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TUESDAY
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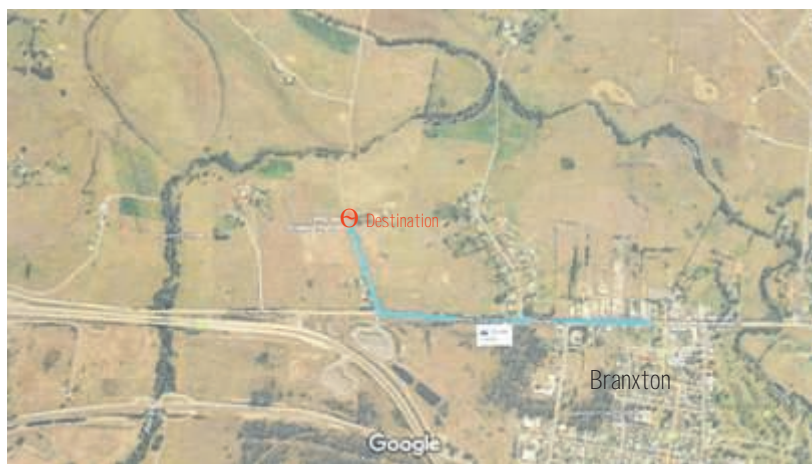
Clearing Sale

2490 New England Highway, Branxton
11th & 12th February 2017
From 8am until 5pm both days

DIRECTIONS: 1.3k's from Clift Street traffic lights heading west on New England Highway on the northern side of highway (see map). Turn at red flag and follow road for approx 400 metres.

4x4 Landini 95 HP Tractor, front end loader (extras include 8" slashers, 8" harrows, post hole digger, 3 size augers, 2000 litre fuel tank with pump + 1000 diesel - all in good condition. Good tyres & air con \$35,000 no offers)
Also concrete mixer, electric tools, Lister 3 cyl diesel with irrigator. Skid mounted. Single diesel electric motor with 240 power point. Electric welder, air compressor, 7 HP electric motor.

Also some antique furniture + lots of small antique household goods. Too much to list. All to go



Local Australia Day Awards

CESSNOCK
Cessnock joined towns and regions across Australia to congratulate our Australia Day Award recipients and welcomed our newest Australian citizens. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent congratulated the 12 Australia Day Award recipients on behalf of the community.

"We are very fortunate to have so many community minded individuals in our local area, it is a privilege to have the opportunity to recognise and thank them for their contributions". "I'd particularly like to congratulate our Citizen of the Year, Tara Naysmith, Senior Citizen of the Year, Ronald Jackson and Young Citizen of the Year, Shae Panormo".

"Our Citizen of the Year, Tara Naysmith has immersed herself in our community over the years with her involvement in a vast array of community activities".

"Just a few of these include the Olympic Touch Relay, Mine Workers Union, View Club and Rotary, along with a number of local primary schools. It is an honour to recognise Tara's work within our community". "Senior Citizen on the Year, Ronald Jackson and Young Citizen on the Year, Shae Panormo have also shown incredible dedication to our local area and are worthy recipients in their respective categories," Cr Pynsent said.

Australia Day Award recipients include:
Citizen of the Year, Tara Naysmith
Senior Citizen on the Year, Ronald Jackson
Young Citizen on the Year, Shae Panormo
Community Event of the Year, Strive for Autism
Environmental Award, Native Nursery
Heritage Award, Coalfields Heritage Group
Appreciation Award,

Dianne Foulger
Appreciation Award, Kylie Gray
Appreciation Award, Joy Potts
Appreciation Award, Catherine Parsons
Appreciation Award, Max Lewis
Appreciation Award, Ruby Adamson

SINGLETON



Young Achiever of the Year, Fiona Stalker, and Citizen of the Year, Toni Watson, on stage at the Civic Ceremony this morning receiving their awards to a standing ovation.

Singleton Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year announced during Australia Day festivities. Singleton has celebrated Australia Day with an official ceremony including the Australia Day Address by fourth generation winemaker Lisa McGuigan, a citizenship ceremony to welcome eight new Australians and the announcement of Singleton's leading citizens. Founder of the "Bears of Hope", Toni Watson was named Citizen of the Year, while the Young Achiever of the Year went to Fiona Stalker who raised \$8,000 in six months to help pay for some of Africa's poorest children to attend the School of St Jude in Tanzania. The festivities will now continue with free family activities including a pop-up beach (complete with lifesaver), live music by Newcastle band Infusion Trio, jumping castles, markets and children's entertainment. Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore, said it was a wonderful occasion to cele-

brate why Singleton was a wonderful place to live as well as being Australian. "What really makes Singleton great is our people, and Toni and Fiona are amazing examples of people in our community who go above and beyond to make life better for others," she said. "We are fortunate to have had a list of very distinguished nominees for our Australia Day Awards,

who had lost their babies through miscarriage or stillbirth. Now run by a dedicated team of bereaved parents, Bears of Hope exists to assist the healing journey for families experiencing a loss and is affiliated with hospitals, GPs, obstetricians and IVF Clinics throughout Australia.

Young Achiever of the Year: Fiona Stalker
Currently a student at Hunter Valley Grammar School, Fiona has demonstrated a high commitment to making a positive difference in the world as a passionate volunteer for community causes including Singleton Relay for Life, Salvation Army, White Ribbon Day, RSPCA Cupcakes day, Jeans for Genes, CanTEEN, Beanie for Brain Cancer and Kids Helpline.

Most recently, Fiona set a target to raise \$8,000 to sponsor some of the poorest African and boys and girls to attend the School of St Jude in Tanzania. The school was established by Gemma Sisia, an Australian from Glen Innes NSW, and provides children them with a free quality education with the aim to break the generational cycle of poverty in Tanzania. Fiona creatively planned a range of activities to raise the money in just six months and exceed her target.

MAITLAND

Local identity Beverley Steggle has been recognised as Maitland's 2016 Citizen of the Year during local Australia Day celebrations held at Maitland Park. Born in Maitland, Beverley went to school at Maitland Girls' High School and as the eldest of six children, took on a number of responsibilities from a young age to assist her mother in raising her siblings. In 1973 Beverley helped begin Maitland's first staff selection agency, Hunter Valley Staff Selection, and she further demonstrated her business acumen when she helped establish Steggle Food ...
CONT PAGE 3

and I congratulate each and every one of you on all that you have achieved. "Today has also been a great day to reflect on how fortunate we are to be Australians, and to welcome eight new Australians to our community as part of the Citizenship Ceremony. "But what really makes Australia Day special in Singleton is the sense of community that we see at the free family activities. It's fantastic to see so many people out enjoying themselves on our national day."
Citizen of the Year: Toni Watson
Toni is an Early Childhood Teacher who founded the "Bears of Hope" in Singleton, which has become a national not-for-profit organisation, and the author of "I have a Baby Sister in Heaven" that provides literature support for grieving children after the loss of a sibling. Bears of Hope began about 15 years ago when Toni brought a box of teddy bears to the Maternity Ward of Singleton Hospital to give to those mothers

OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL CARNIVALS

Council wishes to advise the community that on the days listed, swimming carnivals will be held at Cessnock and Branxton Swimming Pools and the pools will not be open for recreational swimming.

CESSNOCK SWIMMING POOL

Date	Time
Tuesday 31 January 2017	9.00am – 3.00pm
Wednesday 1 February 2017	9.00am – 3.00pm
Thursday 2 February 2017	9.00am – 3.00pm
Friday 3 February 2017	9.00am – 2.30pm
Monday 6 February 2017	8.30am – 2.00pm
Tuesday 7 February 2017	9.00am – 2.30pm
Wednesday 8 February 2017	9.30am – 2.30pm
Thursday 9 February 2017	8.30am – 2.30pm
Friday 10 February 2017	9.00am – 3.00pm
Monday 13 February 2017	9.00am – 3.00pm
Tuesday 14 February 2017	9.00am – 3.00pm
Wednesday 15 February 2017	8.30am – 2.30pm
Thursday 16 February 2017	8.00am – 1.30pm
Thursday 23 February 2017	8.30am – 2.30pm
Saturday 25 February 2017	7.00am – 6.00pm
Sunday 12 March 2017	8.00am – 4.00pm

BRANXTON SWIMMING POOL

Date	Time
Monday 6 February 2017	9.30am – 2.00pm
Tuesday 7 February 2017	10.00am – 2.00pm
Friday 10 February 2017	10.30am – 2.30pm
Saturday 18 February 2017	1.00pm – 5.00pm

For further information please call Cessnock Swimming Pool on telephone 02 49903704 or Branxton Swimming Pool on telephone 02 49381450.

PO BOX 152
CESSNOCK 2325

STEPHEN GLEN
GENERAL MANAGER

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL:	Food and Drink Premise (Pub) and Auxiliary Function Centre
LAND:	LOT: 201 DP: 828486, LOT: 1 DP: 1211767 1843 Wine Country Drive BRANXTON, 1823 Wine Country Drive NORTH ROTHBURY
APPLICANT:	Mr J Gavin
APPLICATION NO.:	8/2017/7/1
CONSENT AUTHORITY:	Cessnock City Council
CONTACT:	Mrs Sarah Hyatt of Council's Planning and Environment Department on (02) 4993 4206.

Council is in receipt of a Development Application for the abovementioned property.

The Development Application may be inspected during normal office hours at Council's Customer Service Counter at 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock.

All comments or objections should be made in writing and addressed to the General Manager within the notification period commencing on 18 January 2017 and finishing on 02 February 2017 (inclusive).

Any person may, during the exhibition period, make a submission in writing to Council in relation to the Development Application. Where a submission is made by way of an objection, the grounds for objection must be clearly specified. The views expressed in written submissions will be considered by Council before a determination is made. An acknowledgement of your submission will be made no earlier than one (1) week after the notification period ends.

Submissions are NOT kept confidential. Council releases submissions when a request is made in accordance with privacy laws and the relevant provisions under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009. When a submission is released by law, Council routinely withholds contact numbers, email addresses and signatures. Should you wish for all personal details or any information that may identify you to be withheld from the public, please advise Council of this in your submission.

Should you intend to make a submission to Council on any planning related matter, your attention is drawn to your statutory obligations under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 regarding disclosure of political donations and gifts. You are required to complete a Political Donation and Gifts Declaration if you or an associate made any political donations or gifts to a Councillor or Council employee during the two (2) years prior to the submission. Please also note that should you make a donation or gift to a Councillor or Council employee in the period between the date of your submission and the determination of the application, you are required to submit a Declaration within seven (7) days of the donation.

Further information regarding Political Donation and Gift Declarations and the Declaration Form can be obtained from Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au or from Council's Customer Service Centre.

If the application is approved, a person who makes a submission by way of objection does not have a right of appeal to the Land and Environment Court unless a matter of law arises.

