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TUESDAY
5 April 2016

Concerns grow for personal safety as large & wild feral dog numbers increase



Q. Neil "Clarry" Jones with grandson Charlie & his latest trapped wild dog.

LOCAL property owner Neil "Clarry" Jones has plenty to be concerned about. Speaking from his property, The Drovers Camp on Elderslie Road Branxton, he said that within the last six weeks he has had eight lambs slaughtered by, as he described them, savage & large wild dogs. Another two were mutilated & had to be 'put down'. These attacks occurred during the day. He said his concerns are threefold with their size & savageness being his main

concern. "I have been trapping them and have trapped three at this stage. The last one (pictured above) was very large & I estimate that he would have been around three years old & in all my life have never seen such a savage beast. "All that have been trapped are different ages therefore from different litters. "Our property is on the edge of Branxton with housing developments just down the road. "If a child happened to stumble on them I'm sure

that they would attack & the consequences could be fatal". Clarry said it appears that they have crossbred with dingos & that has been confirmed by a biosecurity officer from the Hunter Local Land Services who said he had seen wild dogs with "dingo genes in them" in our area. "The best thing we can do is raise community awareness about where these dogs are. They are not very far from the major residential areas", said Clarry.

Clarry said that he is not alone with his stock loses with property owners at Stanope, Elderslie & Fernhill Road suffering as well. "My other concerns are the large number breeding so close & ofcourse the lose of stock to property owners. "We need more resources thrown at this big problem before a child is killed," said Clarry. Under the *Local Land Services Act 2013* all land managers in NSW CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Local Councillor remembered as Freeman of the City

Cessnock City Council has honoured the late Councillor Jeffrey Maybury by supporting his nomination for Freeman of the City at the ordinary council meeting on Wednesday 16 March 2016. Only one current councillor voted against the nomination. Councillor Jeffrey Maybury dedicated a lifetime of service to his community, serving Cessnock City Council for more than 34 years. A resident in the Weston and Abermain area for 71 years, he worked tirelessly to support his community by offering his time and leadership, contributing more than 15,000 hours of his own time to achieve the Weston Heritage and Tidy Town Committee's outcomes.



The late Councillor Jeffrey Maybury who has been honoured by being given Freeman of the City

He served as president of the Weston RSL Sub Branch and was committed to supporting the St Vincent De Paul organisation as president on two occasions. "I had the honour of working alongside Councillor Maybury for 16 years and his passion for his community was paramount," Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent said. "His depth of local knowledge and fierce community spirit lives on through his projects and the organisations he helped to support." "Freeman of the City is an honour fitting for his breadth and depth of service to our community." Cr Maybury saw many projects he supported come to fruition over the years including the construction of the Multipurpose Centre and restoration of old Council chambers at Greta. He was also a long-time advocate for the general maintenance and improvement of Chinamans Hollow/ Peace Park at Weston and Miller Park at Branxton, and was instrumental in the walkway between North Rothbury and Branxton. An official ceremony will be held in his honour, details will be released shortly. Cr Maybury is survived by his wife of 50 years Pat and children Karen and Justin.

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APRIL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT YOUR LIBRARY

Bookings essential, numbers strictly limited

Wii & Board Games Ages 7+	Monday 11 April	Cessnock Library 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm
	Monday 18 April	Kurri Kurri Library 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm FREE
Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle Storytime Ages 2-6	Tuesday 12 April	Cessnock Library 10.00 am – 10.45 am
	Wednesday 13 April	Kurri Kurri Library 10.00 am – 10.45 am FREE
Rock Your Sock! Ages 9+	Tuesday 12 April	Kurri Kurri Library 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm
	Wednesday 13 April	Cessnock Library 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm \$3.00
Clothing Swap Night Ages 12+	Tuesday 12 April	Kurri Kurri Library 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm
	Wednesday 13 April	Cessnock Library 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm FREE
Manga Drawing Workshop Ages 8+	Thursday 14 April	Kurri Kurri Library 10.30 am – 11.30 am
	Thursday 14 April	Cessnock Library 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm FREE
Bowls from Books Papier Mache Ages 5-12	Friday 15 April	Kurri Kurri Library 10.00 am – 11.00 am
	Friday 22 April	Cessnock Library 10.00 am – 11.00 am \$3.00
Happy/Sad Story time Ages 2-6	Tuesday 19 April	Cessnock Library 10.00 am – 10.45 am
	Wednesday 20 April	Kurri Kurri Library 10.00 am – 10.45 am FREE
Movie & Craft Afternoon Ages 5-12	Tuesday 19 April	Cessnock Library 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm
	Wednesday 20 April	Kurri Kurri Library 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm FREE
Gift Making Workshop Ages 5-12	Thursday 21 April	Cessnock Library 10.00 am – 11.00 am
	Thursday 21 April	Kurri Kurri Library 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm \$3.00

Cessnock Library 4993 4399 Kurri Kurri Library 4937 1638

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Cessnock City Council is calling for Expressions of Interest to join its Economic Development Strategy Committee (EDSC).

The purpose of the Committee is to convene Council members and external representatives to deliberate on key issues and provide information, advice and recommendations to Council on Economic Development for the Cessnock Local Government Area.

The EDSC will comprise 3 Councillors, up to 8 business representatives and 2 community representatives, as well as Council representatives.

The Committee will meet as often as required to conduct its business but not less than bi-monthly.

Applicants from the business and local community possessing a strong commitment to advancing the Cessnock Local Government Area's economic future are encouraged to submit their Expression of Interest by completing the form at www.advancecessnock.com.au/edsc

The **closing date** to receive an expression of interest application is Monday **18 April 2016**.

PO BOX 152
CESSNOCK 2325

STEPHEN GLEN
GENERAL MANAGER



Heritage Week Photo Competition

Cessnock City Council is pleased to be a part of Heritage Week from 16 to 24 April 2016 with a photo competition open to all residents within the local government area. Entries for the Cessnock City Council Heritage Photography Competition are now open, providing an opportunity for our creative community to

celebrate our unique local heritage. Photographs must contain features of a listed heritage item, or be taken in a Heritage Conservation Area or Aboriginal Place of Heritage Significance, as listed in Schedule 5 of the Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011. A full list of Heritage

Items and maps of the Heritage Conservation Areas are available from www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/heritageweek. A panel of judges will select first, second and third place in two categories; child/youth (under 18) and adult (18 and over).

Entries close on Friday 8 April, with winners being announced during Heritage Week. Entries must be submitted in JPEG format by: **Email** council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au, please quote 'Heritage Photography Competition' in the subject **Post** Heritage Photography Competition, PO Box 152, Cessnock NSW 2325 **In person** Cessnock City Council Administration Building 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock NSW 2325

HERITAGE WEEK PHOTO COMPETITION

ENTRIES NOW OPEN

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 5PM FRIDAY 8 APRIL

Celebrate Heritage Week in Cessnock City local area by capturing our unique history. The winners will be announced during Heritage Week, 16 to 24 April 2016.

To enter simply photograph a heritage listed item and submit your JPEG file to Council via email council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au

The competition will be judged by the Heritage Committee across two categories youth (under 18) and adult (18 and over). Prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

For a full list of heritage sites in the Cessnock local area visit Council's website www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

For more information contact Council on 4993 4127 or visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/heritageweek



Please visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/heritageweek for full entry details and terms and conditions. Any enquiries should be directed to Council's Strategic Land Use Planning section on 4993 4127.

FROM FRONT PAGE Concerns grow for personal safety as large & wild feral dog numbers increase

..... whether on public or private land, have an obligation to control declared pest species on their land. Species currently declared pests in NSW are:

- wild rabbits
- wild dogs
- feral pigs
- foxes (European Red)
- feral camels (Western Division of NSW only)
- a number of locust species (the Australian Plague, Spur-Throated and Migratory).

Local level Land Services biosecurity officers can provide advice with eradicating declared pest species, coordinate management plans to control vertebrate pests,

inspect properties for declared pests, help to develop a plan to control pest populations, provide advice on controlling nuisance animals – either through group baiting programs (organised with your neighbours) or individual control methods & help you obtain suitable control options. Local Land Services run a short training course which will allow landholders to use 1080 and Pindone baits on their properties. The three-hour course gives landholders a clear understanding of 1080 and Pindone use and their legal obligations. The AQF chemical application courses remain a requirement for use of any other pesticide. The training courses are delivered by Local Land Services biosecurity officers and cover topics such as baiting techniques, toxicity, storage, transport, legislation and OH&S. Those completing the course will be issued a certification card and will remain accredited to use 1080 and Pindone for five years.

“We need an organised approach to eradicate the problem & for local residents to ring the Local Land services office if they come across any,” said Clarry.



Hunter Poppy Forging Day



ing all sides of the conflict – those who died as well as those who survived. The project holds extra significance for Will as his great grandfather, Roy Hamilton of Singleton, fought with the Australian Imperial Forces 34th Battalion in Flanders during the First World War. September's week-long

Australians, particularly those in the Hunter Valley, have a unique opportunity to be part of a special First World War memorial being created in September by an international group of blacksmiths in Flanders, Belgium.

In preparation for the event, Elderslie artist blacksmith Will Maguire has organised a community forging day on May 7 at his Elderslie workshop, near Branxton, for people to make hand-forged steel poppies that will become an integral part

of the proposed memorial. Will is to represent Australia at the Belgium event that marks the 100th anniversary of World War I. He has been invited as one of 25 master blacksmiths from around the world, to design and make one of 25 featured fence panels to surround an 11-tonne steel cenotaph that will be erected near Ypres, Belgium. The memorial will stand as a symbol of reconciliation and unity for future generations, commemorat-

ing more than 150 blacksmiths from countries including Russia, Japan, Palestine, Ukraine, Chile, America, Denmark, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and throughout Europe. It is



being coordinated by the Belgium Guild of Blacksmiths and the British Artist Blacksmiths Association. As a journeyman blacksmith eight years ago, Will lived and worked in England with British smiths who are helping organise the memorial. They invited him to be Australia's master to design a fence panel and lead a team in

Belgium to build it. "This project is not glorifying war. It is the initiative of a group of craftspeople with an international spirit of collaboration and friendship to acknowledge a dark part of our collective history," Will said. The cenotaph and surrounding memorial panels will be permanently installed adjacent to the German War Cemetery at Langemark Poekapelle, near Ypres. The simple seven meter high rectangular main structure featuring a stylised Flanders poppy will stand in a circular field of 2016 forged steel poppies that will be made all around the globe and be transported to the site. Will wants to give the community an opportunity to contribute as many Australian-made poppies as possible. On May 7, at his

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Elderslie workshop, near Branxton, he will hold an open forging day. Everyone is welcome to come along and try their hand at making a poppy, or sponsor one to be made by an experienced blacksmith on the day. They will all be sent to Belgium for the memorial field. The forging day also aims to raise money to help with the significant cost of participating in such an event, so a donation of \$30

will be asked for making or sponsoring a poppy. Poppy blanks are being generously supplied by the Artist Blacksmiths Association of NSW and international shipping is being coordinated by blacksmiths throughout Australia.

To participate, or find out more, please email Will at poppyforging@outlook.com or call him on 0423 289 648

ANZAC Day~ Greta RSL program

'Greta RSL Sub-Branch invites all members and their families, residents of Greta and any other interested parties to attend our ANZAC Day Commemorations at Greta. This year recognises the 100th Anniversary of the Western Front, where some of the bloodiest battles of WW1 were fought. It is also the 100th Anniversary of the RSL which was set up to cater to the needs of returned servicemen and their families and indeed to the families of those who did not return. The 50th Anniversary of the commencement of the Vietnam conflict is also part of our commemorations this year as quite a number of our current RSL members are returned from "The War That Never Was".

The Day will commence at 5.30am with the Dawn Service at the Cenotaph, followed by a Gunfire Breakfast at the Old

Courthouse. The March will commence at 9.30am leaving the corner of the New England Hwy and Nelson St, and finishing at the Cenotaph. The Main Service being held at the Cenotaph at approximately 10am. Battery powered tea-light candles and hand held Australian flags will be available at a table adjacent to the Rotunda prior to the Dawn Service, for a gold coin donation. The flags will also be available at the Old Courthouse prior to the March, still for a gold coin donation. Our ANZAC Badges are available daily at Greta Newsagency and Greta Guardian Chemist, as well as, Lochinvar Post Office; and will also be available at the Old Courthouse throughout both Services. Please come and join our current ANZAC personnel as they remember the generations who have passed before.'

Free workshop for parents & supervising drivers

Cessnock City Council will host a free information session for those 'gearing up' to supervise learner drivers from 6pm to 8pm on Thursday 7 April 2016 at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre. The evening will offer practical advice for parents, grandparents, neighbours and friends who are involved in teaching a learner driver. Topics will include:

- * understanding current laws that apply to L and P licence holders
 - * completing the learner driver log book
 - * understanding the benefits of supervised on-road driving experience
 - * tactics for supervising learner drivers & low risk driving.
- Council's Road Safety Officer Warren Jeffery said the workshop aims to take some of the stress out of teaching learner drivers by answering frequently asked questions. According to Roads and Maritime Services statistics the Cessnock local

government area averages close to 700 learner drivers per year. "If you are going to be supervising a learner driver these workshops are a great opportunity to refresh your own knowledge," Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent said. Participants will receive a free

information kit to take home and light refreshments will be served. Places are limited. To book a space in the free contact Council on 4993 4244 or email

council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au

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- Kurri Kurri Library
- Cessnock Library*

(*mobile phones no longer accepted at this location)



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Email: environment@cessnock.nsw.gov.au www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

What's Happening & other matters

with **Mike Lowing**

the Police Station is rarely manned. This is not the fault of the serving police officers, they are being utilised in other towns away from this area. Currently if you have an "issue" you will generally talk to the staff at Muswellbrook

I have just checked the online petition directed to the NSW Police Minister asking for an improvement in police presence in our local area & it is, sad to say, lacking good numbers. As at last Saturday only 288 people had registered their name on the website.

The website is <https://www.change.org/p/mr-troy-grant-mp-mr-clayton-barr-more-police-presence-in-branxton-greta-north-rothbury> There is some good news though; the physical petition numbers are very good.

You can find them in both Branxton & Greta at some of the businesses there. Just to remind the community what the petition says and asks for: "Branxton-Greta-North Rothbury and surrounding areas are sadly neglected when it comes to safety and police support in this area. We as taxpayers are paying to maintain a Police Station in Branxton, unfortunately

Station. This is not good enough, Branxton is a good 60 minute drive from Muswellbrook. Local residents are urged to sign the petition and ask that the Minister for Justice and Police rethink the way in which our area is policed. With the current building/land developments being approved and on the increase the residents deserve better".

Had a note from the organisers of the Branxton St Brigid's Monthly Markets that were held on Sunday 20th March. It appears that they had a lot of competition within the area with Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival, Maitland Field Day & a motorbike event in Greta. With all that going on they were still pleased with the numbers especially the support shown by the local community. Each market is growing with lots of variety in stalls it said.



At the 17th April's Markets the Branxton RSL Sub Branch will be there selling ANZAC DAY Badges for their club.

You will see an article elsewhere in this edition where Cessnock City Council has honoured the late Councillor Jeffrey

Maybury by supporting his nomination for Freeman of the City.

I have just been informed that a large number of residents within the LGA have signed a petition supporting the renaming of Peace Park to Jeff Maybury's Peace Park & have called upon Cessnock Council to support and make the appropriate arrangements for the renaming of the park. I hope council support it.

There is no need to invoke discrimination laws to change the definition of marriage, or to challenge archaic religious values. That's just silly posturing. Life is too short. *Maureen Lind, North Rothbury NSW*

Not a country police state I was interested to see how the residents of Branxton are trying to have the Police Station at Branxton re-opened and while I think the idea has great need and great merit I doubt very much if the idea has any possibility due to the state governments priority plans. It's important to realise that this state is either broke, penniless or just not interested in the community outside Sydney. The fact is local policing is not financially beneficial to the government opposed to highway patrol which is very beneficial. Therefore,

Two women were out for a Saturday stroll. One had a Doberman and the other, a Chihuahua. As they walked down the street, the one with the Doberman said to her friend, "Let's go over to that bar for a drink." The lady with the Chihuahua said, "We can't go in there. We've got dogs with us." The one with the Doberman said, "Just watch, and do as I do." They walked over to the bar and the one with the Doberman put on a pair of dark glasses and started to walk in. The bouncer at the door said, "Sorry, lady, no pets allowed." The woman with the Doberman said, "You don't understand. This is my seeing-eye dog." The bouncer said, "A Doberman?" The woman said, "Yes, they're using them now ... they're very good." The bouncer said, "OK, come on in." The lady with the Chihuahua thought that convincing him that a Chihuahua was a seeing-eye dog may be a bit more difficult, but thought, "what the heck," so she put on her dark glasses and started to walk in. Once again the bouncer said, "Sorry, lady, no pets allowed." The woman said, "You don't understand. This is my seeing-eye dog" The bouncer said, "A Chihuahua?" The woman with the Chihuahua said, "A Chihuahua? They gave me a Chihuahua?"



automatically provide nurture education and health for children. Children are a throw away commodity for some married people, tossed away when marriages and partnerships fail. It happened after children were returned from the country in the UK when the war was over. Perhaps one parent had been killed and the other remarried and the new partner didn't want the children. Awful things happen to children, at the hands of some adults. A loving family is just that. Blended, mixed, homosexual, whatever, couples are joined by more than hormones; they also bond together and nurture each other and when that nurturing includes a child all the better. It seems to me that couples who insist they want to 'marry' might complete a contract as in France where under the protocol of PACS the Government joins

together all couples, regardless of sexual preference. It is a legal and binding. That is equality. It has become an ever more popular half-way house to a traditional marital union & France is basically a Catholic country. PACS was a response to growing pressure from France's gay community to create some legal underpinning for homosexual unions. But deliberately, the PACS system was not made the equivalent of a gay marriage. Pacsé couples could be of the same sex but didn't have to be. They were accorded some but not all of the joint tax and financial privileges of their married counterparts. However, if things didn't work out, breaking off the relationship was made much simpler than the usually arduous divorce process that would face a classically married couple.

under the guise of road safety, resources are poured into that sector and not police on the beat. I have learned lately how local commands are under staffed and under-resourced and their powers have been eroded to such a extent its hard for those in general policing to do their job. Nowadays priorities are made of jobs and those down the list are simply cold cased. So, many of your problems with huge numbers of new people and communities opening in this area simply cannot get the help needed because of a work load on the few police available. No wonder the general community thinks the law is an ass! Powerless police under separate commands, different bosses for highway patrol as opposed to general policing & each sector trying to get

resources from the entire department; you don't have to be to bright to know which section will get the benefits. A new 'candy car' will make more money than a 'paddy-wagon'; picking up felons, stealing cars, robbing houses & the cancer in of society of drug houses known to police but cannot be touched because of privacy laws & warrants that are very hard to get; that is the current state of law enforcement in this state. I do hope some political party will come along soon & take this

matter seriously. A political party who will change laws needed in this day-and-age to make policing easier; increasing powers & dispensing of jungle of red tape, is what's needed. Until then it's bad luck for our states citizens!!!! *Rod Taylor, Stanhope*

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,
Silly Posturing
Interesting to read the views of Peter J Young of Greta (The News 15/3/16). I do not know what the giant penis represents, other than the obsession of youth with sex. I remember 5 young males marching down our street holding bananas in front of their jeans and laughing their heads off. That in the 1950's shocked my 'Victorian mother'. Perhaps the Penis is a modern adaption of the said bananas & designed to shock or perhaps as a giant middle finger to the general community, but a symbol for anal sex; I don't think so. That is an anathema to most people who might rather stick their finger in a pickle slicer. Marriage alone does not exclusively or



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Broke..... 6579 1491

Greta..... 4015 0000

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Pokolbin..... 4015 0000

Rothbury..... 4991 1733

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Electricity Energy Australia..... 131 388

Hospitals Maitland... 4939 2000

Cessnock... 4991 0555

Singleton... 6572 2799

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Letters to the editor can be sent to:

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

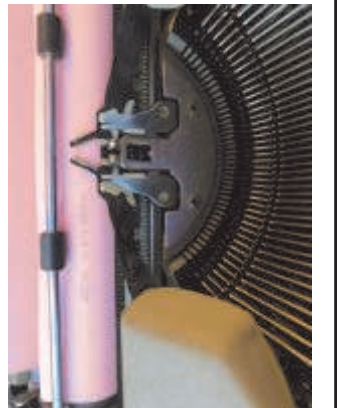
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or emailed to

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Hair!

while sitting with her Auntie Debbie, prior to her passing, said she would shave her head in World's Greatest Shave to raise some money for research. Sadly Debbie's Auntie was unable to witness the event having lost her brave battle with the disease. Debbie registered with the Leukaemia Foundation World's Greatest Shave commencing fund

Greta resident Debbie Eggleton took a very brave step last month by participating in the Leukaemia Foundation World's Greatest Shave. Debbie lost an aunty to Lymphoma last year and

raising setting herself a goal of \$5000. The grand fundraising event was held at The Bradford Hotel at Rutherford on Saturday 12th March. Ash Mountain band played, raffles, hair



Hair going!

colouring, games, dancing and fun meant a great fun filled afternoon with fabulous fund raising results! \$2000 was raised during this afternoon. On Friday 4th March Debbie attended an award presentation in Newcastle recognising her 20 year career with Elizabeth Gates Village in Singleton for

Uniting Ageing. Debbie began her career in aged care in January 1995 working with the now manager Carol Lyddiard straight out of school and on night duty. Carol said Debbie has a great personality, is confident and is loved by all the elderly. Debbie gets involved in everything; she's ready to put her hand up for anything and everything and participating in the shave for a cure is testament to her dedication and contribution to others and her community.

