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# The News

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WEDNESDAY  
11 OCTOBER 2017

Page 3



## Joy Patton Volunteer Extraordinaire

Page 5



## Car Troubles

Page 11



## Destined for Hollywood

Page 13



## Kurri Festival

# Councillor Anthony Burke elected Cessnock Deputy Mayor



duties as a Celebrant and Master of Ceremony, he spends his time volunteering and is currently the President the Hunter Charity Network and was formerly the President of the Kurri Kurri Rotary Club. Having a young family of his own, Cr Burke would like to see improvements in our parks and recreation areas and is passionate about connecting the local government area with cycle ways and a high quality road network. Cr Burke has a strong passion for the business community and is always looking at

ways to create opportunities within the Cessnock LGA. Cr Burke looks forward to serving as Deputy Mayor and will work hard to achieve great things for the broader Cessnock community. "As a Council we need to be thinking innovatively to create more opportunities for our community as we look to build a strong future."

☐ Newly elected Cessnock Deputy Mayor Cr Anthony Burke

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent congratulated Councillor Anthony Burke after his election to Deputy Mayor at Wednesday night's council meeting. Councillor Burke will serve as Deputy Mayor of Cessnock City Council for the next year and have the opportunity to represent the community at various events and occasions during his term in office. Mayor Pynsent thanked former Deputy Mayor, Councillor Allan Stapleford for his service to our community over the last three years. "Cr Stapleford has done an outstanding job in advocating for our community during his time as Deputy Mayor and I know he will continue to do so as a Councillor." Newly elected Deputy Mayor, Cr Burke was born in Kurri Kurri, spent a great deal of his childhood in Abermain/Kurri Kurri and is now married and living in Cessnock. When he is not performing his

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FERNHILL ROAD, DALWOOD

# AUCTION

## POSTPONED TO A DATE TO BE DECIDED

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



# Cessnock City Council Statutory Notices

Phone during working hours 4993 4100  
 After Hours Emergency 4940 7816

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 September 2017 to 30 September 2017.

Locality	Reference	Decision Date	Property Address	Application Description
ALLANDALE	008/2017/00000289/001	1-Sep-2017	842 Lovedale RD	Additions Comprising Cafe
BRANXTON	008/2017/00000223/001	20-Sep-2017	1861 Wine Country DR	Construct New Child Care Centre on Proposed Lot
EAST BRANXTON	008/2017/00000465/001	12-Sep-2017	9 Harvest CT	Screened Enclosure
GRETA	008/2017/00000449/001	6-Sep-2017	16 Wyndham ST	Shed
GRETA	008/2017/00000485/001	18-Sep-2017	4 Anvil ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
GRETA	008/2017/00000495/001	18-Sep-2017	36 High ST	Carport
LOVEDALE	008/2017/00000416/001	7-Sep-2017	439 Lovedale RD	Alfresco Area, Spa and Carport
LOVEDALE	008/2017/00000150/001	15-Sep-2017	496 Talga RD	Construction of fifteen (15) Tourist and Visitor Accommodation units
LOVEDALE	008/2017/00000118/001	22-Sep-2017	66 Wills Hill RD	Temporary Storage of Thirty (30) Shipping Containers for a 12 Month Period
LOVEDALE	008/2017/00000464/001	22-Sep-2017	39 Lovedale RD	Erection of Sign on Lovedale Road Entry
LOVEDALE	009/2017/00000208/001	27-Sep-2017	386 Wilderness RD	Stable
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2017/00000455/001	7-Sep-2017	16 Slattery RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2017/00000471/001	11-Sep-2017	6 Judge RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2017/00000431/001	13-Sep-2017	15 Ainsworth CR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	009/2017/00000193/001	15-Sep-2017	14 Moylan VSTA	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2017/00000500/001	19-Sep-2017	23 Slattery rd	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2017/00000481/001	21-Sep-2017	10 Haverty AV	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2017/00000491/001	25-Sep-2017	6 Bendeich DR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2017/00000493/001	25-Sep-2017	12 Bendeich DR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2017/00000507/001	26-Sep-2017	12 Judge RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2017/00000517/001	27-Sep-2017	99 Triton BLVD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2017/00000522/001	27-Sep-2017	20 Ellerton AV	Single Storey Dwelling with Detached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2017/00000527/001	27-Sep-2017	18 Ellerton AV	Single Storey Dwelling & Detached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	009/2017/00000196/001	27-Sep-2017	18 Moylan VSTA	Single Storey Dwelling With Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2017/00000475/001	14-Sep-2017	76 Peppertree DR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2017/00000193/001	22-Sep-2017	1838 Broke RD	Temporary Markets - Monthly Saturday Events for (3) Three Years for up to 500 People
POKOLBIN	008/2017/00000420/001	29-Sep-2017	LOT 1904 DP 1202101 Vintage DR	Temporary Event - Opera in the Vines 2nd Saturday in October 2017 - 2021

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  
 2325

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](http://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](mailto:recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or post.

### PUBLIC EXHIBITION GENERIC PLANS OF MANAGEMENT

At its meeting of 20 September 2017, Council resolved to place on Public Exhibition the Draft Generic Plan of Management for General Community Use and General Community Use – Drainage.

**The Public Exhibition period will be from Monday 25 September 2017 to Friday 27 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;  
 Branxton Post Office;

Council's website at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up until **4.00 pm Friday 27 October 2017** via email [recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or post.

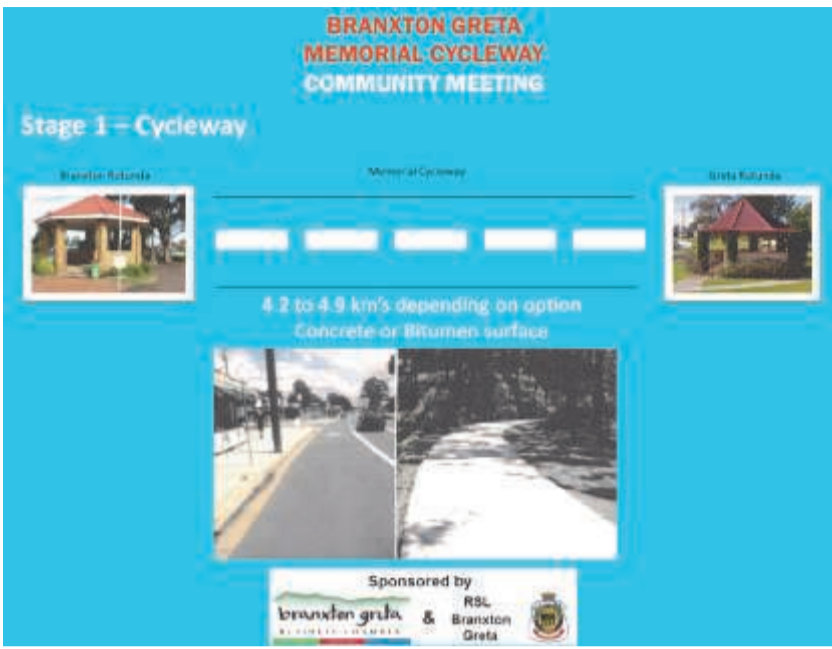
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STEPHEN GLEN  
 GENERAL MANAGER



Classical Heroes & The Art of Seduction  
**19 October 2017**  
**Teddy Tahu-Rhodes and Jane Rutter**  
 Bass baritone Teddy Tahu-Rhodes and leading flautist Jane Rutter in a sublime concert of love and romance.

# Cessnock Council's top infrastructure projects named



Cessnock City Council will submit the top four local infrastructure projects to the Australian Local Government Infrastructure register. The register proposed by the Australian Local Government Association looks to attract federal government support for local infrastructure projects vital to local government areas across Australia.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent nominated the Branxton Greta Cycleway construction, Cessnock Airport upgrade, Richmond Vale Rail Trail project & the refurbishment/replacement of timber bridges as the priority projects, which were unanimously supported by Councillors.

"The four projects we will submit are critical to the future of our local government area and will generate economic and social benefits for our community."

"The purpose of the register is to strengthen our case for Commonwealth funding for these particular projects."

"Councils across Australia are faced with huge infrastructure backlogs and as a result funding from a federal level has become absolutely vital to maintaining our bottom line."

Cessnock City Council has been successful in securing a number of large federal government grants, in particular the Federal Government's Bridges Renewal Program, which have assisted Council greatly to remain financially stable.

# JoyPatton; volunteer extraordinaire

It's been almost 20 years since Joy Patton established the first-ever Father Riley's op shop but she hasn't lost any of her enthusiasm for the Youth Off the Streets cause.

The grandmother-of-seven still dedicates two days a week to the shop in Singleton, finding time in a busy schedule that also includes volunteering for the Glendon School of Arts, the Combined Rural Halls Committee and Sacred Spaces.

"What makes it worthwhile for me is that we always get invited to the presentation for Youth Off the Streets and you see the kids who have benefited from it," she says. "They come from the most tragic circumstances, but somehow they survive. Some go off to university, and others are happy to exist and be sheltered by Father's programs. I used to do fostering, but then after Father came through town I was inspired to get involved in the work he was doing." That's when the idea for the op shop was born, and Singleton became the first of many Father Riley Op Shops throughout the Hunter.

Joy now coordinates a band of 30 volunteers, the eldest aged "85 or 86", and there's always room for more. "It's a team effort - it's not just me," she says. "Everyone works really well together. We've got ladies who take all the clothes and the buttons, we've got the fellows on the trucks. Everyone's got things to do. But we're very short of men and assistance with the truck deliveries and pick-ups."

When she's not in the shop, Joy has



plenty of other interests to keep her busy - not least the Glendon School of Arts, continuing in the tradition of her late husband who served as president.

The group is currently fundraising for improvements to the building used for weddings, and birthday parties, as well as an evacuation centre. "We've got to get new windows, a lot of new panelling has got to go on and it needs repainting," Joy says. And of course there's her work with Sacred Spaces, which Joy describes as a

"gem in Singleton". Her motivation is pretty simple. "To get involved really makes you aware of what's happening in your community," Joy says. "You see a need for different things and not only that, if you don't volunteer in the community, things just don't get done. At Glendon, we wouldn't have the hall if we didn't have volunteers; Sacred Spaces wouldn't exist without volunteers; nor the op shops in Singleton that do so many things for so many people in so many ways."

*\* first appeared as part of Singleton Council's #singletonstories series*

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Drop him off at our husband crèche.  
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'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)

## A heavy dose of déjà vu

When the Federal Government announced the establishment of the Australian Space Agency I experienced a heavy dose of déjà vu. In my dim memory I recall a classmate of mine from OCS Portsea was involved in a space venture of some kind and he even gave me his card with the details on it. My friend and former colleague, Dave Miller, worked for the "Australian Space Office" (part of the Dept of Industry Science & Technology) and it was the role of this office to develop a space industry in Australia. Of course I lost the card but was able to get his email address. This we did and here is his reply.

"The Australian Space Office was closed down in the late 1990's as a result of Government austerity measures. We Engineers were made redundant as there were no positions for engineers in a policy dept! I was rehired as a consultant when they realised that they had to have a "Space Act" as part of their UN responsibilities to cover the possibility of anyone launching "space objects" from Australian Territory or international waters where the launch platform came from/was supported/controlled from Australia. We had many projects; most based on CSIRO developed technology of "Earth Observation" of various types including the measurement of sea surface temperature from space, measurement of sea-level atmospheric pressure from space & the calculation of "bio-mass" (amount of vegetation such as forest density) from space. We provided instruments for a series of European "Earth Resources Satellites" providing 30 (+) years of earth observation (ERS1, ERS2 & Envisat). The instrument was called an "Advanced Across Track Resources" telescope ~ great scientific name but incomprehensible to the rest of us!

I was the "Australian Safety Officer" for the landing of a Japanese/German satellite based on a Russian re-entry SOYUZ vehicle which was to land in the Woomera



desert but unfortunately the launch vehicle had a guidance problem and after two orbits the satellite had a hot re-entry onto South America. We also assisted the Japanese in the development of an unmanned "Space Shuttle" by providing test facilities at Woomera Airfield to practice automatic landings.

In the last year or so of the Space Office, the Office contracted with Russian Space companies to investigate the possibility of re-starting space launches in Australia. The Russians were very interested as it would be advantageous to them to have a launch site close to the equator (at the equator you have the highest ground velocity as the earth rotates and also, many satellites, especially geo-stationary satellites, such as TV have equatorial orbits and you can lift much heavier satellites if you launch from the equator). In addition many US & European satellite manufacturers have strict technological secrecy imposed on them by their Gov't and placing such satellites on a launch vehicle in Russia poses security problems.

As well as investigating sites for launch & flight control in Australia (Gladstone Qld came out as preferred because of proximity to the equator and a launch track which would go south of the Barrier Reef and miss other countries) we investigated the use of Russian ICBM's which had to be destroyed under the US/USSR SALT agreement and a Russian purpose designed launch vehicle using non-toxic propellants. Unfortunately, the Space Office was closed down before we got any further but an international company set up by Thai Satellite (United Launch Systems International - ULSI) took up the idea of a purpose designed vehicle and at the recommendation of the Russian Makeev Design Bureau in the Ural Mountains (design agency of Russian Submarine launched ICBM's), I and a Swedish Space Engineer were hired by ULSI to begin contract negotiations in Russia towards developing the launch vehicle & launch systems (why us? We weren't Americans or from NATO countries!) The first contract was for the conversion of an existing engine using toxic propellants to using kerosene and liquid oxygen. This was successful and the first static engine firing confirmed predictions.

Unfortunately the Global Financial Crisis intervened and Thai Satellite wound back all non-essential expenditure. The closing down of the Australian Space Office didn't help at all as it gave the appearance (very true!) that the Australian Government wouldn't support space launch and world-wide experience is that if the government is not supporting you then

their bureaucracy will kill you!

People keep pointing to Woomera for space launch activities. It was setup not so much for space launch but for the testing of re-entry vehicles (for the UK & US). You launch the rocket high (not aiming for orbit) and then power it down through the atmosphere to simulate a re-entry vehicle arriving at orbital speed. By landing it in NW Australia you avoid the problem of losing all your data in the ocean if the parachute fails (as happened). Even if the re-entry vehicle crashes to the ground at near-sonic speed the scientists can usually recover sufficient information for their purposes.

Woomera is also very good for conducting any type of aircraft or missile tests; if anything goes wrong the debris is recoverable and a big plus is that Russian & Chinese surveillance ships find it difficult to monitor such activities. Most nations have to conduct such activities over water so Woomera is an asset to the Western world.

Australia launched a surplus US rocket from Woomera with a satellite "WRESAT" on it (Weapons Research Establishment, Salisbury SA) and so became a member of the "Space Launch Club" which allowed people like me to speak with Russians on matters I couldn't discuss with the Japanese (who weren't in the Club at that time). For example when I was in the German Space Operations Centre monitoring the launch of the German/Japanese satellite mentioned above and a countdown halt was called for due to a guidance malfunction, I was astonished at the guidance system that the Japanese were using and asked the Germans why the Japanese used such a system. The Germans totally understood the problem but said that due to "transfer of technology" restrictions they couldn't alert the Japanese to this fault in design.

There has been research work in Australia on hyper-sonic Ram Jet projects but I haven't kept up with it. The UK & Russia both have ram-jet powered missiles in service so they are probably more advanced than anyone. Pulse Jets are simple & very cheap but the vibrations are a problem."

What the aims and financing of the Agency will be have not been announced and it may turn out to be simply a thought bubble, however the scope for space research encompasses just about every aspect of scientific engineering and organisational endeavour. So, even if we are late starters we have the expertise and opportunity to carve out a large piece of the action (as they say). Let's hope this happens but with our track record whenever the Federal Government gets involved in ANYTHING the result is abysmal. We should talk about this and what to do about it later. *Have a nice day.*

*Cheers, Steve*



Big brother: How safe are we?

Ask the government  
Once again the Turnbull government is asking for more powers to combat the risk of terrorism. Yet Australia already leads the world in terms of the sheer quantity of counter-terrorism legislation it has passed

since 2001. Our governments routinely spend several billions annually on counter-terrorism measures like the new fence around Parliament House. While governments and media outlets relentlessly ramp up public fears about

terrorism, and people discuss the balance between security and privacy, the fundamental question "how safe are we?" is never asked.

Where is the evidence that the dollars and this legislation are needed?

Where is the risk assessment? The only public assessment comes from Professor Mark Stewart from Newcastle University, a leading engineering academic with

decades of experience in probabilistic risk and vulnerability assessment of infrastructure and security systems. Professor Stewart says that for the years 1970-2015 the annual fatality risk from terrorism in Australia was one in 8 million. Risk assessors say that if the risk of death is no more than one in a million per year, which is lower than the risk of being struck by lightning, and much lower than the risk of being killed in car

accident, then we should stop investing time, money and effort. Could the government be asked to supply its risk assessment – or is asking such a question an attack on our national security?

**Rob Watts, School of Global Urban and Social Studies, RMIT University**

Age and dignity  
While there is debate about the right to die in dignity, equal consideration needs to be given to the right

to age in dignity. The Age's revelations of questionable practices in aged-care homes shows that much goes on that is far from the dignity that our aged population has the right to expect. There is clear

evidence that many aged-care institutions see residents as a cost factor to be minimised rather than humans in need of professional care. The most vulnerable are being exploited while we are being told that Australia has world-class services for the elderly. Rather we seem to have a culture of exploitation that is shameful. There is an urgent need for an objective review and further regulation of these institutions.

**Name and address supplied but not published at request of writer**

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## Emergency Phone Numbers

### Dial 000

FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE. It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected.