PO BOX 152
CESSNOCK NSW 2325

Stephen Glen
General Manager

Senator the Hon Anne Ruston visit Hunter Valley Wine Country

Hosted by the HVWTA's Chairman George Souris AM, Ian Napier and Stewart Ewen OAM, Senator the Hon. Anne Ruston met with local wine and viticulture industry representatives in the Hunter Valley last Friday. The meeting was to discuss wine industry initiatives by the Federal Government, and also included John Davis, Bruce Tyrrell, Keith and Amanda Tulloch, and Jerome Scarborough. Professor Daryll Hull was also present. Anne also took the opportunity to see two of our local Hermitage Rd exemplar wine tourism businesses working during Vintage - Keith Tulloch Wines and Scarborough Wines - and gave an interview to NBN9 during her 3 hour visit. The meeting addressed three main topics:

- regional wine and wine tourism including the allocation of the \$50M from Federal Government,
- the mechanics of the December changes to WET reform and how the \$100K wine tourism and cellar door grant will work, and the implications of the \$10M cap support of the proposed regional study by Professor Daryll Hull, Macquarie University on Regional Wine Economics in Australia.

Senator Ruston indicated that the Hunter Valley will have the opportunity to 'tap into' the \$50M at a regional level to expand wine tourism, with a particular focus on International Tourism, and that Wine Australia is in consultation with industry on initiatives that will get the best value from the Coalition's \$50 million grant over four years, in order to supercharge Australian wine promotion, wine tourism and exports. Anne said that she had set up a reference group that was providing industry input to her on priorities for funding, and suggested that we should work through NSWWIA to ensure our views are heard. Stewart Ewen is your HVWTA board member responsible for this, so if you have any input please speak to him.

One of the initiatives that our representatives and Prof Daryll Hull put forward was a proposed regional study that will give the Hunter Valley and other regions the clear economic base to deal with Government on all Policy and Tax issues that will emerge in the coming years. It was proposed that the process will start in the Hunter Valley which will allow the model to be perfected and proved so that it can then be transferred to all other wine regions. After Prof. Hull explained the proposed Regional Wine Tourism Economic Model's objectives, approach to development, the collaboration between the wine industry and Macquarie (and other) universities along with the proposal to use the Hunter Valley as the prototype region to test the model's development, Senator Ruston was supportive of the new initiative and said "This will give us better informed decision making for the future". Senator Ruston indicated her support for the initiative, and recommended that the HVWTA consult with NSW Wine Industry Association and her reference group to progress the proposal.

Hunter Valley wine industry representatives and the HVWTA also discussed with Senator Ruston how the proposed \$100K wine tourism and cellar door grant (that will come into play in July 2018 along with the revised WET rebate conditions) will work. From 2018-19, a wine tourism and cellar door grant program will allow producers who exceed their cap to access a grant of up to \$100,000 for their cellar door sales. The grant will be provided for wine sold direct to consumers once producers have reached the WET rebate cap of \$350,000. The grant may not be claimed against wine which has already been claimed against a producer's \$350,000 cap. The program will be capped at \$10 million per year. She suggested that industry needs to define what it is we believe a wine tourism business with a cellar door etc needs to 'look like' to claim the \$100K cellar door rebate for her consideration and HVWTA wine tourism members have been invited to do so. She noted that about half of the existing 204 wine producers claiming more than \$390,000 in WET rebates are expected to be eliminated by the new WET rules.



■ Keith Tulloch (Keith Tulloch Wines), John Davis (Pepper Tree, Tallavera Grove Vineyard & Briar Ridge Wines), Jerome Scarborough (Scarborough Wines), Senator Anne Ruston, Amanda Tulloch (front Keith Tulloch Wines), Hon George Souris AM (Chairman of Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association - HVWTA), Bruce Tyrrell (Tyrrell's Wines), Ian Napier (Wombat Crossing & HVWTA Committee Member), Stewart Ewan (Vigneron & HVWTA Committee Member) and Jo Thomas (General Manager HVWTA).

FROM FRONT PAGE

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..... processing, which employs around 100 people. Beverley has never forgotten her roots and continues to give back to Maitland, volunteering with World Vision and many local community organisations. She was also instrumental in building and operating the op shop at Beresfield/Thornton Anglican Church and she is the coordinator at the Samaritans GAPS (grandparents as parents) program.

Maitland Mayor Cr Peter Blackmore OAM says, 'The Maitland Citizen of the Year awards celebrate those individuals who work tirelessly to enrich the community through their commitment and service to others. We received a number of nominations for this year's awards and I congratulate Bev, she is a very worthy recipient. The contribution she has made to the community has had a positive impact for a great many people, not only in Maitland but across the

state.' The Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to passionate youth affairs advocate Sammy Seth. Sammy has thrived in her role as Youth Ambassador for the Multicultural Youth Affairs Network, has been an integral part of Youth Parliament for the last four years, a student of the CHAKRAS Dance School for many years, and is a respected Community Leader for the Oaktree Foundation, which is all about young people working together to end

poverty. 'We are very fortunate to have so many talented and community minded young people in our city. For such young a young person, Sammy has accomplished so much already. Hearing of her efforts and commitment to these worthy causes makes me incredibly proud, and no doubt her parents as well,' said Cr Blackmore. Along with the two award winners, it was also a special day for around 42 other people who became Australian citizens as part of a special Citizenship Ceremony.

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Quick action by North Rothbury & neighbouring Rural Fire Brigades avert property loss

Yesterday at around 2:30pm, with temperatures hovering around 40°C, the North Rothbury Rural Fire Brigade were called to a fire in the bush behind the North Rothbury Historic Railway Precinct. On arrival the Brigade saved two steam trains while Greta and Rothbury Brigades assisted them with property protection and knocking the fire down. More crews arrived on the scene who conducted back burning and strengthened containment lines. There is no longer a risk to property. Fire and smoke was visible in the area for some time after containment. The brigade thanked their neighbouring brigade crews who come to their assistance.



Pets and Patrols with Ranger Kurt

It is during this time of the year Council often receives a large number of customer requests about overgrown properties. Sometimes a property owner is not aware that the state of their yard is concerning their neighbours and they are eager to address the matter once informed. So don't forget the value of a neighbourly chat.

Other important things to keep in mind are that not all property owners have a green thumb and maintain their properties in a perfect 'park like' condition and a properties zoning also has an impact on whether it is considered overgrown.

If you are unable to contact the owner or your concerns are ignored then Council may be able to assist but only if the property is deemed to be in an unsafe or unhealthy condition. The following guidelines will help you determine if Council can assist:

- The property in question must be located in a residential zone (R1, R2, R3, R4 or R5).
- The overgrown vegetation has been confirmed as a harbourage for vermin likely to create unsafe or unhealthy conditions.
- The vegetation in question is more than 600mm (approximately) in height and covers a significant portion of the property.

When a property is deemed overgrown Council sends an initial form letter to the property owner informing them about the vegetation on the property. The letter explains the situation and requests that the property owner maintain the property to a reasonable standard. The property owner is provided with a timeframe of 28 days to improve the condition of the property.

If at the end of the 28 day period the works have not been completed or you still have concerns then you are encouraged to contact Council again. In this instance Council will inspect and assess the property. If Council is satisfied of the overgrown nature of the property then a formal process will be commenced.

This involves the issuing of a formal notice on the property owner directing them to manage and maintain the vegetation. In accordance with administrative provisions of the legislation a four week time frame is generally provided. The failure by the recipient of a notice to satisfactorily comply with the required stated works may result in enforcement action by Council.



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 or **www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au**



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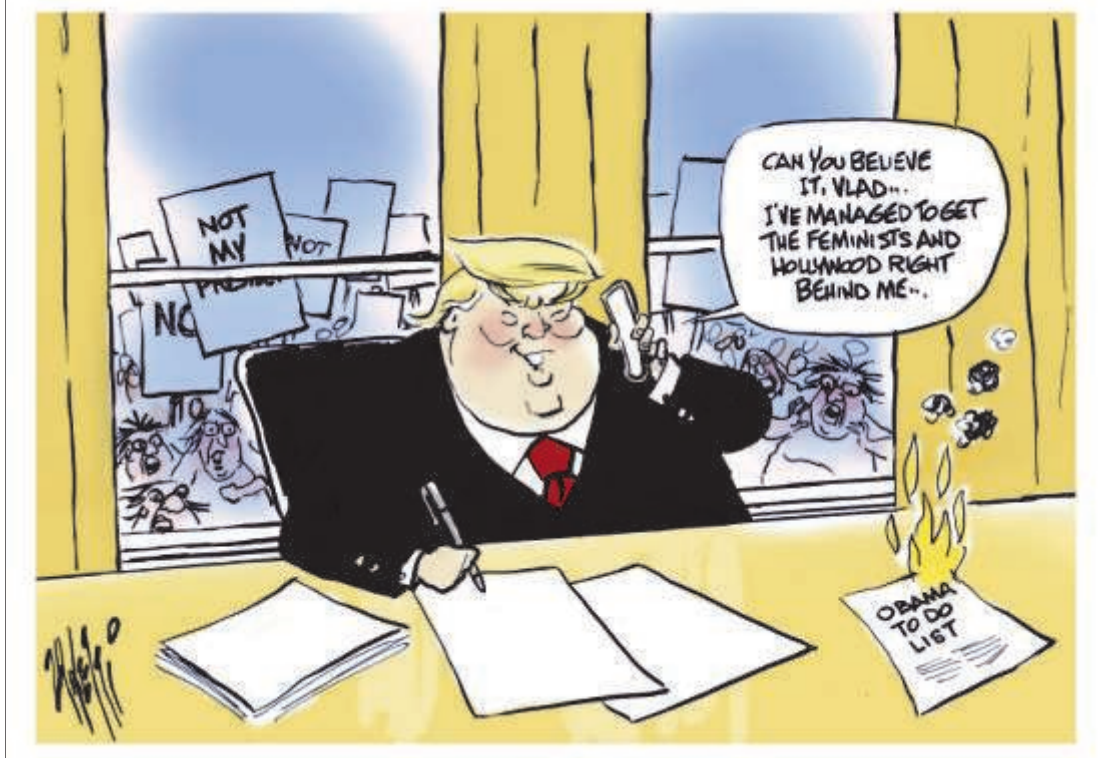
What's Happening & other matters

with Mike Lowing

THE recent horrific spat of suspicious bushfires in the Cessnock/Kurri Kurri & Weston area, hopefully, will be just a very sad memory for those who were caught in them & for our fire fighters, with the arrest of the alleged arsonist who is now in custody after being refused bail.

If charges are proved correct he could face up to 14 years in gaol which, to myself and the majority of the community I have spoken to, is far too lenient for the crime; the possible consequences could have been catastrophic if it wasn't for our brilliant & heroic fire fighters, some good luck with the weather & wind changes. The penalties must be increased as an absolute deterrent for these crimes.

