | ISBN | Title | Author |
| 1 | 9781760552596 | Big Little Lies:TV Tie-in | Liane Moriarty |
| 2 | 9781509800100 | Dangerous Games | Danielle Steel |
| 3 | 9781925481396 | Truly Madly Guilty | Liane Moriarty |
| 4 | 9781742613949 | The Husband's Secret | Liane Moriarty |
| 5 | 9781743533062 | Big Little Lies | Liane Moriarty |
| 6 | 9781780895208 | 16th Seduction | James Patterson |
| 7 | 9781925481372 | The Dry | Jane Harper |
| 8 | 9781460751312 | The Fifth Letter | Nicola Moriarty |
| 9 | 9781760295929 | Jasper Jones (film tie-in) | Craig Silvey |
| 10 | 9781760551452 | A Dog's Purpose | W. Bruce Cameron |

woman who has learned to live with this and make excuses for it. “Big Little Lies” isn’t likely to attract much of a male readership, aside from the demographic

of guys who enjoy being demonized. But it champions its women with a handy, all-purpose rationale: Sometimes doing the wrong thing is also right.

high-powered job accuses Jane’s son, Ziggy, of having tried to hurt her daughter. Ziggy becomes a pariah, and Jane becomes a victim. Two other mums from Team Nice (as opposed to Team Hateful) come to Jane’s rescue. One is Celeste, who is impossibly perfect and beautiful — impossibly because, in Ms. Moriarty’s scheme of things, everybody is hiding something awful. The other is Madeline, for whom the wearing of spike heels is a main character trait and who tends to blab when she shouldn’t. Despite her apparent bubbly nature, Madeline was abandoned by a husband who now has a New Age-y wife and a young daughter who is in the class with Madeleine’s daughter by her second husband. And on and on it goes. As the book proceeds, and the schadenfreude kicks in, we discover just how secretly miserable these women are. Suffice it to say that cruelty and bullying are Ms. Moriarty’s overriding subjects here, and that she used books about domestic violence for research. As for the question of whether Ziggy, who turns out to be the product of a one-night stand, really is a vicious boy at heart, the book traces a long strand of DNA right into one of the other kindergarten families. Ms. Moriarty writes all this in an easy, girlfriendly style that only occasionally lands

with a thud. (“The word ‘help’ screamed silently in her head, as if she were begging for something: a solution, a cure, a reprieve. A reprieve from what? A cure for what? A solution for what?”) And a low-level bitchiness thrums throughout the narrative, becoming one of its indispensable pleasures. The witnesses’ descriptions of whatever happened are usually comically distorted, as in a game of telephone, so that everyone’s understanding of Trivia Night is at best half-wrong. The Australian yenta is a type very much in evidence here, and if there’s one trait all the mothers share, it’s wanting to bad-mouth all the other ones. Ms. Moriarty also sends up the kinds of crises that rise to epic proportions in the hothouse of a contentious kindergarten. Woe betide the mother who loses Harry the Hippo, the official class toy. Here’s what she gets for trying to make reparations: “That cheap synthetic toy she replaced it with smelled just terrible. Made in China. The hippo’s face wasn’t even friendly.” Then there are the opposing forces that face off over a petition to ban birthday cupcakes. (“It’s so adversarial. Why can’t you just make a suggestion?”) But by the time the teacher insists that the kids make posters illustrating their

REVIEW
‘Big Little Lies,’ Liane Moriarty & The Top 10 Fiction Bestseller List © Nielsen BookScan

How Was School? Deadly
In ‘Big Little Lies,’ Liane Moriarty Finds New Complications

By JANET MASLIN JULY 24, 2014

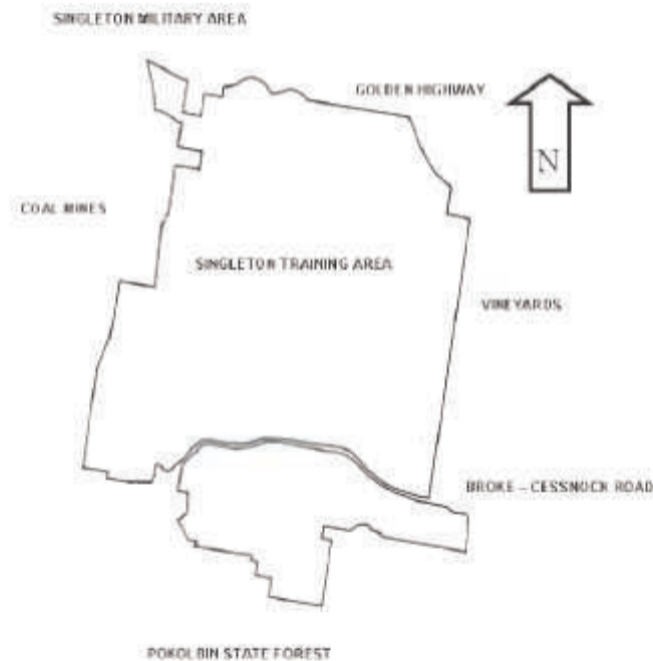
The book-buying public isn’t taking many chances this summer. Established hits like “Gone Girl,” “Unbroken” and “The Glass Castle” remain lodged on best-seller lists. Readers are still struggling to get through “The Goldfinch.” One of the few new authors to gain a toehold is Robert Galbraith, who has the advantage of having been J. K. Rowling in a previous life. And “The Husband’s Secret” by Liane Moriarty continues to sell briskly in hardcover, even though next week will be the first anniversary of its publication. But now, Ms. Moriarty’s long-parched fans



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Nominations open for local 'Sport Grant Program'



sport clubs are eligible to apply. There are four project types within the Program:

1. Sport Development (up to \$2,000);
2. Community Sport Events (up to \$5,000);
3. Sport Access (up to \$5,000) and;
4. Facility Development (up to \$20,000)

Local sporting clubs across the Cessnock electorate are encouraged to apply for funding under the Local Sport Grant Program which will increase active participation in sport. Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr, said the Program would assist sporting clubs contribute to the many personal and community benefits that are delivered through exercise and active participation. The Program aims to increase regular and on-going participation opportunities in sport and active recreation by assisting in the funding of facility upgrades, community sporting events or initiatives to improve club development. "Across our community, sport plays a crucial role in bringing people together. We need to ensure functional resources and facilities are available for participants and spectators" Mr Barr said. The NSW Government has allocated \$50,000 for projects within the Cessnock electorate and incorporated, not-for-profit

The minimum amount available is \$250 for all project types with the exception being for facility development which has a minimum request of \$1,000. Sporting groups across the Cessnock electorate have been successful in receiving funding in recent years to improve their facilities and encourage community members to get involved with their local clubs. "Last year Cessnock District Hockey Association received over \$17,000 to improve their facilities and Branxton Greta Amateur Swim Club was granted close to \$2,500. This funding was crucial in helping the clubs grow and increase participation" Mr Barr said. Applications close at 5pm on Friday, 6 October 2017. For more information, or to apply, please visit

www.sport.nsw.gov.au/clubs/grants/localsport

Photo above: Clayton Barr MP Member for Cessnock

Women's sport the focus of grants for the area

Local sports clubs in the Hunter are being invited to apply for grants of up to \$20,000, with Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC saying the focus this year is encouraging more talented girls and young women into sport programs.



\$50,000 has been allocated for successful projects between \$250 and 20,000 within each of the electorates of Lake Macquarie, Swansea, Wallsend, Charlestown, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Cessnock and Maitland. "Around half of all Australian boys are active through a sports club during their childhood compared with just 33 per cent of girls, and the participation rate for girls drops sharply after girls turn 12," Mr MacDonald said. "I encourage all local clubs and sporting organisations to use this opportunity to boost their female programs and events, because we want to see girls not only take to the field, but stay on the field."

Thousands of local clubs across the State are now eligible to apply for funding under the NSW Government's Local Sport Grant Program. There are four project types within the Program, these being: Sport Club Development, Community Sport Events, Sport Access and Facility Development. The grants will cover initiatives such as new sport programs, upgrades to facilities or projects that improve participation in sport.