When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct. **ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED**

**For non-life threatening calls.....**

Police Assistance Line (PAL).... 131 444

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

### Rural Fire Brigades

Belford..... 6574 7149  
Broke..... 6579 1491  
Greta..... 4015 0000  
Bishops Bdg 4015 0000  
Nth R'bury... 4015 0000  
Rothbury.... 4015 0000  
Pokolbin.... 4015 0000  
Rothbury.... 4991 1733  
Bishops Bdg 4015 0000  
Nth R'bury... 4015 0000  
Rothbury.... 4015 0000  
Pokolbin.... 4015 0000  
Rothbury.... 4991 1733  
Scotts..... 136 240  
Flat..... 6574 5186  
Central..... 4015 0000  
(Cessnock)...

### Electricity

Energy Australia..... 131 388

### Hospitals

Maitland... 4939 2000  
Cessnock... 4991 0555  
Singleton... 6572 2799  
SES.....132 500  
Crime Stoppers  
1800 333 000  
Poisons Info ..... 131 126  
Hunter Water  
1300 657 000  
Ausgrid ..... 131 388  
Gas Emergencies . 131 909  
Lifeline.....131 114  
Mental Health Line  
1800 011 511  
Domestic Violence Support  
4990 9609  
Centrelink Self Service  
136 240  
Medicare ..... 132 011  
Native Animal Rescue  
0418 628 483

**Letters to the editor can be sent to:**

**The Editor, The BGV News, 12 Clift Street, Branxton NSW 2335**

or

**emailed to**

**thenews@hotmail.net.au**

### Greta Museum's

Old Style New Wares & Sweet Shop

Has a new range of Bulk Sweets -



Buy as little or as much as you want!  
Great for gifts or just to indulge  
Any profit goes back into the museum to keep it open.

# Councillors won't ignore car troubles



Cessnock City Council wants better measures to remove abandoned vehicles parked on roadsides and dumped in bushland across the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA). The latest Ordinary Council meeting saw Councillors unite on the issue of abandoned cars with it being labelled an eyesore and a fire danger. Council is bound by the Impounding Act 1993 when dealing with abandoned vehicles which has a number of provisions that must be followed before a car can be removed by council. The legislation includes time frames which allows for investigation to be undertaken to locate the owner of the vehicle and time to contact them ahead of the car being retrieved. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent understands Council is required to follow the provisions set out in the Impounding Act however said this has become a point of frustration for the entire community. "The number of abandoned cars in our LGA is extremely concerning, not only because they are an eyesore and in most cases are vandalised but they

pose a fire risk." "Recent fires in our area have been the result of arson, and in some cases the fires have been caused after an abandoned car has been used as the source of ignition." Council will investigate if it can legally impound an abandoned vehicle immediately under Section (5) of the Impounding Act 1993, if the impounding officer is satisfied that it may be vandalised or set on fire. Council will also submit a motion to the upcoming LGNSW annual conference calling for common sense changes to the legislative provisions relating to abandoned cars in order to make it easier for the vehicles to be removed in a timely manner. Residents are encouraged to contact Council immediately when they see an abandoned vehicle, often people assume it has already been reported, increasing the time the car is left abandoned as many days may go by with Council unaware of the vehicle.

## Funding on its way

The NSW Government has announced \$6.3 million for 174 community infrastructure projects as a part of the Social Housing Community Improvement Fund (SHCIF) Round 3. State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP, congratulates Cessnock City Council which will receive \$50,000 for their "Active Cessnock – Exercise for Health and Well-being" Program. SHCIF provides one-off grants of up to \$50,000 to councils, not-for-profit and private sector organisations to make physical improvements in social housing communities or other areas visited by social housing tenants.

# 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 21<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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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**0414 757 826**



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

## FROM THE MAYORS DESK

The Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) has certainly experienced a warm start to spring and over the long weekend it was fantastic to open our pools to the public. Thank you to Branxton pool users who were patient and waited for the Branxton Pool to open slightly late on Monday, after urgent repairs were undertaken. You can now enjoy comfortable water temperatures with the new heating pumps in operation.

The 2017-18 pool season is shaping up to be a great one with Council introducing extended hours in extreme heat conditions and also offering a new promotion to give more people the opportunity to experience the pools over summer.

The promotion kicks off from the first Sunday in the Christmas school holidays and will run until the last Sunday in February. Families will be able to access the pools free of charge from 10am until close and enjoy the great facilities.

The Hunter Region Business Excellence Awards were a great success and we should be proud of our local businesses. The recognition of hardworking and innovative business owners is vital, small businesses are the backbone of our thriving local economy. Congratulations to all the nominees and award winners, especially to Luke Ahearn who took out the Young Entrepreneur of the Year for his business Thread and Ink Cessnock.

Our community also has the opportunity to recognise locals for outstanding customer service at the Cessnock Customer Service Awards. The Cessnock Chamber of Commerce do a great job in putting the event on, allowing people in the LGA delivering first class service to be commended for their efforts. Congratulations to those nominated, including the staff here at Cessnock City Council.

Cessnock City Libraries are a hive of activity and offer the community with endless opportunities to connect, learn and enjoy. Every time the library newsletter is released I am amazed at just how much our libraries are providing for our community. In the next few weeks alone we have the Seniors Week Health Workshop, author visit by Jannette Paul, a free touring display featuring the iconic artwork of Australian children's author May Gibbs and much more.

Our library service may be small compared to other metropolitan council areas but they certainly think big. We have launched Wollombi's Little Library and also the Innovation Lab, a reflection of our staff's dedication and forward thinking attitude.

The 'More Police on the Beat' campaign continues and if you haven't signed our online petition it is not too late. The campaign calls on the NSW Government to give our local police the resources they need to keep our community safe. To sign the petition visit [www.change.org/p/nsw-government-cessnock-more-police-on-the-beat](http://www.change.org/p/nsw-government-cessnock-more-police-on-the-beat).

You will see Council crews out and about doing road and drainage construction in Dalwood Road, Greta, Wollombi Road, Millfield, and Frame Drive, Abermain.

Cheers, Bob



Cllr Melanie Dagg - Cessnock City Councillor - Ward C

## SOLUTION SOUGHT ON ABANDONED CARS

Council resolved last week to investigate whether it can impound abandoned vehicles. Cessnock has one of the highest rates of vehicle and motorbike theft in the state, with a large number of these vehicles being dumped and later vandalized or burnt. Not only is this unsightly but it proves a hazard to the community, with the recent Richmond Main bushfire being started by an abandoned, burnt out car. Of the various bushfires which occurred last summer, a number were deemed suspicious, the others again caused by burnt out cars. This puts lives and property at risk. As it stands, the process of impounding is lengthy, convoluted and dependent upon whose jurisdiction the vehicle sits – on Council or RMS managed roads. Although this will result in cost shifting to Council, it will enable us to be proactive in our attempts to stamp out this problem and ensure the safety of our community. If you see a vehicle which you suspect has been abandoned, please make a report either to me or direct to Council on (02)49934100.

## POLICING REVIEW

A worrying concern brought to Council's attention recently is the State Government review into the boundaries of Local Area Commands (LAC). Council had previously called on the State Government to move the Greta/Branxton/North Rothbury areas out of Hunter Valley LAC (based in Muswellbrook) and into Central Hunter LAC (based in Maitland). We had also requested consideration be given to the establishment of an emergency services precinct located adjacent to the HEX. What we didn't expect was the Government to look at scrapping Central Hunter altogether and moving our entire LGA up into Hunter Valley. The Greta/Branxton/North Rothbury communities are all too aware of the pitfalls of having its LAC located so far away, and to see the remainder of the LGA also face such a situation is completely unacceptable. As a result of these concerns, Council resolved last week to support a Mayoral Minute seeking an urgent meeting with the NSW Premier, Minister for Police, Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter, Member for Cessnock and NSW Police Commissioner to advocate for the retention of Cessnock and Kurri Kurri in Central Hunter LAC and that Greta, Branxton and surrounds be moved into the Central Hunter LAC. What was most disappointing is that there was absolutely no consultation with Council or the community by the State Government. Had the review not been reported in the media we would have been none the wiser. Again, it appears bureaucratic decisions are being forced on our communities, to our obvious and unfortunate detriment.

## INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

A further Mayoral Minute passed recently will allow Council to submit its top priority infrastructure projects for inclusion in the Local Government Community Infrastructure register as proposed by the Australian Local Government Association. The projects

include the Cessnock Airport Upgrade, Richmond Vale Rail Trail Project, Council's Timber Bridge Replacement Program and the Branxton-Greta Memorial Cycleway. Registering these projects lifts their profile and in turn increases Council's opportunity to successfully obtain grant funding for their construction. It also highlights the problem of backlogged infrastructure projects, which councils all across the country are grappling with following rate freezes, decreased and unsatisfactory distribution of grants and cost shifting state and federal responsibilities to local government. The result is that councils continue to do more with less and as an industry we are fighting for financial relief from state and federal governments so that we can continue to deliver more for our communities.

## NEW DEPUTY MAYOR

Lastly, I'm pleased to report that I nominated my Labor colleague Anthony Burke to the position of Deputy Mayor, for which he was successfully elected. Anthony is a Ward D Councillor who runs a small business with a young family. The role of Deputy is a 12 month term and Anthony will no doubt do a wonderful job.

Cheers, Melanie



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

## Raising the BARR HOW AND WHY DO WE HAVE THIS POWER CRISIS?

I have been asked many times in recent weeks about the option of keeping Liddell Power Station open to sure up electricity supply. My first thought and response is always the same: how did we end up here? And in today's column I thought that I would try to explain that, in as simple terms as possible, without asking anyone to take a position for, or against, coal or renewables.

If we cast our mind back to the period of 2007-2011 in State politics and 2007-2013 in Federal politics, there was a conscience decision to move toward renewable energy and away from fossil fuels. Now regardless of your thoughts on that position and that decision, the fact is that there was a set and deliberate direction taken. Money was set aside, incentives were offered and a wider community education campaign was afoot. In particular, across NSW people dove into solar panels.

In 2011 at the State level, and in 2013 at the Federal level, the change of Government led to a change of position. Renewables were no longer considered worthy of investment. Again, regardless of your thoughts on that decision, that was the decision made. But this is also an important turning point in how we get to the crisis situation of today.

In changing our States electricity direction in 2011 at the State level and 2013 at the Federal level, it was abundantly clear to all what we would NOT be doing, and that was renewables. OK. But what wasn't explained is what we WOULD be doing instead. By and large this new direction never has been explained and I don't believe a decision ever made. You see a decision would have required money, education, planning and progress. Regardless of your thoughts on coal or renewables or politics, I am confident that nobody in our community would be able to tell me what new direction the Government launched into with regard to electricity. I sometimes hear the current State and

Federal Governments talking coal, gas or even nuclear power, but I honestly couldn't tell you what the supposed new direction is. I do know that there has been zero, zip, zilch, State Government investment in coal fired power; I know that there has been no investment in gas fired power; and I know that talk of nuclear power only seems to be rolled out on a slow news day.

In summary there has been a decision to step away from renewables, but no decision to step into anything else. Hence, we are facing a power shortage, not caused by climate change or the burning of fossil fuels. On this front we don't have to take sides of pro-environment or anti-environment, in fact we can all unite. If the lights go out this summer it will be a result of a Government non-decision, the worst type of decision of them all!

On a personal note, I do offer a dark and satisfied giggle when I hear the Liberal Government saying that the free market, the privatised electricity market, has failed the people. Oh dear!

## HSC Best Wishes

As you read this column our local Year 12 students will be about to sit for their Higher School Certificate (HSC). While I would offer that students and their families should try not to be too stressed, I know that you will be. By and large the HSC offers reward for the work and effort that you have made over recent years. There are rarely surprises. If you have been hard at it, chipping away, making a genuine effort, then it is highly likely that you will reap the rewards. If you haven't been hard at it, then it is highly unlikely that you will pull off a miracle on the day. That last bit might sound a bit harsh, but generally, in life, we have to own our efforts.

Nevertheless, the HSC does not make or break our potential for the future. Life is full of opportunities. We need to be courageous, we need to shoot for the stars and we need to listen and learn at every opportunity. I wish you all the best for the HSC, but more importantly I wish you prosperity and good health for life beyond the HSC.

\* \* \* \* \*

For enquiries regarding the State Government or its departments, or to put you in contact with someone who can, please contact my office. My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to [cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au) or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325. You also follow me on my Facebook page "[www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp](http://www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp)", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp or check out my website at [www.claytonbarr.com.au](http://www.claytonbarr.com.au) Cheers Clayton



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

It might only be October, but it's already beginning to look a lot like Christmas and the summer holidays for some of us at Council. And as we well know things tend to get very busy around this time of year, so it's worth putting some notes in your diary now for the John Street Christmas Festival and Australia Day celebrations. If the mere mention of Christmas is enough to make your bells jingle, spare

a thought for the team planning the John Street event who are already up to their ears in tinsel. The date is locked in for Friday 24 November – a month out from Christmas Day proper and a great opportunity for us all to come together in the spirit of community. I went along last year so I can speak from experience about how fantastic it was to see people of all ages enjoying the festivities in the main street, getting in some Christmas shopping and enjoying the general Christmas cheer that comes with this time of year.

It was also a great way to celebrate the improvements in the Singleton Town Centre in recent years and I don't mind saying that a little more funding from the State Government's Resources for Regions program to continue the works on John Street is high on my Christmas list this year.

Christmas is also a great time to reflect on the year that has been, and to recognise and appreciate those people who help to make our lives a little bit brighter. With that in mind, we're encouraging everyone to get in early and take a moment to think about someone you know who makes an enormous contribution to our community and nominate them for the Citizen of the Year awards. This is the perfect opportunity to highlight those unsung heroes who quietly donate their time, passion and hard work for the benefit of our community – making Branxton or the wider local government area a better place for all of us.

It's not hard to do: simply fill in the nomination form and send it back to us, then book Friday 26 January 2018 in your diary and come along to the Village Green outside the Singleton Civic Centre and join all the free activities, not least a native plant give-away and children's fun such as face painting and jumping castle. There's been some discussion in the news lately about the relevance of Australia Day in other local government areas, but I'm proud that the family-friendly program and official proceedings including a citizenship ceremony make Australia Day one of the most important community days of the year.

Yes, it's important that we appreciate how fortunate we are to be Australians, and appreciate the freedoms and privileges that brings. But Australia Day in Singleton is also a great way for us all to come together to recognise how fortunate we are to live in Branxton and our local government area. There's certainly a lot to love about our part of the world – and the best thing is we don't need to wait until 26 January every year to appreciate it.

For more information about the Citizen of the Year and Junior Achiever of the Year and to download a nomination form, visit [www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/australiadayawards](http://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/australiadayawards)

Cheers, Sue



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

It's now more than four weeks since the Prime Minister made his poorly-informed declaration that he wanted AGL to keep the Liddell power station operating for another ten years rather than the five years the company long ago announced. Despite my many invitations Malcolm Turnbull still hasn't visited Liddell to better understand the issues and to speak with a workforce desperately looking for certainty.



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Lee Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

urination & fever (temperature greater than 38 °c).

If you have a serious chronic medical condition, such as kidney or heart failure, even one day of diarrhoea can be dangerous. It's safer to see your doctor as soon as possible.

**Diarrhoea can be dangerous for babies and young children**

Acute diarrhoea can be life threatening to babies and young children. This is because their smaller bodies are more vulnerable to dehydration. If your baby or young child develops diarrhoea, seek medical attention straight away.

**Causes of acute diarrhoea**

A bout of diarrhoea can be caused by a wide range of disorders, infections and events including: food poisoning, gastroenteritis, tropical diseases, such as typhoid and cholera, anxiety or emotional stress, overconsumption of alcohol & medications, particularly antibiotics.

**Common infectious agents**

Contaminated food and water are common causes of acute diarrhoea. Some of the infectious agents known to cause diarrhoea include:

**viruses** – such as calici virus, adenovirus and rotavirus, **bacteria** – such as *E. coli*, *Campylobacter*, *V. cholerae*, *Shigella*, *Salmonella* and *Staphylococcus aureus* & **parasites** – such as *Giardia lamblia*, *Cryptosporidium parvum* and tapeworm.

**Causes of chronic diarrhoea**

Some of the causes of chronic diarrhoea include: **coeliac disease** – which reduces the intestine's ability to absorb food, **chronic constipation** – the bowel is blocked by hard, impacted faeces, but some liquids manage to seep past the blockage. this condition, called 'spurious' or 'overflow' diarrhoea, is more common in the elderly, **hormone disorders** – such as diabetes or hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid gland), **cancer** – such as bowel cancer, **inflammatory bowel disease** – including ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, **irritable bowel syndrome** – symptoms include abdominal pain, bloating, and alternating constipation and diarrhea & **lactose intolerance** – the inability to digest the milk sugar lactose

**medications** – including

antibiotics, acid reducers, laxatives, and drugs for treating hypertension (high blood pressure) and arthritis.

**Diagnosis of diarrhoea**

Successful treatment depends on diagnosing the cause. Investigations may include: medical history, physical examination, blood tests & laboratory analysis of stool sample colonoscopy (the insertion of a slender instrument into the anus so that the doctor can look at the bowel lining).

**Treatment for diarrhoea**

Always see your doctor if you experience serious symptoms. Babies and young children with diarrhoea need prompt medical attention.

Treatment for diarrhoea depends on the cause, but may include: plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration, oral rehydration drinks to replace lost salts and minerals. These drinks are available from pharmacies. An alternative is one part unsweetened pure fruit juice diluted with four parts of water, intravenous replacement of fluids in severe cases, medications such as antibiotics and anti-nausea drugs & anti-diarrhoeal medications, but only on the advice of your doctor.

If your diarrhoea is caused by infection, anti-diarrhoeal drugs may keep the infection inside your body for longer treatment for any underlying condition, such as inflammatory bowel disease.