On a lighter note; the North Rothbury Rural Fire Brigade crew were in the thick of it on every outbreak and did, as with all the brigades, a super human effort to quell & contain each fire. While fighting the most recent outbreak a little 'angel of mercy' appeared while they were having a rest & cooling down. Please read the FB account of what happened.



Letters to the Editor

OBJECTION TO THE GAMING FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED IN THE PROPOSED TAVERN AT HUNTLEE

If the business plan for the proposed Tavern at Huntlee is only viable with gambling facilities included in the planning approval, then we believe the business plan is not acceptable for the establishment of the business.

Gambling is not compatible with a business which is recommended as family friendly.

There are already three establishments in the area which have Pokies and betting facilities. Gambling is an isolation activity, not

something shared. We both have personal experience with someone who feeds her school children 2 minute noodles and spends all her welfare money on gambling. Plus any she can "borrow" from others. She is not alone. It is our opinion a demographic study of this area will show there is little enthusiasm for Pokies and the majority of patrons who use them appear to be those who can least afford to. Application to the Liquor and Gaming NSW website states:

We are committed to delivering a strong focus on compliance and enforcement to minimise

the risks of alcohol and gambling related harm in the community, as well as providing consistent and transparent decision making, and effectively engaging and communicating with our stakeholders and the broader community.

I think you can take from this that there is recognition that gambling related harm exists in communities and it doesn't just affect the gambler but also their families, work colleagues and neighbours. We would look forward to using the facilities of the Tavern and welcome its establishment, but cannot see it being a family friendly place where we would take our children. A gambling environment is not one we associate with family values or the grand plan that is Huntlee.

Maureen and Steve Lind.

North Rothbury. 2335 HUNTER A BIG LOSER UNDER GONSKI CUTS

Analysis released last week tells us what we already knew; students in the Hunter electorate were amongst the biggest winners under the Gonski School funding reforms and are now amongst the biggest losers from the cuts imposed by Tony Abbott and Malcolm Turnbull. That is also true of Barnaby Joyce's electorate which now includes the Upper Hunter Shire. Gonski was providing an opportunity to break the cycle of intergenerational unemployment in our region. It provided the resources schools need to intervene and assist children with challenges and to ensure all students

reach their full potential. Those resources also lift our workforce capacity and economic growth. Even Barnaby Joyce's colleague, NSW Education Minister Adrian Piccoli says Barnaby Joyce and Malcolm Turnbull are wrong to cut Gonski funding. Barnaby Joyce's electorate was the second highest beneficiary of the 150 federal seats. The Hunter electorate ranked third. It's time to reverse the cuts.

THE HON JOEL FITZGIBBON MP, MEMBER FOR HUNTER
CENTRELINK FIASCO EXPANDED

Expanding the Centrelink fiasco to include the elderly and disabled is a national disgrace.

I understand the claw-back target is \$8billion dollars – much more than has been publicly stated – and the manner in which the process has been conducted is so cavalier, it makes me angry. We have witnessed constituents so distressed they have been crying in reception at my electoral office as they explain the heartless pursuit of deceased loved ones. There have been queues forming as constituents attempt to meet with me to have the process corrected. They are fearful of the threats of more financial penalty if they don't just accept the Centrelink demand and pay up. It is a national disgrace. I have been making submissions to Alan Tudge, the Minister for Human Services and direct to Centrelink on behalf of several

constituents. So far, my submissions have fallen on deaf ears. I may have more to say in coming days as the analysis and cross-referencing of information from the Centrelink computer system is made available. I call on the government to immediately suspend this heartless program of gouging our most vulnerable citizens and I urge anyone who has received a letter of demand to request a review – whether you have already paid or not. The damage this program is doing to the recipients of the letters and the staff at Centrelink is a national disgrace and not anything we would want to be associated with.

Senator Burston, ACT

Emergency Phone Numbers

Dial 000		
FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE. It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected. When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct. ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED		
Police		Electricity
Branxton..... 4938 1244		Energy
Lochinvar... 4930 7209		Australia..... 131 388
Ambulance 131 233		Hospitals
NSW Fire Brigade		Maitland... 4939 2000
Branxton..... 4938 3396		Cessnock.. 4991 0555
		Singleton... 6572 2799
		SES132 500
Rural Fire Brigades		Crime Stoppers
Belford..... 6574 7149		1800 333 000
Broke..... 6579 1491		SES 132 500
Greta..... 4015 0000		Poisons Info 131 126
Bishops Bdg		Hunter Water
Nth R'bury... 4015 0000		1300 657 000
Rothbury.... 4015 0000		Ausgrid 131 388
Pokolbin.... 4015 0000		Gas Emergencies . 131 909
Rothbury.... 4991 1733		Lifeline131 114
Bishops Bdg		Mental Health Line
Nth R'bury... 4015 0000		1800 011 511
Rothbury.... 4015 0000		Domestic Violence Support
Pokolbin.... 4015 0000		4990 9609
Rothbury.... 4991 1733		Centrelink Self Service
Scotts		136 240
Flat..... 6574 5186		Medicare 132 011
Central		Native Animal Rescue
(Cessnock)...		0418 628 483

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Letters to the editor can be sent to:

The Editor, The BGV News,
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NSW 2335

OR

emailed to
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Branxton Lions Club held the 2016 Senior Citizens Dinners at Greta Workers Club and the Branxton Community Hall on the 29th November and the 6th December 2016.

The dinners were enjoyed by all local seniors with entertainment, drinks, food, lucky door prizes and a great raffle.

Branxton Lions Club would like to thank Greta Workers Club and Branxton IGA for their support. The Branxton Girl Guides helped with serving the dinner. Branxton Lions Club would love to welcome new members to help serve the community with a great bunch of people.

For information please call Bob on 49381001 or Alan on 49381654



≡ The Branxton Lions Ladies preparing the meal.



≡ Being served



≡ Lion Tony Ernst with the raffle prizes



≡ The Girl Guides who did a tremendous job on the evenings



Thank you to Fire Crews

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent commended the efforts of Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service and all emergency services who bravely worked to protect life and property yesterday.

“The crews were faced with extreme weather conditions as high temperatures and strong winds combined to create an unpredictable and difficult environment to work in”.

“Local, regional and metropolitan crews came together, working tirelessly on the ground, with further aerial support helping to

battle the blazes”.
 “I will be very angry and disappointed if investigations find that these fires were deliberately lit”.
 “If that is found to be the case, the actions of one or a few have put entire communities, lives and property in significant danger”.
 “Unfortunately, this is the third fire event in the Cessnock local government area this summer, so I would again remind the community to be prepared and to have a fire plan,” Cr Pynsent said.



≡ Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent with representatives of our local emergency services

Cessnock City Council overwhelmed by support

Cessnock City Council proudly presented donations from the Christmas Appeal 2016 to Jodie’s Place ahead of Christmas Day.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said he was overwhelmed with the response from the community. “People have been incredibly generous and the out pouring of support for Jodie’s Place comes as no surprise”. “The community are keen to assist and support the important work Jodie’s Place do in helping victims of domestic violence”.

“Thank you to everyone in our community who donated, it is important we reach out and support those more vulnerable than us this Christmas”.

“There was a remarkable amount donated including gifts, toys, first-aid, non-perishable food and toiletries”, said Cr Mayor Pynsent.

All donations received by Jodie’s Place were distributed to families in need this Christmas.



≡ Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent with a representative from Jodie’s Place

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Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

..... FROM THE MAYORS DESK



Our community once again has faced the horror of bush fires burning in very dangerous conditions. Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service and all emergency services bravely protected life and property.

It was nothing less than a heroic effort by fire crews who worked tirelessly to defend our community in soaring temperatures and strong winds. I cannot thank everyone involved in the effort enough for keeping our community safe. Investigations are underway into how the fires were ignited. I am disappointed and angry at the idea these fires were deliberately lit.

This is the third major fire event in our local government area this summer. A reminder for all residents to ensure they have a bush fire survival plan and to reduce bush fire hazards around their homes. For more information head to <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/bush-fire-survival-plan>.

I am very excited about the recent announcement international fitness movement Parkrun is coming to Cessnock. This fantastic initiative involves a free, weekly five kilometre run or walk held every Saturday. It is great to see St Philips Christian College, Nulkaba getting involved allowing the Parkrun to be held on their campus. I look forward to the launch which is set to be announced shortly and encourage everyone to have a go at the family- friendly free event.

Australia Day, a unique opportunity for us to celebrate our wonderful culture and this very special nation we live in. We welcomed new citizens and thanked those very special Aussies that go above and beyond in our community. We had put together a great program of events which commenced with the Citizenship Ceremony and the Australia Day Awards at the East Cessnock Bowling Club at 10:00am. The official proceedings also included a special presentation to emergency services for their efforts this fire season. Lyndey Milan OAM was our Australia Day Ambassador. I was very much looking forward to welcoming one of Australia's most recognised food personalities into our region which is home to first class food and wine.

Cheers, Bob

Raising the BARR
Week ending 13/01/2017
CRYSTAL BALL PREDICTIONS FOR 2017

As always, I try to dedicate my last column of the year, in part, to some whacky tongue in cheek predictions for the year ahead. I missed the last column deadline late last year, so I am making up for it in this first column of the new year. The idea is inspired by so-called psychics who claim to have an ability to see into the future and who often make vague, broad, easy to foresee predictions. A classic example is predicting a Hollywood star, or rock star, will die from a drug over-dose. It's a bit silly really.

Last year's notable predictions – 14 Gold medals at the Olympics (we got 8); Olympic gold medal in Rugby (think Women's); 50 Gold medals at Paralympics (we got 22); Olympic turmoil about drug use (think Russian team); Federal Australian Politician caught controversially claiming work expenses (various examples); famous actor/rockstar death from drugs (Prince); a Kardashians Marriage break up (Kim & Kanye); China announce mission to moon (announced in April 2016 for a 2036 date); reclassification of Pluto as a planet (well, I was wrong but they did find a possible 9th planet so my vibe was close). Not bad right? So, what will 2017 bring? I predict that the Trump situation in America will come to a crashing end. So too the period of rule for Mike Baird and Malcolm Turnbull. I predict the Knights to lift themselves into the top 15 teams this year. I predict a new road toll (fee\$) being announced for the M1 (aka F3) and Hunter Expressway. I predict the NSW Government making an announcement to actually have something made in NSW. I predict the sale of the harbour bridge and opera house. I predict federal Government recognition of gay marriage. And I predict a universal apology from climate change deniers as they admit that their refusal to accept the science was all a joke, a gee-up.

* * * * *

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.