Minister for Sport, Stuart Ayres said the program is part of a \$10 million sport grants package announced by the NSW Government.

"Women's sport is the fastest growing area of many codes and we are now seeing more big name sponsors and media networks recognising the public's appetite for prime time viewing, but more needs to be done, including cultivating participation at a grass roots level," Mr Ayres said

"From the bush to the city, sport is the lifeblood that unites communities. This is not just about female programs though, I encourage all sporting groups to apply for grants that will help people of all ages and abilities get involved in their local club or become more active." Grants are now open until 6 October 2017. For more information visit <https://sport.nsw.gov.au/clubs/grants/localsport> or phone 13 13 02.

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"Analyzing humour is like dissecting a frog. Few people are interested and the frog dies of it."
~ E. B. White
"The highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it."
~ John Ruskin
"I took up meditation. I like to have an espresso first just to make it more challenging."
~ Betsy Salkind
"You can never be overdressed or overeducated." ~ Oscar Wilde
"Education: the path from cocky ignorance to miserable uncertainty."
~ Mark Twain
"The great thing in this world is not so much where you stand, as in what direction you are moving." ~ Oliver Wendell Holmes



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to scroll down to that letter. For example, click the drop down box below and then press "u" to quickly scroll to Utah.

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Bonus Tip: You can also use the autofill feature to fill in common form fields.

Know your Internet browser shortcuts

There are dozens of different shortcut keys that can be used with Internet browsers. Below are a few of our top suggested Internet browser shortcuts.

Press **Alt+D** or **Ctrl+L** to move the cursor into the address bar.

- Hold down the **Ctrl** key and press the **+ or -** to increase and decrease the size of text. **Ctrl+0** will reset the text.

- Press the **backspace** key or press **Alt key + left arrow** to go back a page.

- Press **F5** or **Ctrl+R** to refresh or reload a web page.

- Press **F11** to make the Internet browser screen full screen. Press **F11** again to return to the normal view.

- Press **Ctrl+B** to open your Internet bookmarks.

- Press **Ctrl+F** to open the find box to search for text within the web page you are reading.

Use Internet search engines to their full potential

Get the most out of every search result. If you are not finding what you want try surrounding the text in quotes. For example, searching for 'computer help' without quotes returns results with "computer" and "help" anywhere on the page. However, if you search for "computer help" with the quotes it only return pages with "computer" and "help" next to each other.

Tip: In every search box you can press enter instead of using the mouse to click the Search button.

Try alternative browsers

Most computer users use the default browser that comes included with the computer, with Microsoft Windows this is Internet Explorer. There are many great alternative browsers that are all free to download and use and may have features your current browser does not include.

Install plugins and add-ons

All of the above alternative browsers also have a large community of volunteers who develop add-ons and plugins that can be added into the browser. Each of these browsers has hundreds of add-ons that can do such things like the current weather in your browser window, changing its color, and adding additional functionality.

Top 10 computer mistakes beginners make
Not backing up important files

One of the biggest mistakes anyone can make is not backing up important information. Today, there are so many different methods of backing up your information that there is no longer any excuse for not backing up your information. Make sure to backup all important information before it is too late.

Clicking Next or Ok without reading

Everyone has become more impatient thanks to the instant gratification we all enjoy every day on the Internet. However, because of this impatience it is not uncommon for new users to click Ok or Next without reading what they are agreeing to and not making sure there are no check boxes still checked. Make sure you read every prompt before agreeing, or you may be agreeing to install new browser toolbars, a program you didn't intend to install, or other crapware.

Not saving work

While working on a document either offline or online make sure that the program is automatically saving your work. If a program does not automatically save your work, you need to make sure you are saving your work every 10-15 minutes. If the computer loses power, Internet connection, or the program crashes everything is lost that hasn't been saved.

Turning off the computer improperly

With more users learning on Smartphones and Tablets before learning the computer, not all new users are familiar with the proper method to shut down (turn off) a computer. When you are done with a computer and want to turn it off make sure to save any work, close open programs, and shut down the computer properly.

Opening e-mail attachments

A common method of getting infected with a computer virus or malware is from opening e-mail attachments. Be extremely cautious and doubtful on all e-mail attachments you receive including any e-mail attachments you receive from friends, family, and co-workers. One of the most common tactics malicious users use to send viruses is from people you know to gain a false sense of trust.

Falling for phishing, spam, or chain mail

Phishing

As computers become more secure, and users get more tech savvy, many malicious individuals have moved to attacking people using phishing tactics. Make sure you are aware of how phishing works and how you can make sure you do not become a victim of identity theft.

Spam

Almost all spam today is distributed by infected computers or malicious users. Replying to these spam messages will not unsubscribe

you from any list and usually is never looked at or received. In some cases, a spammer may even use your reply as a verification that an e-mail works and send you more spam or share your e-mail address with other spammers. If you get spam, just delete it from your inbox. How to stop spam.

Chain mail

You should also never forward your friends and family chain mail. If you find an e-mail hard to believe, make sure it is true before you forward the myth or rumour to anyone else.

Downloading and installing bad software

Today, the most common ways a computer gets infected with viruses, malware, and other crapware is from downloading and installing bad software on the computer. Always be cautious of free software and who is providing you with the free software. To subsidize costs many developers include other bundled programs or toolbars, and if you are not careful, you may install them during the install. As mentioned earlier, always be sure to read what the program is doing during the install. Unfortunately, reading is also not always enough and sites offering free things like cursors, fonts, wallpaper, emoticons, and other small downloads may be bundled with other bad software.

When downloading anything, keep the below suggestions in mind.

Where are you getting the download?

There are malicious people who download valid copies of a popular download, modify the file with malicious software, and then upload the file with the same name. Make sure you are downloading from the developer's web page or a reputable company. How can I protect myself while online?

Don't install

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Many sites suggest or require you to install an installer or a download manager before allowing you to download a program you may be interested in downloading. These tools almost always cause your computer more problems and may even have malware or other spyware. Avoid any site claiming anything must be installed first before you can continue with your download.

Avoid advertisements on download pages

To help make money and pay for the bandwidth costs of supplying free the software, the final download page may have ads. Watch out for anything that looks like advertisements on the download page. Many advertisers try to trick viewers into clicking an ad with phrases like "Download Now", "Start Download", or "Continue" **CONT PAGE 20**

MOVIE REVIEW

GIRLS TRIP



Girls Trip, a raunchy comedy based on the enduring bonds of black sisterhood, is Lee's latest foray into the lives of 40something black people who -- for the most part -- are leading successful lives.

In this case, four women -- former college roommates -- spend a reunion weekend in New Orleans. But where movies such as the recent -- and deeply abysmal -- *Rough Night*, strained to push women into the *Bachelor Party*/*Bridesmaids* oeuvre, *Girls Trip* leaps in with remarkable aplomb.

Lee builds the movie around big comedy scenes of the kind that make you laugh in spite of yourself. One involves torrential urination and the other, a grapefruit. No fair describing either, but you should know that they're not for those who shy away from R-rated comedy.

In addition to some funny writing (intermittent, I admit), the movie features four actresses who create appealing characters: **Regina Hall, Jada Pinkett Smith, Queen Latifah and Tiffany Haddish**. Haddish portrays a firecracker of a woman whose profane expressions and attitude qualify as one of summer's better special effects.

The story revolves around Hall's character. Hall's Ryan is a best-selling author who espouses a you-can-have-it-all philosophy that has great appeal among women. She's married to a former NFL star (**Mike Colter**). Billed as an ideal couple, the two are on the verge of signing a lucrative TV contract, thanks to the efforts of Ryan's white agent (**Kate Walsh**). Hall's Ryan travels to New Orleans to give the keynote speech at Essence Fest, a gathering for black women. She invites her former college pals along. They call themselves "The Flossy Posse."