**Risk of spreading infection**

Most cases of acute diarrhoea are potentially infectious to others. Viruses are easily spread, mainly through direct contact with vomit or faeces from an infected person, or through contact with a contaminated object or surface. Occasionally, the virus may be transmitted by airborne particles generated from vomiting and diarrhoea.

People can reduce their chances of getting infected by carefully washing their hands after going to the toilet and before handling food. People looking after a person with the virus must also wash their hands thoroughly. Alcohol-based handwash solutions, available from pharmacies, have been shown to be better at reducing the spread of infection than soap and water.

CONT. NEXT PAGE

## Better mood for Cranky Corner Road Bridge with \$1.25 million repair and improvement works complete



Cranky Corner Road Bridge before (below) and after (above).



After storm damage in April 2015 reduced Cranky Corner Road Bridge to a single lane, a \$1.25 million project to repair and improve the bridge is complete.

Singleton Council undertook the Cranky Corner Road (South) Bridge Rectification with funding from the NSW Government under the Restart

NSW - Fixing Country Roads program.

Completed last month, the project included:

□ Rock protection of the creek bed

□ Rock protection of the embankments and batters

□ Compacted backfill behind the wing-walls

□ Rehabilitation of the approaches

□ Construction of ridged pavement and asphalt approaches

□ Installation of guardrail

Anthony Egan, Council's Director Corporate and Community, said the bridge was significantly damaged in the April 2015 storm when the bridge approaches and embankment were scoured due to major flooding.

"This has been a substantial project not only to repair the bridge to its condition before the April 2015 storm, but to improve it to a standard that it could withstand a similar event in the future," he said.

"The bridge has been reduced to single-lane capacity since the storm and Council appreciates it has been a

frustrating period of time for motorists.

"However, after Council was successful in receiving \$1.25 million from the NSW Government for the rectification and with Diona Pty Ltd appointed to undertake construction and Cardno Pty Ltd to complete the design, the project was completed in five months after works began on 15 May 2017.

"Council thanks all affected motorists for their patience and is confident the bridge would perform better if a similar storm event to April 2015 was repeated."

FROM PAGE 6

JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

### Members say ....

Nor has the Prime Minister mentioned Liddell in the past four weeks. His big plan to fix a mess of his own creation appears to have been forgotten. I suspect he now realises the folly of his political stunt.

Meanwhile, I continue my push to ensure AGL invests here, takes care of its workforce, and creates new power jobs.

I am inviting feedback from residents who have had or are having bad experiences with the NBN. Right throughout our electorate people have been sharing their nightmare stories and the more I have, the stronger my case is for demanding some action from government.

What a shocking debacle it has been. Delays, drop outs and slow speeds. Winding the scheme back to one reliant on copper was a very bad mistake and will probably end up costing more than our plan to deliver fibre right to the home. Very many who have switched over report a slower service than the one they had from their ADSL2 service.

Please email me - [joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au). If you can't email you can send me a note to P.O Box 526, Cessnock, 2325.

I look forward to joining members of Denman Little Athletics this week to officially open their new discus net and long jump pit.

Any investment which keeps our kids active and busy is a good one. So too is one which helps them hone their sporting skills. Congratulations to the Club and Muswellbrook Council which also played an important role in securing the new facilities.

Cheers, Joel

## Green thumbs up for Garden Organics

Cessnock City Council is pleased to announce the first six months of the Garden Organics kerbside collection has been an overwhelming success.

This new service was launched in March this year as a joint partnership between Cessnock City Council, Maitland City Council and Singleton Council.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent is proud of this partnership and would like to congratulate residents of Cessnock, Maitland and Singleton for their efforts.

"In the first six months of this service we have collected 6,000 tonnes of organics material across the three local government areas, which is a fantastic achievement."

"This service is and will continue to be a win-win for both local residents and our environment," added Cr Pynsent.

Council is encouraging residents to keep up the great work as the Garden Organics program has far-reaching benefits. These include avoiding the creation of greenhouse gases by diverting organic material from landfill, recovering vegetation for processing into quality compost for keen gardeners and extending the life span of our local landfill sites.

It's also important to remember to do the right thing and place only garden organics in the green bin, which include:

grass clippings, prunings, Weeds, Leaves, flowers, plants, palm fronds, bark & sticks and branches. If you tend to run out of room in your Garden Organics bin, you can order a second bin by contacting Cessnock City Council's Customer Service team on 4993 4100. For more information, visit [www.yourorganicsbin.com.au](http://www.yourorganicsbin.com.au) or call 1800 270 250.



## Spicy cilantro-lime rice

25 minutes ~ serves 4 - 6

Spicy, savoury, smoky, zesty, and made with wholesome brown rice, this dish packs plenty of flavour as well as nutritional punch. The perfect accompaniment for Mexican meals, or as part of a plant-based feast!

### Method

Combine vegetable stock, onion and garlic in a large pot, and sautee on a medium-high heat for 5 minutes. Add the cumin, ground coriander seed, smoked paprika and cayenne pepper, and sautee for a further 3-4 minutes until fragrant.

Reduce heat to low. Add the brown rice and hot sauce, and stir to combine. Heat until the rice is warmed through. Stir through fresh lime juice and fresh cilantro (coriander) at the last minute. Serve immediately, or at room temperature if accompanied by salad ingredients.

### Notes:

It is best to leave the fresh cilantro out if you are planning on storing leftovers, as the consistency can become unpleasant after a couple of days. Just add it fresh each time you're serving it instead. The prepared dish will keep, refrigerated, for up to 5 days.



**RATED 9/10**





## Report

drive dangerously over the weekend.

"It seems that despite our warnings and extra police on the roads over the weekend, too many people still

made the decision to speed or drive dangerously on our roads.

"Tragically, five people died on our roads during the operation, and another two died on a private property.

"These deaths bring the number of lives lost on our roads this year to 290. That is 290 people who set out on a journey and didn't make it home, changing the lives of their family and friends forever.

"Many of the 290 lives lost were avoidable tragedies. People just needed make a different decision and to slow down, put their phone away, not drive whilst they were tired or take an alternate ride home.

"Although this operation has concluded, you will continue to see police on our roads enforcing speeds, mobile phones, drink and drug-driving, and seatbelts, in order to prevent more loss of life," Acting Assistant Commissioner Driver said.

Operation Slow Down

## More than 14,000 infringements issued during long-weekend's Operation Slow Down

More than 14,000 people were issued infringements and five people died on NSW roads during Operation Slow Down, the Labour Day long-weekend traffic operation. Tragically, five people died on NSW roads during the operation, in comparison to one person during the same operation last year. The total number of deaths on NSW roads so far this year is 290, which is seven less than at the same time last year.

Acting Assistant Commissioner David Driver of the Traffic and Highway Patrol Command, said that despite the extra police presence, it was disheartening to see people continue to speed or

started at 12.01am on Friday 29 September 2017 and concluded at 11.59pm last night (Monday 2 October 2017).

Key statistics (operation total):

Total infringements: 14,429  
Speed infringements: 6201  
Breath tests: 188,323  
Drink-driving charges: 215  
Major crashes: 313  
Lives lost: 5

Some examples of the dangerous behaviour detected during the final day Operation Slow Down (Monday 2 October 2017) of include:

### QUAKERS HILL:

About 1.10pm, a 20-year-old man with a P1 provisional licence was detected driving at a speed of 109km/h in a 50km/h

zone on Northcott Road, Lalor Park. Investigations revealed he had held his licence for one week. His licence was suspended on the spot, before his photo card arrived in the mail.

### PENRITH:

About 1.20am, a 28-year-old man was detected travelling at an alleged speed of 128km/h in a 60km/h work zone on The Northern Road, South Penrith. The driver was stopped and returned a positive roadside drug test. Investigations revealed he was the holder of a licence that was previously suspended until 2029. He was charged with the speeding offence and driving whilst disqualified. A sample of the drug test will be sent for further analysis

### CANOBOLAS:

About 1pm, officers were at a service station in Canowindra when a man pulled in to refuel carrying two children in his car who were not wearing seatbelts. Investigations revealed the man was the holder of an expired learner's licence. He was issued fines for driving with an expired licence and driving with children not restrained.

### MITTAGONG:

About 8am, a 27-year-old man with a P1 provisional licence was detected speeding at an alleged 157km/h in a 90km/h zone on the Hume Highway. He was issued an infringement notice for speeding by more than 45km/h, had his licence suspended on the spot, and number plates

removed from the car.

The following is a list of fatal crashes during the operation:

Just after 1.30am on Saturday 30 September 2017, emergency services were called to Marconi Road, near Macquarie Street, Morisset, following reports a car struck a power pole before catching alight. The driver and passenger died at the scene.

About 5am on Saturday 30 September, a man died after he was struck by a truck on the Hume Highway, Mullengandra. About 7pm on Sunday 1 October 2017, a Honda Jazz was travelling west on Kalaroo Road, Redhead, when the vehicle left the road and crashed into a fence. The driver, a 57-year

-old man, died.

About 7.45pm on Sunday 1 October 2017, a south-bound truck carrying heavy mining equipment crossed to the incorrect side of the Kidman Way, south of Cobar, and rolled. The driver, a 61-year-old man, died at the scene.

In addition to the lives lost on NSW roads during the operation, the following fatal crash occurred on a private property:

About 10pm on Friday 29 September 2017, a search was conducted on a private property near Booroorban, approximately 46km south of Hay, after two men failed to appear at an event. A utility was located overturned in a paddock and two men, aged 27 and 25 died at the scene.

## Get your garden on @ your local library!

Cicero once famously penned, 'If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need' and Cessnock City Library and Bunnings have joined forces to



help make your garden spectacular during every season. An expert Bunnings' gardening team member will be presenting a series of free workshops about what to do in your garden with seasonal tips, hints, practical demonstrations and a Q&A session.

Cessnock Library Services Coordinator Rose-marie Walters said the library team is proud to be partnering with our local Bunnings to bring this series of gardening workshops to the community.

"Whether you are a just a beginner or a gardening enthusiast, you are sure to enjoy these workshops at your local library."

These fun and free workshops will take place every season and the Spring workshop is coming up on Friday 20 October 2017 from 10.30am to 12noon at Cessnock Library.

Morning tea will be provided and booking is essential so reserve your place today by calling the Cessnock Library team on 4993 4399.

## PHARMACY ADVISOR FROM PAGE 8

### DIARRHOEA

...and are less drying to the skin.

Anyone with acute diarrhoea should stay at home if possible to reduce the spread of infection. It is strongly recommended not to visit hospitals and nursing homes, and not to swim in public pools.

### Dietary adjustments may help diarrhoea

It may help to make a few short-term dietary adjustments while your bowels recover from acute diarrhoea.

Be guided by your healthcare professional, but general suggestions include:

Limit consumption of fatty, sweet or spicy foods, Avoid alcohol, Increase consumption of starchy foods like banana, rice and bread, Increase consumption of yoghurt containing live cultures.

Diarrhoea in babies and young children can be caused by fruit juice, so limit these drinks.

### Where to get help

Your doctor & Pharmacist

ADVERTISEMENT

WE'RE POWERING FORWARD MAKING ENERGY MORE AFFORDABLE

As Australia's energy system transitions, the Australian Government is making energy more affordable. We've already secured agreements from retailers to offer consumers a better deal, and some households could save up to \$1,500 per year on their power bills. We're also ensuring there is enough gas for Australians before it's shipped offshore.

To find out more search 'POWERING FORWARD'.

It's actions like this today that are powering a more affordable energy future.

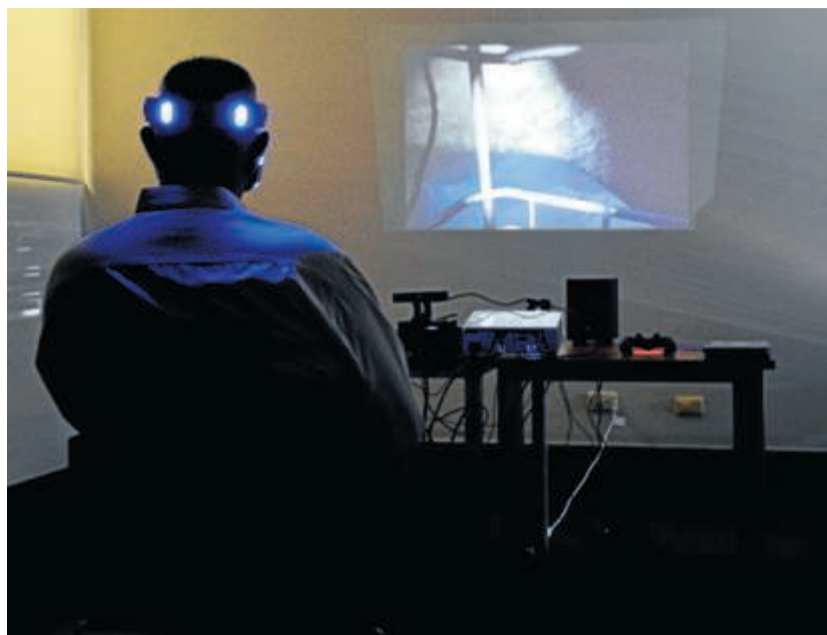
Australian Government

Authorised by the Australian Government, Capital Hill, Canberra.

Q POWERING FORWARD

# Innovation Lab launches at Cessnock City Libraries

Cessnock LGA locals may soon be able to experience a tour of the Louvre in Paris or those with a taste for adventure may be able to scuba dive the Great Barrier Reef with Sir David Attenborough. Cessnock City Libraries launched the Innovation Lab, a space to explore and foster a social environment where anyone in the community can see, share, touch and play with virtual reality (VR) technologies. The Innovation Lab was a vision of staff to create a new and fun learning environment for both students and lifelong learners. The vision was brought to life following a generous grant from the Weston Workers Club enabling the purchasing of VR equipment. This unique and immersive form of interaction is increasingly being used for education and training with the potential to greatly enhance learning. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent is excited about the Innovation Lab after experiencing the technology firsthand. "This is the first time I have had a go at virtual reality and it certainly lived up to expectations. I got up close and personal with a shark which had me on the edge of the seat as I explored the depths of the ocean." "This gave me a real insight in how beneficial this type technology will be for our community. Not just for the young but also for our older residents as it combines, relaxation, education and entertainment."



"We are very proud of our library and their hard work in ensuring our community has access to the best possible experiences. Although we are only a small library service, Cessnock has a proven track record of sustained innovation and industry leadership as evidenced by our delivery of our popular coding workshops and now the launch of the Innovation Lab." Cessnock City Libraries hope to see this as a platform to revitalise the 'after school' culture and see more young patrons visiting the library to enjoy the world of reading, learning and to explore the plethora of resources the library holds. Residents are encouraged to watch this space as the Innovation Lab will be integrated into the Cessnock Library's ongoing programming for all ages.

To keep up to date with your local libraries visit, [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/library).

## WHAT'S THE FUTURE OF MAITLAND HOSPITAL?

The government recently announced it is seeking tenders from the not-for-profit (NFP) sector, to build and run the new Maitland Hospital. This still means the Hunter will lose a public hospital. So how is it different to privatisation (PPP)?

### PPP v NFP

#### HOW THE CONTRACT WORKS

A long-term relationship between the state and a contractor is entered, whereby the government relinquishes its responsibility to provide the community with a quality, affordable healthcare model

PPP NFP



In this joint arrangement, the hospital is owned by the organisation/company that will deliver private services but is under a **CONTRACTUAL** agreement with the NSW government to deliver public services



Despite receiving government funding, there is no obligation to provide open and transparent details on costs of services, metrics on service quality or mandated staffing and skill mix



### This is still privatisation of a public health service.

Everyone in NSW will get better care in a hospital if we grow our public hospital system to match our community's growing health needs.

**We want a fully-funded PUBLIC hospital. Maitland deserves it!**

Keep NSW in HealthyState.com.au

**I'M FIGHTING TO** **Keep NSW in a Healthy State**

A growing state needs a growing public health system

POWERED BY: BAKER WHITTY, KNOWING HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM YOUR HEALTH. 4-10 CLOUDS ROAD, SYDNEY NSW 2000



## RBA keeps interest rates at 1.5%

The Reserve Bank of Australia has kept interest rates steady at 1.50 per cent at its October 2017 board meeting. REINSW President John Cunningham said the result came as expected with economists adamant that rates would not be lifted this month. "Speculation is mounting that the next interest rate move will be up and that increase is now being touted to occur within the next six months. "The RBA is in a holding pattern and consumers should continue to make sensible decisions in regard to the financing of their property purchases," Mr Cunningham said.

## REIA Real Estate Market Facts report

The median house price across

Australian capital cities has continued to rise with the weighted average median prices increasing by 1.8 per cent for houses and 2.6 per cent for other dwellings, according to the latest research from the Real Estate Institute of Australia. The REIA Real Estate Market Facts Report for the June quarter 2017 shows the weighted average median price for houses for the eight capital cities increased to \$768,227, with prices increasing everywhere except for Adelaide and Perth. "The weighted average median price for other dwellings increased to \$604,456, again driven by median price increases in Melbourne and Sydney and, to lesser extent, in Darwin, Adelaide and Hobart," Mr Gunning said. "The largest increase in the median price for houses was seen in Hobart at 4.9

per cent, while for other dwellings Darwin's 9.3 per cent increase was the highest. "In contrast median house prices decreased in Adelaide and Perth and median prices for other dwellings decreased in Brisbane, Canberra and Perth," he said. Mr Gunning said over the quarter, median rents for three-bedroom houses decreased in most capitals except for Canberra. "Adelaide had the largest decrease at 2.9 per cent, with the other capital cities having similar declines. Median rents for two-bedroom other dwellings increased in Canberra, Hobart and Sydney. In Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and Darwin median rents for other dwellings declined with Brisbane having the highest decrease of 5.1 per cent. "The weighted average vacancy rate for the eight capital cities remained steady at 2.8 per cent during the June quarter. Both Darwin and Perth continue to have high vacancy rates at 7.3 per cent and 6.9 per cent respectively, while Canberra recorded the largest decrease of 0.4 percentage points. Perth was the only capital city to see an increase with a rise of 0.8 per cent," he said. Mr Gunning said both investor finance and owner-occupied housing finance, excluding re-financing, showed strong increases of 12.8 per cent and 13.6 per

cent respectively over the quarter. "Whilst both increased, over the last eight quarters we have seen owner occupied financing greater than that of investors. The decline in investors is in response to the more rigid lending criteria imposed by APRA on investment property lending which is cooling the residential markets, particularly in Melbourne and Sydney. "The past level of investor activity is flowing through in higher vacancy rates than has been the case for the last two years," Mr Gunning said. **NSW** The median house price in Sydney increased to 2.3 per cent to \$1,194,247 over the June quarter and 14.2 per cent over the previous year. Median house prices increased in all NSW zones over the June quarter except Inner Sydney where the median house prices decreased by 3.6 per cent. Increases ranged from 2.0 per cent in Newcastle to 5.3 per cent in Outer Sydney. The median rent for three-bedroom houses in Sydney decreased to \$485 per week or 1.0 per cent over the June quarter but an increase of 3.2 per cent over the past year. The vacancy rate in Sydney decreased or 0.1 percentage points at 1.8 per cent over the quarter.