Cheers, Clayton



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

If Christmas is a time to spend with the people closest to us, then January prompts us to reflect on and appreciate what we all have in common as Australians, and our fortune to live in a peaceful part of the world where diversity is celebrated and encouraged. It follows then that it's also a great time of year to look around at where we live and appreciate what's wonderful about Branxton and the broader Singleton LGA, and at the top of the list are the people in our community. As we came together to celebrate Australia Day, the highlight of the festivities was the Civic Ceremony where we saw the announcement of the Singleton Citizen and Young Achiever of the Year.

These awards recognise the people who have given their time and commitment in 2016 to making Singleton a great place to live, and I congratulate all of our nominees on all that they have achieved for our community. It was a particularly arduous task to select the recipients from a pool of wonderful people all doing wonderful things.

As we pause to reflect on our community, it's also a fitting time of year to receive the news that Singleton Council has received a \$3.5million State Government grant to continue the good work to improve Singleton Town Centre.

While the funding represents half of the amount Council applied for and means we are now investigating other funding sources to help deliver the project, it is a great boost to what is an important project for our LGA.

Before this funding announcement, Stage Two of the Town Centre project was an idea on paper. Now we can begin to envisage the benefits it will bring, including an overhaul of the appearance of Campbell Street as a gateway to our business and retail centre.

It means another busy year for major projects in Singleton, with the continuation of the Hermitage Road upgrade and tenders now open for the upgrade of the Singleton Regional Livestock Market.

Continuing progress adds to the many reasons Singleton is a great place to live, and a great place to celebrate being Australian on 26 January. All the local festivities were held at the Civic Centre and on the lawn between Council and the Gym & Swim, kicking off with a gold coin donation breakfast cooked up by the Singleton Lions Club at 8am, followed by the Civic Ceremony at 9.30am and plenty of free family entertainment at 10.30am. Whatever part of Singleton you live in, then 2017 is already off to a great start. And with 11 months still to go, I can't wait to see what else we'll be celebrating this year.

Cheers, Sue



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

State Matters
FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS TO COMBAT LOCAL CRIME

I would urge our Upper Hunter Electorate community groups, businesses and councils with ideas to reduce criminal and anti-social behaviour to come forward and apply for up to \$250,000 in NSW Government funding, with the launch

of the 2017 Community Safety Fund for local initiatives with a crime prevention focus.

Crime is a social and financial burden that the Nationals in Government are committed to reducing, whilst boosting local safety and pride, as we know there is always more that can be done to stamp out crime in our towns and suburbs, and we are working with Upper Hunter Electorate communities to identify opportunities.

The reasons for and consequences of crime in one region of NSW can be very different to other regions, therefore it is important that we invest in local solutions.

The program, which will see \$10 million invested over four years, has already helped make local crime reduction ideas a reality. The NSW Government is proud to partner with the community to prevent crime and address the fear of crime.

This program has funded community initiatives right across the state to enhance the work of Government and law enforcement agencies to combat crime. In the inaugural round of the program hundreds of applications were received and I look forward to more evidence-based projects being funded this year that will make our state a safer place.

The Community Safety Fund aims to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour through infrastructure and service delivery projects that address local crime hot spots, promote safe and inclusive use of public space, and collaborative approaches to crime prevention and detection.

I would urge those in our community who are interested to seek further information by visiting <http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au/>, where you will also find the online application.

NSW PARLIAMENTARY YEAR

The NSW State Parliamentary Year will begin on February 14, but myself and my office have been back to work now since the second week of January, and as ever, I am enjoying travelling around our Upper Hunter Electorate, far and wide, to learn more about the current issues that matter to my constituents.

Whilst I may not have the chance to meet and speak to everyone in the Electorate, I do appreciate your feedback, and I like to learn about the issues that matter to you and your families, so please feel free to contact me using the details provided, and inform me of the matters that you would like to be considered to be raised in our NSW State Parliament.

CHANGE IN NSW

Since my last column, NSW now has a new Premier, following the resignation of Mike Baird, and the promotion of Gladys Berejiklian to the role.

Mike Baird demonstrated a strong commitment to rebuilding NSW and setting up our state as the number one state in Australia. His visionary approach, coupled with his abilities in economic management, has seen major improvements to NSW and in delivering front line services for our community.

I thank Mike Baird for his service to our NSW, and I look forward working with Gladys Berejiklian, who has a proven track-record of hard-work, and vision for NSW.

The Deputy Premier and Leader of the NSW National Party, John Barilaro, has made it clear that The Nationals and regional NSW won't be taken for granted.

John Barilaro has described the Coalition Agreement between the NSW Nationals and Liberals as a 'blank sheet of paper'.

In doing so he said: "Everything is

on the table.... I made no deals when taking over as Leader of the NSW Nationals and I won't start now". He said that while he was looking forward to working with a new Premier it was time to draw a line in the sand over how regional New South Wales was treated by the Government. The first item of business was pending council amalgamations, and he has committed to end any pending local government mergers in the bush. The Nationals are the only party representing regional NSW that are actually sitting at the decision-making table with the power to do something about it. And, we're the only grassroots party with true democracy – where everyone gets a say.

The Nationals in Government are committed to making sure that our local rural and regional areas are properly served by the policies of the day, and the leadership change in NSW allows the Nationals to remind both government and the community that our focus is and always will be what is best for rural and regional NSW. As a political party, the Nationals have a track record for delivering for rural and regional NSW, and we look forward to continuing to build on that reputation as we move forward as a Party and a community.

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



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

Few people have heard of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). Fewer people know where it is or what it does. What they should know, is that Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce's determination to move the Authority from Canberra to his own electorate is a threat to our health, farm productivity and profitability, and the natural environment.

The APVMA is a Commonwealth Government regulator. Its main role is to make sure the chemicals farmers use to spray food crops and the medicines given to farm and other animals are not harmful to human or animal health. But it's not just farmers. If you spray bindii weed or tomatoes at home, you're using a chemical approved by the APVMA. When your local Council is spraying weeds on road-side verges, the APVMA is keen to ensure the health of a nearby water course or children's park is not being unacceptably affected by the run-off or spray drift.

Located in Canberra, the Authority's staff of almost 200 people review data provided by the big multinational chemicals and pharmaceutical companies, and if satisfied that they are both safe and efficient, they register them for use for certain purposes. The regulator's scientists and lawyers do not undertake research as such, that's done by those who produce and sell the products. Rather, the APVMA reviews the data provided by the companies to test its validity. It also keeps a watch on any international developments which may send up a 'red flag' on a chemical or drug already in use in Australia.

CONT PAGE 9

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PHARMACY ADVISOR



Lee Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

Sunburn

Sunburn is the skin's reaction to the ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. You can see sunlight and feel heat (infrared radiation), but you can't see or feel UV radiation. It can damage your skin even on cool, cloudy days. Sunburn is a radiation burn to the skin. The signs of sunburn can start to appear in less than 15 minutes and skin can turn red within two to six hours of being burnt. It will continue to develop for the next 24 to 72 hours and, depending on the severity, can take days or weeks to heal. Sunburn will become worse with more exposure to UV rays. Mild sunburn can be treated at home, but severe and blistered sunburn requires prompt medical attention. The long-term effects of repeated bouts of sunburn include premature wrinkling and an increased risk of skin cancer, including melanoma (the most dangerous type of skin cancer). Once DNA damage occurs, it is impossible to reverse. This is why prevention is much better than cure. To prevent sunburn, use a combination of sun protection measures during the sun protection times each day (when the UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher). You can find these times on the SunSmart app or widget, or at the Bureau of Meteorology website. People who work outdoors for long periods of time may need sun protection all year, as they have an increased risk of skin cancer. Reduce the risk of sunburn

During the daily sun protection times, use a combination of five sun protection measures to reduce your risk of sunburn.

- **Slip** – on sun-protective clothing (make sure it covers as much skin as possible).
- **Slop** – on SPF (sun protection factor) 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen. Apply 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every two hours.

- **Slap** – on a broad-brimmed hat that protects your face, head, neck and ears.
- **Seek** – shade.
- **Slide** – on wrap-around sunglasses (make sure they meet Australian Standard AS/NZS 1067).

Symptoms of sunburn
The symptoms of sunburn include:

- changes in skin colour, ranging from pink to red and even purple
- skin that feels hot to the touch
- pain and/or itching
- swelling
- fluid-filled blisters that may itch and eventually pop or break
- broken blisters that peel to reveal even more tender skin beneath.

Sunburnt skin will change colour within two to six hours of being burnt and the colour change will continue to develop for up to seventy-two hours. **Australians and sunburn**
On a summer's day in Australia, sunburn can occur in as little as 15 minutes. All types of sunburn, whether serious or mild, can cause permanent and irreversible skin damage. This could lay the groundwork for skin cancers to develop. Further sunburn only increases your risk of skin cancer. Over 2,000 Australians die from skin cancer each year. According to Cancer Council's National Sun Protection Survey, there has been a sustained decrease in weekend sunburn among Australian adolescents

and adults, however, further improvements are required. Even the relatively low sunburn incidence across the 2013–14 summer translates to 2.4 million adults being sunburnt on any given summer weekend. Males are more likely to get sunburnt than females, because they spend more time outside during peak UV times and are less likely to use sun protection.

UV radiation and sunburn
In addition to light and heat, the sun gives out invisible UV radiation. UV radiation can pass through light cloud. It can also be scattered in the air and reflected by surfaces such as buildings, concrete, sand and snow.

The three types of UV radiation (based on wavelength) are UVA, UVB and UVC. The earth's atmosphere absorbs nearly all of UVC radiation (the most dangerous type) before it reaches the ground. UVA and UVB radiation are both involved in sunburn, but skin reacts differently to each type of radiation:

- **UVA** – penetrates into the deeper skin layers and damages the sites where new skin cells are generated. Too much UVA radiation leads to roughening, dryness, blotchiness, wrinkling and sagging of the skin. High doses of UVA radiation can also cause sunburn, damage to genes in skin cells and skin cancer.
- **UVB** – is even more dangerous than UVA radiation, causing tanning, burning, ageing, skin damage and significantly promoting the development of skin cancer. It affects the surface skin layer. The skin responds by releasing chemicals that dilate blood vessels. This causes fluid leakage and inflammation – better known as sunburn.