Queen Latifah portrays Sasha, a journalist who has been reduced to running a celebrity gossip blog. Pinkett Smith portrays a divorced nurse and mother of two, a woman poised to reveal her wild side, and Haddish appears as the loyal member of the group, a woman whose irrepressible energy seems boundless and who's not afraid to unleash a powerful punch or get everyone drunk on absinthe. At one point, the women drink too much absinthe and hallucinate, an occasion for Lee to bring ridiculous freshness to what could have been a giant misstep. The absinthe symbolizes the women's goal. They're supposed to let loose, but a bit of harsh reality stands in their way. As it turns out,

Ryan's life is far from perfect. Her husband philanders and his current partner (**Deborah Ayorinde**) happens to be in New Orleans.

To further complicate the proceedings, Ryan runs into a former classmate with whom she obviously shares an unkindly romantic spark (**Larenz Tate**). As for Pinkett-Smith's Lisa, she's contending with a young man (**Kofi Siriboe**) with a very large ... well you know. As is the case with most raunchy comedies, Lee's -- co-written by **Kenya Barris** and **Tracy Oliver** -- is not without sentiment nor can it resist a bit of morale-boosting cheer-leading for female empowerment. Oh well, those are standard ingredients in this kind of fare, as well.

All this is bolstered by brief appearances from **Common, Diddy, Mike Epps** and more. Raunchy comedies aren't everyone's favourite, but for those who like them, *Girls Trip* will do quite nicely. It may even turn out to be one of summer's few real surprises.

3/5



Wines & Vines

'Let us celebrate the occasion with wine and sweet words' Plautus

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



This was firstly published over ten years ago....

At the end of last year, the Branxton-Greta-Vineyards News expanded its presence in the form of the Kurri Kurri/Weston News. Included in that publication are these articles. I have only been made aware of this recently so this week I have been asked to introduce myself to the Kurri Kurri and Weston

readers, as they have been reading my twaddle without any background.

I was born (apparently I have to go back this far) in Sydney on a cold Saturday afternoon. My father had just run onto the rugby field, playing for the Gordon "Highlanders" against the infamous Randwick Club. I was born at 3.00pm. Dad entered the hospital at 3.30pm, well before half time. Dad was in a ward on the second floor and I was in the maternity ward on the fourth. He didn't see me for two days.

Growing up with two older brothers, Simon and Nick was great, although at times I could see the wearing effects it had on my parents. Some families like to sugar coat their experiences with "there was never a dull moment." My family, unfortunately, are unable to kid themselves - we were bad! We knew the difference between right and wrong and simply chose "wrong". My parents always persisted to parent us as best they could and with time the three of us settled somewhat.

If I could use just one word to sum me up, it would undoubtedly be "obsessive". One's too many, a hundred's not enough! It doesn't matter what I do, I end up either very sick or in hospital. It's a million miles an hour or not at all. When I was four, I would eat roughly ten apples a day. One day Mum suggested that I might like to make things a bit more interesting by throwing in an orange. The next day I ate ten oranges.

When I was ten, I won the annual cross country race at school, convincingly. Instead of stopping after the finishing line, I kept running and completed the course for a second time, complaining that it wasn't long enough. The first time I was caught smoking, Dad did the old "Right, you're going to sit here and smoke the entire packet!" I didn't quite understand the punishment as that was my plan in the first place!

I don't think the obsessive behaviour is a disorder- it is just my personality. I don't have to wash my hands or flick light switches and such twenty times... two or three times is enough! No, it's more a family trait I cannot escape. Although it can create a destructive mindset at times, it also sparks passion and ambition into the endeavours I choose to divulge in, so I take the bad with the good.

My brothers are cursed with the "go hard or go home" personality as well and we often wonder who the culprit in our ancestry is who passed on these genes. We don't have to look too far however, as my father is worse than the three of us put together. We are one of the only winemaking families who do not display the wine industry initiative "drink wine in moderation" on our labels. Funny that!

As such, I don't have any hobbies, I have obsessions. Surfing, rugby, wine and more recently, golf. You will hear the surfing, rugby and wine stories a lot, so I will spare you them today. Golf is a great game for people like me. Australian golfing guru, Richard "Dickie" Mercer and I share the same Godmother, to whom we are very close and whether that has anything to do with it or not, he's an obsessive like us. The other day Dickie and I played 48 holes. The next day we were so sore..... we only played 36. He is a bad influence - the best kind!

Horse racing goes back six generations in my family. When we were kids, Nick and I appeared on TV's super hot show - Romper Room. When it came to the part where the kids are given those wooden horses to ride around with music playing in the background, Miss Patricia named the horses Pinky and Blinky and the like. I turned to her and declared that mine wasn't Blinky at all, it was Bart Cumming's trained Ming Dynasty. Nick's was another Cumming's trained horse and twice Melbourne Cup winner, Think Big. As soon as the music started, we jumped and ran around the main table of the set at a hundred miles an hour. Kids were flying everywhere and the music was overshadowed by Nick's race call... "And Think Big takes the lead at the two hundred... hold on... here comes Ming Dynasty from out of the pack... Think Big... Ming Dynasty... Think Big.... Ooh... dead heat...!" By this stage we were the only ones still riding our horses. All the other kids were crying. Later in the show we were given a glass of milk each. Nick and I sculled ours in one gulp and turned the cups upside down on our heads just like Dad and his rugby mates would do after a game. Nick then asked Mr Do Bee if he was friends with Aussie the Ostrich. He then asked if they have had sex and were going to get married. The show never aired. It was only the second time in its history they had to re-shoot an episode. Suffice to say, we were omitted from the second take.

I've always maintained the ability to find a funny side to almost any situation. I can't tell jokes, due to the fact that by the time I reach the punchline, I'm lying on the floor in hysterics, gasping for air. At school, all you could hear was me up the back in fits of laughter. University was the same. I once turned up drunk to a three hour micro-biology lecture, stumbled into my seat and fell asleep within about fifteen minutes. At the end, my lecturer came up to me and I prepared for the worst. With an almost relieved smile on his face, he enthused.... "That was the quietest and most

productive lesson we've had all year.....thank you, Andrew."

I always wanted to be a winemaker. My father made us work long hours in the winery and vineyard when I was growing up and I guess it becomes a part of who you are. On the bottling line, we used to play "Sale of the Century" and Dad would be Tony Barber and ask a million and one questions. I was so young, the only machine I could operate was the corker, which was located next to the filler, where Dad was. My two brothers would always be buzzing before me and I would forever be stuck on twenty dollars. Just before Dad asked the fame game question, he would whisper the answer to me. Within a few seconds, I would buzz and yell out the answer. Then I would have to choose a famous face. I was obviously bloody good at it because I would always win twenty-five dollars. One day the other two caught wind of the scam and told Dad to shove his bottling, leaving only Dad and myself and in desperation, Mum, to finish the job. It took us eighteen hours. During that time Dad kept making references to me becoming the wine-maker one day and I guess that day a seed was planted for my future. Again, wine is geared for passionate, obsessive natures so it was always meant to be. But I know one day something else will present itself. I'm not sure what that could be yet, but I'm in this world for an adventure and if I'm still making wine in twenty years, I guess it will be okay but no longer an adventure. I'd be sad if that happens. But for now, I can't be more passionate about wine.

What else is there? My favourite food is anything from the sea. My favourite wine outside of Marsh Estate is Tyrrell's. U2 features heavily in the music department but Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin are old favourites. In 1988, Pink Floyd played seven concerts at the Sydney Entertainment Centre. Me being me, I attended all seven. By the end of it my brain was fried (don't ask!). All the while, I was disappointed that an eighth concert was not scheduled.

In early 1999, I met Holly Jarvis, a restaurateur from Sydney. I knew all her friends and she knew mine yet we had always managed to avoid each other for some strange reason.

Everyone was excited for us when we started dating because of the food and wine connection. Our friends envisaged us romantically perusing an old French Bordeaux over a candlelit dinner at one of Sydney's finer restaurants, whispering sweet nothings into each others ears. Well, we did the first night but the following twelve months we drank nothing but copious amounts of VB and ate dinner kebabs in a ripe old state at four in the morning. Classy!

We married in 2003 and nine and a half months ago gave birth to our baby girl, Poppy. She has turned our world (and the living room) upside down. I melt whenever I'm around her. I know things will change when she starts walking but, hey, it's her job to keep her parents on their toes. I think she's obsessive as well. She's been playing with a cardboard take-away coffee cup for over two months and doesn't let it out of her sight. I love that. So many years ago, the editor approached me and inquired whether I would be interested in writing this column.