## House sitting:

### EMMA KELLYALL HOMES EDITOR

As metropolitan house and rent prices continue to soar a growing number of young people are turning to an alternative lifestyle option: house sitting. Sarah Baar and her partner, Richard Pratt, are among the mobile generation moving between properties as they save for their own home. The couple has been house sitting at properties in Canberra and regional NSW for more than a year after moving from Melbourne to Canberra for work. "The main benefit is we don't have any accommodation expenses; we don't pay rent and we don't pay bills," Ms Baar said. The couple originally turned to house sitting after struggling to secure a rental. Flying or driving between Melbourne and Canberra for regular inspections was adding up and parliamentary sitting weeks made snapping up short-term accommodation almost impossible. Now, money otherwise spent on rent or bills is saved away to fulfil their dream of owning property. "That's why

we've continued doing it," Ms Barr said. "We do want to buy ourselves a house but we don't want to rent anymore. We've rented in Sydney and Melbourne and it seemed like we were paying off someone else's mortgage." House prices in Canberra continue to rise with the capital's median surging past the \$700,000-mark for the first time in March. Sydney's median property price has increased to more than \$1.15 million, while Melbourne's median is above \$843,000. Weekly rent has also become more expensive. Canberra is the third-most expensive capital city to rent behind Sydney and Darwin, with a weekly median rent of \$500 for a house and \$428 for a unit. In Sydney it's \$550 for a house and \$530 for a unit. Co-founder of house sitting platform Your Home My Home, Mikaeli Loughrey, said she had noticed an increasing number of Generation Y adults taking up the flexible lifestyle since the online portal launched 18 months ago. "When we first launched there was a lot of baby boomers who were travelling regularly," she said. "There's been a huge shift to that 18 to 30-year-old market. About 75 per cent are those saving for their first home." Ms Loughrey said the increasing popularity of

house sitting among young adults also reflected the growing share economy. "It's both a cost-saving measure but also, as a generation, they are very nimble and very open to the share economy," she said. "For the digital natives, its not an issue; they use Ubers, they use Airtasker. To find somewhere to stay on an online platform is no different to other activities in their lives." Ms Loughrey said other drawcards included greater independence than living with parents, as well as flexibility when exploring a new city or suburb. Ms Barr and Mr Pratt plan to continue house sitting until the end of the year as they continue to save for their first home. Ms Baar said there had been a couple of gaps between house sitting stints due to a prospective host's changing circumstances, but nothing too serious. "During that time we've just used Airbnb [or] have had the odd stay at a hotel as a treat," she said. "We haven't struggled finding anything."

**Has your phone stopped ringing?**  
**You need to advertise your business**  
**Call Mike at 'The News'**  
**4938 1773**

# Hunter Valley coal miner destined for Hollywood

Daniel Wilson is 35 years old, lives in Branxton and currently works at Mount Thorley Warkworth mine as an experienced heavy equipment operator. Prior to his current employ he was at Muswellbrook Coal Company for 4 years.

Although he enjoys mining it has always been his dream to become an actor and within the last 18 months he has decided to follow his dream and has done extremely well in that time.

"I have managed to balance my time during that 18 months, work full shifts at the mine site with overtime and organise acting jobs on my days off", said Daniel.

"It has defiantly been hectic and challenging but I am happy to say I have made excellent progress and just landed a top agent with offices in Australia and USA (Gina Stoj Management). My partner and I have also had a baby only 7 weeks ago so things couldn't be more exciting".

Unfortunately, Daniel had to turn down a role in 'Last Full Measure' Filming in Thailand with Samuel L Jackson due to the birth of their baby boy. He also had to say 'no' to MTV, calling from London, to go on the reality show 'Single AF'. He was to go on a date with Farrah Abraham. But within the last 18 months he has managed to work on a range of projects and training courses.



## TRAINING

National Institute of Dramatic Arts	Screen Acting	Benjamin Matthews & Sam Haft
Screenwise	Screen Acting	Drayton Morley
Private Tuition	American Accent Training	Katherine Beck
MCTV	Auditioning Techniques	Paul Bland

## FEATURE FILM:

Greed	Marlon	<b>Director:</b> Jon-Claire Lee
Sunsekari	Love Affair	Arpan Thapa
Cops Enemy	Detective Peters	Prema Smith
Just Between Us	Security Guard	Christopher Kay
Harmony	Hospital Orderly	Cory Pearson

## SHORT FILM:

Norfolk	Neville (Police Officer)	Christopher Bax
Shark Fin	Businessman (AFTRS)	Beverley Callow
Retrospective	Doctor	Guillermo Lopez
Genesis	Security Guard	Christopher Bax
Emu Wars	George S Cooper	Benjamin Gageler
Forbidden Blood	Police Officer	Bradley Collins

## TELEVISION:

Home & Away	Prison Inmate	Arnie Custo
Meet the Hockers	Jewellery Thief	Jason Muir

## TVC:

Bridgestone Tyres	Steve (Guitarist)	David Hutton
I Am Safe App	Electrical Foreman	Duncan Toombs
Home Impact	John (Dad)	Craig Leighton
Moneyspot	Mechanic	Andrew Frayne

## MUSIC VIDEO:

CURT MANOR:		
Adelphi Hotel Nightmare	Police Officer	Samuel Bright

BLISS N ESO:		
Believe	Older Bully	James Cambell

BAYLOU:		
Rattlin Chains	Prison Guard	Lucas Bradley

DREW MCALISTER:		
Coming Your Way	Inspirational Pool Jumper	Josh Favaloro

ROHAN PHILIPS:		
Be Real	Club Paytron	Daniele Cernera

"Now that I have signed with GSM my focus will be on Hollywood and I have started my American Accent Training to prepare", said Daniel.

He has 4 Feature Films coming out at the end of this year which he plays small character roles. Needless to say the future looks bright for a small town guy destined for Hollywood.



≡ Daniel as Pte Cooper in Emu Wars

# Branxton Lions Club 'Seniors Dinners 2017' dates decided



Branxton Lions Club, at their last meeting, decided on dates for this years Seniors Dinners for 2017. The first function will be at the Greta RSL Hall on

Tuesday 28th November with Branxton's dinner to be held a week later on Tuesday 5th December 2017 at the Branxton Community Hall. Both functions will commence at 6pm.

Branxton Lions Club President Brian Thomas said their members are well organised for the functions & are looking forward to the occasions. If you require further information please call Ken Meany on 6574 7027.

Advance Cessnock City partners in conjunction with TAFE NSW and Cessnock Leagues Club are pleased to present:

## CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

We recognise the efforts of the Cessnock Chamber of Commerce for attracting this opportunity for our businesses.

<p><b>TOPICS INCLUDE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Quality Customer Service</li> <li>• Customer wants, needs and expectations</li> <li>• Understanding customer requirements – meeting the basic needs of your customers</li> <li>• Value adding to your customers</li> <li>• Obtaining loyalty from your customers</li> <li>• The importance of feedback from customers</li> <li>• The opportunities from customer complaints</li> <li>• Using social media with your customer interactions</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cost:</b> FREE</p> <p><b>When:</b> Tuesday 17 October 2017</p> <p><b>Time:</b> From 10am to 12.30pm</p> <p><b>Where:</b> Cessnock Leagues Club Auditorium 1 Darwin Street, Cessnock</p> <p><b>RSVP:</b> Monday 16 October 2017 per below</p>
--	--

Advance Cessnock City is a strategic partnership between the Cessnock City Council, local Chambers of Commerce and key business leaders across the region. The primary aim of the partnership is to support economic development, business growth and investment throughout the region.

**register now**

Registration: 02 4993 4185  
Email: economic.development@cessnock.nsw.gov.au  
Web: www.advancescessnockcity.com.au

# Local area to welcome The RV Wanderers



The 'Western Sydney RV (Recreation Vehicles) Wanderers' are booked to come to Branxton twice over the next couple of months. The attraction is the new RV park in Branxton &, of course, Hunter Valley Wine Country. In November 30 RV will visit the town for four days. They will arrive on Thursday 9th November & will depart on Monday the 13th

& all will be using the Branxton R/V Park & will use local facilities to cater for all their needs while on their stay. This will be the first chance for local business to show their wares to R/Ver's in such a large group. They do have quite a network of communication within the CMCA membership. *It's up to us to make them welcome.*

## Community BBQ

Saturday 14th October 2017, 11am-2pm

Branxton Park, Crn Dallwood & McMullins Rd

Face Painting, Kids games, Creative Arts, Prizes, Fun

Bring your chair & chill with the Rusty Harper Band

New Vine Vineyards Baptist Church | All Welcome

# For Sale

FERNHILL ROAD, DALWOOD



**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

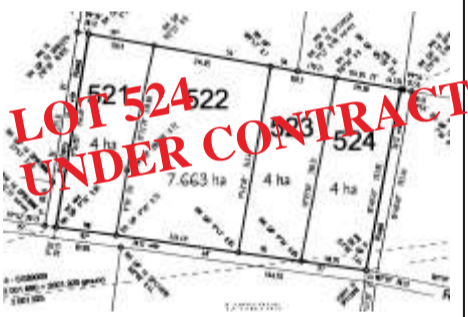


**'Jewel Box' Bush Cottage**

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

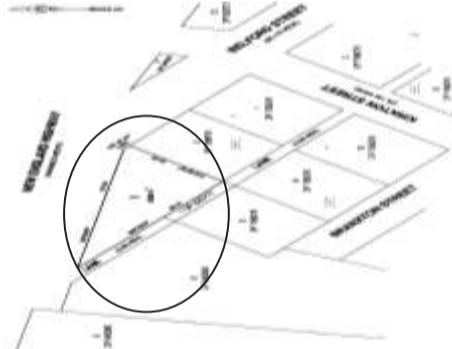


**OLDER STYLE HOME IN NEED OF SOME TLC**

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 2559m<sup>2</sup>**

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

**Leased BRANXTON**  
5 bedroom modern family home on 3 acres \$450/week

**Leased 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**



# Kurri Kurri Community Festival

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 11am – 9pm.  
 Celebrating The Towns 115<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
**FREE ENTERTAINMENT**



Kurri Kurri will celebrate "Community Pride" and the towns 115<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Saturday 21 October when it hosts **Brothers 3 of XFactor Fame**, **Melody Pool** a local artist and **International celebrity** plus various local artists, schools & community groups. finishing with a **Movies in the Park** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Kurri Kurri. The **"SECRET LIFE of PETS"**

Festival organizers will have food, drinks, stalls, markets and fun things happening, with on stage

entertainment commencing at 11am with the movie showing at sunset Local artist and International celebrity **Melody Pool** will be on stage during the afternoon with the **Brothers 3** of XFactor fame performing from 5pm until dark, the last gig before the movie. MC for the Festival is Brian Bean "Just Bean Married". The Festival will be officially opened by Meryl Swanson MP and Mayor Bob Pynsent. Local Aboriginal Elder, Judy West along with acclaimed Aboriginal Artist John Robinson on

Didgeridoo will do the Welcome to Country. This is a **FREE** day of entertainment for the whole family. All you need to bring with you are shade, seats and blankets to sit on. **NOTE:** If it rains on the Saturday the festival will be relocated to the Kurri Kurri Public School grounds. We invite you to come along and enjoy the fun provided by local schools and community groups commencing at 11am. More than 40 Stall Holders will provide food, drinks, arts & crafts, children's rides etc for sale during the day. This is going to be a day not to be missed for the visitors and the local community. Everyone is welcome to this **FREE** event..

## Air BNB and Stayz under scrutiny

Short term holiday letting is estimated to be a \$31.3 billion industry in Australia and accounts for 25% of total visitor nights in NSW and this is growing. Accommodation is becoming an increasingly saturated marketplace. Booking sites and increasing adoption of the sharing economy has seen the rise of properties listed on sites such as Air BnB and Stayz. This has resulted in an increase in the amount of properties being advertised for holidays across Australia, including within the Hunter Valley. Of concern, is that short-term holiday letting is largely unregulated

by planning laws in NSW. There are a range of issues emerging from holiday letting in NSW, including increasing competition for traditional accommodation providers; inconsistent quality of stay, amenity and safety protocols as well as injustice for fully complying businesses. As part of the NSW Government's plan to address the regulation of short-term holiday letting, it released its options paper in July. The paper explores:  
 Industry self-regulation  
 Strata regulation  
 Planning regulation  
 Registration or licensing  
 It is important to review

and make comment on the paper, as it may affect the future of planning legislation surrounding holiday letting. The Standard Instrument within Cessnock City Council's Local Environmental Plan does not define short-term holiday letting. There is also differing legal opinion on the proper characterisation of this type of development. Until such time as the issue of short-term holiday letting is resolved, Council will continue to regulate all forms of 'tourist and visitor accommodation' under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*,

and the provisions of Council's adopted Compliance and Enforcement Policy, where relevant. **Have your say:** Read the [Short Term Holiday Letting \(STHL\) options paper](#). Stakeholders including businesses are encouraged to make comment. Submissions are due 31 October 2017 and the options paper includes a submission form with 16 questions. Cessnock City Council's Strategic Land Use Planning team are currently preparing a submission on the paper.

**branxton greta**  
BUSINESS CHAMBER

NOTIFICATION OF

# AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wed 1st Nov 2017  
 Time: 6.30pm  
 Location: Branxton Golf Club

Nomination Form available@  
[www.branxtongreta.com.au/events](http://www.branxtongreta.com.au/events)  
 NOMINATIONS CLOSE:  
 Wed 25th Oct 2017

Further Information:  
 Secretary; [info@branxtongreta.com.au](mailto:info@branxtongreta.com.au)

**KURRI KURRI 115 YEARS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

**WHERE** Kurri Kurri Bowling Club  
 3 Tarro Street, Kurri Kurri

**WHEN** **FRIDAY 27th OCTOBER 2017**

**COST** \$70 per head

**INCLUDES** 3 Course Dinner, Tea & Coffee, Entertainment, Champagne & Canapés on arrival

**TIME** 7pm

**DRESS** Cocktail / After Five

**FEATURING** THE SUN ROCKETS

**TICKETS** CONTACT: Maria Chapple  
 PHONE: 02 4937 1417  
 EMAIL: [bch91065@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bch91065@bigpond.net.au)  
 or from Kurri Kurri Visitors Centre  
 199 Lang Street Kurri Kurri 4936 1909

**RSVP** No later than 30th September 2017

**COURTESY BUS AVAILABLE FOR LOCALS**  
 Call: 4937 1676 to book

**Proudly sponsored by Kurri Kurri Bowling Club**

**Promoted by the Kurri Kurri District Business Chamber**

**Money raised will assist with the promotion of The Kurri Kurri Community Festival**

**SPECTACULAR DOOR PRIZES AND GREAT RAFFLE**

# 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**

# HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE

of tourism in the Hunter Valley. The DSSN is one of six Destination Networks recently established across NSW as a result of a review of Regional

Tourism Organisations undertaken in 2015 – 2016 by the NSW Government. David Fellows, Chairman of DSSN stated that their vision is to make Sydney Surrounds North one of the world's most successful regional tourism and events destinations, and their mission is to double overnight visitor expenditure for the region by 2020 and maximise the benefits of the visitor economy for NSW. The hot topic of the afternoon was mostly dedicated to funding and Glen Caldwell assured us that the DSSN would provide support to maximise all opportunities where possible to access funding for the region. The HVWTA and the Alliance look forward to working with the DSSN to ensure that this comes to fruition.

## SIX HUNTER VALLEY FINALISTS ANNOUNCED IN THE 2017 NSW TOURISM AWARDS

The exceptional quality of tourism operators across NSW was acknowledged this week

with the official announcement of finalists for the 2017 NSW Tourism Awards. Managed by the Tourism Industry division of the NSW Business Chamber and supported by the NSW Government through Destination NSW, the NSW Tourism Awards celebrate and acknowledge tourism businesses that demonstrate outstanding achievement throughout the year. One hundred finalists have been named across 26 award categories including Tourist Attractions, Festivals and Events, Destination Marketing and Accommodation. Hunter Valley finalists include Margan Family Wine Growers, Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley, Cypress Lakes Resort, Hungerford Hill, Colourful Trips and Beyond Ballooning. The awards present a fantastic opportunity for Hunter Valley businesses to have their high-quality products and world-class experiences recognised. We wish all our finalists the best of luck. Winners will be announced at the official presentation night on Thursday, 16 November at the International Convention Centre Sydney.