The staff of Elizabeth Gates Village wanted to help their colleague in her fundraising so they got right behind her contributing just over \$1000.

The residents and staff had great fun paying for the privilege to colour Debbie's hair on Thursday 10th March, resident craft was given as prizes in a raffle, 100 Club numbers were taken by family and friends, Dote offered to make spring rolls for sale & residents donated cash to Debbie's total.



Hair gone!

The hair colouring afternoon was great fun for the residents who are proud of Debbie's efforts and thankful she cares for them. "Deb is always fun; we also have a laugh together," said Pat Costello. Pat Stephen added blue to Debbie's hair which was long and blonde! Steve Teulan, Executive Director Uniting Ageing, whom Debbie met at the awards ceremony, contributed towards the fundraising after hearing of her efforts. Mr Teulan congratulated Debbie, and the team at Elizabeth Gates for enabling their

community to embrace Debbie's efforts. Debbie would like to thank everyone for their contribution, the local businesses, her colleagues and residents, family and friends who have supported her efforts. "It's only hair, it will grow back. If my efforts can save one person I'll be very happy indeed," she said.

Lymphomas are the most common form of haematological or blood cancer in Australia, and the sixth most common form of cancer overall. Today, 34 Australians will be given the devastating news that they have leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma, and they'll turn to the Leukaemia Foundation for help. Although survival rates are improving, blood cancers are the third biggest cause of cancer death in Australia.

Getting sponsored to shave, colour or wax the hair on your head, chest or face, is an extraordinary way to help families facing the

challenge of blood cancer and to help Australia's best researchers.

The money Deb raised will go towards research, which is needed to discover kinder and more effective treatments for blood cancer.

Any sponsorship will also support families when they need it most, providing people with leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma with a free home-away-from-home near hospitals during their treatment. It will also mean they can transport them to appointments and provide as much practical assistance and emotional support as they can, all free of charge. The Leukaemia Foundation receives no ongoing government funding, so supporting this event makes our 'Vision to Cure' and 'Mission to Care' possible. Debbie's head shaving raised a total of \$6,610.25cents & it is not too late to donate. Visit <http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/debbieeggleton> to contribute to Debbie's fund raising efforts.

Hunter Regional Plan high on agenda at Development Consultation Forum



ⓐ Above: Mayor Pynsent welcoming participants to the Development Consultation Forum.

Cessnock City Council's Planning and Environment Directorate hosted its sixth Development Consultation Forum at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre last week, with the Hunter Regional Plan high on the agenda. Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent opened the forum by discussing the draft Hunter Regional Plan and said it is critical to the future of the

Cessnock local government area (LGA) and our place in the Hunter. "For us, the Cessnock LGA holds such great potential and lifestyle opportunities and we are looking forward to seeing this recognised in the final Plan," Cr Pynsent said. "We would like to see more focus on the retention of Cessnock as a strategic regional centre and the necessary infrastructure

connections to ensure the LGA can continue to grow sustainably into the future" Department of Planning and Environment General Manager for Hunter and Central Coast Monica Gibson also spoke at the Forum, giving participants an overview of the Plan and what it means for the future of strategic planning in the Hunter over the next 20 years. Council staff provided the



ⓐ Above: Department of Planning and Environment General Manager for Hunter and Central Coast Monica Gibson speaking about the draft Hunter Regional Plan.

development community with an overview of completed, current and upcoming developments in the area. A marked reduction in processing time for development applications (DAs) was reported, with Cessnock again leading all Hunter Councils with an average turnaround of 47

days. "It is great to see we are continuing to improve these times and help our customers and clients through what can be complicated development processes," Cr Pynsent said. If you are interested in attending a future forum, please contact Council's

Planning and Environment Team on 02 4993 4100.

Counting Down to the Mailrun Charity Bike Ride

Lots of cyclists have already registered to take part in the Mailrun Charity Bike Ride on Sunday 10th April, with many entrants from Sydney and Newcastle

making the trip to Singleton just to hit the scenic, local country roads. Organisers of the ride are pleased with the response but would love to have

Glendonbrook. The ride takes in some quiet country roads, and the ability to ride either a 100km, 65km, 40 or 20km course, means anyone can take part. All entrants will receive a free lunch and drink at the finish area and free entry into the pool at the YMCA Gym & Swim adjacent to the finish site for a refreshing shower and/or swim after the ride. A great raffle is being run in conjunction with the ride, where just \$2 enters you into the draw to win one of these great prizes: Momentum Cycles Singleton: an Apollo Transfer 10 urban bike,

Balloon Aloft Hunter Valley: Sunrise balloon flight for 2 including champagne breakfast, 18 holes of golf for 2 people (incl motorised cart) at Hunter Valley Golf & Country Club at Pokolbin. Tickets will be available on the day and the raffle will be drawn after the ride. The workers from Singleton Family Support will provide children's activities at the Start/Finish area during the ride, so bring the family along for a great morning of entertainment. Activities include a jumping castle, arts and crafts and balloon fun. Hot food, drinks & coffee will also be available during the

day. Last year the event raised more than \$25,000 for Singleton Family Support Services to help them provide essential services to the community. Many families in the Singleton area are affected by family violence, homelessness, child protection concerns, relationship breakdown and mental health issues. Through a variety of services SFSS can offer assistance with these difficult and complex issues. If you are not able to ride yourself, you may be able to sponsor one of the riders. To find out more just go to www.themailrun.org For further information call 0422 374 252

Course	Early entry fee	On the day
20km ride	\$35	\$45
40km ride	\$40	\$50
65km ride	\$45	\$55
100km challenge	\$50	\$60
Teams (up to 10 riders)	\$450	\$55

more riders from the Branxton Grete area signing up to experience the Mailrun that takes in the country roads at Westbrook, Scotts Flat, Glendon and



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Can you help with 'The Dementia Run'?



The American Motorcycle Club, Australia Coalfields Chapter is a social Motorcycle Club which shares the common interest of Harley Davidsons. They also share the passion

of helping their local community and organisations that have touched or affected their members.

Over the years they have donated to organisation's such as Vision Australia, John Hunter Hospital (NICU children's ward) and a number of other people who have required assistance.

They have another event coming up on Saturday 30/04/16 in support of Alzheimer's Australia

which will be 'The Dementia Run' with all proceeds being donated to Alzheimer's Australia.

Alzheimer's Australia has fully endorsed this event and are 100% behind them. This is an illness which touches so many Australian families and touches their member's families.

They ask for your help in making a contribution in the form of sponsorships, donations, in which they can use for prize's or raffles.

You can also donate directly to the Coalfields account. Your generosity will be immensely appreciated. For any further information please contact Craig O'Brien CFAMC Secretary 0475506512/0423665498



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At their last meeting the club elected a new Board of Directors with Bob Rhodes elected President. Other elected positions included Ken Meany taking the Vice Presidents position & also the duty as Publicity Officer.

The new secretary is Brian Thomas, assistant Secretary Alan Humphreys, Treasurer Tony Ernst, Directors are Alan Becker, Ron Hungerford & Bob Waters, Lion Tamer Alan Becker, Tail Twister John McGoldrick, Membership Chairman Alan Humphreys, Dinner

Chairman Brian Thomas & Event Chairman John McGoldrick.

In recent weeks the club has had several fund raising events with donations going to the Westpac Helicopter Service, Diabetes NSW, The Royal Institute for the Deaf & Blind Children, Hunter Melanoma & Lions Australia Spinal Cord.

The club is always looking for new members & would like to invite anyone who has an interest in joining to come to a meeting & see what the club can offer you.

Q Above: First year apprentice Jack at left with proprietors Karen & Steve Cornes, Branxton Quality Meats

AFTER a very brief early retirement Karen & Steve Cornes are back at Branxton Quality Meats. The business had been sold with the new

proprietors settled into the business. "After three weeks they realised that the business wasn't what they wanted & asked if Karen & I would

take it back. After giving it plenty of thought we decided that we would do it," said Steve. Welcome back Steve & Karen.

Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group next meeting

Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group meet 28th April at Cessnock Leagues Club 3pm to 4:30pm. Guest speaker is Glen Parsons community Programs Coordinator from Singleton Cancer Council Office. Topic: Information on how to reduce the risk of cancer, what has been achieved since 2012, things that the Cancer Council has planned for the future in the Upper and Lower Hunter Regions.

Our meetings are open to all members of the public. Cost: Free - Afternoon tea and coffee supplied. Contact: Barry 404554\ 0439404554.

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After short break Karen & Steve are back



Q Above: First year apprentice Jack at left with proprietors Karen & Steve Cornes, Branxton Quality Meats

AFTER a very brief early retirement Karen & Steve Cornes are back at Branxton Quality Meats. The business had been sold with the new

proprietors settled into the business. "After three weeks they realised that the business wasn't what they wanted & asked if Karen & I would

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They said it

The courage of life is often a less dramatic spectacle than the courage of a final moment, but it is no less a magnificent mixture of triumph and tragedy." ~ John F. Kennedy

"I've got a very poor sense of direction. I keep forgetting which way is forwards." ~ Geoffrey Parfitt

"I had a friend who was a clown. When he died, all his friends went to the funeral in one car." ~ Steven Wright

"He who has the fastest golf cart never has a bad lie." ~ Mickey Mantle

Members say



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK 1 April 2016

Last Sunday, Kathy and I attended the inaugural Mulbring Country Fair. Congratulations to the organising committee and all who were involved in the fair's success. We enjoyed the great atmosphere and community spirit that residents shared. Country fairs are important for rural towns like Mulbring and serve as an opportunity to meet new neighbours and build a stronger community. I wish the organising committee all the best in their plans for next year's event.

Seniors Week has kicked off with a bang. Make sure to pick up your event program from Council's Customer Service desk, Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries or your local service provider. Thank you to the Seniors Week Committee, our local community members, local businesses and support groups that have assisted in creating such a diverse event calendar. With over 40 great events on offer, there is something for everyone and I encourage you to get involved.

Congratulations to the Cessnock Gem and Mineral Club who will celebrate their fiftieth anniversary on Saturday. The club has been an active member of Seniors Week Committee offering local seniors three opportunities to visit their club this week. Be sure to attend Saturday's event from 10am to 4pm at Hall Park, West Cessnock for gem displays, a tour of the club's facilities, demonstrations, hands on activities and a sausage sizzle.

Cessnock District Netball Association celebrated its season launch last Saturday 2 April with a march past. Players in their uniforms and banners paraded their team colours to usher in the first games of the year. I wish all players the best of luck in the competition and I encourage all young people to join in a team sport. Sport is a big part of our identity and the long term gains have such a positive result on the whole community.

Thank you to the Federation of Australian Movie Makers for hosting me at the opening of their thirty second Convention on Monday evening. This long standing organisation was established in 1952 and serves as a place for film makers of all levels of expertise to share knowledge and collaborate on projects. It was a reminder of how many creative people we have in our region. I

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hope participants will take away valuable lessons from the conventions which will run until this Friday 8 April. 'Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm'
Ralph Waldo Emerson



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR –

GONE IS THE RIGHT TO PROTEST
There will be many shocked to discover that the right to protest, here in NSW Australia, has been removed from our democracy by the NSW Government in the recent weeks. Admittedly, the "target" for the Legislation was the protest groups that block Mining and Gas projects, but the reality of the Legislation is not quite that narrow, limited or specific. As a result, the act of protest, in NSW, can now result in a 7 year term in gaol. That's right, 7 years!

Now most of you would realise that I do not have a legal training background, nor do I claim to be a legal expert, so to reassure my doubters, I offer some observations and criticisms from two esteemed legal bodies: The Law Society of NSW and The NSW Bar Association. The first, and possibly most important, point they both make is that there are already laws relating to Trespass, Obstruction, Criminal Damage, and Obstruction of a mine site or Obstruction of a mining authorisation holder. In most instances, each of the crimes listed has a heavier consequence than that offered in this new Bill, which makes the supposed purpose of the new Bill redundant. But here in lies the hidden purpose of this Bill – it was actually about the concept of protest, far more so than it was about just Mining or Gas projects.

Can I say quite clearly and plainly that I think that people that go onto a site (Trespass) and chain themselves to a machine or vehicle are a nuisance that should be dealt with under law. But that is distinctly different from those that might protest or picket the front gate of a business. For goodness sake, imagine the coal miners of our community and the conditions that they would have today if they had been prevented from protest. We would never have had the 100,000+ people march across the Harbour Bridge for the "sorry" protest over Aboriginal rights. Indeed we would never have had Vincent Lingiari achieve Land Rights for Aboriginal people. Ironically and bizarrely, just three weeks ago in the NSW Parliament we had a standing ovation and apology for the "78-ers" – the group of people that assembled 1978 for the first Mardi Gras walk in Sydney. Standing ovation one day, ban protest the next. I am appalled at what we are becoming when a freedom of expression, like protest, is taken away from us. If you plan to participate in a "public assembly" that "obstructs traffic" then seven years gaol could be your punishment. You might also find that your car, or for farmers their tractor, or camera or iPad or any other valuable being used in protest is seized and if it is seized you have absolutely no right, nor any court

process, to ask for the return of your goods. It sounds like a story from a communist corner like China or North Korea, but it is in fact now your lived experience right here in NSW.

WHAT ABOUT A BUTTERFLY CAVE PROTEST?

While on the subject of protest, and with the threat of seven years gaol looming large, I offer this – saving the Butterfly Caves at West Wallsend may well come down to protest and blocking of bulldozers. If it comes to this, I will be with the protestors. Let the Police arrest and detain our Aboriginal Elders and young, our elected officials, our retired, our honoured and established citizens, our men, women and children that care about our shared heritage as Australians. The Butterfly Cave is a site that Aboriginal women have used for thousands and thousands of years. It was a traditional place of birthing long before hospitals and it remains a place of spiritual ceremony. Every Government document that I pick up has a tribute to our Aboriginal Heritage and a promise that we will honour and treasure the traditions – and yet we fail and fail at a simple hurdle like this housing development. The Butterfly Cave could be the backdrop that exposes the new protest laws for what they are.

WHERE WOULD CESSNOCK GAOL BE WITHOUT PROTEST?

Many of you would recall the plan to privatise the Cessnock Gaol under the previous Labor Government. Ultimately that idea was squashed thanks entirely to community protest and rally. (The same could be said for Kurri Kurri Hospital). Unfortunately, the dreaded privatisation of prisons is back on the State Government radar and Cessnock Gaol, as for others, is in the firing line. If people protest this time, they might well face a seven year gaol sentence themselves, which if memory serves me correctly from 2009 -10, that would result in the Prison Officers becoming the prisoners. But not all is lost because the State Government has announced an additional 620 beds in the Cessnock Gaol, but no mention of additional Police for our town to assist. The 620 beds were never mentioned or discussed with me as the local MP, a sign of the petty nature of politics. I have sought a briefing from the Minister and we are trying to find a date in the coming weeks – having already made the announcement. The extra beds will be in pop-up "temporary" style buildings to be shipped in. I will let you know more when I know more.

* * * * *

For enquiries regarding the State Government or its departments, or to put you in contact with someone who can, please contact my office. My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to

cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325.

You also follow me on my Facebook page or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au
Cheers Clayton



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter & Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Political debate turned even crazier last

week when Malcolm Turnbull decided he'd allow state governments to re-introduce state income taxes. As Sir Humphrey from the iconic BBC sitcom would say, "very courageous Prime Minister!" Of course the states levied income taxes up until 1942 when for the first time; the Commonwealth Government tested its Constitutional muscle by making grants to the states conditional upon them no longer raising income taxes. The decision was tested in the High Court soon after but the Commonwealth prevailed. We've been state income tax free ever since. Putting all the complexities aside, two big issues stand out. First, if both levels of government are going to be imposing income taxes, will there be an overall increase in the tax burden? If not, what taxes are going to be abolished or reduced? Second, isn't this all going to be hugely inefficient? Not only will tax administration costs and paperwork rise dramatically, we are going to have different income tax rates in each state. We've spent years trying to make things like school curriculums and vehicle registration uniform across the states, but now we are going to have different income tax rates! And what will happen to our public schools if the Commonwealth withdraws its funding? Are you confident it will all be ok? I'm certainly not. If we are going to have a crack at stopping the inefficiencies, buck-passing, the blame game and the cost shifting, let's do it properly and just abolish the states. Now there's an idea worthy of bipartisan support!

Last week Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese joined me on a visit to Testers Hollow. The local mayors, council representatives and Labor's candidate for Paterson Meryl Swanson also participated. Both Maitland Mayor Peter Blackmore and Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent are calling for a permanent solution to an increasingly regular flooding problem. State Member for Cessnock Clayton's Barr's support means that all levels of Government acknowledge this as a major issue. It is unacceptable in the 21st century for communities to be isolated for many days because of a lack of practical infrastructure. I remain committed to working with local and state governments to deliver such a permanent solution for local residents.

Not a day goes by when I don't hear about someone who has a complaint about scam insurers and useless warranties.

The Consumer Action Legal Centre has recently launched a website that gives people a simple way to check if they are being ripped off. This is a growing issue with people who have often been tricked into "add-on" products with little or no value at an exorbitant cost to the consumer.

For more information login to www.demandarefund.consumeraction.org.au.

Applications are currently open for the National Library of Australia's Community Heritage Grants. Community Heritage Grants of up to \$15,000 are available to assist in preserving cultural heritage collections of national significance. Not-for-profit organisations, such as historical societies, regional museums, public libraries and

Indigenous and migrant community groups are encouraged to apply. Applicants should carefully read the 2016 Community Heritage Grants Program guidelines before submitting an application. Applications for the 2016 Community Heritage Grants program close on 9 May 2016 at 5pm (AEST). For further information visit <https://www.nla.gov.au/awards-and-grants/chg>

I am always keen to assist with issues or questions relating to Federal Government departments or put you in contact with someone who can, so please ring, write, visit the website or call in.

Why not go the extra step by following me on my Facebook page "Joel Fitzgibbon" or on Twitter and type in the search bar "fitzhunter". Or by regularly checking my website at www.joelfitzgibbon.com or you can even sign up to my E-Newsletter. To contact the office, phone 1300 301 753, visit www.joelfitzgibbon.com or by post 3 Edward Street, (PO Box 526) Cessnock, 2325.



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

Local Coordinators Appointed in Upper Hunter

I am pleased to announce that Singleton Shire Landcare Network Inc. and Martindale Creek Catchment Landcare are among 62 organisations that will host local coordinators as part of the NSW Government's \$15 million Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative. Adam Dwyer has been appointed by Singleton Shire Landcare Network Inc., whilst Pauline Sykes had been appointed by Martindale Creek Catchment Landcare, to help deliver Landcare projects in the Upper Hunter electorate.

These coordinators will be based at Singleton and Muswellbrook, respectively, and are two of 66 part-time Local Landcare Coordinators throughout NSW over a 3.5 year period.

A diverse range of not-for-profit organisations will deliver support to the hard-working Landcare volunteers in the Upper Hunter electorate and in local communities across NSW. The appointment of these two coordinators signals the successful fulfilment of stage one of the initiative, that has been designed to build capacity and connections within local communities and increase the effectiveness of the Landcare network.

This initiative has been designed to develop a stronger network of Landcare and community groups and to find a sustainable model to ensure Landcare's future viability in our Upper Hunter electorate.

Contact: My Email address; upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au, phone numbers; 6543 1065, Fax 6543 1416; postal address P.O. Box 493, Muswellbrook 2333.

Cheers, Michael

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Heart Foundation Walking




Congratulations to our ever increasingly healthy "Branxton Hearty Ducks" who have just recently celebrated five continuous years of their regular daily walk. Shane Feeney, Project Coordinator for Coalfields Healthy Heartbeat said they are walking strong after five years of effort. "I want to congratulate 'The Branxton Hearty Ducks' for their longevity & example they have set for the local community. Well done!", said Shane. If you want to take the first steps to increase your physical activity why not join Australia's largest FREE community-based walking network – Heart Foundation Walking? Heart Foundation Walking aims to make regular physical activity enjoyable and easy, especially for people who are not used to being active. Walking groups can be any size and walk at various times, distances, days and levels of difficulty. If you do not live near a group or choose to walk on your own, you can even join as a 'Virtual Walker' and track your progress online. If you would like to join the local 'Ducks' contact details are as follows:-

The Hearty Ducks
Meeting Point: Miller Park Oval
Address: New England HWY, BRANXTON, 2335
Walk Organiser: Sonnia (Sonnie)
Contact: 02 4938 3607
Duration: 45-60 min, **Speed:** Medium
Walk Times: Monday 07:00, Tuesday 07:00, Wednesday 07:00, Thursday 07:00, Friday 07:00

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Lee Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

Dementia
Did you know that dementia is not a single condition or disease and the symptoms of dementia can be caused by over 100 different disorders that affect the brain? According to Alzheimer's Australia, dementia describes a collection of symptoms that are caused by disorders affecting the brain. It is not one specific disease. Dementia affects thinking, behaviour and the ability to perform everyday tasks. Brain function is affected enough to interfere with the person's normal social or working life. The four most common forms of dementia are Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies, and frontotemporal dementia. Dementia may also be associated with other conditions including Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, alcohol abuse, AIDS and Down's syndrome. Dementia affects different people in different ways depending on the type of dementia they have and the area of the brain that is damaged. In Australia, 10% of people over the age of 65 and 30% over the age of 85 have some form of dementia – that's more than 320,000 Australians. Dementia is more common in older people, although

younger people are sometimes affected. Dementia is becoming an increasingly common problem in society because people are living longer. As a result, dementia will become the third greatest source of health and residential aged care spending within 20 years and dementia is a key National Health Priority Area in Australia. The primary symptoms of dementia are changes in what is referred to as 'cognitive function' (e.g. memory, thinking, orientation, language, comprehension, calculation, judgement and attention). These changes create difficulties with communication and everyday tasks, (such as shopping, cooking and cleaning), as well as personal care (such as toileting, bathing, dressing, eating). Cognitive symptoms are often accompanied by changes in behaviour, personality and mood, which are known as behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD). The early signs of dementia may go unnoticed, or may be confused with 'old age'. However, dementia is not a part of normal ageing, and with numbers expected to increase by one third within ten years, a medical diagnosis is essential – the sooner the better for support and information to be provided to patients with dementia, and their families/carers. The signs and symptoms of dementia may be confused with other health concerns, such as 'old age', vitamin/hormone deficiencies, depression, medicine interactions/misuse/overuse, infections and brain tumours. Currently there is no cure for dementia. However, there are many therapies – medicinal and non-medicinal – to manage the symptoms and support people with dementia in their activities of daily living. Medicinal therapies include prescription medicines, which are approved for Alzheimer's disease and provide relief from some symptoms of dementia and slow the progression of memory loss in some patients for a limited time. Some complementary and alternative medicines (CAMs) have also been proposed to prevent or treat symptoms of dementia. However, always check with your pharmacist or doctor. Non-medicinal therapies include ways to manage dementia, with a particular focus on patient-centred care to relieve the symptoms and improve quality of life for people with dementia and their families/carers. Non-medicinal therapies may help with cognitive function and improve BPSD through behavioural strategies (e.g. rewarding good behaviour and discouraging unwanted behaviours) memory aids and environmental modifications (e.g. written information, signs and calendars that help with memory) activities that elevate mood, provide stimulation and encourage social interaction (e.g. music therapy, art therapy, pet therapy and physical activity). Alzheimer's Australia is the peak body and charity for all types of dementia. It provides advocacy, support services, education and information for patients and their families/carers, including risk factors, symptoms and management strategies. It also provides information on 'dementia-friendly' pharmacies – with tips on physical environment and improving communication with people with dementia.