How UV affects your skin
Skin cells in the top layer of skin (epidermis) produce a pigment called melanin, which gives skin its natural colour. When skin is exposed to UV radiation, more melanin is produced, causing the skin to darken and tan. CONT P. 9

Vehicle Fire/North Rothbury:
TIME/DATE: 0225hrs, 12/11/2016.
LOC: 400m East along Wine Country Drive off the Hunter Express Way access to North Rothbury.
RE: Vehicle Fire.
VEH: Green Ford Falcon.
DAMAGE: Total.
FIRE BRIGADE: North Rothbury RFS.
Around 0225hrs on Saturday 12th November 2016, Police were notified of a vehicle on fire on Wine Country Drive, North Rothbury. Police attended the location

and sighted the RFS extinguishing the fire from the vehicle. No occupants inside the vehicle. Vehicle registration plates were still attached and checks were conducted on the vehicle. Vehicle not listed as stolen. It appears as the vehicle was deliberately set alight.
Drive whilst disqualified/Hunterview:
TOI: 1:45am on Thursday the 10th of November, 2016
ACCUSED: Male, aged 31 from Carrowbrook
VEHICLE: Ford Falcon Sedan. Around 1:45am on Thursday the 10th of Novem-

ber, 2016 the Accused was the driver of a Ford Falcon sedan which he drove in a southerly direction along Bridgman Road, Hunterview. Police signalled for the driver to stop for the purpose of a breath test. Police conducted checks on the New South Wales (NSW) Services System which indicated the accused licence to be disqualified until the 30th of June, 2017. Further checks revealed his licence also expired on the 3rd of October, 2015. The accused was issued with Filed Court Attendance Notice for drive whilst disqualified – 2nd offence. He appeared at Singleton Local Court on the 15th January 2016.

Façade, Facelifts and Fixups get Funding

Cessnock City Council is excited to announce five properties across the local government area have been awarded heritage grants made possible by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said the properties are located in the commercial precincts of Cessnock, Kurri Kurri, Weston and Branxton. "It is pleasing to see properties that have stood the test of time receiving structural and facade improvements that will revitalise them for the future". "Some of the projects will result in a remarkable change to the buildings appearance, which will enhance the heritage status and improve the overall streetscape", Cr Pynsent said. Successful properties include: Branxton Pharmacy, Branxton Commercial Hotel, Branxton Aberdare Hotel, Weston 104-108 Vincent Street, Cessnock Kurri Kurri Visitor Centre, Kurri Kurri The Local Heritage Fund provided financial assistance to owners or managers of heritage items for conservation, maintenance works or Building Code upgrades.



Australian Damper

This is the bread made by drovers in the Australian outback. It's great camping food as it's traditionally cooked in the coals of a camp fire.

SERVINGS 4

INGREDIENTS

2 ½ cups plain flour, 5 teaspoons baking powder, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon butter, 1 teaspoon sugar, 1 cup milk, fresh, powdered (or you can just use water)

DIRECTIONS

1. The best way to make this is to mix together the dry ingredients then add the liquid and butter and mix well and then knead it for about 5 minutes.
2. Then wrap it in a double layer of greased foil and place it in the coals of the campfire, poking it in and retrieving it a bit later hoping it's done.
3. I've also had it where you just throw the dough into the coals and pull off the blacked outside when it's done and eat the inner part.
4. To cook it in the oven preheat to 350 degrees F.
5. Combine the flour, baking powder, salt and sugar and mix well. Rub or cut in the butter. Stir in the milk to form a dough.
6. Shape into a flattened ball and place on a greased baking sheet or in a round cake tin and bake for about 30 minutes.
7. Doing it this way though is not traditional and just won't taste the same.
8. You eat it straight away while still hot in thick slices with butter, golden syrup, jam or vegemite.
9. This is great camping food and always brings back many happy camping memories.



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PHARMACY ADVISOR

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Sunburn

A tan is a sign that the skin has been damaged from UV radiation. It is not a sign of good health. It is important to remember that tanning without burning can still cause skin damage, premature skin ageing and skin cancer. UV radiation can cause irreparable damage to the genes in the skin's cells. Each time you expose your skin to UV radiation from the sun or from a solarium, you increase your risk of developing skin cancer.

Solariums are not safe

It is a myth that using a solarium is a safe way to tan. Solarium tans offer no protection against genetic damage to skin cells, which can occur without burning. Due to the associated health risks, commercial solariums have been banned in Victoria since January 2015. Prior to the ban, it was estimated that each year in Australia, 281 new melanoma cases, 43 melanoma-related deaths, and 2,572 new cases of squamous cell carcinoma were attributable to solarium use.

UV and vitamin D

The sun's UV radiation is the major cause of skin cancer and the best natural source of vitamin D, which is needed for strong bones and overall health. In Victoria, it is important to take a balanced UV approach to reduce the risk of skin cancer, while getting some exposure to help with vitamin D levels.

Daily sun protection times

UV radiation levels vary depending on the location, time of year, time of day, cloud coverage and the environment. Sun protection is recommended whenever UV levels reach 3 or higher.

To find out when you do and don't need sun protection at your location, check the daily sun protection times, available as a free SunSmart app, online at SunSmart on the Bureau of Meteorology website, in the weather section of newspapers, or as a free website widget.

Treatment for sunburn

There is no cure for the symptoms of sunburn except time and patience. Treatment aims to help manage the symptoms while the body heals. Suggestions include:

- Drink plenty of water, because spending time in the sun can lead to dehydration as well as sunburn.
- Gently apply cool or cold compresses, or bathe the area in cool water.
- Avoid using soap as this may irritate

your skin.

- Speak to a pharmacist about products that help soothe sunburn. Choose spray-on solutions rather than creams which require rubbing in by hand.
- Don't pop blisters. Consider covering itchy blisters with a wound dressing to reduce the risk of infection.
- If your skin is not too painful, apply moisturiser. This won't stop the burnt skin from peeling off, but it will help boost the moisture content of the skin beneath. Do not apply butter to sunburnt skin.
- Take over-the-counter pain-relieving medication, if necessary.

Keep out of the sun until your skin has completely healed.

Peeling sunburnt skin

There's no cream or lotion that will stop burnt skin from peeling off. This is part of the natural healing process. When skin is peeling:

- Resist the temptation and don't pick at the skin. Allow the dead skin sheets to detach on their own.
- Remove detached skin carefully and slowly. Don't rip skin sheets off or you risk removing more skin than you intended.

Apply antiseptic cream to the newly revealed skin to reduce the risk of infection.

Treatment for severe sunburn

See a doctor or seek treatment from the nearest hospital emergency department if you experience:

- severe sunburn with extensive blistering and pain
- sunburn over a large area of skin
- headache
- nausea and vomiting
- fever
- dizziness or altered states of consciousness.

Sunburn prevention is best

Suggestions on how to avoid getting sunburnt include:

- Don't assume that sun exposure is safe when you can't feel it sting your skin – that sting or bite is heat, not UV radiation. If you're not sure, don't chance it – check the sun protection times for your location.
- UV radiation levels aren't linked to temperature. Don't rely on the

temperature to gauge when you need sun protection. Check the sun protection times each day and Slip! Slop! Slap! Seek! and Slide!

- Many Australians get sunburnt around water, at the beach or the pool. If there is no shade, you'll need to protect yourself in other ways.
- You can get sunburnt when you're relaxing and taking it easy, such as watching outdoor sports, picnicking at the park or while playing sports.
- Winter activities, such as snow skiing and snowboarding pose a high risk of sunburn because UV radiation is already higher in alpine regions than at sea level. Snow is also very efficient at reflecting UV radiation.

- What many people assume is 'windburn' is actually sunburn. While wind can dry the skin, it doesn't burn.

- A tan doesn't protect against skin and eye damage, or the risk of skin cancer.

- Babies under 12 months should not be exposed to direct UV and should be well protected from the sun. Always try to keep babies and children in the shade and use clothing to cover most of their body. Use small amounts of child-friendly sunscreen on uncovered areas such as the face and hands whenever children are exposed to the sun.

Where to get help

- Your doctor
- Pharmacist
- Cancer Council 13 11 20 for information and support.
- Multilingual Cancer Information Line Tel. 13 14 50

Things to remember

- Sunburn can occur in less than 15 minutes and, depending on the severity, can take a few days or weeks to heal.
- There is no cure for the symptoms of sunburn except time and patience.
- Mild sunburn can be treated at home, but severe and blistered sunburn needs prompt medical attention.
- Excessive exposure to UV damages the skin permanently and may cause skin cancer, including dangerous malignant melanoma.
- Each time you expose your skin to UV radiation, you increase your risk of developing skin cancer.

FROM PAGE 6

Members say

JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

In that case, the APVMA will review the chemical's licence. For example, the APVMA caused great controversy during 2013 when following a review, it put a stop to the use of a chemical, Fenthion, orchardists used to protect their stone fruit and other products from fruit fly. The APVMA was concerned residual chemicals in the fruit could be harmful to consumers. There is no undergraduate course which delivers all the qualifications and expertise needed to work for the APVMA as a regulatory scientist or lawyer. It's a very specific area of expertise which takes many years of training post-grad. According to the APVMA's CEO, if these professionals are lost to the organisation, it will take up to seven years to re-build the workforce.

Sadly, that's what is about to happen. The professionals who work within the APVMA live in the Canberra region and typically have their children in local schools. More often than not, their partners also work in Canberra. Staff surveys show that only a small number of these highly employable people are prepared to make the move. In addition to the \$26 million of taxpayers' money Barnaby Joyce intends to spend on his pork barrel, the Agriculture Minister is now throwing more money at the project in the form of incentives for staff. It's not likely to be enough to make them change their minds.

The chemicals and pharmaceutical companies aren't happy either. Along with the farm peak groups, they have been highly critical of the move. Given the companies operate in huge international markets, some may simply decide that the Australian regulatory regime is just too difficult to justify what is a relatively small market. That decision would be a very harmful one for our farmers in particular.

It doesn't end there. If a local farmer wants to export a product, he or she will need to demonstrate to the destination country that the food is free of harmful chemical residues. The APVMA plays a role there too. So export opportunities could also be adversely affected.

Last year, Barnaby Joyce was forced to commission an independent cost-benefit analysis on the move. In short, it spelt out the madness of the relocation. Sadly, the Minister and his Prime Minister have ignored its findings and for many months, refused to release it.

So why is this happening? Because Barnaby Joyce struggles to secure the votes he needs in Armidale to retain his seat in Parliament – the town he wants to host the APVMA and Malcolm Turnbull is desperate to keep his leadership even at the expense of human and animal health, plant health and the health of our environment.



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

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The Beetles helping Cessnock City Council to restore historic site

Cessnock City Council has enlisted the help of a South American beetle to control the spread of the noxious weed, Madeira Vine, throughout its local government area. Almost 1,000 beetles have been released across a number of sites in November and December with the most recent 400 beetles released into the Hunter River Reserve just last week. The beetles, which are bred in the Upper Hunter for this purpose, have a lifespan of 52 days and feed primarily on the native South American Madeira Vine which suffocates native vegetation.

The beetle release coincides with active weed control and restoration works occurring throughout the rest of the site. Hunter Council's Senior Ecologist Ms Eva Twarkowski said, "The Madeira Beetle has been successfully used to remove the Madeira Vine from sensitive areas throughout NSW and Queensland." She added, "By using the Beetle at the Hunter River Reserve we are able to reduce Chemical use, manage worker safety by not needing to have people undertake works on the very steep slopes of the reserve and work to reduce damage to the historic Convict Steps built to make the trek to the riverbank easier."