"Does it always have to be about wine?" I asked.

"Yes, well, primarily it will be a wine column" was his answer.

"Do you want me to write about topics such as the "Determination of the Grape Invertase Content (using PTA-ELISA) following various fining treatments versus changes in the total protein content of wine" or "conidia of black aspergilli as new biological adsorbents for ochratoxin A in grape juices and musts?" "Uh... umm...?"

"I could write about how I got drunk at the Wine Australia exhibition with some old university friends and woke up on an XPT heading for Melbourne."

"I think we'll start with the former" said the editor.

The first article was targeted at the biggest science geek in the history of the world. I even added a "wine of the week" just to fill the page. It was so bad I couldn't read it myself. The editor rang me the following week and asked "... that XPT trip.... did you ever make it to Melbourne?"

Cheers, Andrew

THE NEWS | No.462 | WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2017 9 19

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

On Thursday night 931/8/17 2 utes were seen hooning around a vacant lot on Lakes Folly Drive, Branxton. Both utes had very bright flood lights. Friday morning (1/9/17) an adult kangaroo and joey were found dead on that same lot. The area is fenced so the kangaroo & joey could not escape. This incident was reported to the RSPCA. This delinquent behaviour should not be tolerated in our community or any community.

Another little kangaroo dead in Scott Street, North Rothbury. Shame; anyone who lives in North Rothbury knows that Kangaroos roam our streets and gardens at night. The lady with the fast car and the filthy teeth should slow down in Scott and Mayne Streets. Those are unmade and it would also be a shame if she inadvertently got a rock through her windscreen. Also, children who use the Ayrefield Miners Park should be told the park is kept for them and their use. Pulling down the tennis net is OK but put it back when you have finished. Another also; whoever dragged the watering hose onto the court at the North Rothbury tennis court and broke the connections needs to have their IQ checked. Mothers please check if this is your genius. The bill is \$10.35.

To the local St Vincent de Paul Society at Greta for your help in a difficult situation. Wonderful volunteers & wonderful people.

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

Computer Tuition: From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908
Computer Services: Repairs, Sales & Service. Phone repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128
For Rent: Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460
For Sale: 40ft. shipping container in excellent condition, for sale \$3000. Inspect at John street. Rutherford. Ph. 49345913 1491nofrackingway@gmail.com
For Sale: Old collectable rabbit traps from \$10ea. Also 180amp welder as new with gloves & helmet \$50 P: 0421 102 711
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/sfenton E: sfenton@mtatravel.com.au
Fitness Classes: 'Core & Strength'. Get fit. Classes are 6am and 10am Tuesday, 6am and 8am Thursday, at Miller Park Branxton \$12/class. Text/Phone Louise P: 0439 383 478
Riding Lessons: agjstment, horses trained. www.byalee.net 0407 453 494
Share accommodation: Close to transport & shops, quiet street Branxton; off street parking. \$150p/w includes power & water P: 0423 288 067

Share House: Fully furnished, double bedroom, Built-ins, ceiling fan, Air Con, very quiet. \$165/week. P: 0413 896 866
Wanted: high quality mechanical wrist watches & clocks. Keen collector. Willing to pay good prices. Prefer Rolex, Omega, Oris & Tag. P: 0414 757 826
Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841
Work Wanted: HAVE UTE WILL CARRY. Need something moved? Phone Phil on 0447 381989
Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292
Work Wanted: Lawn Mowing; best rates - large or small area. P: 0459 123 397
Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601
Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701
Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567
Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081
Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.
Work Wanted: experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804
Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3753
Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989
Work Wanted: Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards - rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538
GO TO FOR FURTHER DETAILS
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/>

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

Dates for your diary >

Dates for your diary >

Wed 13 Sept - Branxton Public School, Parent Session Zero Bully 3:10pm
Fri 15 Sept - Brxt Public School Infants' Athletics Carnival
Fri 15 Sept - Opening night of Spring Art Fair at Cessnock Regional Art Gallery (3 days)
Sat 16 Sept - Join us in watching the Movie - For Refreshments & Nibbles. Reading Cinemas Ken Tubman Dr, Maitland Tickets \$20 - available at op shop Please contact Margaret - 0428 838 434
Sun 17 Sep - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm
Wed 20 Sept - AGM Mid Hunter Palliative Care Volunteers Mid Hunter Palliative Care Volunteers. PO Box 91, Singleton 2330 T: 6572 2121 F: 6572 2126 M: 0407 072 610 Sue Pope Coordinator
Thur 21 Sept - Kirrton Public School 'Kindergarten Orientation Program 9am - 12 noon. Phone 6574 7152 for further details
Thur 21 Sept - Branxton VIEW Club donna-lou Fashion Parade @ Branxton Community Hall
Fri 22 Sept - Branxton Public School: Last day of Term 3, PBL Assembly and Reward afternoon, Out of Uniform day.
Sun 24 Sept - 2 pm - 4.30 pm with THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MACHINE QUINTET featuring George Washingmachine on violin, Claire O'Meara on accordion, Stan Valacos on double bass, Arthur Washington - guitar and Nadya Golski on vocals. Jazz Club members \$15, Guests \$20 Central Charlestown Leagues Club, 8 Bula Street, Charlestown.
Wed 27 Sept - Open Day Branxton Greta Men's Shed and Womens Craft Group @ 49 Branxton Road Greta (in the grounds of the old St Marys Public School). 9am to 12noon.
Thur 28 Sept - Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group meet at Cessnock Leagues Club 3pm. Guest speakers: Tate Hignman-Martelle Malhotra from Cessnock Plaza Pharmacy. Topic: Information about the benefits of Zinc and the important

role it plays in men and women's health. Also members can receive a FREE Zinc deficiency test on the day, if they wish. Members of the public welcome. Tea/ coffee provided. More contact- Barry\ Rose 49904554- 0457073852
Tue 3 Oct - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting: 4pm at Branxton Golf Club
Sat 7 Oct - the 2017 A-Plus Contracting Hunter Valley Mining Charity Rugby League Knockout Competition in support of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service @ Singleton's Pirtek Park
Sun 8 Oct - AGM Greta Workers Club 10am Greta Branxton Colts
Mon 9 Oct - Branxton Public School: First day of Term 4
Tue 10 Oct - "Night Time Bingo" at Greta Workers Club 7pm start
Tues 10 Oct - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigid's School, Station St, Branxton
Wed 11 Oct - Brxt Annual 'Dress in Pink High Tea' & fashion extravaganza. 10am Brxt Community Hall
Sun 15 Oct - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm
Sat 21 Oct - Greta Camp Family Get-Together
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 Brigid's 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
Fri 8 Dec - 2017 Christmas Spectacular at Branxton Golf Course
Tues 12 Dec - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigid's School, Station St, Branxton
Sun 17 Dec - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm



Kirkton Public School News

Regional Athletics Well done to our PP5 Relay Team (Darcy L, Darcy M, Lachlan & Riley) who participated in last weeks Hunter Athletics Carnival in Glendale.



Branxton Public School

Branxton Public School News

On Wednesday 13th September our Stage 2 and 3 students will participate in a bullying prevention

program by Bully Zero Australia Foundation. It includes information on what is bullying and how to deal with it, as well as cyber safety. There is also a parent session available after school at 3:10pm. We encourage parents to attend, regardless of the age of your child. It will be extremely useful information for now and/or the future.



⌚ Rugby League at RTHS



⌚ Skills at RTHS Rugby League Day



⌚ Harry accepting his badge from Mrs. Maier

Congratulations to Harry on his appointment as Sports Minister. In other sporting news, 44 of our Stage 3 students attended the RTHS Rugby League Gala Day in Week 8. They had a great day learning some new skills and playing some 9-a-side games. In Week 8 we had a crazy hair and/or beanie day to support Rosary Park teacher Ben Lott and his family. We also had McHappy drink bottles for sale to support Ronald McDonald House Charities. A portion of the drink bottle sales was also donated to Ben Lott. McDonalds also donated a second water barrel to the school.