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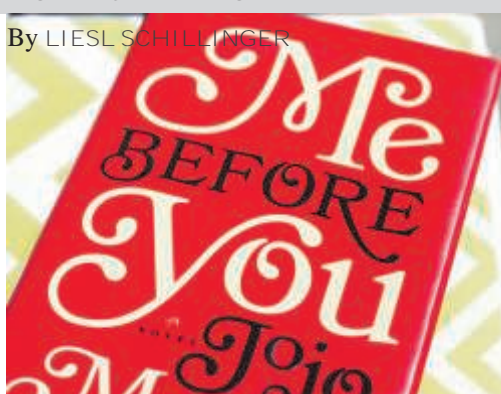
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Me Before You by Jojo Moyes

By LIESL SCHILLINGER



When I finished this novel, I didn't want to review it; I wanted to reread it. Which might seem perverse if you know that for most of the last hundred pages I was dissolved in tears. Jojo Moyes, the writer who produced this emotional typhoon, knows very well that "Me Before You" — a novel that has already floated high on Britain's best-seller lists — is, as British critical consensus affirms, "a real weepy." And yet, unlike other novels that have achieved their mood-melting powers through calculated infusions of treacle — Erich Segal's "Love Story" comes immediately to mind — Moyes's story provokes tears that are redemptive, the opposite of gratuitous. Some situations, she forces the reader to recognize, really are worth crying over. "Me Before You" is a love story and a family story, but above all it's a story of the bravery and sustained effort needed to redirect the path of a life once it's been pushed off course. In the early months of 2009, Louisa (Lou) Clark, a 26-year-old working-class girl, lands a position as a "care assistant" to an intelligent, wealthy and very angry 35-year-old man named Will Traynor, who has spent the past two years as a quadriplegic after being hit by a motorbike. It is Will's mother, Camilla (with whom he has a chilly relationship), who hires Louisa, and she does so out of desperation. She knows her son is miserable. She already employs a nurse to attend to his medical needs, but she hopes that somehow Louisa might boost his morale.

At the novel's outset, the prospects for this appear bleak. With his rudeness and his fits of temper, Will resembles Charlotte Brontë's Mr. Rochester, albeit in a wheelchair. But Louisa Clark is no Jane

Eyre, even if, like Brontë's heroine, she is small, dark-haired and unprepossessing — "one of the invisibles," as she herself puts it. But being with Will requires backbone. His own no longer works, but for her to keep her job, she will have to acquire one. Hardly introspective and not at all intellectual, Lou lives in a "sleepy market town" where the largest employer is a National Trust castle with a shrubby maze. There, at the age of 20, she was spooked by a run-in with boys and beer, an encounter that robbed her of the confidence to explore the world beyond her village. Now, almost seven years later, she still lives at home with her parents, sleeping in a windowless closet so her unemployed younger sister, Katrina, a single mother, can occupy the larger bedroom. Lou works as a waitress in a cafe, a job that allows her to lead a straitened but cozy existence and help to support her family. And although she has a steady boyfriend — a personal trainer named Patrick with "the kind of face that became instantly invisible in crowds" (much like her own) — neither feels the urge to discuss marriage.

When the cafe shuts down, Lou must find a new job. Unskilled as she is, what work can she do? She has the full use of her limbs, but she's emotionally paralyzed. To take a job caring for a man like Will is terrifying, but her family's financial difficulties allow her no choice. As she gets to know her combative patient, Lou belatedly wrestles with her own passivity. "Shoved up so hard against someone else's life," she reflects, "forces you to rethink your idea of who you are." Lou has never fully lived; Will has, but no longer

can. In health, he had exhilarated in "crushing people in business deals." He had scaled rock faces at Yosemite, swum in volcanic springs in Iceland, sampled warm croissants in the Marais and had his pick of glamorous, leggy girlfriends. After the accident, he can't walk, can't feed himself, can't have sex. The only power he believes he retains is the power to end his life; and, as a man of action, he wants to exercise that power. But in Lou, he discovers an unexpected outlet for his thwarted energies: teaching her how to exert her own autonomy. "You cut yourself off from all sorts of experiences because you tell yourself you are 'not that sort of person,'" he scolds her. "You've done nothing, been nowhere. How do you have the faintest idea what kind of person you

are?" Frustrated by her inaction, he rails, "Promise me you won't spend the rest of your life stuck around this bloody parody of a place mat." "Then tell me where I should go," Lou demands. Deciding that the only chance she has of getting Will to take an interest in his own future is to make him take an interest in hers, she devises character-building adventures they can undertake together for her benefit. Might it work? Moyes disarms the reader with the normalcy of her voice. Her language is never lofty; she exposes her characters' flaws with the literary equivalent of a fluorescent bulb's naked light. The matter-of-fact language of Lou and Will's conversations and thoughts, and the starkness of their surroundings — Lou's humble, cramped family house; Will's disability-adapted annex with the "white metal and plas-

tic hoist" over the bath — magnify the poignancy of their friendship. Moyes's pacing is ingenious; you don't quite notice when the wheelchair moves forward, but it does, despite the resistance of the man within it and the woman behind it.

Lou seems to make Will at least "halfway happy," and her determination to impress him leads her to read improving authors, to watch foreign movies, even to join the once-fearful local library, where she uses the computer to communicate with other caregivers and quadriplegics. Reading these e-mail exchanges is a reminder that the fictional burden borne by Will Traynor is shared by thousands of real people and that the anxieties Lou faces are shared by still more. This is a love story that's eloquent not so much in its delivery as in

its humanity.

It's a curious phenomenon that in this digital age — in which thoughts that once emerged quietly and gradually on paper have been overtaken by instantaneous visual and audio impressions that are swiftly taken in without really being absorbed — the rapt viewer sometimes needs to be jarred, slowed down and forced to look inward. In "Me Before You," circumstances lead noncontemplative people to contemplation. When Lou, months into her caregiver job, sits in a hospital room during one of Will's illnesses, she holds his "good man's hands — attractive and even, with squared-off fingers," and feels "oddly reassured by how they felt in my own." She admires "the calluses that told of a life not entirely lived behind a desk, at the pink seashell nails that would

always have to be trimmed by somebody else." Moyes's heroine, if Lou can be so styled, may not be heroic; her male counterpart may be nobody's idea of a leading man — and yet with Lou and Will she has created an affair to remember.



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Under 7's
Under 7's played their first game of rugby ever on Saturday and first game of rugby for their coach also at No 5 sport ground in Newcastle. The match was awesome! Nate jousting Jury fooled them with his clever foot work, Oscar Speedy Coleman was tremendous in defence, and Sam I can't stop smiling Walker scored a brilliant try under pressure in the corner. Wanderer's players were also playing their first game, the result was totally immaterially considering what a great

game time everyone had.
Under 9's
The Under 9's met with Wanderer's on what were perfect conditions for starting the 2016 season. Sadly, the boys didn't get the result that they would have liked for an opening game however they played with a spirit that had all the sideline willing them on. Despite not getting over the line, there were some great breakaway moments that saw TC Metcalf and Lachlan E being robbed of points with last minute defence cutting them

down. Felix Sutherland lead the tackling charge that made the Wanderers think twice before underestimating our boys own defence skills, and there was great support being shown amongst the players as they never gave up trying to get points on the board. It is only early days and with cohesion and making the most of training sessions to develop skills, these boys are going to have a great season.
Under 10's
U10s travelled to Newcastle to take on the



Pokolbin Junior Rugby Club Under 12's



Pokolbin Junior Rugby Club Under 9's

Wanderers for the season opener. The team (and coach and parents) were nervous and excited. Ten minutes in the Reds were down 10 to Nil, however after some great rucking from Jesse Shirtcliffe and Jack Wills the Reds went over courtesy of Alec Gough in a great run away try. With two more tries from the hard running Jayden Gontier and one conversion from the welled honed boot of Zac Cox the Reds were up 17 to 15 at half time. The Reds played hard in the second half and the newly formed front row of Isaiah

Hueston, Cal Barr and Angus Walker were a force to reckoned with. The Reds let in three soft tries late in the second half to go down 30 to 17. The boys are showing plenty of promise. Man of the Match was Zac Cox.
Under 12's
First game of the season over and it was a narrow loss to Maitland 10-19. The boys played great rugby and seem to have improved on last year. Ethan O'Neill was devastating at the breakdown while Henry Murray showed all his

skills in the backs. I would like to welcome our newest family members Charlie Russell who showed he will be a valuable member of this team and Ashley Parkinson who played as we know he can, well played Charlie and Ash. Cairo Matheson also showed great improvement and never shied away from the tough stuff, great game Cairo. Wonderful start boys, we just need to make

better decisions on the field and we can become anything.

Asbestos tracker installed at Cessnock Waste and Reuse Centre



Cessnock's Waste and Reuse Centre has installed an asbestos tracking plate as part of the NSW

Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) new mandatory monitoring requirements to ensure

asbestos waste ends up in the right place. To help industry meet their obligations, the new online WasteLocate service is now available across all of NSW. Council's Environment and Waste Manager Michael Alexander said there is great danger around asbestos movement and disposal in the Cessnock local government area. "Quite often asbestos is found in many illegally dumped loads, in bushland or remote locations where it is exposed to the

atmosphere and fibres can easily become airborne," Mr Alexander said. "This poses great health risks to all within a close proximity." The EPA has introduced WasteLocate—an online reporting tool that is required for the movement of any load over 100kg of asbestos waste, or 10m² or more of asbestos sheeting. Transporters are required to register with WasteLocate and report movements of asbestos from the point of generation to the place of disposal, including disposal at Council managed waste

facilities. "It's a simple process and is similar in many ways to tracking parcels in the post." To complete the process, waste facilities require a QR identification plate which transporters scan with their mobile device at the point of disposal. The EPA recently wrote to all companies and individuals licensed to carry out asbestos demolition or removal, reminding them of their obligations to report movements of asbestos. Council now has the

tracking plate and QR code installed at the Cessnock Waste and Reuse Centre. For more information please visit www.epa.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Waste Locate'. The Cessnock Waste and Reuse Centre is open seven days a week from 8.45am to 4.30pm and is located at 1967 Old Maitland Road Cessnock. The Centre can be contacted on 4993 4993.

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



Our Easter Raffle was a huge success. We had 38 prizes and raised \$565 in total. We will be purchasing some new outdoor equipment with this money. This equipment will be purchased once our new shed is erected in the holidays. As we mentioned in our previous article we were successful in obtaining a Community

Building Partnership Grant to erect a new outdoor storage shed. This will be completed when we return to commence term 2. We cannot wait to have this extra storage space and a new secure shed. The old shed has been removed and now we await the new shed. This is being completed thanks to our local ALLGAL sheds here within our local community.

New shed photo coming soon!

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community-based not for profit preschool would be greatly appreciated. We break for school holidays from Monday 11th April and return Tuesday 26th April. If you would like to know more about Branxton Preschool please email: give us a call on 49381990.

COMMUNITY NOTICE – We have been in contact with Cessnock City Council in an attempt to have some signage erected in the car park entry into the Community Hall, Playgroup and Preschool parking area (John Street). Too many people enter this car park at fast speeds. This is a family drop off car park and therefore little children are always in this area each

morning and afternoon. We urge everyone who uses this car park to do so with caution. Be mindful that littlies are around and please SLOW DOWN!!!!

Business as usual while merger of Maitland & Dungog Councils still a possibility

The merger proposal between Maitland and Dungog has been reinstated following a decision by Gloucester Shire Council to propose a merger between Gloucester, Great Lakes and Taree councils. This new proposal has been referred to the Office of Local Government, who will continue their investigation into a merger between Gloucester and Dungog



Peter Blackmore, Mayor Maitland City

councils, and will now also consider the Gloucester proposal as well as a merger of Maitland and Dungog. This latest development comes after Maitland City Council was deemed 'fit for the future' in December last year and the Government announced its intention for Maitland to remain as a stand alone council, ruling out any mergers.

Maitland City Council General Manager David Evans says 'It has always been, and continues to be, Maitland City Council's position that Maitland is 'fit for the future' and that a stand alone model best meets the needs of both Council and the community. 'It will be business as usual at Maitland City Council as we continue to deliver the important services and programs that residents rely on. However, Council will again need to consider its position in relation to the possibility of a Maitland Dungog merger, and how it can best represent the interests of the Maitland community'.

The Office of Local Government has appointed Dr Ian Tiley as the delegate to conduct the merger inquiry process for Maitland and Dungog. Council understands that residents from both communities will have the opportunity to participate in public hearings and make submissions to the delegate on the merger proposal before the closing date of 15 April 2016. Further information can be found on the NSW Government Council Boundary Review website



Singleton Council to open recycling shop and education centre



Singleton Council will inject new life into reusable items recovered from landfill when it opens a recycling shop later this year. Singleton company Link Upward Building was awarded the contract on Monday to erect two modular buildings to be used as an information centre and recycling shop to be located at the Singleton Waste Management Facility on Dyring Rd. The recycling shop will provide the Singleton community the opportunity to purchase reusable items at very low prices that have been recovered from the Community Recycling Centre, waste transfer station or tip face. It's anticipated that ornaments, curios, furniture, steel, garden implements, flooring and building materials will all be available for a fraction of retail prices. Residents will be able to access the recycling shop every day from 8am to 4pm and drop off materials for reuse to the Community Recycling Centre. The information centre will provide a venue for Council's waste and recycling education programs, including school and community workshops, as well as amenities for staff that work at the waste management facility. The project has been made possible by a grant from the NSW EPA Waste Less Recycle More program funded from the waste levy and contributions from Council. Singleton Council General Manager Jason Linnane says the recycling shop will reduce the amount of waste that ends up at the tip face and extend the life of Singleton's landfill. "This is about smart resource management by turning waste into treasures and providing the community with access to low cost products," he says. "The funds raised from selling reusable items will help offset the cost of providing other recycling options free of charge such as e-waste and polystyrene." Construction on the new facilities is expected to commence in April and be open by mid-June.

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8 Bathroom Design & Remodelling Ideas on a Budget

So you're ready to redecorate and redesign your bathroom. But dropping \$20,000 on a deluxe spa retreat is light years away from what you can afford to spend. Here's the good news: You don't need megabucks to transform your bathroom into a relaxing, cool space. There are plenty of ways to renovate and redesign on a budget.

According to Remodeling Magazine's Cost vs. Value report, an average bathroom remodel costs around \$10,500 while an upscale remodel is going to run you a hefty \$26,000. However, if you do the work yourself and get creative, This Old House estimates that you can do a remodel for \$1,000 to \$3,000, or even less, depending on how much you want to change.

Moreover, updating or adding a bathroom to your home is a home improvement project that adds value. In other words, you'll recoup a significant portion of costs when you sell your home, as much as 100%. Determine how much you can afford to spend on your remodel to determine the extent of the changes you can make. If your budget is on the low end (i.e. \$2,000 or less), you'll want to stick to cosmetic

changes, such as new fixtures or a new sink, and new paint. If you have more to spend, you can focus on larger changes, such as adding tile, a bigger shower, or a window. Again, it all depends on your budget. So what can you do to save money on your bathroom redesign or remodel?

Inexpensive Bathroom Remodeling Ideas

1. Limit Your Tile
Tile gets expensive, especially when you hire a contractor to lay it all out for you. To save money, limit the amount of tile and focus on high-impact areas like the floor (instead of the floor and inside the shower stall walls). Alternatively, you could tile one horizontal strip along the wall and paint the rest.

If you've got your heart set on tile that's artistic and expensive, use it as an accent alongside a cheaper tile. Not only will the artistic tiles be more noticeable, but you'll save a ton of money by only using a few here and there.

2. Save on Counter Tops

A popular trend is to splurge on granite countertops. Because the bathroom counter is so small, the investment is often fairly low compared to what you'd spend on kitchen counters, for example.

So how can you save here? First, look at the colour. Neutral colours like tan, brown, and light beige are more popular, which means they're more expensive. To save money, consider and price out a wider swath of colours.

Another way to save on granite countertops is to buy a slab containing imperfections. The more visible the imperfection, the cheaper the price will be. Keep in mind that your sink basin will take up a lot of surface area, so if the imperfection is located where the sink or faucets will be then you won't see it anyway!

Right now, one of the biggest trends in bathrooms is also one that budget DIYers can pull off with style. The trend is using old dressers as sink pedestals. You simply cut out the top of the dresser to accommodate a sink insert, cut into or remove interior drawers as necessary, and cut holes in the back for plumbing. These "dresser sinks" can sell for thousands of dollars in retail stores, but you can easily make your own with a budget dresser, some patience, and the right tools.

3. Paint

If you don't have a lot to spend, then repainting will be the cheapest and, perhaps, the most effective way to give your

bathroom a new look. Here's a word of warning, though. It's going to take more time than you think. Why? Your bathroom may be the smallest room in the house, but you're going to have to paint slowly and gently around the window, the tub or shower, the sink, the mirror, the toilet, the switchplates, the wall corners, and the floor. This takes time and patience (and a good supply of painter's tape), so make sure you keep this in mind when planning your renovation.

Another thing to consider is the moisture. Since mould and mildew develop easily in a bathroom, and humidity and temperature change often, it's a good idea to invest in high quality paint with a satin finish. You may also want to go over the ceiling with a special bathroom paint that helps resist the growth of mould.

4. Update Fixtures

Next, look at the little details. You can update light fixtures, sink faucets, towel racks, and drawer pulls for a relatively small investment. These items may seem insignificant, but updating them can make a big difference in your bathroom's look. Check out sites like ModernBathroom.com for ideas. The items may be out of

your price range but you can find ways to replicate the look for less.

Keep in mind that you don't always have to buy towel racks at a home improvement store or IKEA. One of my friends used old plumbing for her towel racks and it gave her bathroom a very cool, industrial feel. Plus, since she rescued them out of an old house that was about to be torn down, they were free!

5. Freshen Caulk and Grout

Another often overlooked, yet important detail, is grout and caulk. When this gets grimy, it gets unsightly. By simply cleaning the grout and adding straight, clean lines of caulk around the tub and sink, you can add sparkle for a mere few dollars. You might be surprised at what a difference this can make! Grout and caulk are both cheap, so this is a very inexpensive way to freshen up your bathroom.

6. Redo, Don't Buy New

Replacing your old tub or shower is going to cost you a pretty penny. Instead, have it professionally refinished, which is much cheaper. However, don't try this with sink and shower fixtures as it costs more to refinish them than to replace them. Refinish-



ing these fixtures is more expensive because very few people decide to do it unless they have old, vintage pieces, and contractors who offer this service often charge a premium price.

However, let's say you do have some vintage bathroom fixtures or an old tub you don't want to get rid of. The good news? You can refinish them yourself if they're made of porcelain, cast iron, or fibreglass. That said, it takes time and some investment. A basic DIY refinishing kit will run you \$250, but you'll also need additional supplies such as a sander, a spray gun, face masks, paint brushes, etc. You can see a good, basic tutorial on you tube.

7. Buy Used

You can also save money on fixtures, even toilets and showers, if you purchase them used. Scour sites like eBay and Craigslist or head over to the nearest second hand store which specifically sells home necessities such as doors, mirrors, sinks, toilets, and tubs. You're only limited by your imagination.

8. Go Green with Upgrades

When updating your bathroom, don't forget to redesign with the environment in mind. Low-flow toilets, sinks, and shower heads will not only help you conserve water, but they'll also save you money. Plus, water-saving shower

heads and faucets often cost the same, if not less, than traditional ones. So you won't have to spend money to save money here.

Buying used or repurposing materials is also good for the environment. For example, it's fairly easy to turn mason canning jars into soap dispensers. You can see detailed instructions on how to do it on the net.