"We are really keen to see how well the beetles go at eating the Madeira Vine and will look to use them at other environmentally sensitive sites throughout the region," she concluded.



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STAMP DUTY

New premier needs to review stamp duty

A review of tax system including stamp duty should be the first point of business for newly appointed premier Gladys Berejiklian, according to the Real Estate Institute of New South Wales. REINSW President John Cunningham said former premier Mike Baird had taxation reform on his agenda. "It's time for his successor to deliver something back to property consumers," Mr Cunningham said. "A review of the tax system is necessary immediately.

recent years and it is time to give back. We urge Premier Berejiklian to recognise that stamp duty has not been reviewed for 30 years. "It's time for a Premier to step in and take charge. We believe that Gladys Berejiklian has the potential to be the Premier who leads NSW into a future where property consumers aren't being ripped off by outdated stamp duty brackets. "Premier Berejiklian can lead NSW into a future where incentives for first homebuyers purchasing existing properties* are reinstated. We call on Premier Berejiklian, as leader of the NSW Government to reduce stamp duty for first

homebuyers by 50 per cent for the purchase of a residential property less than \$1 million. "We also urge her to provide the ability to pay the stamp duty over time in what will help to ease the housing affordability crisis that we are experiencing. "REINSW proposes a one off 50 per cent concession for the over 65's up to \$1 million, another step that will also help to get the supply chain moving. "Premier Berejiklian and her government will see a \$4 billion surplus for 2016-2017. By cutting stamp duty we are not asking government to reduce its revenue, to the contrary we believe, based on the experiences in other states, that a reduction in the stamp duty rate will generate additional market activity. "To further support supply and affordability we call on the new premier to make amendments to planning laws, to bring back a SEPP for Dual Occupancy. This will provide the middle ring suburbs of Sydney with part of the solution to this major issue. "We look forward to working Premier Berejiklian and helping support those who choose to live in NSW, the nation's best performing economy," Mr Cunningham said.

Path to professionalism commences

The journey to increase professional standards in the real estate industry is underway after agents recognised that it was the way forward at the Real Estate Institute of New South Wales' fourth annual Industry Summit last month. REINSW President John Cunningham said over 100 delegates gathered at the Sydney Opera House on 24 November 2016 to discuss and debate 'The Path to Professionalism'. "Over the last 20 years, we've allowed our education standards to slip," he said. "At the same time, we've seen the complexities surrounding the real estate transaction increase exponentially, and every day we're faced with consumers who have higher and higher expectations. "This means that the real estate industry is a target for a disruptive takeover by a technology-led company. One of the key things that we can do to counter the threat of disruption is to start thinking of ourselves differently - not as an industry, but as a profession and be the solution and not just part of the problem." Mr Cunningham said the desire to become a profession and, more importantly, to be viewed by consumers as a profession is palpable. "The power is in our own hands and the direction we take is our choice. It is time

to elevate ourselves and the industry by raising our standards of education and lifting the level and value of the advice and services we provide to our clients," Mr Cunningham said. A critical part of being a professional is to be well-educated. REINSW and other industry bodies have played a major role in encouraging the NSW State Government to increase education standards in NSW. This advocacy has resulted in the release of a proposed set of reforms that are going to help transform the real estate industry. Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation Victor Dominello in his keynote address to the Summit said the real estate sector is a very vital cog in [the government's] ongoing success in NSW. "Government is investing in the real estate sector because we recognise its value to the broader economy," Minister Dominello said. "We are going to invest in partnering with you through changes to education, training and professional standards. "We need to ensure our agents across the state are the absolute best in the nation to help ensure our booming economy stays strong." He added that it is critical that consumers have certainty that suitable qualified agents are managing this important

process. "The proposed reforms will establish a path for the future for the industry by raising standards of education, improving skills and professionalism whilst maintaining appropriate consumer protections. "Importantly these were developed in close partnership with REINSW. As a big body representing tens of thousands of agents across the state it was vital that this journey was taken step by step with REINSW. "We want agents trained in NSW to be the most qualified and highly regarded in the nation and these reforms will ensure that our state produces the highest quality agents anywhere in the nation," Minister Dominello said.

Be on your guard against identity fraud

By Tim McKibbin – REINSW CEO
A recent report released by the Minister for Justice revealed that identity crime is one of the most common crimes in Australia and has an estimated annual economic impact of over \$2.2 billion. One of our members was recently defrauded of nearly \$1,500 after receiving a request by email from a landlord to change their bank details. It only later transpired that someone had hacked into the landlords email account and also duplicated their

signature on the change of bank details form which they had to fill in to update it. The only solution to avoid falling victim is to be vigilant. I recommend installing a lock on your letter box to avoid your personal details being stolen, and destroy any letters with your details on them prior to putting in the bin.

Be cautious when buying to property modify

Many people decide to buy a property not based on its current condition, but its future potential. Although this is a smart move when looking to maximize your investment, it is not always as simple as it sounds. Often people will decide to put in a swimming pool or add another story on the house to mirror a property up the road. However making modifications or alterations to a property will invariably require council approval and satisfy other legal conditions such as permits where necessary. The cost of these improvements can also often exceed your expectations once everything has been factored in. This is why it is always important to carry out full investigation on any proposed changes before you buy, to make sure you don't end up disappointed.

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Director

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Taryn Bird | 0404 494 482
Property Management Representative

Keeping our communities cleaner and greener



Cessnock City Council welcomed greener alternatives to traditional plastic bags often used by pet owners to pick up after their pets. Ranger Team Leader, Kurt Livens said Cessnock City Council is trialling the eco-friendly bags and is offering a free roll at Customer Service to residents when they register their dog.

“Scooping poop is just one of many everyday responsibilities you take on when being a pet owner”.

“We have been working hard to get this message across to the community and are really pleased so many members of the community are doing the right thing”.

“Now we are letting residents know there are ways they can keep the community clean and help the environment”.

“We understand some pet owners don’t like using single use plastic bags to clean up after their pet because of environmental concerns”.

“There are other options available and biodegradable products are becoming increasingly easier to find but it is important to do some research to find the most suitable product for you”.

“This trial is about increasing community awareness about more environmentally friendly pet care products that are now available,” said Mr Livens.

Residents are encouraged to consider these alternative bags due to the impact single use plastic bags pose to our local environment.

Cessnock City Council is also reminding residents that they have a role to play in taking care of the community and on the spot fines apply to pet owners who do not scoop their pets poop.

Funding for Floodplain Management gives Homes a Lift



Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent welcomed funding from the Office of Environment & Heritage for flood studies, investigation, design and the Voluntary House Raising Scheme. “As we have seen in recent years, flooding is a significant threat to many areas of the Cessnock local government area and this funding will bolster our efforts to better mitigate flood risk in our community,”

“The funding received for the Greta flood study and investigation and design work in South Cessnock exceeds \$160,000”.

“This will enable Council to continue with the background studies and implementation required to manage local floodplains and alleviate risk to public safety and damage to properties and infrastructure”.

“I also encourage the owners of homes at risk to consider the

Voluntary House Raising Scheme, which offers financial help to raise homes to reduce the threat of floodwater.

“The scheme provides assistance to cover two thirds of the cost of structural changes to the property,” Cr Pynsent said.

The funding pool for the Voluntary House Raising Scheme is managed by Office of Environment & Heritage and is offered to flood affected communities state-wide.

Cessnock City Council will now work with the Office of Environment & Heritage to determine which areas and properties meet the required criteria to qualify for the scheme.

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4938 3300

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 45E(2) OF THE REAL PROPERTY ACT 1900

APPLICATION FOR POSSESSORY TITLE TO LAND

Application No. AK662864 has been made by Elizabeth May Miller for a land title pursuant to Part 6A of the *Real Property Act 1900* (possessory title) in respect of the under mentioned lands:

- Property situate at 410 Tuckers Lane, Greta
- being the land in Certificate of Title Volume 3979 Folio 225
- being Register Folios 43/B/976366 and 44/B/976366
- in the Local Government Area of Cessnock, Parish of Branxton, County of Northumberland

The applicants are claiming to have possessed the land adverse to Charles Henry Mortimer, the registered proprietor, his successors and assigns.

It is not proposed to grant this application until the expiration of 42 days from the date of publication of this notice, unless before that time an objection is lodged in the form of a Caveat pursuant to section 74F(3) of the *Real Property Act 1900*.

Enquiries: Greg Stillianou, Tel: (02) 9228 6726 Email: legalservices@lpi.nsw.gov.au

WANTED!

All Junior

RUGBY PLAYERS

Training and games at
St Philip's Christian College,
Nulkaba Training Thursday
Nights from 4pm.

The cost of registration is \$50 per player. All ages from under 7

TRY RUGBY FOR FREE!

Register and play the first 3 games and if you decide to continue playing then pay the registration fee!

Rego and Gala Day Sunday 19th February 3pm to 5pm
Potters Brewery Nulkaba or register at training from
Thursday 23rd February
First Game April 29th

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RUGBY CLUB

For further information please call President:
Melissa Meyers 0419 611 437 or
Website: www.pokolbinrugby.com or
Email: admin@pokolbinrugby.com
Competition starts in April 29 2017

Find us on Facebook. Pokolbin Junior Rugby Club

Thomas arrives

A big 'thanks' to the Coalfields Classic & Enthusiasts Motor Cycle Club



The members of the Branxton Greta Men's Shed would like to thank very much the members of the Coalfields Classic & Enthusiasts Motor Cycle Club for their kind donation of \$500.00. Treasurer Gary Lowe attended the Men's Shed on the last day of our 2016

year & presented the cheque to Shed members. The Men's Shed is open on Wednesday & Friday mornings so if anyone would like to call in for smoko you are welcome. © Photo above: Kevin Bell, President of the BGMS, at right thanks Gary Lowe for their very generous donation.



Libby Royston from Libbys Family Home Daycare asked the Branxton Greta Mens Shed to be make a

Thomas The Tank Engine for her daycare centre & they certainly came up with the goods! What a result.

LIONS to LAMBS



The residents of Lambs Valley were treated to an odd arrival when a miniature house was sighted in transit down Lambs Valley Road. This was an exceptional Christmas present from the East Maitland Lions Club to Kate Mathews who won the Lions Cubby House raffle. The Leo's annual Cubby House raffle has been operating for seventeen years. This project alone has raised over \$170000 for charity. Well done the Leo's.

© Lions Club members: Gary Parsons, David Maddison (Pres), Les Rush & Trevor Smith



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Greta Museum's Old Style New Wares & Sweet Shop Great for gifts or just to indulge

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BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE
For Sale
P: 4938 3300



Price reduced!