FROM PAGE 18

Computer Tips

...and that ad may open a separate download.

Cancel or deny any automatic download

Some sites may automatically try start a download or give the appearance that something needs to be installed or updated before the site or video can be seen. Never accept or install anything from any site unless you know what is downloading.

Not keeping operating system and software up-to-date

The evolution of computers and the software that computer's use is always evolving. After a program is released bugs and security threats are almost always discovered by other users.

Installing the latest updates for a program makes sure everything runs smooth and if security fixes are found fix those problems, so your data is kept secure.

How to update a Microsoft Windows computer.

Keep a computer on a surge protector or UPS

If you plug your desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone into a wall outlet consider using a surge protector instead. A surge protector can help keep your computer protected during an electrical storm and make sure that nothing is damaged if a surge travels over your power lines.

Also, if you are using a desktop computer we highly recommend also using a UPS on your computer.

Although these can be more expensive, a UPS protects your computer from a surge, brown out, and keeps the computer running if the power goes out for a minute or two.

Buying incompatible hardware or peripherals

Computers are becoming more diversified with Chrome books, hybrid computers, laptops, smartphones, and tablets. Although all of these devices are considered computers, not all hardware is compatible with every type of computer. Also, this is true with Apple computers vs. a PC, and computers running Windows or Linux, which are all running different operating systems. Before purchasing hardware or upgrading older hardware make sure its compatible with your computer, operating system, and meets the system requirements.

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. Kindergarten enrolments are still being accepted. Just 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.



⌚ McHappy drink bottles

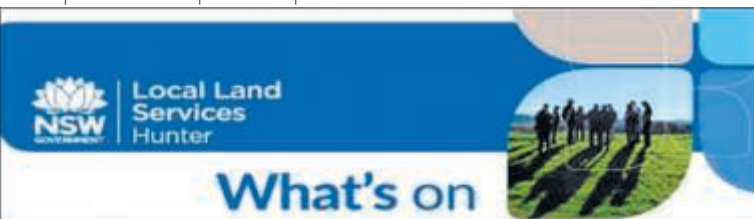
Dates for the Calendar

- Wednesday 13th September – Parent Session Zero Bully 3:10pm
- Friday 15th September – Infants' Athletics Carnival
- Friday 22nd September – Last day of Term 3, PBL Assembly and Reward afternoon, Out of Uniform day
- Monday 9th October – First day of Term 4



⌚ Crazy hair

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



BOOTS ON THE GROUND – LLS READY TO HELP

Local Land Services (LLS) is ready to help land owners across the Hunter and Manning Great Lakes understand and utilise the new opportunities that became available on August 25 under the Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Local Land Services (LLS) is ready to assist land owners across the region to make the most of the new system. The NSW Government has funded LLS to get extra resources and staff to deliver this new service and make it as simple as possible for landholders.

“Our staff are ready to work with landholders across the region. We want to make it easier for landholders. We can listen to your goals and ideas, and work with you to help determine how the system can support your farm plan and business needs,” commented Kristian Holz, Group Director Sustainable Land Management, LLS.

The new approach strives to deliver triple bottom line outcomes for land owners by:

- Providing certainty and long term planning solutions that deliver balanced growth and value environmental assets
- Supporting land owners with advice, new tools and products to make the right choice for their farm system
- Creating more land use options through flexible codes and payments for private land conservation.

The newly created Sustainable Land Management (SLM) team, at Local Land Services are available to help landholders with the new system.

They can provide tailored advice on applying the new land management code of practice, accessing incentives for protecting native vegetation and where required navigating approvals for clearing or development.

Kristian Holz, Group Director, Sustainable Land Management at Local Land Services said LLS was here to help landholders discover the opportunities available to them.

“Boots on the ground will ensure farmers know their options and are supported in making good, short, medium and long-term choices for their business,” said Mr Holz.

“The new framework will provide a better system than what is currently available. It will increase flexibility for farmers and will provide better environmental outcomes across NSW.”

Farmers are uniquely placed to support environmental outcomes for the broader community, themselves and future generations.

Over the coming weeks, Local Land Services will hold a series of information sessions throughout NSW focusing on the new framework and its benefits to landholders.

This includes the following events:

- Gloucester, St Paul’s Anglican Church, 25 October 9am
- Scone, Scone RSL Club, 26 October 9am

To find out more visit www.lls.nsw.gov.au/sustainable-land-management

On The Track



Punter bags \$730,000 on winning bet

Source: News Limited
(Just love these little snippets! Ed.)

A RETIRED accountant was “completely speechless” when a betting agency called to reveal this stunning windfall. Punting made easy? Yeah, right! One English gambler has pocketed half a million pounds on the back of a 10 pence each way sixfold accumulator which had been placed as part of the multiple bet.

The accountant has transformed his life with one of the most staggering windfalls in punting history. The north Londoner turned 20 pence (roughly 30 cents) into \$730,000 with an each way accumulator he initially thought had failed.

The man, who did not want to be named, placed around \$3 worth of different bets on seven horses running at three different race meets in the UK on the weekend.

of the horses that was racing at Newbury, lost its race.

It wasn’t until a betting agency called to confirm the six others had won he became aware of his huge win.

“I checked a couple of the early results on my tablet but then after seeing one of them had lost I thought I might have only been on for a couple of places, so didn’t bother to see how the rest of the horses had got on,” the man told the Daily Record.

“The next thing I knew, someone from Ladbrokes was phoning me to congratulate me for winning nearly half a million quid and to ask how I’d like the money, and I had no idea what he was talking about.

“I was completely speechless and I think it’s going to take a few days to sink in properly.

Dinsdale (left) was one of the horses that got home.

The huge odds were boosted by the number of long shots the man selected, including Wishicould (14/1), Monfass and McIvor (both 12/1), Peal Spectre (10/1), Boater (15/2) and Dinsdale (6/1). His payout was also benefited by Ladbrokes Best Odds Guarantee

But he gave up on his chances when Bendo-mingo, one

concession, which added an extra \$368,000 to the windfall.

“We’re sure this is one bet our customer won’t be able to forget now and we couldn’t be happier to pay the winnings to a lifelong racing fan,” Ladbrokes’ Alex Donohue said. “We’re sure from now he’ll follow racing results more closely as they come in.”

Woman wins \$410k from \$7.50 worth of bets

Source: AP

A WOMAN has raked in the most miraculous windfall all because of some blind luck and inexplicable logic.

The lady bet on horses purely because she liked the names. A LUCKY mum has scooped up approximately \$AUD410,000 on a \$7.50 bet after four horses she picked solely on their names romped to victory at Goodwood, England.

The single mum-of-two, in her 30s, went online to place a number of doubles and trebles on five horses at Goodwood Festival this week, The Sun reports. Her fortunate day began when her first choice — Dark Red in the 1.50pm race — romped home at odds of 12/1.

The horse was later disqualified after a steward’s inquiry and downgraded to second place, behind the Queen’s horse Fabricate at 20/1.

But the lucky mum was saved by bookmaker William Hill’s “first past the post policy” which honoured her bet and paid out on her selection.

Amazingly three of the mum’s other picks then went on to win — Thechildren’s trust at 100/1, Breton Rock at 50/1 and El Astronaute at 33/1.

Her final selection, Darkroom Angel in the 5.15pm race, led for much of the race but the three-year-old filly ran out of puff and finished in 10th.

Had it won, she would have landed \$1.66 million — the bookmaker’s maximum payout. Yet despite the final horse not winning, the Cheshire mum still managed to scoop a life-changing \$410,000.

The woman, who does not want to be named, now plans to use her winnings to buy a new house for her family in Ellesmere Port, Wirral.

Her bet in full was 10 x 10p each way doubles, 10 x 10p each way trebles, a 5 x 5p each way four-fold and a 1p EW fivefold for a total stake of \$7.50 (or £4.50). The lady got very lucky.

Rupert Adams, a spokesman for William Hill, said: “Some of our

racing traders have been in the game for 40 years and none of them can remember such an astonishing bet that so nearly cost us a million.