## HUNTER VALLEY

## MAGAZINE ISSUE #9 LAUNCHED THIS WEEK

The ever-popular Hunter Valley Magazine launched its 9<sup>th</sup> issue last week and includes plenty of things to discover in Wine Country. The HVWTA produce the magazine bi-annually and distribute a total of 130,000 copies across Sydney, local Hunter region businesses and more than 30 visitor information centres in NSW. The beautifully presented and authentic publication aims to promote Hunter Valley experiences, news & events, and wine & tourism businesses and drive visitation to our region. In Issue 9, we've compiled a list of some top tours where visitors can find out what happens behind the scenes in our wineries and tasty food and wine experiences that are a must try! While the Hunter Valley is steeped in history our region is also filled with new, innovative and exciting experiences such as distilleries and craft beer producers. This issue reveals these diverse experiences along with some places to stay with picture-perfect pools and much, much more. To view the Hunter Valley magazine online visit [winecountry.com.au](http://winecountry.com.au)



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

## DESTINATION SYDNEY SURROUNDS NORTH BOARD VISIT WINE COUNTRY

Last Thursday 21st September, the committee members of Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association, the Alliance and wine and tourism industry representatives met with members of the Destination Sydney Surrounds North (DSSN) Board and Glen Caldwell General Manager of DSSN, at The Vintage to discuss the challenges and opportunities



Branxton VIEW Club members are renowned for their cooking skills so visitors and friends were delighted with their light lunch provided at the recent donna-lou fashion parade fund raiser. Many thanks to everyone who attended and bought items and raffle tickets. All money raised will assist our four Learning for Life students through the Smith Family. Our models showed off the donna-lou range like Paris

experts, allowing the eager audience to inspect the material of garments. No one fell off the runway!

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, 12th October at Greta Workers Club -10.30 for 11 am start. Guest speaker is Captain Peter Bennett from Singleton Salvation Army. If you would like to attend please phone our secretary, Evelyn 4938 1513. Everyone is most welcome.



We are a happy group of ladies who have fun whilst fund raising for the non denominational Smith Family. VIEW stands for voices, interests and education of women. Some thoughts on friendship-Friendship improves happiness and abates misery by doubling our joy and dividing our grief.

Cicero said "Friendship adds a brighter radiance to prosperity" Peace and love to everyone  
*Judy Spillard*

Photo: VIEW club models from Left to Right Cathy Lindsay, Margaret Wilson, Judy Groves, Edith, Bethany Oldfield-(Missing Judy Cudby)

## Time to make a splash as the pool season starts!

The warmer weather is well and truly here, and residents will now be able to enjoy it with the 2017-18 pool season now open. The Branxton Pool opening was slightly delayed after a leak was located underneath the plant room.

Cessnock City Council moved quickly to replace the damaged pipe but as a result had to remove a large amount of concrete and cast iron pipework manually.

It was hoped with repairs occurring over the weekend the pool would have been ready for opening on Saturday 30 September however the decision was made to delay the opening by two days. Council's Acting Open Space and Community Facilities Manager, Nicole Benson said they held off opening the facility to ensure the water quality met the NSW Health Regulations. "Construction works were finalised with staff then cleaning and sanitising the main pool to ensure the water quality was up to standard."

"We opened the pool to the public on Monday 2 October and we apologise for any inconvenience caused by the delay."

"We are also happy to confirm, the new heat pumps have been switched on at Branxton pool and pool users will experience a comfortable temperature from their first dip in the pool this season."

To find out more about our wonderful local aquatic facilities visit <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/sport/pools>.



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***"MARRIAH"***

**FRIDAY 20th OCTOBER**  
***RENDEZVOUS***

**MEMBER'S BADGE DRAW**

**WEDNESDAY**

**11th OCTOBER - \$2,100**

**SUNDAY**

**15th OCTOBER - \$500**

MEMBERS DINNER

21st OCTOBER

2 COURSE MEAL

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**"THE BABY BOOMERS"**

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**MEMBERS BADGE DRAW**

**THURSDAY 12th OCTOBER**

**\$2,100**

**SUNDAY 15th OCTOBER**

**\$5,000**

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**RAFFLES**

**FRIDAY**  
**MEAT RAFFLE**

**7.00pm**

**SUNDAY**  
**MEAT RAFFLE**

**6.00pm**

**"THE PARK"**  
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**WEDNESDAY – SUNDAY**

**GREAT FOOD**  
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and lust for Sara. The plan is to infiltrate Mac and Sara into Cuba as part of an educational tour under the auspices of Yale University (and some fun is had at the expense of the Elis). The two will break away from the tour, recover the money and documents, meet *The Maine*, which will be participating in a fishing tournament down the coast, and escape. Relations with Cuba are in flux; the exile community rejects the notion of a "Cuban Thaw," and the security services in Cuba also resist the idea. But some in the U.S. promote a lessening of tensions, and some in Cuba itself understand that the nation cannot survive without a quick infusion of money and that the best hope is U.S. tourist dollars. The real poverty of Cuba is clearly described,

## REVIEW

Nelson Demille  
 "The Cuban Affair"  
 &  
 The Top 10 Fiction Bestseller List  
 © Nielsen BookScan

as are the conditions of the infrastructure and the social climate. In spots the narrative seems to slog through discursive observations, but they are mostly informative and worthwhile, and then the plot picks up energy again. Though Mac and his mate Jack Colby seem to share a somewhat adolescent obsession with "getting laid," they are stout fellows in a fight, and the thriller charts a satisfying course. A good day's work from an old pro.

9/10



### ABOUT ....

DeMille was born in New York City on August 23, 1943. He moved as a child with his family to Long Island. He attended Elmont Memorial High School where he played football and ran track. After spending three years at Hofstra University, he joined the Army and attended Officer Candidate School. He was a First Lieutenant in the United States Army (1966-69) and saw action as an infantry platoon leader with the First Cavalry Division in Vietnam. He was decorated with the Air Medal, Bronze Star, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge. DeMille returned to the States and went back to Hofstra University, where he received his degree in political science and history. He has three children, Lauren, Alexander, and James, and still lives on Long Island. DeMille's earlier books were NYPD detective novels. His first major novel was *By the Rivers of Babylon*, published in 1978 and still in print, as are all his succeeding novels. He is a member of American Mensa, the Authors Guild, and past president of the Mystery Writers of America. He is also a member of the International Thriller Writers, who honoured him as 2015 ThrillerMaster of the Year. DeMille holds three honorary doctorates: Doctor of Humane Letters from Hofstra University, Doctor of Literature from Long Island University, and Doctor of Humane Letters from Dowling College.

DeMille is the author of *By the Rivers of Babylon*, *Cathedral*, *The Talbot Odyssey*, *Word of Honor*, *The Charm School*, *The Gold Coast*, *The General's Daughter*, *Spencerville*, *Plum Island*, *The Lion's Game*, *Up Country*, *Night Fall*, *Wild Fire*, *The Gate House*, *The Lion*, *The Panther*, *The Quest*, *Radiant Angel*, and *The Cuban Affair*. He also co-authored *Mayday* with Thomas Block and has contributed short stories, book reviews, and articles to magazines and newspapers both online and in print.

### Writing style

Many of DeMille's books are written in the first person, and as such his books follow a linear plotline in which the reader moves along with the main character. Although the tone of his writing varies from novel to novel, one consistent tool is DeMille's liberal use of sarcasm and dry humour.

Most DeMille novels, especially the more recent, avoid "Hollywood endings," and instead finish either inconclusively or with the hero successfully exposing the secret/solving the mystery while suffering in his career or personal life as a result. There are generally loose ends left for the reader to puzzle over, *Night Fall* being a perfect example.

### Works

DeMille often uses Long Island, where he currently lives, as a setting in his novels, as in *The Gold Coast*, *The Gate House*, *Plum Island*, *Word of Honor*, *Night Fall*, and *Radiant Angel*. His most recent novels have followed two main characters, John Corey (starring in seven novels) and Paul Brenner (starring in two novels, with also a part in Corey's sixth novel). In earlier works, the storylines were completely separate, but there have been hints in the novels that they are part of a larger "DeMille Universe" that references events and characters in earlier novels, such as *The Gold Coast* and *The Charm School*.

DeMille spends approximately 16 months creating each of his novels due to the extensive research involved, and because he writes them longhand on legal pads with a number one pencil.

## Top Ten 'Best Sellers' ~ Fiction NY Times

1. New this week **THE CUBAN AFFAIR** by Nelson DeMille Simon & Schuster. A Miami lawyer solicits an Army veteran to go on a secret mission to recover \$60 million stashed away in Cuba.
2. 7 weeks on the list **IT** by Stephen King Scribner. The fears of seven teenagers are rekindled in their adult lives by the terrifying title character. Originally published in 1986.
3. New this week **HAUNTED** by James Patterson and James O. Born Little, Brown. A detective from New York takes his family on a vacation in Maine and is enlisted by local cops to help solve a crime in the woods.
4. 2 weeks on the list **A COLUMN OF FIRE** by Ken Follett. Viking The lovers Ned Willard and Margery Fitzgerald find themselves on opposite sides of a conflict between English Catholics and Protestants while Queen Elizabeth fights to maintain her throne.
5. New this week **TO BE WHERE YOU ARE** by Jan Karon Putnam. The 14th novel in the Mitford series. Three generations of Kavanaghs face changes in their lives.
6. 2 weeks on the list **THE GIRL WHO TAKES AN EYE FOR AN EYE** by David Lagercrantz Knopf. Lisbeth Salander teams up with an investigative journalist to uncover the secrets of her childhood. A continuation of Stieg Larsson's Millennium series.
7. 3 weeks on the list **A LEGACY OF SPIES** by John le Carré Viking. Peter Guillam, formerly of the British Secret Service, is pulled out of retirement to defend intelligence operations during the cold war that resulted in the deaths of people
8. 24 weeks on the list **THE HANDMAID'S TALE** by Margaret Atwood Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Men and women in a dystopian future. The basis of the Hulu series; originally published in 1985.
9. 3 weeks on the list **ENEMY OF THE STATE** by Kyle Mills Atria/Emily Bestler. Vince Flynn's character Mitch Rapp leaves the C.I.A. to go on a manhunt when the nephew of a Saudi King finances a terrorist group.
10. 8 weeks on the list **BEFORE WE WERE YOURS** by Lisa Wingate Ballantine. A South Carolina lawyer, researching her grandmother's past, learns about a Tennessee orphanage that kidnapped children and placed them for adoption with wealthy people. Based on a real-life scandal.

### Old bones and old grudges in contemporary Havana.

In this, his 20th, DeMille (*Radiant Angel*, 2015, etc.) deftly drops Daniel "Mac" McCormick, captain of *The Maine*, a 42-foot sport fisherman out of Key West, into a storm of competing visions of Cuba's future. When a trio of Cubans and Cuban-Americans, Carlos Macia, Eduardo Valazquez, and the lovely Sara Ortega, offer him a small fortune to participate in a scheme to recover documents and cash hidden in a cave during the Cuban Revolution of 1959, Mac is tempted and succumbs to both avarice

Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.  
 -- Confucius  
 Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards.  
 -- Author Unknown  
 I love quotations because it is a joy to find thoughts one might have, beautifully expressed with much authority by someone recognized wiser than oneself.  
 -- Marlene Dietrich

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# Join a free Seniors Health Workshop



topic of staying healthy in retirement, with all profits from the book being donated to Alzheimer's research and it will be available for purchase on the day for \$20. Taylor has now partnered with NSW Seniors Card to launch an Active Seniors initiative, helping every Aussie over 60 to exercise, starting with those in NSW. Library Services Coordinator, Rose-marie Walters said, "The main message of the

Cessnock Library will host a free Seniors Health Workshop on Tuesday 17 October encouraging local seniors to stay active and live their best life during retirement. This fun and informative workshop will offer practical tips and positive strategies on how to:

- improve strength, flexibility and mobility
- improve your balance
- remain mentally active
- stay healthy and have fun!

The workshop facilitator will be Taylor Harrison from Active Seniors who is a man on mission to inspire audiences to

make positive changes and enjoy their golden years.

A health practitioner with multiple degrees, author, speaker and philanthropist, Taylor began this journey after a family friend had a fall and passed away shortly after. Inspired further by his own grandfather, who began exercising at 76 and achieved amazing results, he set up some Australia's first exercise centres specifically for over 60's.

Over the past 11 years, Taylor has helped over 3,000 seniors achieve greater health through staying active and is now taking this goal Australia wide. He has written a book on the

workshop is the key to good health in later years is remaining physically active and engaged in the community and I extend a warm invitation for everyone interested to attend."

This Active Seniors Workshop will be held at Cessnock Library on Tuesday 17 October from 10 to 11am and light refreshments will be provided.

It's free to come along, but bookings are essential. Reserve your spot today by calling 02 9984 8883 or visiting [www.activeseniors.net.au/workshops](http://www.activeseniors.net.au/workshops).

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### Memorable sporting quotes

"And let that be a lesson to you all. Nobody beats Vitas Gerulaitis 17 times in a row." Tennis player **Vitas Gerulaitis** on beating Jimmy Connors after losing 16 straight matches to him.

"I don't care about that match point — would you care if you were 23 and worth over \$10 million." **Tomic** told Gold Coast Bulletin journalist Ryan Keen after tanking in his ATP tour match at the Madrid Masters.

"I don't wake up and think I've won the Masters. But when I walk in the closet and I put the green jacket on every morning, I do." - Golfer **Adam Scott**.

"Because everyone's probably scared s\*\*\*tless of him, if I was being honest!" - Ireland star **Jonathan Sexton** on the secret to **Michael Cheika**'s success.



# Branxton Golf Club



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Everyone welcome.

Mr J's kiddy golf is coming back soon

# click



## TAKE SOME GOOD ADVICE



### Identity fraud

#### Keeping it personal

Unfortunately, it has become very easy for someone to steal your personal details and carry out illegal activities in your name. However, you can take steps to protect yourself from identity fraud by following the tips below. If you think your personal information has been stolen, contact the police immediately.

#### What is identity fraud or identity theft

Identity fraud is a type of fraud that involves the theft of your personal information including your name, date of birth, address and other details. Fraudsters then use this information, for example, to open bank accounts, obtain credit cards, start an illegal business or apply for a passport. Your details may also be used to commit serious crimes, such as money laundering and even terrorist acts.

Identity thieves are after everything that contains your personal information: bank and credit card statements, social media account information, bills, driver's licence, passport, investment reports, superannuation records, storage media such as USB devices, and any documents that contain your tax file number.

#### How identity theft happens

There are many ways in which people can steal your identity. Your personal information is everywhere: on the cards in your wallet, bills in your letter box, emails on your computer at home and at work, and information you post on social networking sites. This makes it easy for someone to get your personal details. For example, they can look through your garbage bins for bills and bank statements, steal your wallet or bag, break into your letter box or home, or hack into your computer.

Identity thieves are also becoming more sophisticated. They may send you a letter, email, SMS or message through social media to 'phish' for information or pretend to be calling on behalf of your bank or a government department, and trick you into giving them information. They may install a program on your computer that allows them to 'spy' on you and track your keystrokes every time you use your desktop computer or laptop.

So how can you tell if someone is pretending to be

you? Some telltale signs are if you start receiving bills, credit cards, loan statements or calls from creditors that you know nothing about or if you have difficulty obtaining a credit card or a loan because of an inexplicably bad credit rating. You might also notice that the amount of mail you receive is decreasing - which may indicate that items are being stolen or that mail is being redirected somewhere else. If your social media account has been hacked, you may notice posts appearing that you did not write, someone has logged into your account from an unusual location, your wall is flooded with spammy posts, and you are suddenly following a lot of new, unknown people.

#### How to protect yourself from identity theft

There are several ways in which you can stop your identity from being stolen.

##### Day-to-day protection

● **Never give your personal details to people you don't know** - If you receive a call from someone who claims to be from your bank or any other organisation, don't give them your details. Call the organisation in question to check it is really them calling. Never click on a link or call a phone number in an email - use a phone directory to look up the correct number. Also, beware of entering competitions online where you enter your personal information, as this could be stored and used by a scammer.

● **Check your bank and superannuation statements** - If you see any unusual transactions, contact your bank, credit card provider or super fund immediately.

● **Review your credit report** - Get your credit report from one of these credit reporting agencies: MyCreditFile.com.au (Equifax), CheckYourCredit.com.au (Dun and Bradstreet). This allows you to check that no-one is using your name to borrow money or run up debts.

● **Carry only essential information** - Avoid taking important documents out of your home to minimise the chance of them being lost or stolen.

● **Secure personal documents at home** - Store your important documents in a fire and waterproof container or a safe deposit box in case your home is burgled or damaged.

● **Destroy personal information** - Shred or cut up your bills, statements and expired cards to prevent thieves from using them.

● **Secure your mail** - Secure your letter box with a lock and collect your mail regularly. If you move house, notify the post office to redirect your mail. Mail

sent to the wrong address could be used to steal your identity.

Protect your mobile phone - Be wary when installing applications onto your phone. Scammers may send you applications designed to download malicious software onto your phone and steal bank account details.

##### Computer and mobile protection

● **Keep your phone or other mobile device safe** - Treat it like a wallet and know where it is at all times. Always lock your device with a PIN or password.

● **Be careful of what information you post on social media** - Identity thieves trawl sites like Facebook, and Twitter and other social media for personal details they can use. Always ensure your privacy settings are set to 'friends only', and don't accept friend requests from people you don't know.

● **Always type the website address into your browser** - Don't click on a link in an email or open emails requiring you to enter your personal information. They could be scams.

● **Be careful what information you give on social networking sites** - Identity thieves trawl sites like Facebook and Twitter for personal details they can use.

● **Disable pop-ups on your browser** - People can use pop-ups to install programs on your computer that 'spy' on you or record your key strokes. This is how they find out passwords to your bank and other accounts. Most internet browsers (e.g. Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome and Safari) let you block pop-ups by selecting 'Turn on pop-up blocker' or a variation of this term under the 'Tools' or 'Settings' menu. You can also delete/remove certain types of ads from your social feed.