Want another idea? Find three cool, vintage tin cans. Drill the tin cans side by side into a 2 foot piece of old plank. Then, drill the plank onto your bathroom wall. You now have a super cool way to store bathroom necessities like toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs and brushes, and Q-tips. You can even keep fresh flowers in one of the cans! You can also use vintage light fixtures, old pieces of barn wood for shelves, or an old mirror above the sink. Every time you use something old instead of something new, you're probably saving money and reducing your consumption. Both very good things!

Don't forget to give back too. Any items you take out of your bathroom can be donated to local Op-shop.

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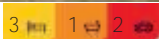
4 2 2

'Great Family Home'

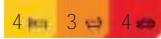
- 4 Bedrooms
- Main with ensuite and built-in robes
- 3 Good sized bedrooms all with BIRs
- Modern bathroom with separate WC
- Open plan air conditioned kitchen and living rooms
- DLUG with internal access and auto doors
- Private entertainment area
- Corner block
- Potential Rent: \$365 per week
- Land size: 603sqm

Agent: Catherine Taylor 0408 688 836

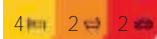
2/72A Maitland Street, Banxton NSW 2335



Broke
29 Cochrane Street
Tranquil Village Living
This 3 bedroom property is situated on a large corner block. Includes air conditioning in the living room, double garage, a spacious enclosed outdoor entertaining area. Placed closely to everything the village has to offer, the opportunity for quiet rural living is presented with this property. Call now to arrange a private inspection.
Price: \$300,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



Greta
4 Nelson Street
Storage/Sheds on 1 Acre
This 4 bedroom with study 3 bathroom home has it all. Open plan living with stylish centre piece kitchen containing all the mod cons and ceaser stone benchtops. Floating timber floor boards, combustion fire & ducted air conditioning. Fully fenced 4000m² of yard space, with in ground pool and BBQ area for entertaining.
Price: \$585,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



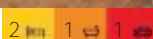
Branxton
22 Station Street
4 Bedrooms/Large Shed on 900m²
4 bedrooms, three with built in robes, large block & great shed. The combined lounge & dining room has RC/AC & polished pine timber floorboards throughout. The colourbond garage also has plenty of storage cupboards and a second shower and toilet. This garage could easily accommodate 2 large vehicles as well as storage space.
Price: \$385,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



North Rothbury
37 Rothbury Street
AUCTION
This approximately 810m² block of land presents a great opportunity to be built upon, providing access to all the Hunter Valley has to offer. Located 2 minutes from the Hunter expressway, Newcastle is also easily accessible from this location, ensuring an easy commute.
Vendor must sell.
Auction: ON SITE Sat 7 May at 10am
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



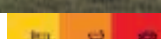
Greta
28 York Street
First Time on the Market
Family home in a pleasant area awaits. Brick & tile with beautifully presented gardens ready for the picking. Air conditioned living & kitchen area makes the house comfortable all year round. Covered timber deck overlooks the large backyard. This home is ideal for the young family or a couple looking to downsize.
Price: \$310,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



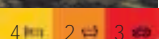
Branxton
2/7 Redgrove Court
Branxton Unit
Neat and tidy 2 bedroom unit. Open plan living with split system air conditioning. Automatic garage door with internal access to the home. Pergola at the rear of the property and small grassed courtyard area for entertaining.
Currently returning \$270/wk.
Price: \$279,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



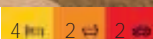
East Branxton
2 Church Street
Is this the Best Block in Branxton
Rare opportunity to purchase a large 1011sqm corner block. All town services are available on this parcel of land ready to build your dream home, with plenty of room for shedding and maybe that awesome pool. Subdivision Opportunity STCA to subdivide and build yourself a portfolio of 2 properties.
Price: \$170,000
View: by appointment
Contact Allan Cruickshanks
0407 724 930
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



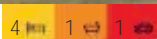
Branxton
42 Rosehill Place
Rural Living With Views Dalwood Acres
Opportunity to purchase 2 acres in the fast moving estate Dalwood Acres, located closely to the Hunter Expressway. This block has access to town water and electricity. Fully fenced and ready to be built upon.
Price: \$305,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



Branxton
10 Sutton Grove
View with Huge Shed!
7 year old family home on 2 acres with beautiful views over the township of Branxton, only minutes to new Hunter expressway, 4 large bedrooms, main walk in robe & ensuite, large lounge & rumpus. Attached triple garage with internal access & massive 18x13m shed with power & water. This property allows you space to grow.
Price: \$649,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



Greta
5a Hunter Street
Modern Family Home
Set on a large 822sqm block - 4 large bedrooms main with ensuite and walk in robe. Formal lounge with open plan living, dinner and kitchen area. Double garage with internal and drive thru access to the backyard with covered pergola & plenty of room for the kids. Only minutes to the new Hunter Expressway.
Price: \$415,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



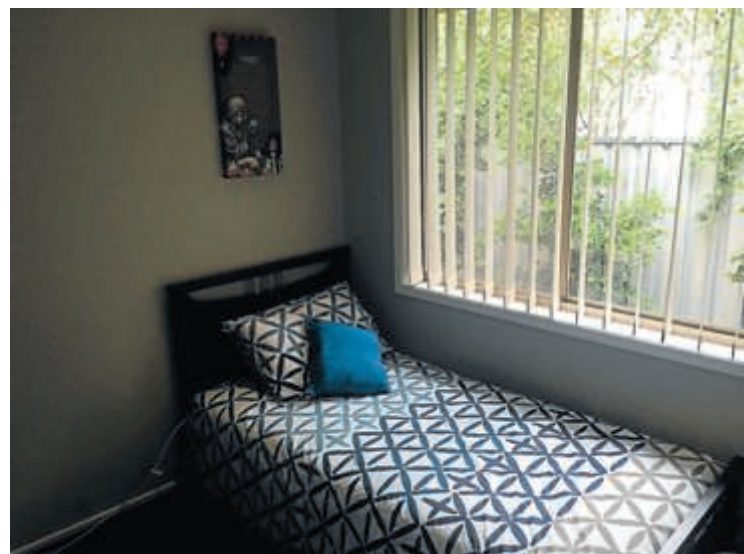
East Branxton
5 Grape Street
Street Appeal
Modernised 4 bedroom family home on corner block. Renovated throughout with great kitchen in sort after area awaits your inspection. Single garage with plenty of storage space. Timber deck and pergola for entertaining guests and fully fenced yard to keep kids and animals safe.
Price: \$335,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



Whittingham
472 Mitchell Line of Road
Rural Property with Town Water
Set on 10.13 hectares offering a 4 bedroom home with ensuite, formal lounge & dining, large dining/family off the kitchen, rumpus plus screened Queensland room. Outside there is a timber pergola with BBQ area & double shed. The property carries 8 cows & calves, has its own cattle yards, a large dam.
Price: \$740,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW

Call Helen or Mike

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE
P: 4938 3300



NORTH ROTHBURY

Lovely modern family home 3 minutes to Hunter Valley Pokolbin Vineyards with its wine cellars, shops & entertainment. Not a thing to do! Three bedrooms with built-in robes in all bedrooms. Spectacular modern bathroom & separate lounge. Other features include modern kitchen, split system aircon, slow combustion fire, beautiful BBQ area with alfresco dining area & large shed The property also has a lock up garage, landscapped yard & is fully fenced.

ASKING \$400,000



Call Helen or Mike

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

ELDERSLIE



Lifestyle 100acres

100 acres of beautiful rolling countryside.

Views to die for!

4 bedroom family home featuring open plan living, verandah, large new shed & free standing double garage



PRICE \$830,000

FOR LEASE

BRANXTON ~ Renovated 3 bedroom cottage/family home on extra large block ~ \$350 per week

BRANXTON ~ Renovated 3 bedroom cottage/family home on extra large block ~ \$320 per week



East Branxton

Everything is BRAND NEW!!!!

Large 3 bedroom cottage with built-ins ... a kitchen to die for! Large living area including a glorious Queensland Room. Lock up garage.

Leafy & peaceful backyard

A must to inspect

Great investment or first home!

PRICE \$340,000



North Rothbury

Sophisticated!!!!

Jewel Box Bush Cottage

“Airy” & “Open”

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

PRICE \$320,000 neg



Branxton

Family home well loved and cared for

Spacious living areas plus a large Queenslander at rear.

A good sized carport.

3 bedrooms which includes built-ins in two. Ensuite plus sunroom in main bedroom.

All this on a large fenced block & lovely gardens

A must to inspect

ASKING \$390,000

Call Helen or Mike

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300



NORTH ROTHBURY

Just move in ~ no work to be done!!!!

Perfect family home in the popular village of North Rothbury. Features include:-
Open plan lounge/dining with 4 large bedrooms all with built-ins. Ensuite to main bedroom & walk-in robe. Air conditioning. Double garage plus large rumpus room or entertainment room.
Dishwasher. Large fenced block with house facing north.

PRICE \$420,000



GRETA

For the astute investor
Approx. 2000sm (half an acre)
58 High Street, Greta

An older style 3 bedroom cottage is situated on this large, approx half acre, block. This is one for the savvy investor/developer or renovator.

ASKING \$472,000 (open to Offers)



EAST BRANXTON

Modern Villa ~ first home buyer or investor
In a sought after area n Branxton ~ two bedroom villa

Quality inclusions Features Include ~ Internal Laundry, Modern Bathroom, Modern Kitchen, Quiet Location, Balcony / Patio / Terrace, Built in Wardrobes, Close to School, Close to Shops & Close to Transport

PRICE \$320,000



BELFORD

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

PRICE \$160,000 ONO



BRANXTON Senior Living

This heritage designed 2 bedroom strata unit has an ensuite to the main bedroom, a lock-up garage & your own private courtyard. It is totally landscaped & also feature security gating. The site surrounds Branxton Medical Centre, is a 2 minute walk to the main shopping & amenities area, is just 5 minutes drive to the famous Hunter Valley Wineries, resorts & golf courses.

PRICE \$265,000



BRANXTON Senior Living

This heritage designed 2 bedroom strata unit has an ensuite to the main bedroom, a lock-up garage & your own private courtyard. It is totally landscaped & also feature security gating. The site surrounds Branxton Medical Centre, is a 2 minute walk to the main shopping & amenities area, is just 5 minutes drive to the famous Hunter Valley Wineries, resorts & golf courses.

PRICE POA



• 2023m2 block
• 3 bedrooms
• Large rear deck

WINGEN

Village living at its best

Located in the hamlet of Wingen which is 10 minutes from Scone in the Upper Hunter Valley "Rose Cottage" offers great access to the show-ground to exercise or have fun with your horse or dog. The house is situated on a generous block & includes freshly painted bedrooms, modern bathroom, timber kitchen, open plan living, front verandah & large rear deck. New reverse cycle air conditioner installed & room for extensions, school bus to primary & high schools. The property is fully fenced with a separately fenced yard ideal for the kids pony or menagerie of other small farm animals.

PRICE \$220,000



BRANXTON

A must to inspect!!!

Unique older character with tasteful modern touches. Large fenced block, massive garage & carport, spacious living area, new kitchen, new bathroom, three (3) large bedrooms with built-ins, airconditioned & slow combustion fire.

Just move in!!!

PRICE \$380,000

Call Helen or Mike

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300



BRANXTON

A couple of minutes to town
BUY OFF THE PLAN

LOT 1

4 Hectares ~

Picturesque block of land on the edge of town. Why not enjoy the peaceful rural lifestyle with all the conveniences of town living.

PRICE \$520,000



LOT 3

5.337 Hectares

Large 3 bedroom homestead with 3 large living areas with plenty of outdoor living & entertainment areas & great verandahs. Also double free standing garage.

PRICE \$830,000



BRANXTON

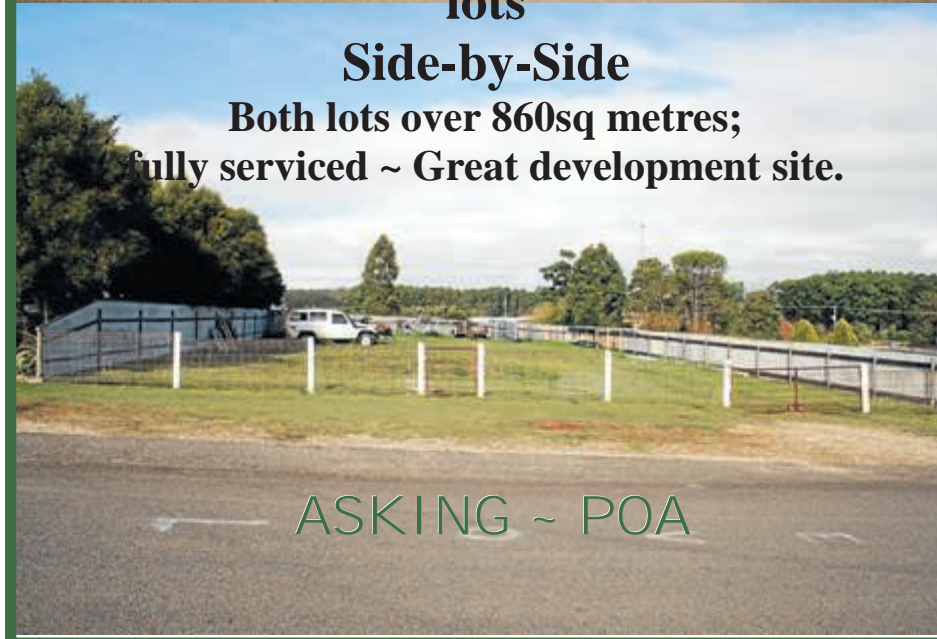
VACANT LAND ~ 75 YATES STREET

SOLD

2 Large level Residential building lots

Side-by-Side

Both lots over 860sq metres; fully serviced ~ Great development site.



ASKING ~ POA

Call Helen or Mike

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300



EAST BRANXTON

Features include:-

Balcony / Patio / Terrace, Bath, Block 1145sm, Built in Wardrobes, Close to Schools, Close to Shops, Close to Transport, Fireplace(s), Formal Dining, Formal Lounge, Garden, Internal Laundry, Large Fenced Block, Lovely Queensland Room, Modern Bathroom, Modern Kitchen, Quiet Location, Views.

Formal lounge & dining with split system air conditioning & slow combustion fire. Modern kitchen, expansive Queensland room with spa. Three good sized bedrooms. All this on a 1145sm fenced block!

PRICE \$370,000



NEW ON MARKET

EAST BRANXTON

Lovely family home

3 Bedroom family home with good built-ins in two.

Separate dining & living room with neat kitchen which includes granite bench tops.

Other features include:-

Combustion fire & air conditioning, lovely decking at rear, free standing garage.

All this on a very large fenced block.

Absolutely nothing to do just move in!

PRICE \$330,000

Thomas

Estate Agents

For Sale



11 Tulloch Street, Branxton
Price: \$298,000

- 3 bedrooms - 2 bedrooms have built-ins
- Open plan design - living & dining area
- Modern kitchen
- Split system air conditioner
- Single enclosed/ secure carport
- 9x6 meter approx. Shed with rear street access
- Land Size 539sqm

For Sale



17 Russell Street, Branxton
Price: \$370,000

Accommodation – 3 bedrooms, all with wardrobes, bathroom, kitchen, separate external laundry, open plan design - offering formal and informal living areas. **Features** – double carport with single lock up garage with attached workshop plus study, covered entertaining area with built in bar, split air conditioning, land size 1011sqm.

For Sale



4 Tulloch Street, East Branxton
Price: \$259,000

Set in a quite location within short distance to local parks, pool, golf course & sporting fields this property offers huge potential. Features include; 4 bedrooms, lounge, kitchen/dining combined, bathroom, single carport, covered patio plus land size of 538sqm.

For Rent



43 Clift Street, Greta
\$320 per week

- 3 bedrooms all with built-ins and ceiling fans
- Lounge room with combustion fireplace
- Air conditioning
- Covered patio area
- Garage with power + single lock up garage with internal access

For Rent



3 Vineyard Haven Parade, Branxton
\$360 per week

Featuring 3 bedrooms all with built-ins. The combined lounge and dining area is a good size and has a split system air conditioner. The kitchen is modern in style with gas stove and dishwasher. Outside is a fully fenced backyard, covered patio area and a double lock up garage.

For Rent



22B Fleet Street, Branxton
\$320 per week

This well presented modern house is a must to inspect. It features 3 bedrooms, a good size living area with separate dining, stylish modern kitchen, all bedrooms have built-ins, main with ensuite, air conditioning, double lock up garage with internal access. This property has a small yard making it easy to maintain. Located in Branxton, great location.

7

Properties

7 the number of properties that have been leased in 4 weeks by our office.

Call us today to arrange us manage your rental property.

Thomas

Estate Agents

Residential & Commercial
Property management

Telephone:
49 38 20 20

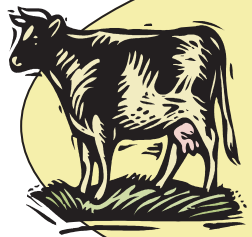
Web: www.thomasrealestate.com.au

Disclaimer: Thomas Estate Agents believes that this information is correct but it does not warrant or guarantee the accuracy of the information. You should make your own enquiries and check the information. Certain information has been obtained from external sources and has not been independently verified.

GRETA WORKERS

THE OAKS
FAMILY RESTAURANT
CHINESE & AUSTRALIAN
MEALS
TUESDAY—SUNDAY
LUNCH & DINNER

COURTESY BUS
WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS &
SUNDAYS
Ring the Club for more details



MEAT & HAM
RAFFLES
FRIDAY 7.00pm
SUNDAY 12.00Noon

MILLER PARK

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW
THURSDAY 7th APRIL
\$3,400
SUNDAY 10th MARCH
\$1,300



MEAT & HAM
RAFFLES
FRIDAY 7.00pm
SUNDAY 6.00pm

FRIDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

8th APRIL
SOUND ABOUT
15th APRIL
RENDEZVOUS



HAPPY HOUR
THURSDAY 4—6.00pm
SCHOONERS \$3.30

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

WEDNESDAY
6th APRIL
\$3,200
SUNDAY
10th APRIL
\$1,400

SAMMY'S AT THE PARK

FAMILY RESTAURANT
BRANXTON'S FAVOURITE
CHEF
WEDNESDAY— SUNDAY
LUNCH & DINNER

HAPPY HOUR

THURSDAY 4—6.00pm
\$3.30 SCHOONERS



Janice Hodges

1951 ~ 2016



Above: Australia Day Ambassador for Cessnock LGA Brian McGuigan with Janice Hodges who received an Appreciation Award in the Cessnock City Council Australia Day honours list (2006).
Below: at her daughter Kimbalee's University Graduation recently.



The sad passing of Greta's doyenne of community & charitable works, Janice Hodges, saw a large number of her community friends & family attend her funeral service at East Maitland.

Janice passing came as a great shock to many as she purposely avoided telling as many of her friends that she was not all that well & I was one; it came as a great shock to me.

Her involvement in almost all of Greta's community organisations saw her awarded an Australia Day Award in 2006; most deservedly. Her husband Peter also received one in 2008.

Her work at Greta Public School years ago saw her given a state wide Appreciation Award presented by the Minister for Education. That year there were only two given with the other recipient being a lady from Muswellbrook (I have tried to find the article but to no avail). Anyway, both turned up wearing the same outfit which in female circles, apparently, is a disaster Janices' take on the outfit disaster was that the lady from Muswellbrook had very good taste in women's apparell!!

VALE Janice (Ed.)

EULOGY

Janice was born in the very middle of the year in 1951, the first of July, in Merewether, Newcastle. Her father, John Rhodes, picked the name Janice after seeing it on a street sign on the way to the hospital to visit his new born daughter. She was baptised into the Body of Christ soon after at the Central Methodist Mission Church in Newcastle. After briefly attending Boolaroo Public School, she was then one of the first students to attend Speers Point Public School when it opened in 1957. She then moved on to Booralgul High School. During her adult years, she could still recite the school song perfectly. She would also tell stories of her favourite teachers Miss Pill and Mr Turner and encour-

aged her daughter Kimbalee to embrace the ideals those teachers displayed as Kimbalee went onto a career in Education. Janice had a brief stint as a teacher herself, teaching Sunday School at Boolaroo Uniting Church. After leaving high school, she walked around Newcastle looking for a job. She did this so much that she had blisters on her feet. She finally found a job at the Sulphide as a junior receptionist. Too scared to use the telephone exchange, she would avoid the ringing phone as she did not want to be accidentally listening in to conversations. After this, she worked briefly at Peters ice cream, dipping the vanilla ice cream hearts into chocolate

by hand. Janice arrived home everyday to her parent's house with seized up fingers. Janice's mother Patricia, who loved movies, remarked that Janice looked liked like Jerry Lewis after squeezing oranges in a movie shed seen. Her shortest job lasted half a day at Rundle Tailoring. She was asked not come back the next day as she kept breaking the needle in the sewing machine. She was more upset that she did not get to use the clock off machine at the end of the day. After this, she moved into the dietary department at the Royal Newcastle Hospital. Her love and empathy was ignited here when she would serve meals to the children in the hospital. She spoke of wanting to become a paediatric

nurse after seeing these children, but her life took her in another path. After answering an advertisement for a waitress on Norfolk Island, she left Australia and worked on the Island for seven years. She was a short order and breakfast cook at the Castaway Hotel, waitress at the Garrison restaurant and waitress at Hotel Norfolk. Ever the joker, she played annoying records loudly from her record player, to the frustration of her boss who took the 45 record and snapped it in half. There was no TV on the island and Janice passed the time listening to ABC radio for 3 hours a day, playing cards and talking with friends. She made her closest friends at the Royal Newcastle Hospital laundry,

which she worked at after arriving home from Norfolk Island. She told stories catching the early bus from Speers Point to Newcastle and falling asleep on the passenger next to her, her car rusting from being parked at the beach and walking down into Newcastle and back for lunch in record time. Always a very hot place to work, Janice pioneered removing the sleeves from her work uniform to make working cooler. When they would complain of the heat, Faye Shewie told them all to go get a job at Dark's Ice if they were too hot. She insisted that Joycie Granger and Pam Brewer taught her how to swear. The girls had fun teasing Jackie Dann and laughing loudly – a quality for which Janice was known and loved. Janice had a mischievous sense of humour, and was often sent to the supervisor's office for infractions such as talking too much or making howling noises with Bill. She spent her nights going out to places like The Palais Royale and the Jolly Roger, where young men would have drinks sent to her table as she attracted their eye. Her paths crossed at the Royal with a handsome man named Peter, who worked as an Electrician and often found himself in the laundry. Their eyes met again one day as Peter was sitting in his car at a pedestrian crossing and noticed this beautiful blonde with great legs looking back at him. They met again at Belmont 16 footers club and were engaged four months later. Janice's father asked the couple to wait one year before marrying to be sure they were right for each other. Janice accompanied Peter as he worked in Northern New South Wales and Queensland with J.A Martin Electrical. On these trips, Peter would often open his lunchbox and find lunch for the whole crew. They lived a simple life in a caravan while moving to the jobs and Janice covered every space in the van with her shoes, clothes and books.