“A few were almost having heart attacks watching the final race, but the punter inside all of us was cheering on the lady’s last selection and it was in front for a long way.

“But I am not sure if the boss would approve of that. It was every punter’s bet of a lifetime — winning a fortune for less than a fiver (in British pounds).

“A few quid outlay and the lady has a new house — talk about finding your dream home.” Mr Adams said the woman likes to occasionally “bet for fun” and chooses her horses based on their names.

He said: “The lucky lady made her selections purely on the names and only ever bets in pennies. “She had seen Dark Sunset win at Uttoxeter on Friday and that’s why she picked Dark Red and Darkroom Angel.

“Then she selected Breton Rock at 50-1 as she liked the name.

“El Astronaute she had never heard of before, but thought the name was out of this world and glamorous, so she put him in. “And probably funniest of all — she selected Thechildren’s trust as she read in a newspaper that

the horse had no chance of winning. Everyone loves a punter that wins big.

“She says her picks are always big odds, as she likes to use her winnings to take the family out to tea at restaurants that do two-for-one deals.

“She is a very down to earth lady and if she carries on betting in pennies and a few pounds then we’ll never get the winnings back from her.

“We wish her and her family well with her winnings.”

The lucky mum’s big win has set her following in the footsteps of Britain’s most successful female gambler, Agnes Haddock.

Agnes was in her 40s when she landed \$1.1 million with a \$3.30 bet on the popular ITV Saturday bet the Tote Scoop6.

She said: “It’s brilliant when girl punting power produces the goods. Well done to this woman — let’s hope lots of other ladies win big at Glorious Goodwood.

“My six picks on that tremendous day 10 years ago were all based on nice names.

“We all love battering the bookies.”

If you need support, phone Gambling Help Australia on 1800 858 858 or visit Gamblers Anonymous.

Detailed saleyard report



Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton report date 6/9/17

(Comparison Date 31/8/17)

Due to the seasonal conditions remaining dry numbers lifted and the quality in the penning was mixed. The better bred younger cattle showing good growth potential sold to solid competition, however any mixed bred plainer types struggled to maintain firm prices. Cow numbers were down, as the older steers gained in quantity, with the bulk going to feeder orders. Cheaper trends throughout the younger steer categories, however there were very few good runs presented, with the majority odd lots and mixed breeds. The over 200kg pens ranged from 270c to 304c, with the heavier pens averaging 312c, after reaching 331c/kg. The vealer heifers were also plainer, week-on-week and prices eased 15c to make from 240c to 305c/kg to the restocker orders. Yearling steers were also breed and quality affected, as prices for the medium weights ranged from 242c to 312c/kg. The yearling heifers to the restockers sold from 230c to 289c/kg depending on breed and quality. Young grain assisted prime cattle to the trade reached the high prices attained at the previous market; however those carrying plenty of weight sold cheaper. The ideal weighted pens to the butchers made in the 301c to 366c/kg range. Grown steers to the feeder orders sold from 255c to 261c, with processors paying from 235c to 260c/kg. The older heifers remained firm at 235c to 249c/kg. Cows maintained firm prices, the plainer 2 scores averaged 194c and the better covered heavy weights ranged from 208c to 225c/kg.

Scone report date 5/9/17

(Comparison Date 29/8/17)

With the weather remaining dry numbers nearly doubled, as the majority entered the younger categories and were suitable for the restocker orders. There were fair percentages purchased by the trade, however yield was lower week-on-week. The younger heifers outnumbered the steers and the usual buyers competed, with the drier conditions and extra numbers contributing to a cheaper market trend. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers eased 6c, making from 254c to 360c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers was back 15c, with breed and quality contributing in places, and prices ranged from 248c to 316c/kg. Yearling steers eased 2c to 11c/kg, with the lot feeders weaker in the competition. The medium weights made from 258c to 302c/kg. Yearling heifers were affordable, with trends cheaper by 8c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers topped at 330c/kg. Heavy weight grown steers were sourced by the lot feeders and processor orders, with those to the feeders trending dearer to make from 258c to 263c, and those to slaughter sold from 225c to 246c/kg. The cows sold to solid competition, the plainer medium weights averaged 190c, and the better finished heavy weights ranged from 200c to 226c/kg. The best heavy weight bull topped at 230c/kg.

TRLX Tamworth report date 4/9/17

(Comparison Date 28/8/17)

Numbers remained steady with yearlings well supplied. There was a good selection of well finished heavy grown cattle. Overall the quality and condition was good. The usual buyers were in attendance. Market trends varied with demand weaker in some cases, while quality was a contributing factor in price change in others. Yearling steers to restock and particularly feed were subject to weaker demand and generally sold to cheaper trends, the heavy weight feeders most affected. There was a single line of very high quality medium weight yearling steers that sold to a restocker at a dearer price. A greatly improved quality penning of yearling heifers suitable to both the trade and feedlotters saw prices improve on a firm to dearer market trend. Weaker demand for well finished grown steers and heifers saw the steer portion 3c to 4c/kg cheaper. The heifers were as much as 8c/kg cheaper. Cows also attracted weaker demand with the market trending 2c to 3c/kg cheaper.



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**Branxton Vet Golfers
Results 31-8-17
Stableford**

Div 1 Winner E Munzenberger 29 pts (c/b)
R/u G Gazzard 29 pts 3rd E Barrett 27 Pts
Div 2 Winner R Friis 35 pts (SOD) R/u
C Parker 34 pts 3rd A Hackett 32 pts
Ladies Insufficient numbers to form
Division.

NTPs Ladies R Friis

Gents S Dunker

Members draw - Not won

Well the last day of Winter treated the small
band of hardy players well, as they gathered
for a round of golf. Congratulations to
Robin Friis on winning Div 2 and achieving
the ‘Score of the Day. A ‘well done’ to all
other winners and placegetters.’

**NOTICE - TO ALL MEMBERS -
Reference our ‘Away Day’, particularly to
those players who turned up, and were
disappointed to find the event cancelled, due
to exceptional rainfall. Take Heart!! We
have re-scheduled the event and it will take
place on Fri 22 Sep 17. 7.30 am for 8 am
start.**

**Results 7-9-17
Stableford**

Div 1 Winner G Anderson 34 pts (SOD)
R/u T Seamer 30 pts 3rd M Ford 28 pts (c/b)
Div 2 Winner R McMillan 32 pts R/u
R Friis 30 pts (c/b) 3rd J Atton 30 pts
Ladies Insufficient numbers to form division
NTPs Ladies R Friis

Gents G Scobie

Members draw - Not won

It seems that we have not done with the
Winter chill that comes with the August
winds, which are continuing in
September. Well the main thing is, it has
not deterred our hardy group of players from
gathering and playing a round of golf.
Congratulations to George Anderson on
winning his division and achieving the
‘Score of the Day’. A ‘well done’ to other
winners and placegetters.

LN Bootes

Branxton Lady Golfers

Results 30th August. Stableford Event

Winner: Kerrie O’Connell with 37 points

Nearest to the pin: Robyn Hoffman

Birdies to: Caren Caldwell, Neridah Busch

& Trish McMillan

Wednesday 6th September results.

Stableford Event

Winner: Kerrie O’Connell on count back

from Trish McMillan 33 points.

Nearest to the Pin: Carol Miller.

Birdies to Carol Miller on the 3rd and 9th.