● **Make your passwords hard to guess** - Use a combination of numbers and letters and change your passwords frequently. Avoid using the same password for multiple log-ins.

● **Install up-to-date anti-virus software** - It will automatically prevent, detect and remove any suspicious programs from your computer or mobile device. Always scan devices such as USBs or external hard drives for viruses, before opening them on your computer.

● **Log out of social media, bank websites and email accounts** - This is important if you bank online. If you don't log out, anyone can access your details.

● **Only download apps from the official app store or market** - Check to make sure the app is from a well-known company.

**Enable security settings on your mobile device** - Turn off wifi, Bluetooth and GPS when not in use.

● **Never use public computers for banking or payments** - If you use a computer at a library or internet café to look up your bank account or do online shopping, your account details will be stored on the computer. You do not want your important online banking details to get into the hands of others.

For more information on online scam protection, see the Australian Government website Stay Smart Online.

##### What to do if you have had your identity stolen

If you think someone has stolen your identity and is committing crimes in your name, you should:

1. **Change your passwords** - On your email, social media accounts, online bank log-in, and computer/mobile device log-in. In some cases you will also need to change your email address and close your old account.

2. **Report it immediately to the police** - Ask for a copy of the police report as banks and financial institutions will want to see it.

**Contact your bank or financial institution** - Tell your bank, credit provider or the relevant company what has happened. If any accounts have been opened with your stolen details, ask for them to be closed or cancelled. You may need to ask them to set you up new accounts and PINs.

**Inform the relevant government agency or business** - If your driver's licence, passport, citizenship papers, Medicare card, birth, marriage and change of name certificates, tax file number, superannuation or pension details have been stolen, let the relevant agency know. Similarly, if your financial reports were taken, alert your stock broker, financial planner or fund manager.

**Get a copy of your credit report** - You should tell the credit reporting agency that you have been a victim of identity theft so they can note it in your file. Check your credit report to see what companies have checked your credit history recently, and let them know not to authorise any new accounts in your name. Get a copy of your credit report from one of these reporting agencies: MyCreditFile.com.au (Equifax), CheckYourCredit.com.au (Dun and Bradstreet) and Tasmanian Collection Service.

**Get help from iDcare** - iDcare is a free government - industry service which works with you to develop specific response plans to reduce the risk and impact of identity fraud.



# MOVIE REVIEW

## “VICTORIA AND ABDUL”

The extraordinary true story of an unexpected friendship in the later years of Queen Victoria's (Academy Award winner Judi Dench) remarkable rule. When Abdul Karim (Ali Fazal), a young clerk, travels from India to participate in the Queen's Golden Jubilee, he is surprised to find favor with the Queen herself. As the Queen questions the constrictions of her long-held position, the two forge an unlikely and devoted alliance with a loyalty to one another that her household and inner circle all attempt to destroy. As the friendship deepens, the Queen begins to see a changing world through new eyes and joyfully reclaims her humanity.



**Judi Dench, Ali Fazal, Olivia Williams, Michael Gambon, Tim Piggott-Smith; PG-13 (some thematic elements and language); in general release**

Moviegoers interested in the history of British-Indian relations are getting spoiled this year. Where Gurinder Chadha's "Viceroy's House" examined India's transition from British rule after World War II and the negotiations that created modern Pakistan, "Victoria and Abdul" goes back a bit further into history, to the 19th-century reign of Queen Victoria.

Director Stephen Frears' "Victoria and Abdul" — which announces itself over the opening titles with a cheeky, "Based on real events ... mostly" — purports to tell the story of a little-known friendship between Britain's famous queen and a favored Indian subject. We meet Abdul Karim (Ali Fazal) in India in 1887 as he is plucked from his mundane labors as a prison clerk to deliver an honorary award to Queen Victoria (Judi Dench) in England. As he and his sidekick Mohammed (Adeel Akhtar) make the journey

and take in the grandeur of Victorian England, they almost come off as an endearing Indian answer to R2-D2 and C-3PO, overwhelmed and mystified by their alien surroundings. This awkwardness leads to a couple of faux pas, but instead of banishing the pair back where they came from, the queen — intrigued by the good-looking Indian man, and to a lesser extent his sidekick — insists that the pair stick around for a while. The intrigue leads to a friendship between Victoria and Abdul, so the courier becomes footman and then the queen's personal language tutor as she tries to become more familiar with her Indian subjects.

The whole process unfolds with a charming, light-hearted tone that fans of British comedy will find familiar. One comic scene early on shows the queen and her subjects trying to enjoy a fancy outdoor meal while practically getting blown away by frigid Scottish winds. Such humor offsets the rumblings of the queen's English subjects, who balk at her accommodation of what they see as barely more than savages. It doesn't help that Abdul is also a Muslim, given their recent rebellion back in India.

This tension grows as the story moves along, and then actually marks a dark turn toward the film's second half as circumstances change. Given the candid opening titles, it's difficult to know how much of the story to take as historical fact, but its message comes across clearly regardless.

The tone change probably marks the strangest obstacle in a film that mostly provides an acting showcase for its leads — particularly Dench, who is already generating Oscar rumblings for her performance. Fazal has a warm and appealing presence as the humble Abdul. Michael Gambon also turns up in a supporting role, and that feels fitting since he is also featured in "Viceroy's House." Eddie Izzard essentially plays the bad guy as Bertie, the Prince of Wales and the most skeptical of Queen Victoria's subjects. Even if "Victoria and Abdul" is a lightweight next to bigger historical films, Frears' effort is worth a look, even if only for the sake of a little charm and quality acting.

3.5/5



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

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



".....My father pulls over suddenly, unplugs his seatbelt and turns, the rage spread across his face as fierce as I had seen. We had evidently pushed him beyond his usual chummy threshold and activated the beast within. The look on my face was one of sheer horror. My

middle brother, Nick and my eldest brother Simon, looked as if the world was caving in. After a seemingly endless tirade of how fed up he was with us, my father fell silent; the only thing I remember at that stage was his red face and heavy breathing. We had finally pushed him over the edge. Suddenly, Simon reacts with equal force, telling my father to go and have intercourse with himself and alighting from the car, slamming the door and storming off. My father immediately turns, drags his seatbelt back over his shoulder and speeds off, leaving Simon as a faint speck in the rear vision mirror.

We come to the first bend out of sight and my father pulls the car over once again. We sit there in silence, even my mother not daring to say anything. After a few minutes, my father calms down and goes to turn around in the obvious throws of going back to pick up a sorry-looking ten-year-old Simon. Just as we do so, a large semi-trailer powers through, furiously sounding its deep horn. Startled, we quickly look up and notice a small arm protruding from the truck's cabin, with a hand turned around and middle finger raised. Clearly recognising the owner of the arm, Nick and I look to our parents for their reaction. My father looks to my mother, who seems to be more interested in his reaction than her own. Suddenly, my father can no longer hold it in and starts nervously laughing. The laughter turns into hysterics and before long, the four of us are struggling to breathe as we keel over in fits of hysterical laughter. As odd as it may sound, that is one of the fondest memories of my childhood....."

This excerpt is from a book I am writing titled 'There's No Place Like Home', about the trials and tribulations of family car trips. Actually, that's not quite true (although the story is). Forgive me, it's part of my academic humour. Everyone knows that one book couldn't possibly hold the attentive detail that would be required to enlighten all aspects of the family car trip. If it were titled There's No Place Like Home - Vol 1 of 3,240, it may qualify for a more justifiable and believable notion.

Having spent more than my fair share of time in the car as a youngster with my family, I am by no means any more of an authority on the subject than you, but the three boys within four years situation my parents found themselves in, certainly gave life to some profound experiences. Most of the time, it was relatively early in the trip where my father would have to pull over to read us our rights. There were, in retrospect (our driveway being exactly one kilometre long) times when we wouldn't even make it to the front gate before my parents would threaten to turn around. Of course, this was not taken as a threat so much as an opportunity. If we were travelling up the coast to enjoy a surfing holiday, we would take heed. If we were visiting great-aunt Gladys out the back of Whoop Whoop, we couldn't dismantle the harmony of the situation quickly enough.

As is what's expected, now I am older and have kids of my own, the experience is a haunting one at the very least. The obvious agitation a parent goes through to consciously pack a car and load up their family to drive for hours on end is akin to dropping some LSD and sitting in parliament for the day.

Considering our locality here in the Hunter Valley, one would assume that most of us have in the past ventured up the coast along the Pacific Highway. I would certainly hope this to be the case or we need to sit down and have a serious chat. When I think of family car trips, I envisage this particular route northwards. We had a book which lived in our car for years, written in 1967 and called, with dazzling originality, 'Travelling North in NSW'. Oh, you know it? So you will be fully informed of its masterful hints on each page which have you pulling your car over every few kilometres to view some 'monumental and significant' landmark..... 'Seven kilometres out of

Bulahdelah, stop and enjoy the commemorative plaque located on the third gumtree to the left of the large, not the small, but the large tree trunk, donated by Henry Kendall III, for the sighting of the first dyslectic rainbow lorikeet....' Whilst driving past these incredibly stimulating fixtures all the way up the coast, we would be mesmerised by how many people would be flocking to experience their magic and charm. My father actually used to hold them for ransom and threaten to stop at each and every one of them if the fighting continued. Put it this way, by the time we passed the Foster-Tuncurry turnoff, at least one of us would be crying. By the time we reached Taree, the three of us would be crying and by Port Macquarie, blood would be splattered all through the car and someone would have an eyeball hanging from its socket or two missing teeth. My father would simply pick up the copy of Travelling North in NSW and the next thing, five point three kilometres north of Woolgoolga, we would pull over with 150 other people to view the site of the largest cow dung ever dropped in the Greater Coffs Harbour Council region .....52 cm wide.....and a colourful picture of a cow on a lectern.....Hhhhhmm.....

One reprise we did endure however, was to stay in the cheapest highway motel possible. My father had a Masters Degree in finding these establishments. When I say reprise, the three of us loved staying in such abodes as we would be given our own room, sometimes several down from our parents. One fateful night, we arrived late to a small hotel-motel not far from Phillip Hughes' and Greg Inglis' hometown of Macksville. My parents were sound asleep when we took the car back into town and proceeded to drink the pub dry. Simon was about sixteen at the time, making me twelve. Without incriminating any other innocent parties, I was far from the only twelve-year-old in the place and I was years older in mind-set than my age would imply. Until the following morning, that is. Here's a small word game for you to play. Simply piece the words together.....smash, police, broken, vomit, car, arm, blood .....home!

Parents of today's youths are better equipped to harmonise long distance car travel whereby, with simple execution of the installation of portable DVD players, the children simply liaise with a screen. Hours on end of peaceful driving. No yelling, no bickering, no fighting, no tears.....no communication! Voila!! The last time we travelled the coast road was just prior to Christmas. We had stopped at a service station and I wasn't coping very well with the crying and frustration my two young ones were placing upon us. I couldn't help but notice a couple in exactly the same car as ours, about the same age and two young kids of similar age to ours, in the back quietly watching a DVD. I looked back to my two, tears rolling down their cheeks, mucous all over their faces and their clothes, red blotches and generally not having fun. I looked back to the other kids sitting like angels, quietly watching away, with their calm looking parents smiling at one another as if on a second honeymoon. The penny suddenly dropped. I think it was very clear what I had to do. I jumped back in the car and turned to the kids....."Guys.....who wants to go and see where the biggest cow poo ever in the Coffs Harbour Council region was done?"

Cheers,  
Andrew

THE NEWS | No.464 | WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2017 9 19

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

**TO the very hostile man in Greta** who, on Sunday 17th September while I was doing a cat rescue, when I asked him if he had seen it he immediately told me to 'F%&\*# off' while yelling & threatening me; he said this because he said I kill peoples animals. I have no idea what you are talking about; I've recued animals all my life & their welfare means everything to me. Where or whom did you glean your assumption(?). You are very badly misinformed or just a trouble maker. Your accusations and threats are unjustified.

**To the Branxton Fire Brigade** who were the first respondents when I called 000 for a medical emergency. How lucky we are to have these people on the ground 24/7. Thank you very much!

**To Cessnock City Council** for their tree 'M & R' at North Rothbury. The trees in the village are much safer now. Job well done!

**Having hit my second kangaroo in as many months** on Wine Country Drive between Branxton & North Rothbury I have come to the conclusion that I am either one of the following 1) unlucky 2) not keeping a proper watch or 3) the animals have signalled me out for special attention. I suspect number one is the likely scenario. A warning; do take extra care on that section of the road as they do seem to congregate their in unusual large numbers ... why? No idea.

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**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](mailto:1491nofrackingway@gmail.com)  
**For Sale:** Old collectable rabbit traps from \$10ea. P: 0421 102 711  
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**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  
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W: [www.mlatravel.com.au/sfenton](http://www.mlatravel.com.au/sfenton)  
E: [sfenton@mlatravel.com.au](mailto:sfenton@mlatravel.com.au)  
**Fitness Classes: 'Core & Strength'. Get fit. Classes are 6am and 10am Tuesday, 6am and 8am Thursday, at Miller Park Branxton \$12/class. Text/Phone Louise P: 0439 383 478**  
**Riding Lessons:** agistment, horses trained. [www.byalee.net](http://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 z50j 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  
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**Work Wanted:** experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804  
**Work Wanted:** Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153  
**Work Wanted:** Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989  
**Work Wanted:** Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards - rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538  
GO TO FOR FURTHER DETAILS .....  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/>

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

Dates for your diary >

Dates for your diary >

**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  
**Tue 17 Oct** - Cessnock Library will host a free Seniors Health Workshop encouraging local seniors to stay active and live their best life during retirement. It's free to come along, but bookings are essential. Reserve your spot today by calling 02 9984 8883 or visiting [www.activeseniors.net.au/workshops](http://www.activeseniors.net.au/workshops)  
**Fri 20 Oct** - Free Spring Gardening workshop with reps from Bunnings at Cessnock Library 10:30am - noon. Morning tea will be provided and booking is essential so reserve your place today by calling the Cessnock Library team on 4993 4399.  
**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.  
**Thu 26 Oct** - Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group met at Cessnock Leagues Club 3pm. Guest speaker Assoc. Professor Pauline Chiarelli. Topic- Pauline will outline how the muscles of the pelvic floor work, how best to exercise them, this in-turn would be of benefit to any person with bladder or bowel continence issues as well as erectile dysfunction in men. Meeting open to the public. Cost: FREE. Contact Co Convenors- Barry 0457073852 Rose 49904554.  
**Fri 27 Oct** - Kurri Kurri 115 years birthday celebrations dinner at Kurri Bowling Club \$70/head. RSVP 30/9/17 P: Maria 4937 1417  
**Wed 1 Nov** - AGM Branxton Greta Business Chamber 6:30pm @ Branxton Golf Club  
**Tues 7 Nov** - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting: 4pm

at Branxton Golf Club  
**Thu 9 Nov - Mon 13 Nov** - 'Western Sydney RV (Recreation Vehicles) Wanderers' (30 RV's) will be staying at Branxton RV Park next to Branxton Oval off John Rose Avenue.  
**Tue 7 Nov** - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigid's School, Station St, Branxton  
**Sun 19 Nov** - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm  
**Tue 28 Nov** - Branxton Lions Club Christmas Seniors Dinner at RSL Hall Greta: 6pm start  
**Tues 5 Dec** - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting: 4pm at Branxton Golf Club  
**Tues 5 Dec** - Branxton Lions Club Christmas Seniors Dinner at Branxton Community Hall: 6pm start  
**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 CANCELLED

Helen Lowing, Proprietor - License-in-Charge

**BRANXTON & VINE-YARDS REAL ESTATE**

12 Clift Street  
BRANXTON NSW 2335  
P: 4938 3300



**Three service groups combine**

The Hunter Cruiz-In Car rally was another success this year invited to take part in providing meals during the events. The Rotary club was given a boost with the help of the Cessnock Girl Guides and the Cessnock Interact Club. President Graham Farish is pictured below with Kylie Gray and Jack White from Cessnock High Interact Club, busy serving the meals at the Hunter Gardens. The Rotary Club of Cessnock was

**Take action, build international understanding, and make new friends around the world.**

The Rotary Club of

Cessnock has started the first Interact Club with Cessnock High students. Interact clubs bring together young people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of Service Above Self. Interact clubs organize at least two projects every year, one that helps their school or community and one that promotes international understanding. Rotary club sponsors mentor and guide Interactors as they carry out projects and develop leadership skills. Cessnock High students started the Interact club in September 2017 and a few students have already participated in local community events.

Photo at right: Back Left – Tiarne Tattersall, Zac Tattersall, Gorgia Dunicliff, Kyle Gosper, Tarnee White, Catelyn Sumners, Katelyn Hafey, Michael Hawkins, Jeremy Noone. Front Left – Daniel Hunter, Jack White.



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A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.  
-- Winston Churchill

Be master of your petty annoyances and conserve your energies for the big, worthwhile things. It isn't the mountain ahead that wears you out - it's the grain of sand in your shoe.  
-- Robert Service

**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 signalised crossing to access the bus stop. Works are programmed to commence on the first week of July, 2017, during school holidays to minimise impacts.

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

Photos below taken Friday 5th September 2017. Photos provided by Annemaree Winter



**Greta Public School**  
With Sarah-Jane Hazell  
Relieving Principal, Greta Public School

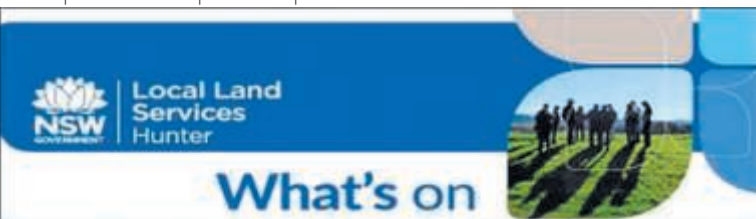
more days if we can't find anyone to help out. Can you spare a day each week, each fortnight, each term or each month? Do you have an aunty, uncle, friend, or neighbour who might like to help us? Volunteer hours can be counted towards the Work for the Dole scheme.