After returning to Newcastle, the couple were married in Hamilton Uniting Church on the 14th of June, 1984. Patricia, Janice's mother told Janice and her driver Uncle Clyde, to do another loop around the block on the wedding day as "Peter's not here yet!". Little did she know, Peter was in the back room waiting for the bride to arrive the entire time. They honeymooned in Queensland and both returned to work after buying a house in Shortland. After her mother had a stroke and was in the Royal Newcastle Hospital, Janice was forced to hitchhike into Newcastle after the earthquake, as the centre of town was closed off. This was a testament of her own devotion to her mother. On the 6th of January 1988, Janice and Peter welcomed their only child Kimbalee into the world.

The caterers did not show up to Kimbalee's baptism, so Janice catered for the guests with a feed of KFC. They all moved to Greta and had a happy married and family life. Janice would ask Peter to read Banjo Patterson's "The Man from Ironbark" as Peter imitating the voices made her laugh. Janice made a conscious decision not to work while Kimbalee was growing up, so she could be there for her. She did this until Kimbalee was 21.

In her later years, she was able to gain her self-confessed "bucket list" job as a food demonstrator at Woolworths and Coles supermarkets. Here she made many friends and would walk down the aisles to the night fillers offering them samples of her food as she worked. She also assisted the staff by tidying the shelves for them as it was, she said, one less thing they had to do. She was named as the best promoter in the state after her work promoting Metamucil – proof that she could talk to anyone about anything! Janice travelled the world – She went to Timor as a 19yr old, travelled Australia on a bus, lived and worked in Norfolk Island, visited Hawaii, Singapore and later with her daughter, Thailand, Mainland America (Las Vegas being her favourite place), Mexico, and Hawaii twice. Traveling was her passion in later years, along with shopping.

Janice was also extremely community minded. She was the P&C president at Greta Public School for 5 years, where she initiated the first school fete. She was an active member and elder of Greta Uniting Church. She sold ANZAC badges and cooked breakfasts for diggers on ANZAC day. She gift wrapped for the MS society, was an active member of Greta Tidy Towns, Legacy and the RSL social club. She was also known for walking the dog around Greta picking up rubbish to keep the town looking pristine. She was also known for her love of animals and would walk other peoples dogs for free because it gave her joy. She became a cat person in later life with her beloved cat Miss Kitty providing her with constant companionship.

Janice preferred to be known to Kimbalee's friends as Auntie Janice and she treated them all as family. She was continually trying to find Kimbalee a husband, often asking ambulance drivers and doctors if they had a son around 28. Janice departed the physical life peacefully and quickly, as she had always wanted. She took away the taboo of death by speaking openly about her wishes in her healthier years. She said her greatest achievements were getting married and having a daughter. She said everything else was a bonus.

Has your phone stopped ringing?



You need to advertise your business

Call Mike At 'The News'

4938 1773



Police Report

Break, Enter and Attempt Steal/Greta: Between 16:30 on Sunday 27 March 2016 and 10:20 on Monday 28 March 2016 unknown person/s have attempted to gain entry to the stated location being a premises in Orient Street, Greta by jemmmying the ground floor side door using unknown means. Nil entry was gained and nil property has been stolen.

Person reporting stated that there was a successful break and enter on 24 March 2016 and another attempted break and enter on 25 March 2016.

Bush Fire/Putty: 26/3/16 LOC: Putty Rd, Garland Valley x Wallaby Scrub Fire Trail. Bulga RFS. RFS UNITS: Putty x 2, Bulga, Broke x 2, Colo, Blaxland Ridge.

About the T/D, RFS received a call regarding a bushland fire at the LOC. The above units responded with the first unit on scene at 6.00pm. At this time a large fire was found at the LOC running along the side of the Putty Road. Police were requested due to the large amount of smoke reducing visibility on the road.

At this time the fire along the roadway had been reduced some what by the attending RFS units however was still burning further in the bushland. The fire was extinguished by RFS at 8.30pm.

Initial units on scene indicated to police that the fire appeared to have started on Wallaby Scrub Fire Trail near the intersection with the Putty Rd. Cause of the fire is unknown. In total approximately 3 hectares of bushland was destroyed.

Stolen MV/Broke: Between 23:59 on Friday 25 March 2016 and 10:30 on Saturday 26 March 2016 vehicle BW26AW - 2013 WHITE TOYOTA PRADO STATION WAGON was parked and unlocked on the driveway at a premises in Cochrane St, Broke. Vehicle keys were in the console. Unknown person/s have stolen the vehicle by unknown means and method.

Drive whilst suspended/Singleton: LOCATION: New England Highway, Singleton TIME/DATE: 2:45pm, Saturday, 26th March, 2016 VOI: White Toyota Echo POI: Female, aged 44 from Cessnock OFFENCE: Drive while Suspended - 1st Offence. OPERATION: Tortoise

About 2:45pm on Saturday, 26th March, 2016 the accused drove motor vehicle a White Toyota Echo sedan South along the New England Highway, Singleton. The accused was stopped at the stationary breath testing site for the purposes of a roadside breath test. The accused was subjected to a roadside breath test which proved negative. The accused was requested to produce her driver's licence.

The accused produced an unrestricted class C New South Wales driver's licence. Checks were conducted upon the driver's licence which revealed it is currently endorsed as suspended from the 9th February, 2016 until the 8th May, 2016 due to excess demerits points.

The accused was issued a penalty notice for an excessively worn tyre which was defective.

The accused was issued with a Field Court Attendance Notice for "Drive Motor Vehicle while Licence Suspended - 1st Offence" and is to appear at Singleton Local Court on the 26th April 2016.

Stolen Vehicle/Singleton Heights: Between 03:30 and 06:30 on Tuesday 29 March 2016 vehicle [Y22430 - 2012 Brown Box Trailer ATA brand], was parked and unsecured at the stated location being Bower Pde, Singleton Heights. Unknown person/s have stolen the vehicle by unknown means and method.

Drive Whilst Suspended/Singleton: The accused in this matter is male, aged 31 from Shortland.

About 09:00pm on Sunday the 27th March 2016, the accused was the driver of a red Holden Commodore sedan which he drove in a northerly direction along the New England Highway, Singleton.

Police explained to the Accused the reason for being stopped and requested him to produce his driver's licence. The Accused produced a NSW Class P2 provisional Driver Licence.

The accused was subjected to a roadside breath test that returned a negative result. Police conducted checks on the accused in relation to his licence status and found that he was suspended due to demerit points which started on the 17th February 2016 and concluded on the 16th May 2016.

Police issued the accused Field Court Attendance Notice and advised him not to drive any further. The accused is to appear at Singleton Local Court on the 26th April 2016 for the offence of Drive motor vehicle while licence suspended - 2nd offence.



The Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association is excited to announce the Hunter Valley Food & Wine Festival's strategic and official partner for 2016 is 'Wine Selectors' who has been exploring Australian wine for over 40 years. From small beginnings in the Hunter Valley in 1975, Wine Selectors now proudly delivers the very best in Australian wine to over 200,000 customers throughout the country. Today they continue to share our passion for the Hunter Valley by uncovering new styles, sharing regional favourites and telling the story behind every bottle of wine so that their members are inspired to keep discovering everything the Hunter Valley has to offer.

Alongside the Digital Advertising & Public Relations Campaigns which are currently in market, Hunter Valley Wine & Food Festival is also being supported by a \$70,000 It's ON! in NSW campaign by Destination NSW. This campaign, which will be in market from the 2nd to the 28th of May, aims to promote events as part of the Hunter Valley Wine and Food Festival, driving overnight visitation to the Hunter Valley throughout May and June 2016. The campaign will target food and wine lovers, and couples that like to take short breaks from the Sydney region. The campaign will be promoted digitally on social media (Facebook), Google Display Network and Youtube video.

Key events to be featured are the Cheese Lovers Festival at the Sebel Kirkton Park, By the Fireside Dinner Series at Hunter Valley Resort, Whispering Brook Long Olive Table Luncheon, Cork and Fork at the Vintage, Margan Meet the Farmer Dinner, Hunter Valley Wine Festival at Crowne Plaza, Burning of the Barrel at Glandore Estate, Lovedale Arts Festival and the broad Hunter Valley Wine and Food Festival.

Our Hunter Valley Wine Country Facebook page last week reached over 10,000 likes and is growing rapidly. Please be sure to go on, like our page and continue to share our regular posts - this way the word of our great region will expand even further!

A Little Bit of Italy in Broke is a weekend program of Italian food, wine, festivities and fun throughout Broke Fordwich which will be taking place 8th - 10th April.

Relax in the rural setting at one of ten venues, creating experiences and events to bring A Little Bit of Italy to Broke.

The events which will be taking place as part of this year's festivities are: Italian Vintage Picnic at Stomp! Wines; The Grower & The Butcher at Broke's Promise Estate; Piazza Famiglia Festival at Pickled & Pitted; La Dolce Vita at Whispering Brook; Margan Piazza at Margan Wines; A Tavola con la Famiglia at Somerville Wines; A Little Bit of Tuscany in the Hunter at Krinklewood; Festa Italiana at Catherine Vale Wines; Gastronomia La Regioni Italiane at Nightingale Wines

There will be pizza, pasta, antipasto, porchetta, gelato, espresso, panini, Sangiovese, Frizzante, Dolcetto, Fiano, Barbera, Semillon, Shiraz, Chardonnay, Cooking classes, workshops, demonstrations, local produce, olives and olive oils, Bocce, Italian games, al fresco fun, piano accordion and cabaret.

Organise your family and friends, book your accommodation and transport for an Italian inspired weekend. For more information visit www.italyimbroke.com.au

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**Annual
General Meeting**
Wednesday 13/04/2016
6.00pm

ANZAC DAY
25th April 2016
9 Hole Golf Comp all
day
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5pm - 10pm
Visitors: Photo ID Must be provided to gain entry
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Broadband
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TAKE SOME GOOD ADVICE

support for Hitler and conspiracy theories. According to Microsoft, Tay was designed to engage and entertain people through casual and playful conversation, enabling her to become smarter as she chatted. Unfortunately, users began to immediately trying to mess with “her” by introducing controversial topics. Poor Tay fell in with a bad crowd and lost her social media privileges.

Sony Bringing PlayStation Games To Mobile

PlayStation games are coming to your mobile phone. Sony has created a new division called ForwardWorks. ForwardWorks will be focused solely on games for phones and tablets.

Their first order of business is taking existing PlayStation games and making version for Android and IOS.

No word yet on which games will be getting the app treatment.

So, I’m asking you, is one of these stories an April Fools joke? If so, which one doesn’t have the ring of truth? Or could it all be true? Let us know what you think in the comments

Cooler Cooler Struggles To Make Good On Kickstarter Promises

It’s one of fasted-funded projects in the history of the Kickstarter crowd-funding site. The Coolest Cooler is not only a cooler, but it converts into a fully functional, solar-powered workstation for your tailgate or outdoor event, complete with a blender.



Kicksarter backers loved the idea, with \$60,000 of them offering more than \$13 million dollars in a month. But the company has not been able to deliver all the promised coolers to their backers. A problem with the blender led to delays and to the company selling the coolers for \$500 each on Amazon to raise more money. So, the coolers were getting delivered to new customers, but not to the ones that had already paid a premium to have first-access to the coolers. The folks behind the cooler say they’re still working hard to make sure everyone gets their cooler and to find new sources of funding.

This instance points out the catch with crowd-funding. As with any investment in a product that’s not yet on the market, it may be successful or it may fail.

5G Is On The Way

5G data service is coming, but not right away. The successor to the 4G standard will be capable of transferring 1 gigabit per second, which is 200 times faster than 4G 5 to 12 megabits per second that 4G provides.

Speeds like that make streaming video and playing games much smoother. But don’t expect to be picking up that 5G phone too soon. It’ll probably be about five years before 5G networks are in place.

Hospital Hit By Ransomware Attack

Hollywood Presbyterian Medical centre in the USA was hit by malware that locked all of their files, making it impossible for medical professionals to access patient records.

The hackers wanted over 3 million dollars in bitcoins to free up the computer system and the hospital actually paid them, though only \$17,000, not the millions originally demanded.

Security experts think it happened because a hospital employee fell for a phishing attack. The files are now unlocked, but reports say they hospital is still having IT issues.

Vizio TVs To Use Chromecast

Accroding to reports, Vizio smart TVs will be replacing their own apps on some upcoming models with Google Chromecast.

That will mean that owners of the TVs will have access to a lot more apps and it will also give some good exposure to Chromecast.

The one catch is that you need a tablet or smartphone to access Chromecast. Other smart TVs let you access the menu directly from the television using a remote.

The Law Report



Peter KIRSOP B.A., LL.B, Acc Spec (Prop) of MRM Thompson Norrie Lawyers, Maitland NSW

Mrs Cuneen’s battle with ICAC

Mrs Cuneen’s battle with ICAC continues. You may remember that Mrs Cuneen – a leading public prosecutor -was alleged to have sent a text message to her son’s girlfriend suggesting she fake chest pains so that the police would delay taking a blood sample after a car accident. The allegation was that the girlfriend had been drinking – only a small amount but probably enough to put her over the limit for a “P plater”. It was said that if the girlfriend followed Mrs Cuneen’s alleged advice she’d delay the blood sampling long enough for the alcohol to work its way out of the girlfriend’s system. Mrs Cuneen denied sending the text message. You may recall that I wrote that in the end the High Court said that even if she did send the text message it wasn’t ‘corruption’ because it was in her private capacity- it wasn’t corruption in a public office like Mr Obeid’s manipulation of coal licenses or the Liberal members of parliament in the area taking illegal donations to their campaign funds.

After that decision there were some rumblings from commentators that Mrs Cuneen would or perhaps should bring an action against ICAC. So far as I know Mrs Cuneen herself never said anything about bringing any action. Perhaps the reason is that Mrs Cuneen, unlike the commentators knew that there weren’t grounds for bringing the actions the commentators suggested- actions for either malicious prosecution or for abuse of process.

What did happen was a report on ICAC by ICAC’s Inspector David Levine, a former judge and the current Policies Integrity Commissioner. Mr Levine’s report which late last year was submitted to the parliamentary committee that reviews ICAC revealed that a Commonwealth agency tipped off ICAC about Mrs Cuneen in a letter it hand delivered to ICAC officers titled “DPP Prosecutor possibly involved in corrupt conduct”. Mr Levine also reported that the way ICAC seized Mrs Cuneen’s mobile phone (and some other phones) was illegal. ICAC issued a “notice to produce” which normally requires the person who is given the notice to produce whatever the notice demands at a time and place. They are often issued by a party in civil cases to get documents from their opponent.

But here ICAC staff had appeared and demanded the phones on the spot. (I am not sure if they did that to Mrs Cuneen herself- the press reports only say ICAC officers seized the phones of Mrs Cuneen’s son and his girlfriend that way).

Mr Levine’s report cited two barristers opinions that the seizure of the phones in that way was illegal and that search warrants which ICAC later got didn’t change the situation.

A lot of the sting in the report was removed when last week the NSW Shadow Attorney General stated that Mr Levine’s own organisation the Police Integrity Commission used the notice to produce process itself- indeed it’s issued 400 of them in the last two years. To use the old idiom it seems the pot is calling the kettle black.

It seems from what committee members are saying is that Mrs Cuneen did indeed tell her son’s girlfriend to fake chest pains but may have been making a joke. At any rate Fred Nile who is on the committee says he believed she was joking. Regardless of whether Mrs Cuneen was joking or was serious, a number of people Graham Richardson, the Australian’s legal writer, the Institute of Public Affairs and some right wing academics have called for ICAC to be abolished. The Institute of Public

Affairs in particular say it doesn’t comply with the rules of evidence (and cite the notices to produce as an example) and that it is an inquisition doesn’t do any good and citing Mr Levine’s report says it is a ‘rogue agency’ which doesn’t comply with the “rule of law”. They seem to have forgotten that it was ICAC which exposed Eddie Obeid’s dealings - now the subject of criminal charges against him and others and that it exposed Karyn Paluzzano had falsely signed employee pay forms and used her electoral mail allowance to help fund her electoral campaign. They are but two examples.

The critic’s argument goes further - they seem to question whether such a body should exist at all. Mr Greiner set it up as a sort of permanent Royal Commission into corruption. Royal Commissions are not bound by the rules of evidence and they act inquisitorially – that is to say their staffs investigate issues unlike judges who are presented with evidence by the parties to the case.

Incidentally Mr Levine didn’t comply with a fundamental of “the rule of law “; he didn’t give ICAC a chance to respond to his report before presenting it to parliament. Harvey Cooper a former judge and the ICAC inspector before Mr Levine wrote in a letter to the Sydney Herald that it’s a fundamental of the rule of law that everyone is entitled to a fair hearing and in the case of a report to respond to the report’s findings before it is presented. He wrote “Unfortunately, the inspector’s report on Operation Hale is flawed. The only proper course now is for it to be withdrawn and a new report obtained from a person independent of the current commissioner and inspector.

Many countries have bodies like ICAC. The retired Chief Justice of NSW Jim Speelman called such bodies a fourth arm or government - an integrity arm making sure that the other arms, the judiciary parliament and the executive all act properly. Similar bodies have existed in history. The Chinese Civil Service had a “Censorate” its officials wore an embroidered breast patch on their uniforms displaying a legendary animal called a Xiezhi. The Xiezhi was supposed to be able to detect good from evil and smell an immoral character from a distance, whereupon the Xiezhi would leap upon the person and tear him or her to pieces.

The censorate was organised as a separate branch of government to maintain surveillance over all other governmental activities and thereby enforce proper behaviour through processes of impeachment, censure and punishment. It also had the function of initiating recommendations for change of governmental policies, practices or personnel.

Kublai Khan once said of his governmental structure: "The Secretariat is my left hand, the Bureau of Military Affairs is my right hand, and the Censorate is the means for my keeping both hands healthy."

The Romans had the censors whose duties included investigating Magistrates who took bribes, perjury, people who threatened or tried to corrupt or bribe public officials, as well as to our eyes at least the rather odd charge of not keeping militia horses in good condition. I believe Mr Griener who set ICAC up was right and Mr Baird who widened the definition of corruption again after the High Courts decision I wrote about last year was also right-we need bodies like ICAC to in (the words of the late Don Chipp- admittedly in another context)-“keep the bastards honest”

In my next article I’ll look at malicious prosecution and why I don’t think Mrs Cuneen could have brought this action (again there’s no suggestion she actually was intending to, others commentated that she might).

Cheers, Peter

A phishing trip you don’t want to go on

Cyber criminals around the world are baiting up and casting their lures in the hope of reeling in your personal details.

It’s a practice called phishing. It comes in the form of an official looking email from your bank, your email or internet provider, or even your iTunes account telling you to log in and update your details.

It can result in people gaining access to your personal emails, your computer and even your bank accounts.

One of the more prominent examples of this type of hacking came to a head last week when an American man pleaded guilty to hacking into the accounts of international female celebrities. Jennifer Lawrence was among those who had their private data—including explicit photos—leaked to the world.

It’s not just private individuals that are targeted – businesses including EBay and JPMorgan have also been caught on the hook, showing that companies with even the most sophisticated and well-resourced IT departments are still vulnerable to cybercrime.

Reputational damage of hacking can be just as problematic as financial damage; at least insurance often covers financial loss. The Sony Pictures data hack in 2014 resulted in the downfall of one of the company’s top executives and exposed some very embarrassing opinions about some of the world’s biggest stars. There is no insurance coverage for the world finding out you think Angelina Jolie is “is a minimally talented spoiled brat” or that you make racist jokes about President Obama. It has since been revealed Sony’s CEO has reverted to handwriting and faxing much of his correspondence following the hack.

So what is a small business to do?

Going back to handwriting and faxing is not practical or recommended. The increasing uptake of technology across the world is driven by its ability to streamline processes and save time and money. Businesses and individuals can take some simple steps to avoid falling victim to hacking and phishing.