**BRANXTON GOLF CLUB
SAT 26TH AUGUST**

STABLEFORD & HANDISKINS ROUND

5

A GRADE WINNER DAVE KINCH 38pts

A GRADE RUNNER UP LEE HEUSTON

37pts

B GRADE WINNER ED GARLAND 38pts

B GRADE RUNNER UP RENT MCGEE

38pts

C GRADE WINNER BARRY TURNER

40pts

C GRADE RUNNER UP PETE

MATHEWS 36pts

SAT 2ND SEPT

STROKE MONTHLY MEDAL

MEDAL WINNER – Leigh O’Connell 68

nett

A GRADE WINNER Greg Gillard 72 nett

c/b

A GRADE RUNNER UP Mark Moylan 72

nett

A GRADE THIRD Daryl Sheppard 73 nett

B GRADE WINNER Neil Jordan 69 nett

B GRADE RUNNER UP Errol

Munzenberger 70 nett

B GRADE THIRD Gary Walsh 71 nett

C GRADE WINNER Steven Primmer 71

nett c/b

C GRADE RUNNER UP Lloyd Barrett 71

nett

C GRADE THIRD Micki Barrett 72 nett

BALL COMP:-

77 nett

NTPins: 2nd/11th: Gary Wilton 87 cms 4th:

Cameron Johanson 90 cms 9th/18th:

L.Barrett 65 cms 13th: Lee Heuston: 241

cms

Leigh O’Connell won Saturday’s Monthly Medal
with an excellent 68 nett, on a day where only a
77 nett score was needed to win a ball, although
the day’s DSR of 71 seemed a little low as hardly
anyone from quite a big field could match that
score. The challenging pin positions with the
recently cored greens made life difficult for all
golfers. Greg Gillard won A Grade with his 72
nett score, just ahead of Mark Moylan with the
same score with Daryl Sheppard battling away for
his 73 nett to finish third. Neil Jordan

produced one of his better rounds to win B Grade
with his 69 nett, just clear of Errol Munzenber-
ger’s 70 nett with Gary Walsh third with a 71 nett
score. Steve Primmer won a very close contest in
C Grade with a 71 nett, just beating Lloyd Barret
and Micki Barrett with the same score. The near-
est the pins were all very impressive with three of
them within a metre, with the shot of the day be-
longing to Lloyd Barrett’s shot to the last which
finished only 65 cms away, to a pin tucked away
at the very back of the green—a great shot! A
couple of highlights from the day came at the
notoriously difficult 13th hole, a long par three into
a small green. Cameron Johanson, a very talented
golfer off a one handicap hot is first shot out of
bounds (just too long and a little left) so he had to
make the long walk back to the tee where upon he
hit his next shot just left of the green before
chipping in for an amazing bogey 4. Paul Bush,
playing in the following group, also hit his first
shot out of bounds—his next shot went way too
far finishing on the 14th tee—and amazingly he
too holed out for a bogey 4. Just explaining golf
can be too hard—how we make our scores can be
wonderful stories on their own. The Handiskins
Competition has now reached its climax with
Barry Turner, Peter Matthews, Lee Heuston and
Riley McClung reaching the final to be played
next week where they will battle to win the spoils
form around \$800.

On a more sombre note, one of our long time
members, Mick Armstrong, passed away last
week at the young age of 62. He played golf on a
regular basis, representing the club in Pennants for
many years. He was a lovely man who was always
ready for a chat, enjoying the company of
others. The world will be sadder for his passing.

Hunter Valley Golf Club

Saturday 26th August The Tiger Tee Challenge
became a ‘mountain’ for most with Par being very
hard to beat. A Grade went to Antill Park GC
visitor John Vincdent with 34 points from Andrew
Zok on 33, B Grade to Garry Ashford with 37
points from Ray Newton 36 and C Grade to Tracy
Morison with 40 points from Helen Wallace with
39 points. Ball winners were: Kevin Smith 35,
Terry Wallace 34, Peter Milas 34, Jeremie Morton
33, Ryan Cremor 33, Wayne Barber 32, Geoff
Herbert 32, Brad Pringle 32, Paul Davies 31,
Terry Ardouin v31, Wade Attewell 31, Ray
Hodson 31, Col Bradley 31, Steve Abel 31, Colin
Mills 31, John Stewart 31, Gary Counsell 30, Brad
Burgess 30 and Bruce Chambers 29 c/b. Nearest-
the-Pins went to Wade Attewell (3rd) Steve Abel
(4th) and Troy Wallis (8th).

Sunday 27th August The Weekly Challenge has
been won by Kurri visitor Colin Ford with 38
points on countback to fellow Kurri member
Anthony Lucas with Zachary Mexon of the
Maitland GC in 3rd place with 36 points. Ball
winners were: Steven Kane 34, Stuart Fraser v34,
Craig Dillon v34, Gavin Conder v34 and Mathew
Mather 32 c/b

Tuesday 29th August Dan Taylor has produced a
solid round of 39 points to win the Tuesday
Stableford from Paul Smith with 37 points
surviving a countback from Ian Newell who also
survived on countback for 3rd place. Ball winners
were: Mathew Delforce 37, Graeme Flynn 36,
Dean Morison 35, Steven Abel 34, John Stewart
33 and Robert Upton 33

Wednesday 30th August The opening round of
the Ladies 2017 Championship got underway
today with the Ladies battling some tight pin
placings. The completed results are yet to be
posted with scratch info only available. Dale
Hamilton has a 4 shot lead over playing partner
Jenny Chambers with Jenelle Jurd and Jill Slatter
locked together a further shot back. Round 2 of 3
will be played next Wednesday.

Thursday 31st August Inform Mark Barrow
combined with Robyn Dunlop to win the Vets
4BBB with 47 points from Wayne Berry and
Darrell Preston with 46 points on countback to
Steve Rawlings and John Pascoe. Ball winners
were: Dale Macklinshaw and Ray Newto,n 45,
John Stewart and Graeme Flynn 44, Kevin Smith
and David Peel 44, Wayne Barber and Ken Harris
43, Steve Piggot and Dave Irwin 43 and Maurice
Peters and Greg Ireland with 42 on countback.
Nearest-the-Pins went to Bruce Chambers (3rd)
Steve Piggot (4th) Graeme Flynn (8th & 10th) and
Kevin Smith (17th) Next week the Vets will play
a Medley Stableford.

Saturday 2nd September Excellent conditions
greeted players for the Medley Stableford with
results to match. Graeme Flynn led the way in A

Grade with 38 points from Jesse Gaffney 37, B
Grade to John Brown with an even Par 36 from
Wayne Barber on 35 and C Grade to Garry Clarke
with 36 points from playing partner Peter Attewell
on 35. Ball winners were: Ryan Stig 36, Craig
Sharp 35, Darren Crear 35,
Shannon Attewell 35, Chris Lodge 35, Paul Bullock
35, Kevin Smith 35, Ian Newell 34, Russ Lightfoot
34, Peter Puerta 34, Brendon Boyd 34, Bruce
Chambers 33, Adam Pratten 33, Ryan Cremor 32
and Tracy Morison 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to
Steve Piggot (3rd) Shannon Attewell (4th) Ray
Newton (8th) Paul Bullock (10th) and Garry Clarke
(17th). Next week will be the Monthly Medal
Stroke rounds. **** Hunter Valley has produced
some great results in the recent District Champi-
onships with Mark Barrow winning the C Grade
title with 87 scratch on his home ‘track’ and
Stuart Robinson finished on 88 and 3rd place in
the B Grade scratch held on the Maitland
course, well done to both on these fine achieve-
ments.**

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Ryan Cremor 33, Wayne Barber 32, Geoff Herbert
32, Brad Pringle 32, Paul Davies 31, Terry Ardouin
v31, Wade Attewell 31, Ray Hodson 31, Col Brad-
ley 31, Steve Abel 31, Colin Mills 31, John Stewart
31, Gary Counsell 30, Brad Burgess 30 and Bruce
Chambers 29 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wade
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Dave Irwin 43 and Maurice Peters and Greg Ireland
with 42 on countback. Nearest-the-Pins went to
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row winning the C Grade title with 87 scratch on
his home ‘track’ and Stuart Robinson finished on
88 and 3rd place in the B Grade scratch held on
the Maitland course, well done to both on these
fine achievements.** HVGC results w/e 9/9/17

Sunday 3rd September Jason Cowburn took the
honours on countback from Steve Piggot and
Stephen Knowles after all 3 returned 38 points. Ball
winners were: John Parish 36, Tony Krishna v36,
Tom Bellamy 34 and Jodie Dunn 34

Tuesday 5th September Steve Piggot continued
his run of form winning the Tuesday Stableford

CONT. BACK PAGE

**You don’t
get better
by sitting
on the
couch!**



A big part of being happy is being OK with failure. I should
know. I fail. A lot.