**If you can help, please contact Yasmin on 0402676825**

**URGENT – We need you!**

Our canteen can't stay open without new volunteers. Our canteen is in urgent need of volunteers. At the moment we are open four days a week, but we may need to close an extra one or even two





**HUNTER LOCAL LAND SERVICES HELPING FARMERS PREPARE FOR DRY TIMES**

Hunter Local Land Services will hold a series of seasonal condition workshops in early October, to help landholders and managers make good planning decisions as they deal with the dry start to spring. There has been very little rainfall since early winter across the region and many farm managers are looking for options for feeding and marketing their livestock.

“A dry winter has seen winter pastures not providing the feed for this time of year and older pastures from last season have been depleted and are now of no value to provide sufficient nutrition for livestock,” said Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Officer Albert Mullen.

“Unseasonably warm weather and windy conditions in recent weeks has impacted water supplies and heavier reliance from stock is impacting both quantity and quality of these resources.”

Hunter Local Land Services staff are urging landholders to prepare their properties now and consider their options for managing livestock, heading towards summer.

“Crunch time is now looming for landholders to make staged decisions on dry season management for stock if not already in train,” said Mr Mullen.

“Hunter Local Land Services is holding a round of regional events to provide advice to landholders.

“These workshops will include advice on feeding, herd strategies, animal health and welfare as well as the long term forecast for beef markets.” Mr Mullen said.

The workshops will feature cattle industry experts, district vets, agronomy and pasture representatives as well as rural financial counsellors.

The information sessions will be held at:

- Scone 13 October
- Dungog 18 October
- Gloucester 19 October

Landholders are asked to RSVP, for catering purposes, and are urged to contact their nearest Hunter Local Land Services office for more information. The events are funded through the Federal Government’s National Landcare Programme.

**Australian Thoroughbred**

*Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Service*

**Zabeel one of Australasia’s greatest ever sires**



SAVABEEL’S third successive New Zealand Champion Sire title (2016-17), the consistent success of Reset, one of Victoria’s top sires from use at Darley’s Northwood Park Stud near Seymour, and the dashing 4 1/4 lengths victory at Gosford by Bold Chance, a gelding by the much lesser exposed sire Bryanno’s Gift, a resident at Bob and Anne-Marie

Ruttley’s Shipton Lodge, a premier racehorse spelling, breeding, pre and full training complex at historic Cobbity, about forty minutes drive south west of Sydney, adds to the suggestion that Zabeel has been one of Australasia’s greatest ever sires.

Bred in New Zealand for the late Robert Sangster’s Swettenham stud and foaled at Patrick Hogan’s all conquering Cambridge Stud, the base also for his sire, the imported Sir Ivor giant of Australian breeding Sir Tristram (Ire), and himself used there all his sire career, the September 2015 deceased Zabeel so far has been represented by 1524 starters (84.5% of foals), 1106 winners (72.2%), a massive 3740 wins and over \$189million. As his last crop, a small one, are 4-year-olds and the Zabeels can keep

better than Zabeel by black type achievers. His scoreboard reads 163 stakes winners (a 11% strike rate), headed by 110 (7.4%) Group race winners, 47 Group1, 29 Group 2 and 35 Group 3.

He is equal sixth with Danzig and Mr. Prospector on the world list of sires of Group1 winners and is second most successful for Australasian sires. On top of both the Australasian and world lists is Danehill (USA) (by Danzig) with 89 but they were supplied from use twice a year, Australia and Ireland.

Danehill left 49 Group1 winners from his Australian use, including The Oaks Stud, Cambridge NZ based Darci Brahma, a five times Group1 winner and sire of seven Group1 winners produced by a Zabeel mare, SAJC Australasian Oaks winner Grand Echezeaux. She is also dam of Burgundy, a very smart Redoute’s Choice colt who has taken Zabeel’s place in the stallion yards at the Cambridge Stud. His first crop are three and include Hard Merchandize (stakes winner NZ) and Bringer of War (winner Singapore, third Aushorse Golden Horseshoe).

going as aged performers, more wins and earnings are certain to be added to his statistics.

It is the quality of the performers that bestows greatness on sire and few anywhere in the world have done Zabeel is now one of the southern hemisphere’s top broodmare sires, his latest Arion stats in this sphere being 1178 winners (72.2%) of 5446 races and over \$215million. He is broodmare sire of 174 stakes winners, 107 at Group level including 36 in Group1 races and his name is being carried on at a high level through sires out of them. Besides Darci Brahma, they include Dundee (by High Chaparral; six Group1 wins to 2400m, standing Arrowfield Stud, Scone NSW, first crop 2yo); Alpine Eagle (High Chaparral; MRC Australian Classic, second VRC Australian Guineas, retired to stud this year, Armidale, Tasmania); Xtravagant (Pentire (GB), New Zealand champion 3yo Newhaven Park, Boorowa NSW, first season), Ready For Victory (More Than Ready (USA), Melbourne Listed winner, third Caulfield Guineas, first progeny foals, Sun Stud, Victoria).

The offspring of Zabeel reads like a who’s who of middle distance and staying excellence, contributors including winners of 90 Group1 races, among them the Auckland Cup (five), AJC Derby (four), Melbourne Cup (three), Cox Plate (three), VRC Australian Guineas (three), New Zealand Derby (three), Australian Guineas (three), Sydney Cup (two), Adelaide Cup (two), New Zealand Derby (two), Caulfield Cup (two), Oaks classics New Zealand, Sydney and Brisbane (four), the Hong Kong Cup,

Dubai Sheema Classic and South African Derby. His most memorable performers included Octagonal (10 Group1 wins, Australian Horse of the Year), Might and Power (seven Group1 wins, Australian Horse of the Year), Savabeel (Cox Plate, Spring Champion Stakes), Sky Heights (AJC Australian Derby, Caulfield Cup, Rosehill Guineas), Efficient (Melbourne Cup, Victoria Derby), Jezabelle (Auckland Cup, Melbourne Cup) and Champagne (VRC LKLS Mackinnon Stakes, STC Ansett Australia Stakes, neck second to Jezabelle in the Melbourne Cup). There are many more.

A tragedy of the reign of Zabeel, one in which he has been four times champion New Zealand sire by earnings, five by broodmares, twice champion Australian sire and leading Australian broodmare sire in three years, has been the small number of his sons that have received quality opportunity at stud. Three exceptions have been Octagonal (sire of Australian Horse of the Year and a champion sire Lonhro), Savabeel (three time champion New Zealand sire) and Reset.

There are only three of his sons in the 2017 edition of NZ Stallions book, Savabeel, Zed (dam by Danehill; sire of Group1 winner Survived) and Verdi (dam by Marsday sire Paris Opera; first season at stud) and the only one in Stallions books published in Australia is Reset (dam by Zeditave), a former

Melbourne performer who won all his five starts, including the Australian Guineas and Futurity Stakes. He has sired over 380 winners with 31 successful in stakes races including Fawkner (in Melbourne winner Makybe Diva Stakes, Caulfield Cup, Caulfield Stakes, second Cox Plate), Rebel Raider (won Victoria Derby, South Australian Derby), Pinker Pinker (filly: like Savabeel from a Success Express mare; Cox Plate winner, second in the Epsom and Futurity), Hauraki (won Epsom, second ATC Australian Derby) and Set Square (won Victoria Derby).

The Reset daughters could be a good avenue of access to Zabeel in the future. They have already produced over sixty winners and earners of \$4million. Four successful in stakes are the The Soultaker (NZ, by Iffraaj), Madeenaty (Exceed and Excel), Houtzen (I Am Invincible) and Fixation (Jet Spur).

Also his classic winning son Rebel Raider, a resident on \$6,600 at the Wyndholm Park Stud, Miner’s Rest, Victoria, is sire of stakes horses Waging War (Group 3 winner Adelaide), Pretty Punk (Listed winner Adelaide), Rockstar Rebel (second Queensland Derby), Ace Attack (winner Adelaide, third Morphettville Guineas) and Danger Deal (second Magic Millions Adelaide 2YO Classic, fourth SAJC Sires’ Produce Stakes).

**Detailed saleyard report**



**Saleyard report - cattle**

**Singleton** Report date 4/10/17

(Comparison Date 27/9/17) Yarding 670 Change -99

Numbers dropped, this was mainly due to the shorter selling week, together with the forecast rainfall. Quality was mixed with unfinished younger cattle suitable for the restockers, along with percentages of high yielding and prime conditioned pens purchased by the butchers. Cow numbers dropped significantly and the usual buyers competed in a dearer market. Vealer steers returning to the paddock lifted 15c to 20c, as the over 200kg pens ranged from 280c to 334c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers gained 20c, making from 230c to 299c/kg. Yearling steers to the restockers improved 14c to 20c, with the medium weights ranging from 240c to 290c/kg. The yearling heifer suitable for the restockers and feeder orders were limited in supply, however those sold trended dearer. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers continue to sell at premium levels, as the best heavy vealers topped at 336c/kg. The lighter cows eased 4c to average 173c, while the better finished heavy weights maintained firm prices, making from 208c to 210c/kg.

**Scone** report date 3/10/17

(Comparison Date 26/9/17) Yarding 840 Change -350

The holiday weekend reduced numbers for a fair to good quality penning of mainly younger cattle and there were around 205 cows in the offering. The bulk of the younger cattle went to restocker and lot feeder orders, with numbers also suitable for the butchers. The hint of rain and the reduced selling week lifted prices. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock gained 10c, making from 255c to 336c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers lifted 15c, ranging from 248c to 288c/kg. Yearling steers improved by 10c, with the medium weights to restocker orders making from 252c to 282c/kg. Yearling heifers gained 9c, with the lot feeders paying from 220c to 263c/kg to secure their selections. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers were higher yielding and prices lifted accordingly, with the best reaching 323c/kg. Grown heifers improved 5c in price, as the better selection of the lighter cows lifted 12c/kg. The better finished heavy weight cows dropped 6c, making from 186c to 210c/kg. The heavy weight bulls topped at 210c/kg.

**TRLX Tamworth** report date 25/9/17

(Comparison Date 18/9/17) Yarding 1490 Change +230

There was only a small increase in numbers with next week’s public holiday having little effect. All categories apart from vealers and manufacturing steers were well represented. Yearlings again making up the bulk. The quality of the offering was fair to very good, while condition varied quite a bit. Cattle off crops displayed good condition with some off grass paddocks showing the effects of a lack of feed. The usual buyers were in attendance. Demand for the good quality young cattle to feed was solid with market trends mostly firm. There were odd pens of heifers slightly dearer. Light weight steers suitable to restockers were also a little dearer. The secondary quality yearling cattle showed a slightly cheaper trend with buyers preferring to feed the better quality cattle. Market trends for well finished grown steers and heifers were firm to slightly cheaper. The cow market followed a similar trend with any price improvement quality related.



# Farewell Hunter Basketball



Hunter Basketball announced they'll finish up at Cessnock Toyota Stadium after two years of bringing our community some fantastic events. The community will miss the friendly face of General Manager, Brett Keeble, who played a vital part in delivering our community with wonderful new sporting programs and opened the doors to many other fitness, early learning, cultural and sporting organisations. The major success stories were the Coffee Club Cessnock Netball League, the Glencore Junior Basketball Classic, Maitland Roller Derby, the Wine

Country Masters Basketball Tournament and the Pokolbin Farm Stay Masters Netball. Brett said it has been a rewarding experience working in the Cessnock community and one he has thoroughly enjoyed. "Thanks to everyone who has visited the stadium, those who have supported our programs through generous sponsorships and in particular the great people from many different sporting and community groups who have patronised the facility." Cessnock City Council's, Acting Manager of Open Space and Community Facilities Nicole

Benson thanked Hunter Basketball for bringing the community a broad range of events. "It was great to see the introduction of new programs such as the learn to play basketball and futsal programs. Our community has certainly benefited from their time here." Hunter Basketball will cease operations at Cessnock Toyota Stadium today the 11 October. Expressions of interest for the management of the Cessnock Civic Indoor Sports Centre closed on the 29 September 2017.   
 ☒ Photo above: General Manager, Brett Keeble outside the stadium

Royal Federal Hotel

## Melbourne Cup

• L U N C H E O N •

TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER FROM 11AM

TRIVIA, SWEEPS & BEST DRESSED PRIZES | 2 COURSE LUNCH \$40PP | LIVE MUSIC FROM 4PM

**ALL FUNDS RAISED ON THE DAY WILL GO TO SUPPORTING BUCKS FOR BEN**

### Invitation to all RSL Sub Branches

Dedication of **BEERSHEBA 100th** anniversary statue.  
 Muswellbrook RSL Sub Branch

31st October 2017 marks the centenary of the Charge of Beersheba. There will be a grave side service followed by a Dedication of the Statue, and a Memorial Church Service.

Sequence of the day's events:  
 11:50 Form at LT COL D CAMERON'S Grave Site, Rouchel Cemetery.  
 12:00 Service starts.  
 15:20 Form up near the statue,  
 Brook Street, Muswellbrook. (use Woolworths underground parking) 15:30 Service starts.  
 16:25 Form up at St Albans Church, 19 Brook Street. (this a short walk from the statue.)

After the church service there will be LIGHT Refreshments at the Muswellbrook RSL Club.  
 For more information please contact the Muswellbrook Sub-Branch. [muswellbrookrslsub@bigpond.com](mailto:muswellbrookrslsub@bigpond.com)  
 P: 65411002 and leave a message.  
 Craig Ross President  
 Muswellbrook RSL sub-Branch.  
 0403555132



Mayor, Cr Loretta Baker, Councilors and General Manager David Evans invite you to attend a ceremony to exercise the rights to

### FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE CITY OF MAITLAND BY HMAS MAITLAND

SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER 2017

**10.00am** HMAS Maitland will exercise their right to Freedom of Entry to the City which will commence at The Levee, Central Maitland (Cnr Bourke and High Streets) followed by a march through the city along High Street.

A civic reception will be provided at the Maitland Regional Art Gallery following the conclusion of the march.

**RSVP:** Anita Osborne - Executive Assistant to the Mayor  
[Anita.Osborne@maitland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Anita.Osborne@maitland.nsw.gov.au)

**You're invited**

**HMAS MAITLAND**  
 HMAS Maitland is the sixth Armadale Class Patrol Boat (ACPB) built by Austral Ships in Perth, Western Australia. These are part of a \$553 million contract signed in December 2003 between the Federal Government and Defence Maritime Services.  
 The ACPB is one of the most advanced platforms of its kind in the world. The design and surveillance technology incorporated in the boat is state of the art and will enable it to operate anywhere around the Australian coast for extended periods.  
 HMAS Maitland is the first RAN vessel to bear the name Maitland. There was however, a previous HMAS Maitland, being a World War II Naval Establishment in Newcastle. She is named for the City of Maitland in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales.

19 20  
27 17

## NINETY YEARS YOUNG

Please join us to celebrate

### THE RFH'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

CELEBRATION DINNER **WED 25TH**  
 4 COURSES & DRINKS ON ARRIVAL **OCT**  
 BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL **6PM FOR**  
 TICKETS \$50 **6.30**



**Branxton Veteran Golfers**  
Results 28-9-17

Stableford  
Div 1 Winner L Hunt 37 pts (SOD) R/u I Harris 33 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> M Ford 30 pts (c/b)  
Div 2 Winner L Bootes 33 pts (c/b) R/u R Chalmers 33 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> S Condran 30 pts  
Ladies - Insufficient numbers to form a division  
NTPs Ladies T Martin  
Gents I Harris  
Members draw Not won  
Spring, again favoured our keen group of players, who had gathered for a round of golf, with a pleasant day - although cloudy with a weather forecast prediction of a 'sprinkle' or two. The players did not experience any 'sprinkles' and were back in the Club House before the gusty winds started. Congratulations to Lee Hunt on winning his division, with a commendable score of 37 pts, and on achieving the "Score of the Day". A well done to all winners and placegetters.