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 **NEGOTIABLE ASKING \$290,000**

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE
P: 4938 3300

For Sale

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300



FOR LEASE

Commercial

property in Maitland Street, Branxton

Rent by Negotiation



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 with spa, Modern Bathroom, Modern Kitchen, Split system air conditioning & slow combustion fire & Quiet Location

Asking \$370,000



BRANXTON

Potential! Potential

Two large bedrooms plus large 'sleep-out'. Separate lounge, bathroom, Kitchen. Good sized fenced yard plus separate garage.

One to do up at the expected price

Expressions of Interest



New on Market

GRETA

Duplexes

Only a few years old. Features include modern kitchen & bathroom, air conditioning, Torrens Title, 3 bedrooms, good sized court yard & LU Garage.

An excellent opportunity for anyone looking for easy maintenance, quality finish & a great location.

Asking 320,000 each



New on Market

GRETA

Oldie but a Goodie

First home or astute investor

An older style 3 bedroom, separate lounge & good sized 'eat-in' kitchen, cottage on a fully fenced block. Excellent buy for a first home, astute investor or someone looking to enter the real estate market.

ASKING \$275,000



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 All reasonable Offers)



BRANXTON

An opportunity not to be missed!

Well maintained family home in premier street. This is a well maintained 3 bedroom weatherboard family home on a 1320 square metre block. A combined living lounge room & dining room + large family room will add to your living pleasure. Modern kitchen & bathroom give some olden day charm with modern living. Fully fenced with a huge back yard which includes a non intrusive 6-bay garage + another free standing garage & fernery.

Reduced to \$379,000 ono



NTH ROTHBURY

"Jewel box"

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
Offers over \$295,000**



New on Market

RUTHERFORD

Almost Brand New

This deceptively large family home in Rutherford features four bedrooms, media room, main bedroom with ensuite and walk in wardrobe. Beautiful quality kitchen with stone bench tops, outdoor entertainment area, double garage, garden shed & split air con. All this on a quality fenced block.



ASKING \$450,000 (Open to All reasonable Offers)



RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LEASE

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

4938 3300



**"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living,
Branxton ~ Recent sales**



BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

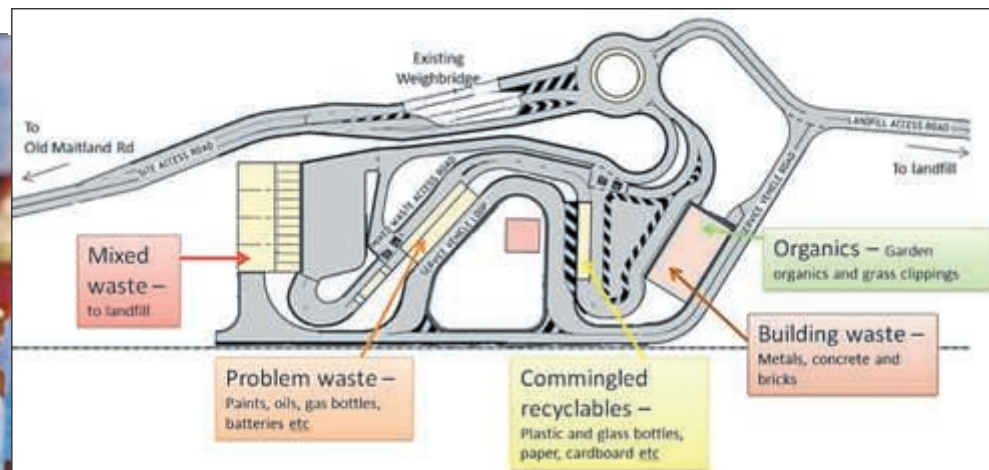
P: 4938 3300

Markets back for 2017

St Brigid's Markets at Branxton is a monthly market run by volunteers of the Catholic Church, located in the beautiful grounds of the Old St. Brigid's School Grounds in Station St, Branxton, operating on 3rd Sunday Monthly from 9.00am to 1.00pm. A local based community market, and while we may not be the biggest market, at present, approx 50 stalls, we have the advantage of our unique location, been being near the Expressway within the vineyards which are popular with locals and visitors. In the market you will find a quality mix of handmade original and commercial products sourced locally. You will always find a friendly face in our market place!!



Building the Future of Waste Management



Cessnock City Council has awarded the construction contract for the new Transfer Station at the Waste Management Centre. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said construction of a new waste facility at the Waste Management Centre will begin in early January. "The new facility forms stage one of multiple upgrades planned at the site and marks the start a new era of waste management in our local government area". "It will deliver our community with a modern facility that has increased safety, convenience

and more resource recovery and recycling opportunities". "During the construction phase there will be ongoing changes at the Waste Management Centre, it is recommend people allow a little extra time when visiting the facility. We thank you in advance for your patience," Cr Pynsent said. The new Waster Transfer Station will feature:

- A series of drop off areas for disposal of different recyclable materials including oil, green waste, masonry, steel, mattresses, e-waste , paints, oils and batteries

Ease of one way traffic

flow with slip lanes around individual drop off areas

- Sealed, undercover load/unload area
- A separate road network for operational vehicles

Disposal of metals and grass clippings will remain free of charge in accordance with the 2016/17 financial year fees and charges. A new garden organics collection is scheduled to start in March 2017 and the new Waste Transfer Station is scheduled to be complete before the end of 2017.

St Brigid's Markets @ Branxton

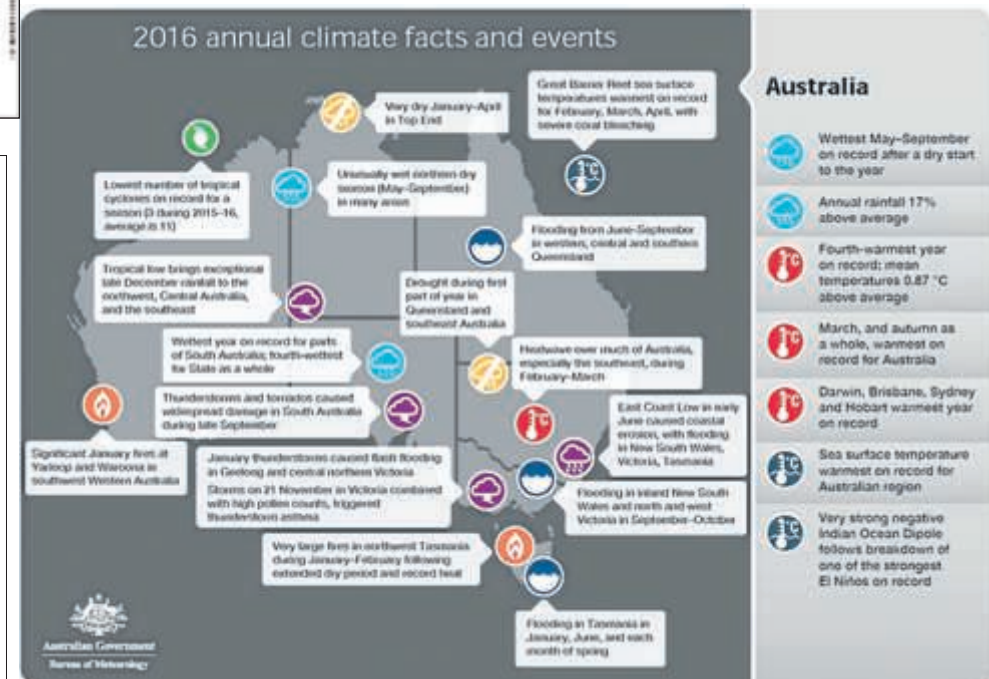
9.00am to 1.00pm

Dates for 2017

Sun - 19th Feb	Sun - 18th Jun	Sun - 15th Oct
Sun - 19th Mar	Sun - 16th July	Sun - 19th Nov
No Market for April	Sun - 20th Aug	Sun - 17th Dec
Sun - 21st May	Sun - 17th Sep	

Helen 0427 047 024
www.facebook.com/stbrigidsmarkets

Climate facts for Australia 2016



THE AUSTRALIAN PARADE
BRANXTON GRETA LOCHINVAR

NIGHT TIME BINGO

Greta Workers Club

7.00pm (start)

Tues 7th Mar & Tues 9th May

Tues 8th Aug & Tues 10th Oct

ALL WELCOMED

Money Prizes
Supper provided

More Information ring
Cynthia 0249 381703
Dell 0249 387783

On the Move

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent congratulated Kyle Simpson on the completion of his work experience with Cessnock City Council. "For the past two school terms, Kyle a student from Mount View High School has worked with our Parks Maintenance team". "Kyle is a wonderful young man who has embraced his work experience and showed real commitment to his role at Council". "It is a testament to his character and determination that he has been able to overcome his disability to become such a valued member of the team". "It has been a privilege to work with Mount View High School to host Kyle's work experience and a big thank you to Kyle for all his hard work over the past few months," Cr Pynsent said. Julie Myers, Mount View High School Head Teacher Wellbeing said the Parks Maintenance team's support of Kyle has been outstanding, giving him a comfortable environment to learn and actively become involved in the tasks required. "We hope to continue this partnership with Cessnock City Council into the future," Mrs Myers said. During his work experience, Kyle has become particularly proficient on the ride on lawn mower, helping the Park Maintenance team to keep the local government area neat and tidy.