Last week I competed at the State Dressage Championships.
Before I even entered I predicted I would come last, and I did. I
had friends tell me that if I expected to come last then of
course that would happen (you get what you wish for, right?)
but I in this case I disagree.

It’s true I didn’t want to enter at all

When a friend first suggested that we both enter the competi-
tion I was reluctant. I had the qualifying scores, but after years
of volunteering at National and International competitions, I
know what is required to win. So initially I said “No, not this
year, maybe next year”.

But sometimes you have to listen to you own advice ...

Then I thought about the advice I have given others in similar
situations. I have always encouraged others to “Just do it”, to
take the opportunity while they can because you never know
what the future might bring. I tell them you might not qualify
next year. Or your horse might be lame, or your financial
situation may be worse, etc etc.

So I decided to listen to my own advice, and the advice of my
coach which basically came down to “it will be good for you”. I
also knew I would be supporting my friend, and it would be an
opportunity to see the venue/event from a riders perspective
rather than from the perspective of a volunteer or organiser.

Not all of the challenges were obvious

Aside from the logistical challenges of going away overnight
with a horse, competing at an event where I know so many
people was always going to be a little bit daunting. As a
volunteer I have a reasonable amount of credibility. I have been
doing various roles for a long time, and I think I have a good
reputation. By riding at the event there was potentially a huge
amount of “face” to lose. I wasn’t a nobody, and coming in the
tail end of the class was not something which would go
unnoticed. There was a lot of self-imposed pressure to do well
and look like I belonged there. It’s one thing to expect to come
last. It’s another to be “miles off the pace” or to make a fool of
yourself.

In the end I did come last, but not by much. Of course I was
disappointed – all the realistic expectations in the world don’t
change that. But instead of dwelling on it, I thought about what
I had actually achieved!

Not winning is different to failing

There were a lot of positives to competing. I took a mare I bred
myself and it was furthest she had ever travelled from home. I
had supported my friend by providing company during the trip
and sharing the driving on Pennant Hills Road. I had used my
local knowledge of the event venue to streamline our arrival
and set-up, and it was a great opportunity to see the event
from the perspective of a competitor. I exposed myself and my
mare to the pressure of a top level competition, and this will
stand us in good stead as we move up the levels.

It was an opportunity to catch up with friends I am usually
“working” with, and everyone was so excited and supportive of
me that where I placed seemed immaterial.

On top of that, the goal of competing meant we had done a lot
of preparation and our training went ahead in leaps and
bounds.

You have to keep on keeping on

We all get knocked down in life but it is how we get up that is
important. I could have curled up in a ball and been ashamed to
show my face, but resilience is about bouncing back from diffi-
cult experiences. About not hanging your self worth on the
outcome of one event and having a plan to do better next time.
Resilience also comes from having friends who support you,
and asking for and accepting help if you need it.

There are plenty of people I know who would never have
entered in the first place, or who will never enter again because
of one bad experience. We all worry about not being as good as
“the others” or looking silly or not being “ready”. We worry
about failing or not making the grade. But as one lovely friend
commented on my Facebook page “Good Job ... you don’t get
better by sitting on the couch”.

What else is happening at Louise Cairns Fit for Life?

We have kicked off the Bring on Sunshine and Spring
(BOSS) 6 week Challenge. We are starting to enjoy
daylight again at 6am and the mornings are warmer. If you
missed the start of the challenge but you want to come to
classes please contact me as I have options available.

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 Executives
and Managers set and achieve their own goals at work
and home, and is available for workshops and speaking
engagements (they can be related to Fitness or Personal
Development). Find me on Facebook or check out my
website and download my free goal setting guidebook at
www.louisecairns.com.au

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The News SPORT



Branxton Junior Golfers 'Shine' & 'Skin'



© The 5 skins finalists (L-R) Barry Turner, Lee Heuston, Riley McClung and Peter Matthews.

Local Branxton junior golfer Corey Lamb has won the '2017 South Coast Junior Masters Champions'.

Lamb won his first JNIG title by

three strokes over Brad Doherty (Oatlands). It was a thoroughly deserved victory for Lamb, who led from start to finish on an extremely

difficult day for scoring. In freezing conditions and gale-force winds which brought heavy rain, the Hunter River junior flew out of the blocks with three birdies in his first eight holes to open up a commanding lead. Four back nine bogies brought the 15 year old back to the field and eventual runner up Doherty got as close as one shot behind when Lamb made bogey on the 15th and 16th. Doherty couldn't capitalize however, with bogies on the 17th and 18th ending his chances. In another "Junior Coup" the final of the 5 Skins at was played Branxton Golf Club last Sunday with local junior, Riley McClung finishing ahead of the others with a total of \$255; Barry Turner won \$115 after playing the best 9 holes of his life to make things very difficult for his competitors; Lee Heuston won \$90 (he needed a birdie to win the 11th hole), with Peter Matthews winning \$20—then shouting some drinks to the others at the end—what a champion! The Twilight Competition begins next Wednes-

day starting at 4.00 pm—it will convert to 4.30 pm when daylight saving starts. Finally, the Holden Scramble will be held next Sunday—there are still a few spots left—anyone interested only needs to ring the pro shop.

The Branxton Junior Golf clinics that are run every Tuesday during daylight saving (October-April) seems to have encouraged the junior ranks. (They meet at 4:15pm ready to start by 4:30pm. Children from 4 to 18 are welcome to come along and join in. We have a group of volunteers who take the children through the basic swings in golf putting, chipping and full swing. Rules and etiquette are also discussed during each session. Each session lasts about 20-25 minutes and the clinics finish no later than 6 o'clock. For the more experienced golfers they also offer holes to play during the clinic times to improve their course management and shot making skills).

CONT FROM INSIDE BACK PAGE

Hunter Valley Golf Club results

...with 37 points from Michael Watson with 36 on countback to David Peel in 3rd place also on countback. Ball winners were: Simon Nicholson 36, Geoff Sweetman 35, Ken Wright 35, Peter Payne 34, John Stewart 33, Toby George v33, Adam Goldfinch v33, Graeme Flynn 32 and Paul Smith 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Peter Payne (3rd,4th & 8th) and Graeme Flynn (10th & 17th)

Wednesday 6th September After the completion of second round of three in the Ladies Championship Dale Hamilton has a strnglehold on this years title with a massive lead, Sue Williams has a handy lead in the A Grade handicap section, B Grade leader is Pam Snaddon in Scratch, while Jill Ramsden has her nose in front in the handicap and C Grade has a tie between Kay Dunn and Robyn Dunlop in Scratch, Robyn also is in a tie in the Handicap section with Lynette Russell. The daily Stroke event went to Helen Vandenbruggen from the Cessnock club with 71 net from Sue Williams 74 on countback to Dale Hamilton. Ball winners were: Jill Ramsden 75, Robyn Dunlop 77, Jenny Chambers 77, Pam Snaddon 77, Lynette Russell 78, Dianne Oakes 80 and Sue Peel 80 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Sharon Blackett (8th) Dale Hamilton (10th) and Helen Vandenbruggen (17th). The Ladies ill play the final Stroke round of the 2017 Championship next week.

Thursday 7th September John Stewart took top of the podium in the Vets Stableford on countback after he and Peter Wilson both had 38 point returns, David Peel collected 3rd with 37 points on countback. Ball comp nor NTP's have been posted at this time. Next weeks event will be Bisque Par

Saturday 9th September Bruce Chambers highlighted the Monthly Stroke round with an 'Ace' on the Par 3 3rd Hole. Ryan Stig from Belmont GC has won the A Grade Stroke round with 70 net on countback to David Peel, B Grade and Medal winner to John Brown with 69 net from Nick Nancarrow with 70 net and C Grade to Lynette Russell with 69 net from Russ Lightfoot on 72 net on countback. Ball winners were: Simon Nicholson 72, Dean Morison 72, Robert Wilton v72, Wayne Barber 73, Graema Flynn 74, Shannon Attewell 74, Tracy Morison 75, Nathan Sweeney 76, Bruce Cahmbers 76, Adam Jackson v77, Kevin Smith 77 and Don Bradley 78 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Bruce Chambers (3rd..hole-in-one)Natha

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