- Have a healthy amount of suspicion about official-looking emails asking you to update your details. Companies like your bank, PayPal, Ebay and iTunes will NEVER send you an email out of the blue asking you to update your details. If you do receive this type of email it is a safe bet you can delete it. However, if you would like to double check **do not click any link in the email**. Instead, type the address into google or the browser you usually use to access the service (eg, www.anz.com.au) and log into your account as you normally would. If the email you received was genuine you will be promoted to make any required changes.
- Get serious about passwords. Some of Sony’s most sensitive servers and networks were protected by passwords like 12345, ABCDE and password. Don’t make this same mistake. Use different passwords for different accounts and make sure they do not include family or pet names and significant dates.
- Get a good spam filter and back up your data regularly. The spam filter is your first line of defence to avoid phishing emails. However, if you do happen to fall prey to a hack having a regular back-up schedule in place can minimise the damage from a data loss perspective.
- Be aware that mobile devices like your mobile phone or tablet, which don’t always have anti-virus protection, can also be hacked



Microsoft’s Artificial Intelligence Goes Bad

What was supposed to be a fun experiment with artificial intelligence took a the kind of turn you see in science fiction movies. Microsoft had to take its “chat-bot” Tay.ai off social media after “she” expressed

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Complaints Register to launch in August

Real Estate agents in NSW need to be aware of the new Complaints Register which is being provided to the public from August and will be based on data collected from 1 July 2016.

Currently NSW Fair Trading receives over 45,000 complaints a year. As a result NSW Fair Trading has decided to bring in the Register to provide businesses with an incentive to provide better customer service and help consumers make more informed decisions about where to shop.

It is designed to provide information about businesses, including real estate agencies, which receive 10 or more complaints in a calendar month.

The Register will be published on NSW Fair Trading website in the second half of each month with data from the previous calendar month.

REINSW made a submission to NSW Fair Trading regarding the proposal Register in October 2015. REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin said: "In principle we think the Complaints Register is a good idea. We have always supported providing consumers with relevant and accurate information so that they can make an informed choice.

"It is, however, open to abuse and interpretation which could mislead consumers and end up unfairly tarnishing a business's reputation.

"Before a complaint goes up on the Register it needs to be properly investigated by NSW Fair Trading and be deemed genuine as part of its criteria.

He added: "The Register needs to record accurate, complete and useful information that will result in the delivery of better customer service and more informed decisions.

"We will be closely monitoring the Register and providing feedback to NSW Fair Trading on amendments and improvements where needed."

To be listed on the Register, a complaint must include the person's name and contact details. It must be related to a real interaction with a business, and a receipt for the transaction or other supporting information may be requested. If the consumer is not able to provide sufficient information, it will not be included in the Register.

Those agencies who are placed on the Register will have their business name listed, the number of complaints made against them and the product groups complained about. It will not disclose information about the specific complaint or outcome.

Agents will have the opportunity to find out more about the Register from NSW Fair Trading at REINSW's *Roadshow*. This half day event is being held at various locations across NSW from April to July, and offers agents the chance to find out what's happening in the industry.

NSW Fair Trading will be participating in a Q&A session to discuss the Complaints Register, underquoting, strata reforms, swimming pool laws and asbestos legislation.

The Guidelines provide information about what is classed as a complaint, how NSW Fair Trading deals with complaints, and the limitations of the data.

NSW Government publishes Swimming Pools Information Sheet

The NSW Office of Local Government has just published an Information Sheet giving further details on the 29 April 2016 changes to the swimming pool regulations. This Information Sheet is reproduced in full below.

- **Office of Local Government: Message to Real Estate Agents & Conveyancers**
Sale and lease provisions for properties with swimming pools from 29 April 2016

All properties with a swimming pool or spa pool being sold or leased on or after 29 April 2016 will need a valid certificate of compliance or a relevant occupation certificate.

- Where a certificate of compliance cannot be obtained, the seller will be able to transfer the responsibility to obtain a certificate of compliance to the buyer. The transfer will be realised through the attachment of a certificate of non-compliance to the contract for sale.
 - The buyer will have 90 days from the date of settlement to rectify defects listed in the certificate of non-compliance and obtain a certificate of compliance.
 - After 29 April 2016, the following will be prescribed documents if the contract relates to land on which there is situated a swimming pool:
 - a valid certificate of compliance issued under the *Swimming Pools Act 1992*,
 - a relevant occupation certificate and evidence that the swimming pool is registered under the *Swimming Pools Act 1992*,
 - a valid certificate of non-compliance issued under the *Swimming Pools Regulation 2008*.
 - These provisions will not apply if:
 - the contract relates to a lot in a strata scheme (within the meaning of the *Strata Schemes Management Act 1996*) or in a community scheme (within the meaning of the *Community Land Development Act 1989*) and that strata or community scheme comprises more than 2 lots, or
 - the contract is an off the plan contract (within the meaning of section 66ZL of the *Conveyancing Act 1919*).
 - When leasing a property with a swimming pool, the landlord agrees to ensure that the requirements of the *Swimming Pools Act 1992* have been complied with. The landlord agrees to ensure that at the time that this residential tenancy agreement is entered into: the swimming pool on the residential premises is registered under the *Swimming Pools Act 1992* and has a valid certificate of compliance under that Act or a relevant occupation certificate within the meaning of that Act, and a copy of that valid certificate of compliance or relevant occupation certificate is provided to the tenant.
 - These provisions will not apply if:
 - the swimming pool is situated on land in a strata scheme (within the meaning of the *Strata Schemes Management Act 1996*) or
 - in a community scheme (within the meaning of the *Community Land Development Act 1989*) and
 - that strata or community scheme comprises more than 2 lots.
 - A certificate of compliance can be obtained from the local council or an independent accredited certifier who is registered with the Building Professionals Board. Contact details for accredited certifiers are available on the Swimming Pool Register website.
 - Allow plenty of time to obtain a certificate of compliance - anecdotal evidence suggests that around 95% of pools fail at the first inspection.
 - Many councils have advised that it can take up to 90 days before a pool becomes compliant. You can check if a property with a swimming pool has a current certificate of compliance by accessing the NSW Swimming Pool Register online and selecting "Lookup Pool".
 - Enter the street number, street name (do not type in road, street, lane etc.) and the suburb.
 - Select "Find Property" and the address will appear if the property has a valid certificate of compliance.
- REINSW has been advised that once the regulatory amendments have been finalised, guidance materials will be developed and made available on the Office of Local Government's website.



Helen Lowing, Proprietor, Licence-in-Charge

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MOVIE REVIEW

BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE



You'll Either Love Or Hate 'Batman v Superman'

'Batman v Superman' tries to do too many things. You can enjoy it if you don't expect much.

MARCH 24, 2016 By Rebecca Cusey

"Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" will certainly inspire fierce debate. Too competent to be universally panned, too disjointed to be universally praised, too anticipated to be a new revelation, too beloved in subject to be easily dismissed, the film will be one people either passionately love or passionately hate. The plot does, indeed, pit Batman (Ben Affleck) against Superman (Henry Cavill). In a refreshing turn to never-ending superhero origin stories, each superhero is older, somewhat wiser, and more settled than we usually see them portrayed. Batman has decades of fighting the villains of Gotham under his belt and a reputation as wealthy Bruce Wayne. Superman and his alter ego Clark Kent have built a career at the *Daily Planet* and a life with Lois Lane (Amy Adams). They're almost middle-aged. Fighting evil is what they do. They've come to accept their place in life. However, their place in life leaves little room for each other. The film builds the rivalry and mistrust between the two strongmen, but not enough for them to erupt into war. The battle happens mainly for other reasons. Too Many Epic Struggles to Develop Well This is one of the main weaknesses of the movie. It builds tension, rivalries, or themes, and then turns away from them. In the first third of the film, both characters stand in for America and her view of herself as either global superhero or vengeful brooding strength. There are discussions of democracy, even a showdown in the U.S. Capitol. In one scene,

Superman leaves wealthy Americans to rescue poor workers in Juarez, Mexico, a sign that he, and by extension, America, stand for more than just self-interest. It's a nice conceit, the tension between the idealistic and the self-serving sides of America, an exploration of our crisis of confidence that currently rocks the world stage. But this interesting theme is gradually eclipsed and then extinguished by another: the idea of Superman as a type of god and Batman as a type of man. The battle between them thus becomes the existential wrestling of man with the divine. Much ink has been spilled, both in comics and outside of them, about Superman as a Christ figure. Seeing the concept explored on the big screen could be fascinating. The power of stories, however, is usually in drawing on and referencing themes of the divine, not necessarily explicitly stating them. The film insists you see the parallels, even going so far as to reference the Renaissance artform of the Pietá. The final battle, though, is about neither of these themes, and they both ultimately get lost in the movie's cracks. Just Try to Relax and Not Expect Too Much Zach Snyder's direction feels disjointed, almost a series of vignettes rather than an ongoing story. Once you, as a viewer, realize this is an artistic choice rather than a mistake and stop fighting it, it works, or at least mostly works. It brings a sombreness and seriousness to the film, an arthouse quality. Added to this, however, are several dream sequences that only serve to confuse. I am not a fan of dream sequences, as

they tend to be lazy storytelling, a way for the filmmaker literally to show the inside of a character's mind when external clues would be more telling. The dream sequences added nothing to this movie except visual gymnastics. A few veered into horror, which is dangerous ground in a PG-13 movie that otherwise keeps its nose clean. Some children who might have otherwise loved his film will be too scared by the dreams. The score tries too hard, sometimes distracting in its epic epicness. Like the rest of the movie, it tries to do too much. We have already seen Cavill as Superman in "Man of Steel," and this version adds little to the character he created. Affleck neither soars nor fails as Batman. He brings a certain brooding, slick quality that works well but does not add a new shade to the previous versions that have already created the mosaic that is the character. Jesse Eisenberg as Lex Luthor is the same. He doesn't ruin the character, but he doesn't add. A superhero movie is only as good as its villain, but in this film, Batman and Superman are each other's villains and the pressure is off Luthor. The action is good, but often dark. The acting is passable, the effects neither amazing nor laughable. This is the tone of the film. It's fine. It works. It does not amaze. Because of this tone, the reaction will depend significantly on what the viewer brings to it. If expectations are sky-high, you are likely to be disappointed. If you're an optimist primed to have a good time, you likely will.

AVERAGE RATING 5/10



Intense sequences of violence and mature themes

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

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



come over and look after the shop here and I'll stay in Australia for a while. Have you ever been to Australia? We pick the grapes in the morning and then we walk down the hill for a swim in the ocean. The water is pretty warm over there..... you can swim all year round." He paused here to study the back label. I was looking over at Holly who was also trying her hardest not to laugh out loud. "Yes, Brian and I love Pok-o-bin because it always reminds us of home. Grassy rolling hills, grapevines everywhere and big ponds with water lilies and the sound of crashing waves. It's the most romantic place on earth," he professes as he curiously watched my face turn bright red, tears pouring from my eyes, trying not to make a noise and two heartbeats away from wetting my pants. Holly had slyly backed away from

My wife Holly and I were in Europe some years ago. On our car trip down to Kinsale, on the south-east coast of Ireland, we stopped at a very modest-looking service station in a very small town. I can't even remember the name of it. We filled up and I wrestled the old wooden doors open to go in and pay. The look on my face upon entering must have been priceless, as standing against the far wall of the tiny shop was a huge cardboard cut-out of Brian McGuigan, proudly introducing his collection of wines which were spread along the entire wall, six high. I looked around the rest of the shop..... hhhmmm..... not much of anything else. Milk, bread, cigarettes, motor oil and McGuigan's wines.

"Holly," I yelled, as I stuck my head through a hole in the door where a window had once been, "Get a load of this!" Holly's jaw dropped and I could now see what my expression must have looked like. I know that Brian is one of the greatest wine marketers who has ever graced the planet but even he had outdone himself this time. Wine exporting took on a whole new meaning. We really were in the middle of no-where.

I walked over and picked up one of the bottles and turned to the odd-looking little man with small, round glasses standing behind the counter. He reminded me of 'Radar' from M*A*S*H, with his squeaky high-pitched voice, but very Irish.

"How's the wine selling, mate?" I enquired. He looked up at me quite excitably.

"Aaahhh, the best drop going 'round," he squeaked, his glasses vibrating on the top of his nose. Before I could tell him that we were actually not only from Australia but from the Hunter Valley and that Brian was our next door neighbour, and the fact that we were baffled that he even stocked this wine, let alone being the only one that he did stock, a woman burst through the doors. She grabbed a loaf of bread, a block of cheese and excused herself as she selected two bottles of McGuigan's. An older looking chap followed, exchanged a big smile and hello to the shopkeeper and grabbed two bottles of McGuigan's. Once the satisfied customers had left, God knows where to go, the man noticed we were still standing next to the big, smiling Brian.

"Aaahhh, you don't know which one to get now..... I'll help you," he exclaimed and made his way over. He picked up a bottle of Merlot. "This one's sure to get the cheeks of young lovers like yourselves glowing; we made it especially for you," he enthusiastically claimed. "And this one we make for long romantic picnics in the hills," he proclaimed as he bent down and picked up a bottle of Chardonnay. Slightly blushing, almost embarrassed for the little fellow, I had to ask him who 'we' were.

"My brother Brian, who you can see here," as he reached up and put his arm around Brian's cardboard neck, "makes the wine in Australia and I bring some home each year for the townsfolk."

I laughed, thinking that he had picked our Aussie accents and decided to have a bit of fun with it. Not so. With a very serious and informative tone, he proceeded.

"We used to make the wine here but we decided to move the operation to Australia because the grapes can make more wine there. I go over every year to help Brian pick the grapes and make all the wine. Next year, Brian will

our conversation and was making silly faces and gestures that our new little friend was maybe a bit 'cuckoo'. I quickly responded.

"Who would you say was the brains behind the operation?"

"Oh, probably me." He modestly looked down and shuffled his feet whilst tightening his grip around Brian's neck. "I'm the good looking one as well, but he is clearly taller than me."

He went on for another ten minutes about how wonderful it was to make wine in Australia with his famous brother. This poor little man was believing every word he was telling me.

I interrupted, "I've never actually been to Australia but I am going to make a point of visiting Pok-o-bin and meeting your brother and seeing the vineyards..."

"Wineyards! They're called vineyards!" he exclaimed, with a sympathetic smile.

"Here, I'll write down the address for you and make sure you tell him that Cedric sent you," as he grabbed a small pad and began copying the address from the bottle. Holly was at the back of the shop looking like she had just swallowed a

jalapeno chilli. I pulled out the Visa card and handed it to him to pay for the fuel and I also grabbed a couple of bottles for that night. He was extremely happy with himself and oozed that importance that children do when they have done something good and are telling you about it.

The chap piped up in his squeaky voice and said that for security purposes I would have to produce my 'American' car licence for proof of identity for the Visa card. I handed him my licence and he

began to take the details when he suddenly looked as if he was having a heart attack. My address on the 'Australian' licence was almost exactly the same as on his family's wine bottles. What a coincidence!!! His glasses began slipping down his nose and he was looking a little seasick. There was an uncomfortable silence apart from Holly's sniggering in the corner. He was lost for words but regained his composure.

"So where are you travelling to now?" he finally asked as he stopped shaking.

"To my brother's place. He owns a small brewery in Dublin," I declared.

"Which one?" he enquired.

I looked up at a huge Guinness poster on the wall behind the counter and pointed..... "That one!"

Cheers
Andrew

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



TO THE person/s who have decided that a trip to the dump is far too hard & have decided to use some vacant land on the southern side of North Rothbury to leave their rubbish. The area is now under constant surveillance with motion activated infra red cameras & Tidy Town members on guard ... actually I hope you don't read this as we would love to catch you if we do happen to catch then you can be the first to use our news stocks!!!



TO THE teachers and staff at Branxton Public School who organised the fabulous Easter Hat Parade, book fair & cake stall. Thank you so much for a wonderful day!



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Guitar Lessons: Branxton. Limited places available. Please inquire soon. P 4938-3380 or 0409-038-271.

Lost: pet ferret: brown & golden, female. Went missing Easter Sunday from East Branxton P: 4938 3589

Microchipping: Cats and Dogs, all sizes and breeds, will come to you. \$20 per animal, please call Angela on 0431649947.

Riding Lessons: agjstment, horses trained. www.byalee.net 0407 453 494

Share accommodation: Close to transport & shops, quiet street Branxton: off street parking. \$150p/w includes power & water P: 0423 288 067

Share House: Fully furnished, double bedroom, Built-ins, ceiling fan, Air Con, very quiet. \$165/week. P: 0413 896 866

Wanted: high quality mechanical wrist watches & clocks. Keen collector. Willing to pay good prices. Prefer Rolex, Omega, Oris & Tag. P: 0414 757 826

Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz

ct70 st70 & atc70 Contact Drew 0435814841

Work Wanted: 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: D & N Maintenance - yards, decks, retaining walls + much more P: 0412 208 143

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 and Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153

Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989

Work Wanted: Let me clean your home. Great references & rates (min 3 hours) P: 4990 2936

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

Dates for your diary >

Dates for your diary >

Tue 5 April - Special Sports Awards Assembly - Greta Public School

Thur 7 April - Branxton Public School Cross Country.

Fri 8 April - Last day term 1 - (* All vouchers from 2015 Presentation must be redeemed) Greta Public School

Fri 8 April - Branxton Public School PBL whole school assembly.

Wed 13 Apl - Branxton Greta Business Chamber networking breakfast 8:30am The Royal Federal Hotel

Sun 17 Apl - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds 9am - 2pm

April 18th Monday - Greta/ Branxton Health & Mental Wellbeing Support Group 11- 12:30 Grief and Loss training followed by lunch.

Tue April 19 - 7:30 - 8:30pm Icebreakers Public Forum followed by Carers Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium

Wed 27 April - First day term 2 - Greta Public School /Branxton Public School

Fri 29 April - School Cross Country - Greta Public School

Sat 30 April - American Motorcycle Club of Australia "The Dementia Run" For details call Craig O'Brien on 0475 506 512

Fri 13 May - Zone Cross Country at Tocal Agricultural College Greta Public School

Mon 2 May - Branxton Public School P & C Meeting. 6pm in library.

Sun 15 May - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds

Mon 16 May - 11 - 12.30 Looking after yourself Training followed by lunch. Greta/ Branxton Health & Mental Wellbeing Support Group

Tue May 17 - 7:30pm Icebreakers Carers Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium

Sat 21 May - Branxton Rodeo 3pm - 9:30pm. Plenty of food & refreshments.

Sat 28 May - Bridal Parade @ St John's Anglican Church

Sat 4 Jun - Sat 4th June Branxton Wine Country Cat Club is holding their first Pedigree and Companion Cat Show at Branxton Community Hall. Public Welcome from 11am to 3-30pm

Come and see over 100 Cats and Kittens from your long haired Persians to your Orientals. Burmese Bengals British Abyssinians Companion Cats and many more! Watch and listen to the Judges talking about the breeds as they judge. Talk to the owners and Breeders on the day. Raffles, Lucky door prizes.

Entry fee \$2 Pensioners/Singles \$5 Families

Enquires to Deirdre 0417277589 or Deeanne 0429636925

Sun 19 Jun - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds

Mon 20 June - 11 - 12 Support group meeting followed by lunch. Greta/ Branxton Health & Mental Wellbeing Support Group

Tue June 21 - 7:30 - 8:30pm Icebreakers Public Forum followed by Carers Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium

Wed 6 July - Night Time Bingo @ Greta Workers Club from 7.00pm

Sun 17 July - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds

Mon 18 July - 11 - 12 Support group meeting followed by lunch. Greta/ Branxton Health & Mental Wellbeing Support Group

Tue July 19 - 7:30pm Icebreakers Carers Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium

Tue August 16 - 7:30 - 8:30pm Icebreakers Public Forum followed by Carers Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium

Mon 15 August - 11 - 12 Support group meeting followed by lunch. Greta/ Branxton Health & Mental Wellbeing Support Group

Sun 21 Aug - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds

Sat 27 Aug - Annual Op Shop Fashion Parade @ Branxton Community Hall from 2.00pm

Sun 18 Sept - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds

Tue September 20 - 7:30pm Icebreakers Carers Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium

20-22 Sept - New South Wales Wine Industry Awards at Cessnock Leagues Club

Wed 5 Oct - Night Time Bingo @ Greta Workers Club from 7.00

Wed 12 Oct - Rags to Riches High Tea for Women's Cancer @ Branxton Community Hall from 11.30am

Sun 16 Oct - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds

Tue October 18 - 7:30 - 8:30pm Icebreakers Public Forum followed by Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium

Tue November 15 - 7:30pm Icebreakers Carers Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium

Sun 20 Nov - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds

Sun 2 Dec - Twilight Market (4.00pm to 8.00pm) - Proceeds to Prostrate Cancer & Beyond Blue

Sun 18 Dec - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds

Tue December 20 - 7:30 - 8:30pm Icebreakers Public Forum followed by Carers Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium



Branxton Public School

Branxton Public School held their Fabulous and Famous Disco at the end of week 8. The students had a fantastic time and can't wait for the next one. Thank you Mrs Goodyer for



☰ Easter Hat parade



☰ More great hats!

taking photos during the event and to the P&C for their assistance both before and on the night.

Thanks also to the teachers for giving up their Friday evening to supervise the disco. Our annual Easter Hat Parade took place in Week 9. Parents and community members came along to enjoy lunch with the students and stayed to watch the fabulous parade. Parents and students supported the book fair and the Year 6 Cake Stall, with all funds raised going back into our school. Great hats everyone!

Our annual Cross Country fundraiser is scheduled for next Thursday 7th April. At 9.30am all primary students will walk down to Branxton Park to compete in the 2km or 3km events, starting at 10.00am. Parents are welcome to come along to watch or walk with us to and from school. After recess, the K-2 students will have their fun run event at school in the back playground. Parents are also welcome to attend.

Week 11 is a PBL Assembly and rewards afternoon. Please come along and celebrate the students receiving their Bronze or Silver awards at this PBL assembly on Friday, 8th April at 9.20am.