**HOLE IN ONE - Congratulations to John Vidler on scoring a "Hole-in-One" at the 4<sup>th</sup> hole.**

Results 5-10-17  
Stableford

Div 1 Winner L Hunt 36 pts (SOD) R/u T Seamer 32 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> R Moylan 31 pts (c/b)  
Div 2 Winner A Cannon 32 pts (c/b) R/u J Flynn 32 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> P Tracey 32 pts  
Ladies Winner P Threlfo 28 pts R/u F Oakes 27 (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> M Hunt 27 pts  
NTPs Ladies P Threlfo  
Gents R Williams

Members draw - Not won  
Another marvellous Spring day, although cloudy initially. Our merry band of players enjoyed the comfortable conditions, which was reflected in the scores. Congratulations to Lee Hunt on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day", for the second occasion, and a well done to other winners and placegetters.  
*LN Bootes, Hon Sec*

**Branxton Lady Golfers**

The results for Wednesday 27th September stableford event were:  
Winner on 37 points Caren Caldwell  
Runner up by count back on 37 points Jan Scobbie  
NTP Jan Scobbie  
Results for Wednesday 4th October were:  
Winner: Robyn Hoffman on 39 points  
Runner Up: Kerrie O'Connell on 37 points  
NTP: Chris Tancred  
Birdie to Ruth McCarthy on the 3rd, Chris Tancred on the 9th and Kerrie O'Connell on the 9th

**Branxton Golf Club**  
Saturday, 23 September 2017  
Stableford

Field: 41  
Grades A - winner ~ David Hollis 36  
Grades A - runner up ~ Tom Foster 36  
Grades A - third ~ Chris Zawirski 36  
Grades B - winner ~ Gary Walsh 38  
Grades B - runner up ~ Joseph Bereza 37  
Grades B - third ~ Richard Crooks 37  
Grades C - winner ~ Lennard Porter 38  
Grades C - runner up ~ Ted Zawirski 38  
Grades C - third ~ Lester Bootes 34  
NTP 2/11 ~ 2nd Richard Crooks  
NTP 4 ~ Col Hughes  
NTP 9/18 ~ 9th Kevin Walton -hole in one  
NTP 13 ~ 13th Stephen Kearney  
Balls ~ 12 Distributed down to score: 32  
Saturday's very hot and windy weather ensured all players kept their head down with only 32 pts needed to win a ball. Dave Hollis won A Grade, on a countback from his playing partner, Tom Foster with 36 pts, just ahead of the ever consistent Chris Zawirski with the same score. Gary Walsh won B Grade with the day's equal best stableford score of 38 pts, with Joe Bereza and Richard Crooks filling in the minor placings only one shot less. Lennie Porter continues to play well, with him winning C Grade with 38 pts, just ahead of Ted Zawirski on the same score and Lester Bootes third with his 34 pts. Undoubtedly, the story of the day belongs to Kevin "Doc" Walton, who had a hole in one on the last. This incredible moment was brilliantly explained by our Club Professional, Marcus—it goes as follows—  
"A story for those of us that believe in special things happen for reasons hard to explain—two weeks ago one of the guys that used to play golf at Branxton in the same group every week for

many years passed away...his mate, nicknamed DOC, a big chubby bearded bloke that everyone loves won the comp last week and in the paper dedicated it to his mate who passed away .. ten minutes ago, right in front of the club house, he skulled, all the way along the ground, a 135 m shot that incredibly rolled into the hole for a hole in one .... some people call it a coincidence, I told him it was your mate Mick saying thanks my friend..." A great story-well done Doc; this is a memory that all golfers always treasure.

Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017  
Saturday Comp - STABLEFORD

Field: 37  
Grades A Winner ~ Moylan, Mark 37c/b  
Grades A R/UP ~ McCaw, Troy 37  
Grades B Winner ~ O'Brien, Chris 37  
Grades B R/UP ~ Seamer, Tony 36c/b  
Grades C Winner ~ Porter, Lennard 39c/b  
Grades C R/UP ~ Barrett, Oliver 39  
NTP 2/11 2nd Moylan, Mark  
NTP 4 4th Walton, Kevin  
NTP 9/18 9th Biles, Robert  
NTP 13 13th Not Won  
11 Balls distributed down to score: 33c/b  
Mark Moylan won Saturday's A Grade Stableford Competition with a very competitive 37 pts, on a countback from the ever consistent Troy McCaw with the same score. Mark's score also included a nearest the pin on the 2<sup>nd</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> hole. Chris O'Brien won B Grade, also with 37 pts, just ahead of Tony Seamer's 36 pts. Lennie Porter has continued his recent rich form, winning C Grade with the day's best stableford score of 39 pts. Runner up, Oliver Barrett can consider himself a little unlucky as he also had 39 pts. Robert Biles made a welcome return to competition golf at Branxton, at least playing one good shot judging by his nearest the pin effort on the 9<sup>th</sup> hole. It is good to see him back. 33 pts was needed to win a golf ball on a day where only a small field of 37 players competed in the competition. Next week's event will be the Monthly Medal which will be an excellent opportunity for all players to test their game with the Club Championships coming up very soon.

Saturday, 7th Oct 2017  
Saturday Comp - Stroke Monthly Medal

Field: 44  
*Medal Winner - Michael Tracey 65 nett*  
A Grade - Winner ~ Gary Wilton 67 nett  
A Grade - R/UP ~ Lee Hunt 68 nett  
B Grade - Winner ~ Reece Caldwell 67 nett c/b  
B Grade - R/UP ~ Joseph Bereza 67 nett  
C Grade - Winner ~ Barry Turner 68 nett  
C Grade - R/UP ~ Ted Zawirski 69 nett  
NTP 2/11 J Tracey 110 cm NTP 4 P Wilton 414 cm  
NTP 9/18 T Zawirski 99 cm NTP 13 D Turner 149 cm  
Balls Distributed down to score: 72 nett  
One of the club's most consistent and talented golfers for many years, Mick Tracey, produced a very fine round of a net 65 to win the Monthly Medal on Saturday. Mick has been the lynchpin of the A Grade Pennant side for many years, and he is regularly in the final 4 A Graders in the final round of the club championships—so he certainly knows how to play! Gary Wilton who now qualifies for the super veteran stage showed how it is done by winning the A Grade with an excellent 67 nett with another local veteran, Lee Hunt, runner up with his 68 nett score. Reece Caldwell won B Grade with his 67 nett, only on a count back from Joe Bereza—it is good to see both these local players in the winners list as they are weekly regulars at Branxton. Barry Turner, fresh from his recent excellent play in the Branxton 5skins final, won C Grade with a very pleasing 68 nett, just ahead of Ted Zawirski who continues to play well. A net 72 score was needed to win a ball. It was astonishing to see Joshua Tracey, won of the best golfers in the club, win the nearest the pin on the 2<sup>nd</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>, finishing only 110 cms away as he is still recovering from a recent horrific knee injury. Ted Zawirski earned the shot of the day status with his shot to the 9<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> finishing only 99 cms away.

**Hunter Valley Golf Club**

*Sunday 17th September*  
Garhame Mankelow has taken The Weekly Challenge after surviving a countback from Steven Balks after both returned 36 point cards.  
*Tuesday 19th September*  
No Golf this week due to Greens Coring.  
*Wednesday 20th September*  
The Ladies played a Stableford Multiplier with the team of Jan Hovey and Jeanette Irwin winning the day with 55 points from Diane Atton runners up with 50 points.  
*Thursday 21st September*  
Ken Harris and John Carmody handled the freshly cored greens best in the Vets 2 Person No Scotch event with a great 64.75 net from Dale & Jenny Macklinshaw who returned 65.5 in the runner up position. Ball winners were: Ray Hodson & Ray Newton 66, Doug Wand & Paul Ireland 66.75, Wayne Barber & Peter Munro 66.75, Steve Piggot & John Brown 70, Bruce Chambers & Ken Wright 70.5, David Peel & Kevin Smith 71, Geoff Sweetman & Wayne Berry 71.25, Heinz Kestermann & Eric Smith 72.5, Darrell Preston & John Harrison 74, Greg Ireland & Garry Marsden 75.25, Keith Dunlop & Peter Wilson 77.25 and Lynette Russell & Robyn Dunlop 82. Nearest-the-Pins went to Steve Piggot (3rd & 17th) and Wayne Berry (10th).  
*Saturday 23rd September*  
Cessnock visitor Glen Foster has won A Grade in the

Medley Stableford with 37 points from Ray Hodson on 35, B Grade to Maitland visitor Josh Wilkinson with 43 points from Peter Milas on 42 and C Grade to Peter Atwell with 41 points from playing partner Garry Clarke who returned 40 points. Ball winners were: Julie Van Den Berg 41, Andrew Parsons v40, Peter Puerta 38, Wayne Thompson 37, Greg Ireland 37, Colin Mills 37, Scott Jones 36, Lorraine Clack 36, John Parish 36, Tom Bellamy 36, Ken Springbett 35, Jingger Caling v34, Wayne Jenkin 34, Jarrod Smith 34, John Stewart 34 and Craig Sharp 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Lorraine Clack (3rd) John Parish (4th) Tom Bellamy (8th) Nick Nancarrow (10th) and Scott Jones (17th).

*Sunday 24th September*  
Mathew Dwight has won the Weekly Challenge from Maitland visitor Zachary Mexon after the returned 37 and 36 points

*Monday 25th September*  
The Ladies annual Open Day has been won by the Hunter Valley pairing of Lynette Russell and Jenelle Jurd with 44 points in the 4BBB format from Jill Slatter and Jenny Chambers, also from HV with 43 points on countback to 3rd placed Susan Newton and Trish Napier of the Australian GC with Muswellbrook duo Dordie Bragg and Barb Hunter 4th with 42 points from Tania Carrigan and Susan Weis of Merriwa and Sue Williams and Leesa Robinson HV all on 42 points. Nearest-the-Pins went to Jill Slatter, Christine Tancred and Lorraine Clack with Lyn Banks winning the Straight Drive. Many thanks to the Green Staff, Pro shop, Gartelmann Wines, Adina Vineyard, Kerrie-Anne Skinner, PK's General Store, Australia Hotel, Lochinvar Hotel, and all the Ladies who contributed with morning tea and participation in the day.

*Tuesday 26th September*  
Elder 'statesman' Geoff Sweetman showed a liking for the slow greens at the moment with an excellent 41 points to clearly win the Tuesday Stableford for Greg Ireland on 38 and Ken Wright 3rd with 36 on countback. Ball winners were: Andrew Cawsey 36, David Peel 35, Steve Piggot 35, Graeme Flynn 34, Dale Macklinshaw 33, Michael Watson 33 and Rick Turnchini 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Geoff Sweetman (3rd) Gary Arnold (4th) Dylan Cawsey (10th) and Steve Piggot (17th)

*Wednesday 27th September*  
Sue Williams play outstanding Golf in the Ladies Par event to blitz the field with a +7 return to be the only Lady to break Par, bound to catch the attention of the handicapper! Runner up was Lynette Russell from Jan Hovey in 3rd. Ball winners were: Jill Ramsden, Sue Peel and Di Atton.

*Thursday 28th September*  
A 3 way countback as required to split the placings in the Vets Stableford with Wayne Barber getting the better of Geoff Sweetman and Mark Barrow after all had 38 point returns. Ball winners were: Dave Fury 37, David Peel 36, Francis Bird v36, John Harrison 35, Wayne Berry 34, Steve Piggot 34, Doug Wand 34, Garry Marsden 34 and Peter Payne 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Doug Wand (3rd & 10th) Ray Hodson (4th) Dale Macklinshaw (8th) and John Brown (17th) Next week the Vets will play Par

*Saturday 30th September*  
The 'back' Tees challenge all of the men in Saturday's Medley Stableford with Par being hard to match. A Grade went to Adrian Russell with 35 points from David Peel 32 c/b, B Grade to Julie Van Den Berg with 38 points from Paul Bullock 35 c/b and C Grade to Wayne Cowan with 36 points to be the only male to match Par in the field with Kevin Smith runner up with 35 c/b. Ball winners were: John Brown 35, Brad Duncan 35, Mark Faulkner 34, Nathan Sweeney 33, Lorraine Clack 33, John Grayson v32, Nigel Hotton v32, Tom Blomley 32, Ken Springbett 31, Graeme Flynn 31, Todd Mitchell 31, Dianne Oakes 30 and Bruce Chambers 30 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to John Grayson (3rd) Kevin Smith (4th) Todd Mitchell (8th) and Paul Bullock (17th). Next week will be the Monthly Medal Stroke rounds.

*Local sports results kindly sponsored by .....*

**Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate**

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Branxton 2335

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**What do you see in your Reflection?**  
There are less than 90 days until Christmas 2017. There, I've said it. I've used the "C" word! And it isn't even Halloween yet! Where has the year gone? What happened to all the plans I had for the New Year? The trips I was going to take? The money I was going to save? The weight I was going to lose? Have I really just wasted 9 months of my life and achieved nothing? Of course not! As the year heads closer to its inevitable conclusion, it's tempting to feel disheartened at the thought of all the things we haven't done (yet) this year. So now is the perfect time to reflect on all the things we have done. This does not mean we dwell on the past. Rather, we look at what went well and what didn't go so well. Take me for instance, my on-line fitness program isn't up and running (yet) but I did manage to keep my "This is Not Bootcamp" classes running all through winter, and I even had some new clients join me along the way! On the home front I didn't do everything I had planned - the inside still doesn't have a new coat of paint, and I haven't decluttered, but I have (mostly) resisted the urge to buy anything new. I have set up a gym at home where I can train clients, and I have a veggie garden - something I didn't have time for when I worked away from home. Take some time this week to make a list of what you have done - you will probably surprise yourself. Next, think about the things that didn't go so well - the things you didn't start, or the things you quit. Include projects that fizzled out (like me painting the house) and the disasters. Also include the resolutions/goals you had at the start of the year, and whether you achieved them. Now you have your two lists look at them closely. What would you do differently if you could? You can't change anything that happened, so this isn't about regrets. It's about learning from the past so you can put better plans in place for the future. Even the things that went right can teach us about ourselves and what works well for us. What additional things would you like to have done? There are nearly three months left in 2017. How do you want to spend them? Worrying about the things you haven't done, or actually doing them? With some reflection and planning you can still make some amazing progress towards your goals and finish the year on a high!

**What else is happening at Louise Cairns Fit for Life?**  
We are almost finished the Bring on Sunshine and Spring 6 Week Challenge. The Next challenge will begin in late October and will be an 8 week challenge taking you right through to Christmas (can you believe it?!). And if you need help setting and achieving your goals, you can download a copy of my free guidebook from my Website.

**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 work shops and speaking engagements (they can be related to Fitness or Personal Development). Find me on Facebook or check out my website at*

# BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

# The New **SPORT**

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when....

## 'Colts' Over 35's ARL Master Tour a success

Over 10 years ago ~ March 2007

During the month of March the Greta/ Branxton Colts Over 35's Rugby League team travelled to Runaway Bay on the Gold Coast to contest the inaugural ARL Masters competition.

The Colts performed creditably, coming away with four victories from their five games completed over the course of three days.

The Wednesday bus trip to Newcastle airport was an eventful one, with the 17-man strong squad looking like being reduced to 16 after John "Bunter" Hunter got caught up in the hype of things and forgot to inform the bus driver to stop at Maitland to pick up Mr Sport himself John Jabor.

Fortunately Jabor was able to board a later flight and the squad was back to its full compliment late that afternoon. The boys enjoyed the Masters opening ceremony over tea and a few beers and everyone was in bed at a reasonable hour.

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March the Colts first up opponent was the Far North Queensland Cyclones, with the Colts eventually coming away with a 26-4 victory. Speedster Leeroy Hamon grabbed a double, with Allen "Slim" Barnes, Brett "Muddy" Waters and skipper Scott "Croc" Westwood all crossing for one each. Hunter added three goals in a fairly polished display.

After a lengthy break which included various activities mainly involving the schooner glass, the afternoon session saw the Colts take on local side the Parkwood Sharks. A depleted Sharks outfit were assisted when Glen George, John Jabor and Jason MacBeth all insisted on playing against the Greta/ Branxton side. Hunter bagged a double while Hamon and Barnes added to their try scoring tally and the Colts came away with an 18-6 victory.

After a steady night session at local bar



"Toolies", Alan Thompson awoke at 4:30am Friday morning to find Brett "Mad Dog" Russell doing Tai Chi on the 16<sup>th</sup> Floor balcony. This type of meditation followed by an 8km run along Surfers Paradise's main beach was apparently Mad Dog's method of motivating himself for the big game each morning. Most other players opted for a dip in the surf to refresh the weary bones and rinse the liver.

At 11:00am the Colts made the tough twenty minute bus ride out to Runaway bay, with Thompson once again

providing most of the rib tickling entertainment on the way.

The first match of the day saw them take on a tough Penrith Brothers outfit, with the Colts once again coming away victorious 26-12. Brett Waters scored a double, with Hamon and Darren Cousins crossing for one each, however the highlight of the match was Westwood's customary "chip 'n chase" that resulted in a try under the sticks. Hunter kicked two goals and Glen George booted one to put the icing on the cake.

The much anticipated afternoon match was as expected the Colts biggest test to date against a Maori plagued Melbourne Thunder outfit. This side was actually hand picked from trials so as one can imagine there were not too many stragglers among their side.

Not to be denied the Colts stuck to the game plan and aimed up once again, this time coming away with a 6-0 victory after Doug "The Mule" Waters crashed over close to the posts late in the first half. Hunter added the extras with the second stanza remaining scoreless although some high quality football was played.

The Colts dressing shed resembled a hospital at the end of the second day with all players pretty much busted, and if the players were literally Colts they would have received the same treatment a wounded horse would. However the attractive Melbas night spot was still a

popular choice for the walking wounded. "Mad Dog" Russell was in the spotlight again, apparently talking to his legs trying to get them to dance.

The final day of competition came around quickly and the long faces on the final bus ride out to Runaway Bay pretty much summed up how blokes were feeling after two gruelling days of Rugby League. Hooker Steve Purcehouse withdrew at the last minute with cracked ribs. This

injury was more a result of the constant laughing he endured over the previous days rather than from football.

Never-the-less the Colts managed to field a side against the also previously undefeated Mackay Sea Eagles. This team featured Kevin Champion and Martin Bella, both of which still looked pretty fit and playing at a similar weight as to when they were playing in the NRL. Warwick "Wok" Dries was inspired by the fact that when he locked horns with Bella in the scrum he wasn't the only one without a hair on his head. Leigh Ernst managed to cross the try line for Greta/Branxton but the class of the Mackay side shone through as they went on to win the game 16-4.

A massive sigh of relief was breathed at the completion of this final game, and celebrations carried on well into the night at the nearby Grand Hotel, where "dancing with the stars" talent scouts were keeping a close eye on the Colts half back for future competition.

A recovery session was held at Fisherman's Wharf on the Sunday before winding down to the plane trip back home on the Monday.

A big thankyou goes out to sponsors the Royal Federal Hotel, Oasis Restaurant, Greta Workers Club, A-Plus Contracting and Tooheys. Without the generosity of these people this tour would not have been possible. All players thoroughly enjoyed themselves and will no doubt be back to compete again next year.

Photo above: Scott "Croc" Westwood customary "chip 'n chase" against the Penrith Brothers

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