Dates for the Calendar

Thursday 31st March – School Photos
 Thursday 7th April – Cross Country
 Friday 8th April – PBL Whole School Assembly
 Wednesday 27th April – Students return for Term 2
 Monday 2nd May – P&C Meeting 6pm in library



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☰ Mrs Maier with Easter Bunny



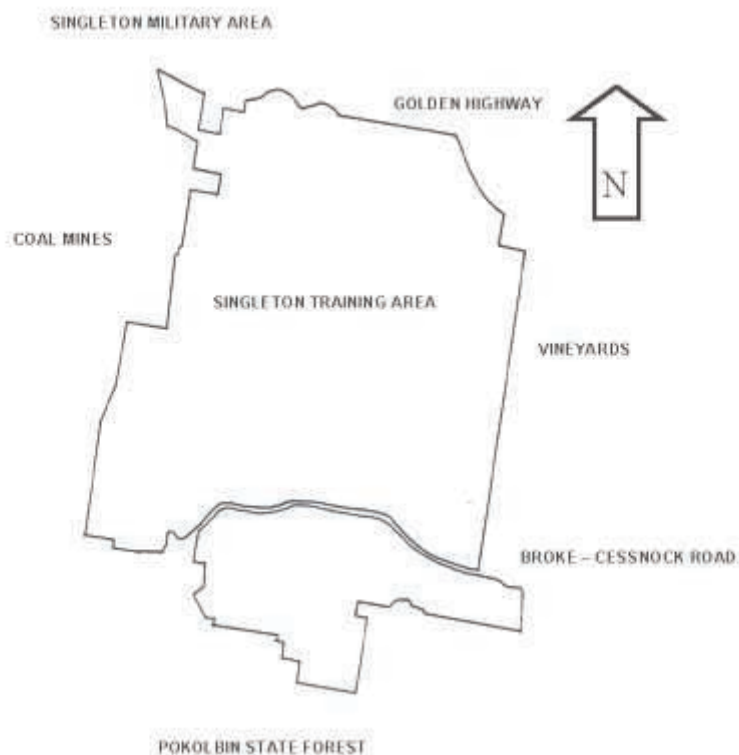
☰ Parade



Australian Government
Department of Defence

DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES

WARNING NOTICE



Residents of areas adjacent to Singleton Training Area are warned it is an Army Live Firing Range. Singleton Training Area is described generally as the area bounded to the south by Pokolbin State Forest, to the east by commercial vineyards and to the west by a combination of rural developments and open cut coal mines. The northern boundary is defined by the Golden Highway which separates the range area from the Singleton Military Area.

Firing practices using live ammunition are conducted continuously on this training area. Low power laser range finders are also used.

Death or serious injury may result from being struck by a projectile. Eye damage may occur when viewing laser beams from within the training area boundary.

Unexploded ammunition is extremely DANGEROUS and should NOT be handled, but should be reported immediately to the nearest Police Station or Army unit. No reward will be paid for the reporting of ammunition which may be located on the training area.

Persons found trespassing on Army Training Areas will be prosecuted.

Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

The Range Control Officer
Range Control,
Directorate of Operations and Training Area Management
Range Road
Singleton Training Area
Singleton NSW 2331.

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St Brigid's Markets

Sunday 17th April 9am until 2pm

Helen 0427 047 024
Julie 0427 381 250
www.facebook.com/stbrigidsmarkets

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Blood On The Track

Formerly Racing & Breeding Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Service

Sixth Vic Derby – Aust Cup winner in 150 years

ONLY one performer has ever won all three of Flemington's oldest top class races, the Victoria Derby (first held 1855), Melbourne Cup (1861) and Australian Cup (1863), and this was Spearfelt, a Victorian bred son of the imported Carbine grandson Spearhead. Spearfelt captured the Derby in 1924, the Melbourne Cup in 1926 and the Australian Cup in 1927.

Later a top sire from use at Alma Vale in Queensland, Spearfelt is one of only six whose careers have encompassed wins in both the Victoria Derby and the Australian Cup, a race run over the equivalents of 3600m/1863-1942, 3500m 1943 – 1962, 2800m 1963 and 2000m in 1964-2016.

The others who have won this double have been Trident (by AJC Derby winner Robinson Crusoe) 1886 and 1887, Dreadnought (by Melbourne Cup and Victoria Derby winner Chester) 1889 and 1890, Craftsman (by imported Better Boy) 1963 and the Australian Cup in both 1965 and 1966, Dulcify (by England bred Decies) 1978 and 1979 and Preferment (Zabeel) 2014 and 2016 (elevated from second).

Two of these horses, Preferment and Craftsman, a winner also of the VRC Queen Elizabeth twice, Turnbull Stakes, C.B. Fisher Plate, MVRC J.F. Feehan Handicap thrice and AJC Autumn Stakes, are very remote relations, both being products of the family established here in the 1880s with the importation of the German bred White and Blue to NSW.

Craftsman went back eight generations to White and Blue's daughter Water Lily, a half-sister by Doncaster winner Rapid Bay to Somniloquist (by Somnus (GB), ancestress of Preferment.

A brother to Rezoned (won South Australian Fillies Classic-G3) and half brother to the Lonhro gelding Loophole (8 wins, \$398,435), Preferment is a 4-year-old entire who is the third named foal from Better Alternative, an Ian Smith, Edinburgh Park Stud, Wingham NSW bred Flying Spur mare who ran 21 times for two wins, 1250m and 2000m, and \$18,700.

She is a half-sister to the Anabaa (USA) Villiers winner Dances on Waves and from Ancient Lights, an AJC PJ Bell Country Championship Final winning sister by Canny Lad to Ancient Song, a Group 1 and 2 winning sprinting mare who produced Tampiko, a Lonhro Gold Coast Prime Minister's Cup winner.

Preferment and Ancient Song are the only Group 1 winners under the first six dams, but the sixth, the Nilo (GB) sprinter Queen of Egypt, was a half-sister to Pompilia (by Abbots Fell (GB), a winner of seven races at 1200m who went to Matrice (Masthead (GB); 45 starts, 27 wins) and produced the South Australian rocket Pago Pago. He won nine races in succession including the Golden Slipper and VATC Merson Cooper, and sired Group 1 winners from use in America and then Australia.

Another very speedy performer from this branch of the White and Blue family was Apple Bay, a Newtown Wonder (GB) winner of the Doomben 10,000, AJC Challenge Stakes and VRC Lightning Stakes. He was from Silver Words (by Talking), a product of a sister to the third dam of Pago Pago and a granddaughter of a sister to Lady Medalist, a mare by St Alwyne (GB) (by St Simon sire St Frusquin) bred in 1906 on the Moses brothers Arrowfield Stud a Jerrys Plains Hunter Valley. She won 12 races, including the Caulfield Cup.

Trained by Chris Waller for many owners, Preferment, the latest Group 1 winning edition to the family, has now raced 19 times for four

wins, five minor placings and \$2,438,405. Five Group 1 cheques have come from wins in the Australian Cup, Victoria Derby and Turnbull Stakes, a second in the Rosehill Guineas and fourth in Sydney in the Chipping Norton.

Zabeel chalks up his fiftieth long distance winner

TWO well tested geldings who had never previously won a stakes added to the phenomenal achievements as a sire of Zabeel in the March 12 -14 (Monday) period when, between them, they claimed the historic 3200m events, Auckland Cup-G1 (established 1874) and Adelaide Cup-G2 (1864).

His 5-year-year-old son Purple Smile snuck home in the Adelaide Cup on the Monday and a 9-year-old grandson, El Soldado, led all the way in taking out the Auckland Cup at \$125 on the Saturday. He is by Colombia, a younger half-brother of Horse of the Year Octagonal who cost \$1.4million at the Easter sales, but was unraced owing to an injury. who suffered an injury. On \$1500 in 2015 at Brett and Victoria Martin's Longspring Stud at Masterton in New Zealand, he has had a 100 winners, ten of them in stakes.

The successes of Purple Smile and El Soldado were in a trifecta of major Cup wins in the time frame which again showed off the might of Zabeel as an influence. The other leg was provided by Preferment's victory in the Australian Cup at Flemington.

The win of Purple Smile at 3200m appears to have taken Zabeel's record to a fifty winners at this distance or further. About twenty have won at 3200m, including the Melbourne Cup glory takers Efficient, Ethereal, Jezabel and Might and Power.

The Zabeel grandson El Soldado was appearing in the Auckland Cup for the fourth time, an early effort being second of 18 in 2013. All told he has contested 68 races for seven wins, seven seconds, six thirds and NZ\$538,800.

Bred, owned and trained by Phillip Devcich, Cambridge, El Soldado was produced by Zo'al, a non earner in her only two starts. She is by Norman Pentaquad (USA), the sire of Doriemus, winner of the 1995 Melbourne Cup and a short half head second in 1997, and her fourth dam, Swanee, was an Auckland Cup winner and ancestress of My Blue Denim. A mare, My Blue Denim included in her efforts a win in the Auckland Cup and seconds in the Melbourne Cup and Sydney Cup.

Purple Smile, the Adelaide Cup winner, had not appeared in a black type event in his 22 other starts or included a win on a metropolitan track in four earlier successes, but had been placed at Moonee Valley (2500m) – twice, Caulfield (2400m) and Sandown (2400m).

Raced by his breeders, P. B. Devitt, L. G. and Lindsay Park Racing, plus D.G. Gordon and R. L. Gordon, Victoria and in the David Hayes – Tom Dabernig Stables, Purple Smile is the first to succeed in a stakes and on a metropolitan track from the four winners out of By Her Smile (NZ), a Defensive Play (USA) (by Fappiano) winner of one race, a 2100m event in Perth.

A half-sister to Group 1 Levin Classic winner Porotene Gem (by Pins), By Her Smile was from Rubfoo, an American winner got in that country by Danzatore (Can), a Northern Dancer sire who stood earlier with Sir Tristram at the Cambridge Stud in New Zealand.

Detailed saleyard report



Saleyard report - cattle

Market information provided by MLA's National Livestock Reporting Service

Singleton report date 30 March 2016

Yarding 674~ Change – 354 (Comparison Date 16/3/16)

With the last sale cancelled due to the Easter break, numbers lifted and the quality offered was mixed. Younger cattle made up the bulk of the yarding, with grown steers and heifers limited, while cows were well supplied. Market conditions were similar to those offered in the last sale, with only breed and quality affecting any price variations. The medium weight vealer steers to the restockers ranged from 286c to 327c, while the heavier drafts reached 333c, averaging 310c to 319c/kg. Vealer heifers, to the same orders, made from 288c to 325c/kg. Yearling steers to the restockers sold from 260c to 317c/kg, with breed affecting prices in places. The yearling heifers averaged 300c, as the tops to the butchers reached 323c/kg. Heavy weight grown steers to slaughter sold from 235c to 260c, with the older heifers to restocker buyers reaching 270c/kg. Cows maintained firm prices, with the plainer 2 scores averaging 201c, and the better finished heavy weights ranging from 205c to 216c/kg.



Saleyard report - cattle

Market information provided by MLA's National Livestock Reporting Service

Scone report date 29 March 2016

Yarding 1180 ~ Change 140 (Comparison Date 22/3/16)

As numbers lifted, quality remained fair to good, with younger categories making up the bulk of the yarding. Grown steers and heifers were scarce, with around 80 cows in the offering. The market trend on average was close to firm, with only breed and quality in places affecting some trends. The medium weight vealer steers to restockers slipped 5c to average 327c, after reaching 346c/kg. The heavier weights to the same orders eased 7c, with the best topping at 337c/kg. The medium weight vealer heifers to backgrounders and restockers lifted 3c, making from 290c to 324c/kg. Yearling steers sold firm, as the medium weights to the lot feeders ranged from 304c to 324c/kg. The yearling heifers trended 3c to 4c cheaper, with those sold to the restockers and lot feeders making from 280c to 314c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers topped at 319c/kg. Grown steers reached 275c, with the heifer portion topping at 282c/kg. Cows sold close to firm, with the plainer end lifting in quality week-on-week. The plainer 2 scores averaged 207c, with the better covered 3 and 4 score heavy weights ranging from 208c to 223c/kg.



Saleyard report - cattle

Market information provided by MLA's National Livestock Reporting Service

TRLX Tamworth report date 21 March 2016

Yarding 2202 ~ Change 76 (Comparison Date 14/3/16)

There was a small increase in numbers leading into two short working weeks. It was a very mixed penning with few straight lines. All categories were represented with limited supplies of heavy grown steers and some very good vealers. The usual processors were in attendance; however there was reduced feedlot competition, particularly on heavy feeder steers. There were varying trends throughout and in some cases breed factored into some price changes. Heavy steer vealers over 280kg sold to a dearer trend to restockers averaging 5c to 6c/kg improvement and more in places with breed contributing. Heifer vealers to restock generally sold firm to slightly cheaper. A single pen of heavy-weights were a standout and attracted both trade and restocker competition. Well finished heifer vealers to the trade were up to 4c/kg dearer with a lift in quality also noticeable in price change. Lightweight yearling steers to restock sold to a cheaper trend as most buyers look to purchase similar weight younger cattle. Medium and heavy yearling steers to feed sold to a cheaper trend of 5c to 11c/kg with the reduced competition. Light and medium weight yearling heifers to feed sold to a slightly cheaper trend, while breed was a factor in the improved prices for heavy heifers to feed. Heavy grown steers sold to a slightly dearer trend for a fairly mixed quality penning. Grown heifers to process sold firm to cheaper. The cow market was firm to 4c/kg dearer. Heavy bulls also sold firm to dearer.



Cattle projections

The Australian cattle industry will be influenced by a number of extreme forces in 2016.

From a cattle supply point of view, numbers over the coming two years will fall to levels not seen in more than twenty years. This alone will more than likely stimulate strong competition between restockers, feedlots and processors for the limited availability.

The national herd is estimated to fall to 26.2 million head by 30 June 2016, before declining slightly again in 2017, to 25.9 million head. If this occurs, it will represent a 3.4 million head, or 12%, fall since 2013 and become the lowest national herd for 24 years (1993).

Working to partly offset the projected 16% year-on-year decline in adult cattle slaughter for 2016, at 7.6 million head, will be the expectation that average carcass weights will increase considerably. This assumption is based on much lower stocking rates, a greater proportion of lighter northern cattle exported live, a higher proportion of cattle on feed and fewer female cattle processed.

Beef and veal exports are expected to fall as a result of lower production, not due to waning demand. The prediction of the A\$ to average between 66-69US¢ is a significant positive, but needs to be balanced against the heightened competition from Brazil in many markets, the expectation of high US poultry and pork production, higher year-on-year US beef production and significantly weaker US beef markets compared to 12 months ago

At the close of Thursday's (31/3/16) markets:

- The Eastern Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI) finished on 575.00¢, back 0.50¢/kg cwt on where it finished yesterday
- Trade steers were back 2¢, on 319¢/kg lwt
- Medium steers were back 1¢, on 293¢/kg lwt
- Heavy steers were up 1¢, at 283¢/kg lwt
- Medium cows were steady, at 218¢/kg lwt
- Feeder steers were back 2¢, on 309¢/kg lwt



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Cessnock Council hands over keys to new SES facility



Local SES Controller Bill Thompson said their new facility will be used for training, storage and as a headquarters for local operations. "This new building will give us a sense of pride and a physical presence in the Cessnock area," Mr Thompson said. Since appointing Bill Thompson as the new Local Controller in August 2015, membership has grown to almost 30 members. "In 1964 we had 204 members operating out of four sites." With good leadership and a stand-alone facility, it is estimated an SES membership of at least 50, with the potential for at least 80, is achievable in the Cessnock area. Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent said emergency events can occur at any time, therefore

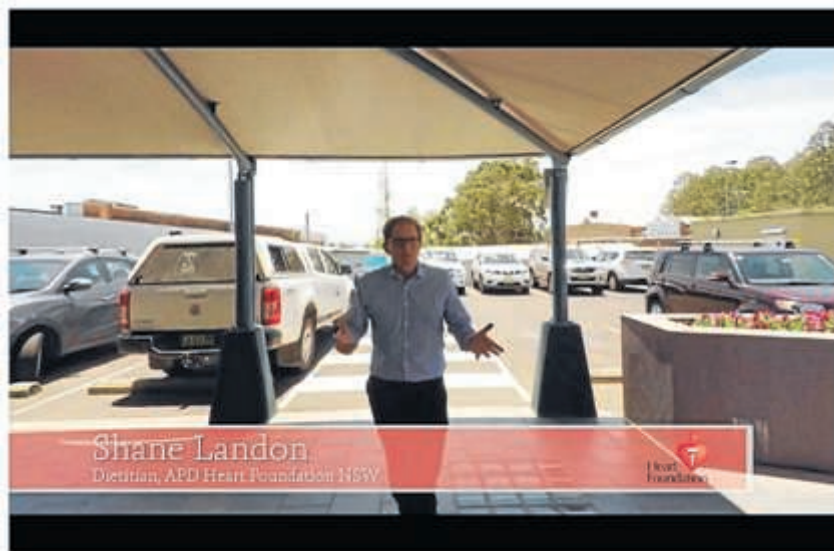
the SES need a space that is operationally ready at all times and secure, with no interference from other users. "The SES are critical to the safety of our local community in times of need and we are proud to provide this facility to assist them with resources they need to do their work," Cr Pynsent said. SES Unit members have been training with the Maitland SES Unit since vacating the Cessnock District Rescue Squad building in South Avenue, Cessnock in October 2015. If you are interested in joining the SES Unit, please contact Local Controller Bill Thompson on 0429 220 796.

Local Controller Bill Thompson receiving the keys from Cr Bob Pynsent.

Cessnock City Council has handed over keys to the local SES to the place they will soon call home in a short ceremony at Cessnock Aerodrome on Monday afternoon. The SES approached Council in 2015, seeking assistance to support their growth in the Cessnock local government area. A standard NSW SES facility is generally for the sole use of SES to allow the Unit to operate at full

capacity in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. Council resolved to provide the SES with a stand-alone facility to call their own on the western side of Cessnock Aerodrome and allocated a further \$30,000 to assist in making it suitable for use. The SES plan to bring in an ex-Sydney Olympic Village demountable to sit beside the shed and complete their facility.

42 per cent of local food businesses using healthier oils



The NSW Heart Foundation's Healthier Oils Program continues to gain momentum in Cessnock with the launch of a video featuring local food outlets and their experiences using healthier oils. Thanks to the Healthier Oils Initiative, 42 per cent of food outlets in the Cessnock local government area are now using healthier cooking oils that are lower in saturated and trans fat. Council's Health and Environment Team have built great working relationships with local businesses to achieve this result and have been overwhelmed at the positive attitude of business owners willing to give an oil change a try. "With alarming rates of cardiovascular disease in our community, we have a keen interest in protecting the health of our community and reducing potential risk factors," Council's Environmental Health Officer Abbie Bagnall said. "Participating businesses have reported no price

difference in switching oils and say their kitchen staff handle the products exactly the same way." Cessnock's Environmental Health Team recently presented the program's success at Environmental Health Australia's national conference in Sydney in October 2015. Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent said the results speak for themselves. "It is great to see such a positive initiative with Cessnock City Council and the Heart Foundation contributing to healthy outcomes for our local residents," Cr Pynsent said. Dietician for NSW Heart Foundation Shane Landon recently visited Cessnock and was pleased to hear first-hand how well the program has been received. "Cessnock Council and the food outlets that have adopted the healthier oils program are an inspiration and are making a real difference in their community." The Cessnock Healthier

Oils Initiative is managed by a local working party including representatives from Cessnock City Council, the Heart Foundation NSW, Hunter New England Local Health District, Coalfields Healthy Heartbeat (Samaritans Foundation), Peden's Hotel and KFC (Cessnock). It is also endorsed by the Cessnock Healthy Lifestyle Network. Community members are encouraged to support the campaign by requesting their favourite local take-away, café, restaurant, pub, or club use healthier frying oils. To see the latest Healthier Oils video visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au and search 'healthier oils'. For more information you can also visit www.heartfoundation.org.au/healthieroils or contact Cessnock Council's Environmental Health Team on 4993 4100.

Photo above: The new Healthier Oils video from the NSW Heart Foundation.

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Cessnock City Library's annual bargain book sale is back

Cessnock City Library will be holding its annual bargain Book Sale of pre-loved library items from Thursday 21 April until Saturday 30 April. A wide range of pre-loved library materials are being sold at very low prices. The opening day of the book sale has been known to attract more than 200 people who were out to snag a bargain. Customer and Information Services Team Leader Andrew Powell recommends to get in quick as stock will fly out of the door. "Items for sale include a huge range of ex-library items and donations for both adults and children including books, magazines, music and DVDs," Andrew said. "We're aiming to sell as many items as possible so everything will be at bargain prices." The proceeds of the sale will be used for the purchase of additional new stock for the Library. The book sale will run until Saturday 30 April or until all items are sold. The sale books will be located in the front foyer of Cessnock City Library during normal opening hours. For further information please call Cessnock City Library on 4993 4399 or visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/libraries



Photo: Cessnock City Library's Andrew Powell

SPORTS RESULTS



Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 17-3-16 Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Noble 30 pts (c/b) R/u B Miller 30 pts 3rd G Gazzard 29 pts
Div 2 Winner J Atton 32 pts (SOD) R/u A Hackett 29 pts 3rd R Chalmers 28 pts
Ladies Winner
T Armstrong 31 pts
R/u J Scobie 28 pts
3rd R McCarthy 22 pts
NTPs Ladies T Armstrong
Gents K Anderson

Members draw - Not won K Anderson
Another pleasant day for a round of golf, at which 36 players participated, as well as gathering for a convivial glass and friendship afterwards. Congratulations to John Atton on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". Bad luck Terri, never mind there is always next time. A well done to all winners and placegetters.

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 24-3-16 Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Wilton 35 pts R/u K Anderson 33 pts (c/b) 3rd G Gazzard 33 pts
Div 2 Winner P Anderson 32 pts R/u A Cannon 29 pts 3rd I Harris 28 pts
Ladies winner J Scobie 29 pts R/u N Craig 26 pts
3rd C Hocking 25 pts
NTPs Ladies J Scobie
Gents T Seamer

Members draw - Not won A marvellous Autumn day greeted the 41 players, who had gathered for a round of golf and fellowship. Congratulations to Gary Wilton on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". And a well done to all winners and placegetters.

"NOTICE" - Members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting of the Branxton Golf Club will be held on Wed 13 Apr 2016, commencing at 6pm.

The President and members of the Committee trust all members had a Happy and Safe **EASTER**.

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 31-3-16 Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Noble 30 pts R/u S Dunker 29 pts 3rd G Gazzard 28 pts
Div 2 Winner I Harris 33 pts (SOD) R/u R Chalmers 32 pts 3rd P Anderson 26 pts
Ladies Winner T Martin 24 pts R/u R Friis 21 pts
3rd C Hocking 19 pts
NTPs Ladies T Martin
Gents G Noble

Members draw - Not won Golly! A quarter of the year gone. Oh well time flies when your having fun, and that's what 38 players were doing on a fine and warm Autumn day at the "Ultimate 9" golf course at Branxton. Congratulations to Ivan Harris on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". Well done to winners and placegetters.

LN Bootes Hon Sec Branxton Ladies Golf 16/3/16

Six ladies braved the elements on Wednesday to compete in a Stableford event. The results were:

Winner: Jen Selna 46 points; Runner-up: Trish McMillan 33 points; Nearest to the pin was Helen Vandenbruggen
30/6/16

The results for the Branxton Ladies Golf for today, 30 March 2016 which was a Stableford and Round 3 of the Season Trophy are as follows; 1st Jen Salna on 37 points 2nd Helen Vandenbruggen on 28 points on a countback
3rd Ruth McCarthy on 28 points
Nearest The Pin winner was Robyn Hoffman
Regards, Ruth McCarthy

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB -SAT 19TH MARCH STABLEFORD

A GRADE STABLEFORD WINNER Troy McCaw 39 pts
A GRADE STABLEFORD RUNNER UP Greg Noble 38 pts

A GRADE STABLEFORD THIRD Tom Foster 36 pts
B GRADE STABLEFORD WINNER Greg Gillard 40 pts

B GRADE STABLEFORD RUNNER UP Robert Hale 38 pts
B GRADE STABLEFORD THIRD Murray Johanson 36 pts

C GRADE STABLEFORD WINNER Richard Alley 38 pts
C GRADE STABLEFORD RUNNER UP Steven Primmer 37 pts c/b

C GRADE STABLEFORD THIRD Troy Hunt 37 pts
BALL COMP 33 pts c/b
NTP'S G Rzakowski 112 cm R Turnbull 240 cm G Noble 262 cm P Mackenzie 17 cm

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB -SAT 26TH MARCH STABLEFORD

A GRADE STABLEFORD WINNER Gary Wilton 38 pts c/b
A GRADE STABLEFORD RUNNER UP David Hollis 38 pts

A GRADE STABLEFORD

THIRD Phil Baker 37 pts
B GRADE STABLEFORD WINNER Richard Crooks 39 pts
B GRADE STABLEFORD RUNNER UP Reece Caldwell 37 pts
B GRADE STABLEFORD THIRD Peter Mackenzie 35 pts
C GRADE STABLEFORD WINNER Barry Turner 40 pts

C GRADE STABLEFORD RUNNER UP Michael Carling 37 pts
C GRADE STABLEFORD THIRD Robyn Lloyd 36 pts
BALL COMP 32 pts
NTP Barrett 208 cm
M Moylan 200 cm

T Seamer 1000 cm P Baker 80 cm Saturday's stableford event proved to be quite a challenge to all golfers on Saturday, with the winning scores well below the weekly average. The DSR (Daily Score Rating) was a 69, quite high for Branxton, despite the weather being near perfect—however, some tough pin placements made scoring difficult. Our perennial super veteran extraordinaire, Gary Wilton, again showed how it was done by winning A Grade with an excellent 38 pts, just ahead of the two long hitters in Dave Hollis and Phil Baker, both members of last week's successful B Grade Pennants team.

Richard Crooks, another veteran, won B Grade with 39 pts with Reece Caldwell and Peter Mackenzie filling the minor placings. Barry Turner won C Grade with the day's best stableford score of 40 pts, well clear of runners up Michael Carling and Robyn Lloyd. The shot of the day undoubtedly belonged to Phil Baker, whose shot to the 9th hole finished only 80 cms away—with the pin in the far left hand corner making anything long miss the green completely—it was quite a shot. The 13th once again proved very hard to hit with Tony Seamer's nearest the in 10 metres away.

The B Grade Pennants team won the Hunter District B Grade Pennants title last week in an absorbing game played against Stonebridge at Muswellbrook. This talented team won 2-1 with Dave Hollis and Darren Gilroy losing their match 2 and 1; Mick Simpson and Phil Baker won 1 up and Tom Foster and Mark Bercini winning 1 up as well—you can't get much closer! According to all reports Michael canned a 2 metre putt to win the game on the last whilst Mark also won on the last by sinking a knee trembling 1 metre putt to win their game. We are sure these stories will be further embellished as time moves on, but what a great effort—well done boys.

Unfortunately, the C Grade Pennants team's slim hopes of making the play offs went begging on Sunday after going down 2-1 against Singleton at Pater-

son.

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB -SAT 2ND APRIL STROKE

HVGC 13th March
The Weekly Challenge has

been won by Gerry Maclaughlin in a 3 way countback from Paul Monahan and Graeme Flynn after all 3 returned 39 points. Ball winners were: Lindsay Self 38, Glenn Hamilton v38, Brian Doherty 38, Sam Cashman 36, Phousang Sihapanya 36, Michael Watson 35, Graeme Sheldon 35, Andrew Macintosh v35, Jan Hovey 34 and Richard Todd 34 c/b

15th March
The Tuesday Stableford went to Dan Taylor with 39 points on a countback to Jason Hure with Graeme Flynn 3rd also on a countback. Ball winners were: John Stewart 38, Harold Pursehouse 37, Grant Clacherty v34 and Gerry Maclaughlin 34 c/b

16th March
Dale Hamilton won the Ladies Stroke event with 77 net from Sue Williams 79 and Jeanette Irwin in 3rd place. Balls were won by Christine Tancred and Brenda Mannix

17th March
The Vets played at the Springs GC with Paul Smith winning the day from Chris Taggart on a countback with Garry Arnold in 3rd. Balls were won by Wayne Berry, John Stewart,

Graeme Flynn, Darrel Preston and Geoff Sweetman.

19th March
The Individual Stableford played in conjunction with the Lovedale Masters on Saturday went to Grahame Sheldon with 39 points from Lachlin Macpherson 37 and Matt Cartwright 36. Ball winners were: Adrian Kent 36, Russell Lightfoot 36, Adrian Russell 35, Bruce Chambers 34, Ben Bradley 34, Andrew Campbell 34, John Stewart 33 and Melita Watson 33. Nearest-the-Pins went to Melita Watson (3rd) Jeff Morton (4th) and Ben Bradley (8th). The Lovedale Masters 4 person Ambrose was won by N Day, B Pringle, W Thompson and C Connolly with N Sweeney, M Delforce, S Kemp and S Smith runners up, 3rd place to S & J Parish, W Jenkin and P Milas.

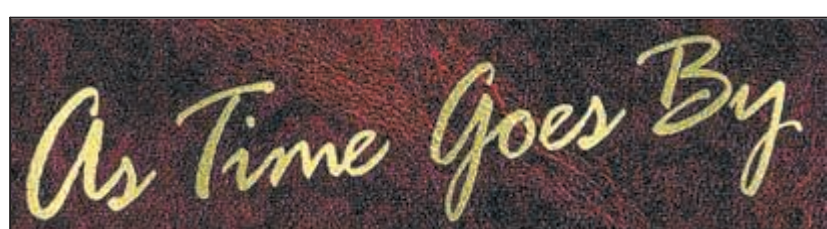
20th March
The Weekly Challenge has been won by Grahame Mankelow with 40 points from Steve Marchant 39 and Graham Rawlins 3rd with 38 points. Balls were won by Tim Lawrence, Nathan Morris and Paul Purnell. Nearest-the-Pin went to Scott Archibald.

22 March
The Tuesday Stableford went to Graeme Flynn with 40 points from John Carmody who survived a countback from Playing partner Ken Harris after both returned 39 points. Balls went to: Ken Scott Mackenzie 37, Dean Morrison 37, Neil Harding v35, John Stewart 35, Grahame Sheldon 34, Glenn Hamilton v34, Brendan King v33, Geoff Sweetman 33, Nathan Sweeney 33, Jaye Stevens 33, Simon Clegg 33 and Jeff Richardson 3. Nearest-the-Pins went to John Stewart (4th) Jeff Richardson (8th) Scott Bourke (10th) and Glenn Hamilton (17th)

23rd March
The Ladies Stableford was won by Karen Baillie with 34 points from Lorraine Clack 33 and Brenda Mannix 32 points. Ball winners were: Jill Ramsden, Jill Slatter, Jenny Chambers, Melita Watson, Isabel Skeates and Kerrie Anne Skinner. Next week the Ladies will play Par.

24th March
The Vets Stableford went to Darrell Preston with a standout 42 points with Ian Newell runner up on 37 and

CONT NEXT PAGE



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Jessie Holz receives McDonalds Scholarship by Peree Dagg



Above: Back Row - Janice Fleming representing Hunter Valley Soccer Association, Steve Davis Manager of Rutherford McDonalds who made the presentation to Jessie Front - Beth Kermode and Jessie Holz

Soccer star Jessie Holz from Greta, who plays for the Greta-Branxton Junior Soccer Club, has been rewarded for her hard work with a "McDonald's Northern NSW Soccer Elite Development Scholarship".

Jessie attended a presentation of the Northern NSW Soccer Grants at McDonald's Edgeworth last Thursday afternoon. She was one of 17 that were awarded to outstanding junior soccer players throughout Northern NSW.

The grants will provide a significant boost in assisting the development of the junior players' soccer careers. Two of the recipients, Jessie and Ellalong's Beth Kermode, play with clubs that are part of the local Hunter Valley Soccer Association.

"We are delighted to be able to present these soccer grants worth \$1,000 each to these two outstanding players. It is a great reward for their efforts and will provide financial support to help them in their pursuit of sporting excellence," said Neil Chivers owner/operator of McDonald's Edgeworth. "...Jessie (has been).. playing soccer for a number of years and ..

excelled in the sport throughout this time. The money from the sports grants will be used to further fund her soccer activities," he said. The grant will be administered by Northern NSW and will assist in covering Jessie's out-of-pocket expenses. Proud parents Darren and Tina Holz were at the presentation as was her grandmother.

Jessie is a talented striker for her 14's Gold Greta Branxton Wildcats team. She is a member of the Hunter Valley Representative Soccer squads and trains with the Federation's Under 14 Development Squad. In 2003, Jessie was nominated as a member of the Hunter Academy of Sport for soccer. Jessie was nominated for this grant by her Hunter Valley coach Peter Kennedy.

Earlier this year, Jessie courageously fought back from an off-season knee injury to be on the field for the first game of the year. She has lost none of her speed or skill due to this setback. Current club coach Dave Cashin and her coach for the past few years Mick Martin, are extremely proud of Jessie's achievements; not only is she a talented player but a polite and attentive student of the game.

Greta Branxton Junior Soccer Club president Gus Maher said that ... "the club is extremely proud of Jessie's achievements in soccer. She is a great example to all the club's players and shows what they can achieve from our club base."

According to Garry Screen, General Manager of the Northern NSW Soccer Federation, thousands of junior soccer players will see the benefits of the twelve-month sponsorship. "The 'McDonald's Junior Soccer Club' sponsorship will directly reach junior soccer players from eleven soccer associations comprising of 267 clubs and more than 43,000 registered soccer players," he said. "In addition the 'McDonald's Schools Soccer' program will see 30,000 school children from 280 schools stretching from Lake Macquarie to Tweed Heads and inland throughout the north west region visited over twelve months." Congratulations to Jessie and good luck for her soccer pursuits in the future.

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE Doug Wand taking the final podium spot with 35 on a countback. Ball winners were: Geoff Sweetman 35, John Harrison 35, Dale Macklinshaw 34, Ray Newton 33, Ray Hodson 33, James Ellis 33, Dave Fury 33, Eric Smith 33 and Lynette Russell 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to David Peel (3rd) Kevin Smith (4th) and Dale Macklinshaw (17th). Next week the vets will play Individual Stableford.

26th March
A 4BBB Par event and Individual Par event was held on Saturday with the 4BBB going to Brad Borham and Bruce Chambers with +11. The Individual winners were: A Grade Rod Nyman with +8, Brad Borham in B Grade with +8 and Barry McKay taking C Grade with +5. No other details are available at this time

Next Saturday's event will be the Monthly Stroke round.

27th March The Weekly Challenge went to Tom Bellamy with an excellent 43 points round from Dan McLeod on 42 points and Patrick Statham 3rd with 40 points. Balls went to Adrian Russell 39, Roy Bishop 38, Anthony Stewart 37, Phil Watson 36, Stephen Watson 36 and Peter Tierney 35.

29th March A strong field turned out for the Tuesday Stapleford with many still enjoying the Easter break, Gerry McLaughlin performed best with a solid 41 points from

Andrew Edwards surviving a 5 way countback for 2nd with 39 points with Nathan Sweeney hanging on to 3rd spot. Balls went to Michael Watson 39, Mick Young 39, Adam Lettice 39. Eric Smith 38 Rod Williams 38, Michael Tsakissiris 38, Angello Korlevic 38, Geoff Sweetman 38, Scott Bourcove 37, Rick Turnchini 37, Ben Bradley 37, Jeff Richardson 36, David Peel 36, Scott Doyle 35 and Bob Prentice 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Rod Williams (3rd) Julie Van Den Burg (4th & 17th) Michael Watson (8th) and Dean Davies (10th)

30th March The Ladies Par event went to Christine Tancred with +1 on a 3 way countback with Melita Watson runner up and Brenda Mannix 3rd. Balls went to Jenny Chambers, Lorraine Clack, Jeanette Irwin, Jan Hovey, Robyn Dunlop and Jenelle Jurd. Next week the Ladies will play Stroke which will be the 2nd round of the Golf NSW Medal.

31st March The Vets played an Individual Stableford with Wayne Cowen taking the win with a very good 41 point return from Geoff Sweetman hanging on for second on a countback after he and Ken Springbett both returned 39 points. Ball comp nor NTP details are not available at this time. Next week the Vets will play Stroke.

2nd April Brian Rooney took out the April Monthly Medal with a great round of 64 net. A Grade went to Jason Clif-

ford with 66 net from Tim Lonergan 69, B Grade was won by Andrew Zok with 68 net from Wade Attewell 69 with Patrick Maher v64 net C Grade runner up. Ball winners were: Nathan Sweeney 70, Phillippe Byron 70, Ben Bradley 70, Graeme Flynn 71, David Peel 71, Wayne Orr v71, Don Bradley 71, Scott Smith 72, Robert Kolk 72, Nev Smith 73, Angello Korlevic 73, Ben Pickering 73, John Stewart 74, Keith Chappell 74, Bill Paterick 74, Dan McLeod 74, Bruce Chambers 74, Tony Butler 74, Tim Smith v74, Adrian Kent 74, Mick Watson 75, Tom Relf 75 and Alan Thorley 76 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Nev Smith (3rd) David Peel (4th) Angello Korlevic (8th) Tim Lonergan (10th) and Scott Smith (17th). Next Weeks will be the Mens 4BBB Par Qualifying round of the NSW Keno event. **Note:** The Men's Foursome Championship will be held on Sunday 10th April. Please contact the Pro Shop to register

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- Branxton junior Open GIRLS 36 Holes – Scratch & Nett (Dependent on numbers)
- BOYS 16/17/18 – Scratch & Nett
- BOYS 14/15 – Scratch & Nett
- BOYS 13 and under – Scratch & Nett
- GIRLS – Scratch & Nett (2 Divisions if numbers are sufficient)
- NTPs on both days
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The NEWS SPORT

B Grade claim twelfth District Pennant Golf title



On Sunday 20th March Branxton Golf Club claimed its twelfth B Grade Pennant title with an epic 2-1 victory over Stonebridge (Cessnock) at Muswellbrook. After dominating the home and away series and finishing top of their pool, Branxton disposed of Kurri at Dungog in the previous week's semi-final, with Cessnock winning through to the final with a nail-biting win over Maitland at Branxton in the other semi-final. The prestigious annual series for the Pogonoski Cup kicked off way back in 1932, with Branxton previously tasting success in 1937, 1966, 1973, 1974, 1985, 1987, 1990, 1991, 2002, 2005 and 2014. After defeating Stonebridge quite convincingly at Branxton in the final preliminary round

a fortnight before, a much more determined Stonebridge team turned up for the final. Branxton was skippered by the irrepressible Dave Hollis, he paired up with veteran Darren Gilroy in the first group. Mick Simpson and the long hitting Phil Baker were Branxton's second group combination, with the rock solid Tom Foster and hot n cold Mark Bercini making up the final pairing. Branxton gained the upper hand in all matches early – Hollis/Gilroy were 1-down at the turn, with Simpson/Baker and Foster/Bercini both turning 2-up after dominating the opening nine holes. The highlight of the front nine came on the 6th hole where Baker drove the par-4 sixth hole and casually sunk the 20-foot putt for eagle to win the

hole! Stonebridge fought back in all matches and gained momentum on the back nine. After fighting hard Hollis & Gilroy were finally beaten 2/1, giving Stonebridge a 1-0 lead. After dominating their match for the majority of the round, Simpson and Baker found themselves all square going into the final hole after Stonebridge sunk a 30-foot birdie putt on the par-3 17th hole. However the combination who were undefeated throughout the series kept their nerve, with Simpson holing a 7-foot putt for birdie on the par-5 eighteenth to win the match and square the final at 1-all. Foster and Bercini were involved in a see-sawing back nine and just could not put their gritty opponents to bed. Foster's ever consistent iron play saw him win holes for Branxton on the par-3 11th where he knocked it to two feet and tapped in for a birdie and also the difficult par-4 13th

hole where he made par. Branxton were 2-up with 2 holes to play, but when Foster lipped out for par from close range to square the 17th which would have won the match and the final for Branxton, all of sudden they found themselves 1-up going into the final hole. Pressure is a massive thing in sport, with Foster, who had been rock solid throughout the entire series and at times complained of sore shoulders from carrying his partner – found trouble after a solid drive by following this up with consecutive shanks. He was out of play, and with Stonebridge parring the hole, Bercini who had suffered from severe home sickness away from his beloved Branxton Course throughout the series, was left with the daunting task of parring the hole to claim victory. His third shot fell just short of the green, and with an unpredictable chipping game he opted for his grandfather Jack Bercini's "Texas Wedge." He lipped out for his birdie and the ball rolled 4-feet past the hole. Skipper Hollis reminded him to move his marker back to its original position after it had been moved at the request of the opposition while they putted. Bercini later described the 4-foot putt as feeling like a 40-footer, and shaking like a dog passing razor blades he tentatively rolled the putt into the side of the cup for Branxton to

Pokolbin Juniors make representative squad



Ⓞ Above: (L-R) Ethan O'Neill, Zac Fitzpatrick, Laine Meyers, Thomas Page and Henry Murray

Five Pokolbin Juniors have made the Newcastle and Hunter Junior Rugby Union under 12 representative squad. The team is named the Wildfires and represents the region in the country and state championships that will be held later this year. Coach Steve Norris was very excited and proud of the boys "all these players show great commitment and skill playing rugby and represent all that is good about rugby and Pokolbin rugby especially"

Club President Tim Murray states "this is the largest group of players ever selected in the squad and shows the strength of this age group who also made the semi-final in last year's competition". Pokolbin has only had two players represent the club before in the wildfires. The final squad has been cut to 23 with three players making the final 23. Ethan O'Neill, Zac Fitzpatrick and Henry Murray made the team.

Pokolbin Junior rugby plays out of Hunter Valley Gardens and has places available to play in 2016. Teams are from under 7 to under 12. Call Tim Murray 0415 459033 for information.

claim their second title in the past three years. Celebrations continued well into the afternoon and night back at the Branxton Golf Club. Other players involved throughout the series were Troy McCaw and Troy

Felan, with Reece Caldwell, Stu Robinson, Barry Richards and Riley McClung also part of the winning squad although they did not get a run due to the shortened modified format. Congratulations!

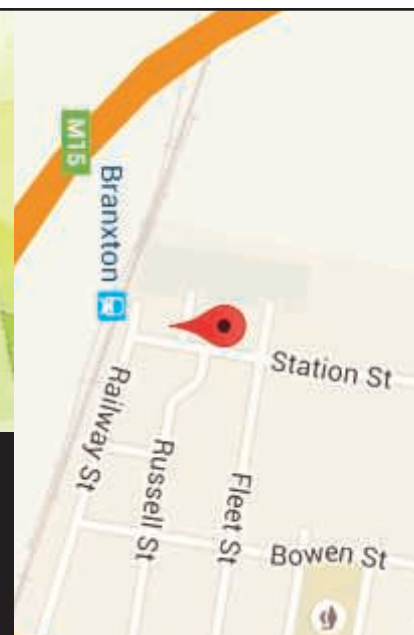
Ⓞ Photo top left: Branxton Golf Club B Grade Pennant team -Winners for 2016
Back L-R:- Darren Gilroy, Phil Baker, Dave Hollis (c)
Front L-R:- Mark Bercini, Tom Foster, Mick Simpson

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