GRETA WORKERS CLUB
2 WEST ST GRETA
4938 7325

MILLER PARK SPORTS CLUB
6 MAITLAND RD EAST BRANXTON
4938 1226

GRETA WORKERS

FRIDAY 3rd FEBRUARY

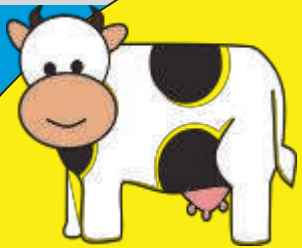
“BROTHERS THREE”

2015 X FACTOR GRAND FINALISTS

2017 TAMWORTH — PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD

FRIDAY 10th FEBRUARY

“MARRIAH”



RAFFLES

FRIDAY

SELLING 6.00pm

DRAWING 7.30pm

SUNDAY

SELLING 11.00am

DRAWING 12.00Noon

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

WEDNESDAY

1st FEBRUARY

\$3,200

SUNDAY

5th DECEMBER

\$2,500

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

MILLER PARK

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

THURS 2nd FEBRUARY

\$3,200

SUNDAY 5th FEBRUARY

\$5,000

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

**“THE PARK”
RESTAURANT
WEDNESDAY —
SUNDAY
LUNCH & DINNER
GREAT FOOD
CLUB PRICES**

RAFFLES

FRIDAY

SELLING 6.00pm

DRAWING 7.00pm

SUNDAY

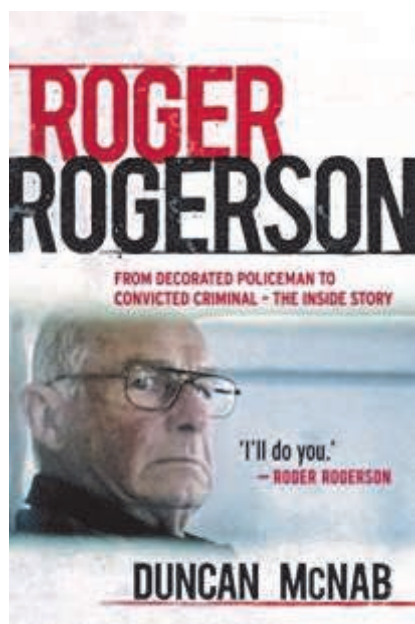
SELLING 5.00pm

DRAWING 6.00pm



TAB

*NOW OPEN
at Miller Park*



REVIEW - ROGER ROGERSON BY DUNCAN MCNAB

Only now, with the court's verdict of murder, can many stories about Roger Rogerson be told. Duncan McNab was in the courtroom for eighteen weeks, from the beginning of the trial, and has build on the insight he has from the research into his previous book on Rogerson, *The Dodger*, and from close observation of the Sydney crime scene for many years. Duncan is a former police detective, private investigator, investigative journalist and media adviser to government and the private sector. Quite simply, he knows more about Roger Rogerson than anyone else alive. Author Duncan said of the trial and the writing of the

book: 'I've been following Roger Rogerson's career - on both sides of the law - for over 30 years. He's one of the most corrupt and evil men in Australian criminal history, and finally the full story can be told.'

Even if you've only had a very fleeting interest in the goings on of one of Australia's most (in)famous cops, then **ROGER ROGERSON** is going to be an extremely intriguing read. Whilst it's the story of the man, and the myth that developed around him, it's also an important reminder of how that sort of myth building can skew law, order and society behaviour. For all the "bit of a rogue / hail fellow well

met" persona that Rogerson built around himself, he shouldn't be a bit of a celebrity, or a figure of gentle affection for anybody and this book shows you exactly why. McNab provides valuable insight into Rogerson's background, and that of his fellow-accused Glen McNamara, as an insider who knew all about them from his own days in the NSW Police Force, to contacts within the force and in the general community, and as an observer of the force from the point of a view of a journalist for many years. This is not just the story of the murder trial, it provides past and present angles that reader's may not necessarily have been given the opportunity to consider before. Particularly that of the Internal Affairs department, on whose desks various allegations against Rogerson have appeared over the years.

McNab is definitely no fan of Rogerson - and not just because he was directly threatened by the man when his first book on Rogerson (**DODGER**) was released. But he's not alone there, and the external persona that Rogerson was fond of portraying - the twinkle in the eye, the smiling, hearty bloke / one of the people façade is something that quite a few people had seen through a long time ago, alas with not quite enough evidence to be able to prove many of the allegations made. It also feels very much like McNab is scrupulously fair with

his retelling of facts, and sometimes understandably acerbic in his observations. There was never any doubt in this readers mind about which was which. The book **ROGER ROGERSON** also answered a heap of questions that were in this reader's mind when the charge of murder was first announced. It was hard to believe that somebody as wily and cunning as Rogerson would have been so easily caught out in such a murder. It was even harder to believe that McNamara - who spent years styling himself as a crusading ex-cop, committed to exposing paedophilia, virulently anti-drugs was somehow involved in a drug deal gone wrong. Stories of his researching a book seemed thin to say the least, but the gobsmacking bit was his hero-worship of Rogerson



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Duncan McNab is a former police detective who has written seven non-fiction books looking into crime and corruption in Australia. Roger Rogerson, the cop turned criminal is one of McNab's favoured subjects.

Rogerson was once one of the most highly decorated police officers in New South Wales but he was dismissed from the police force in 1986, and jailed twice. In 2006 McNab wrote *The Dodger: Inside the World of Roger Rogerson*.

In 2014 Roger Rogerson and a fellow cop, Glen McNamara, murdered student Jamie Gao in cold blood. Both were found guilty of murder and possession of 2.78 kilograms of methamphetamine and sentenced to life imprisonment.



Author Duncan McNab

come entrenched. How backgrounds and stories can be built by individuals, and conflated by others for their own ends (there's a piece of political expediency here that should not

and the ease with which they seemed to have been identified as potential suspects in this crime. It seems that Rogerson might have been a handful in his day, but technology and conceit combined to make the untouchable very vulnerable.

This is a book that provides a lot of valuable and telling insights. Into corruption and how easily it can be-

have come as a particular surprise, but was still nonetheless startling). It's also a telling take on "celebrity crime" - criminals who are urban legends, or in this case, a corrupt and very dodgy cop who built himself into an urban legend, allowing everybody to conveniently ignore the damage and carnage left in his wake.

3.5/5

Making the Hunter a world class Events Destination

Tourism Hunter, the Hunter Region's peak tourism organisation today announced, in conjunction with the Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils, the launch of a process to help cement the Hunter Region as one of Australia's premier Regional Events destinations.

The process - the centrepiece of which will be the development of a major events infrastructure audit and long term strategy - will examine every aspect of events creation and management and will lead to the creation of infrastructure, systems, resources, skills and bids processes so that every event opportunity is identified, effectively pursued and the benefits accruing from it maximised. Major focus will be given to the removal of duplication of effort and to the elimination of barriers so that resources and time can be strategically directed towards determining what the Hunter needs to position itself to secure and retain nationally and internationally significant events. The Strategy will be multi-faceted and will address the full spectrum of sporting, cultural, community, health, education and business sectors.

In speaking to the Audit and Strategy, the Chair of Tourism Hunter, Will Creedon, said, "For many years Tourism Hunter has led the way for the tourism industry in the Hunter through research, marketing and development. We have worked in partnership with local government, local tourism operators and other stakeholders to steer the way forward and drive sustainable financial benefit from local, domestic and international tourism."

He added, "The Hunter Region will shortly become part of a State Government initiated Destination Network - "Destination Network Sydney Surrounds North" - involving Western Sydney, the Blue Mountains, the Central Coast and the Hunter. In the context of this change the Board of Tourism Hunter has determined, given the critical role Events play in the Visitor Economy, that there could be no better "Tourism Hunter" legacy for our region than the funding of an Regional Events Strategy and Audit that will tell us what events are already occurring in our Region, what events could be drawn here and what we need to do to ensure that our bids are successful, that our economy prospers through event visitor expenditure and that our communities benefit in the long term from expanded facilities, enhanced social environments and expanded employment opportunities." Mr Creedon's sentiments were echoed by the Chair of the Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils and the Mayor of Cessnock City Council, Cr Bob Pynsent.

Cr Pynsent said, "In the Hunter we are justly proud of the many and varied events that take place throughout our region and we recognise that, through events, we have the opportunity to create a more cohesive and effective region and a more viable and rich visitor economy. The Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils welcomes Tourism Hunter's funding of a Regional Events Strategy and Audit and we are delighted that the Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils will be project managing the initiative on Tourism Hunter's behalf."

A representative steering group will be formed to assist in management of the project and a nation-wide consultant selection process undertaken.

The Audit and Strategy are due for completion by the second quarter of 2017.

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HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

Update on \$17.1 million Hermitage Road Upgrade and Cycleway Project
Cessnock and Singleton Councils have ensured the HVWTA that it is a priority to minimise the impact on visitors, businesses and residences in Wine Country throughout the completion of the \$17.1 million Hermitage Road Upgrade and Cycleway Project. In particular, roadworks during the 2017 vintage period and will include the following:
No temporary full road closures (both road lanes) on the project.
During workdays (Monday to Friday, including selected Saturdays): One way traffic past the immediate construction zones, with traffic control in place (typically traffic lights).
During nights: Two way traffic as normal for Singleton LGA and Cessnock LGA works will result in single lane travel past the worksite.

This traffic control is required due to different construction methods being used by Cessnock City Council i.e. full pavement construction.

The Southern 4km of the project where a lot of vineyards are located (from the LGA border between Singleton and Cessnock City Councils until Ironbark Hill Road) was asphalted and fully completed before the Christmas break. This will reduce the impact on the wineries in this area. From January to July 2017, we will be working in the area North of Ironbark Hill Road and the Hunter Expressway under the above three conditions. Both Councils will continue to work with residents when scheduling works in front of driveways and ensure that alternative access is being maintained to properties at all times. The Hermitage Road upgrade is currently tracking very well against schedule, approximately one month ahead and weather permitting, all onsite construction works should be complete in July 2017.

An Influx of Media Visits to Hunter Valley Wine Country

The Hunter Valley is experiencing an influx of international media activity over the past two months,

including key media from the USA, Indonesia and China. Combined, the media visits could potentially reach over 10.5 million people via video, television, social media and magazines.

The Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association is working closely with Destination NSW and Tourism Australia to continue to encourage more media visits to the Hunter Valley region.

Media Visits over December and January included:

Destination NSW TravelZoo Media Group - Travelzoo filmed a piece on Hunter Valley for distribution in the USA, marketing from 1 April – 30 June 2017. Content will be distributed across Travelzoo's email and social channels promoting NSW and to the Travelzoo blog platform. It will also include a piece for Virgin Australia. Estimated reach 7 million views per month to their blog.

Destination NSW & Tourism Australia Indonesia MNC Media Group - Filming

opportunity with Indonesia's popular lifestyle channel, MNC Lifestyle, who will travel with celebrity actor Ibnu Jamil. The show will film travel content with the celebrity guest and host. The episodes aired over the Christmas/New Year's break and estimated to have an audience reach of 3 million+.

Destination NSW Ying Shan Tsui, Reporter for the Sing Tao Daily in China



Within the Media operations, the flagship publication is the renowned Chinese international newspaper Sing Tao Daily, which is one of the world's most widely read Chinese newspapers.

Headquartered in Hong Kong, Sing Tao Daily is also available in 16 overseas editions sold in over 100 cities worldwide. Readership 200,000 – 400,000. Editorial to appear in travel section of newspaper and online.

Destination NSW China Media Famil Sydney Festival - High profile Chinese media visited the Hunter Valley region last week as part of Sydney Festival. The media familiarisation was secured by Destination NSW in partnership with Sydney Festival and China Southern Airlines.

Cheers, Jo



Greta Tillys children have been enjoying lots of water play and the range of experiences and skill development it encourages and promotes. Water play allows children to explore a substance and make discoveries about it. It is an amazing sensory experience which introduces textures and temperatures. The children use their imagination and develop creative thinking which leads to problem solving skills being developed. Water play also encourages language and social and emotional growth, children have

the opportunity to share an experience with peers and make connections and contributions as well as become confident and involved learners.

The nursery children have



been exploring water with different objects and vessels. Filling, pouring, floating, sinking and splashing are all elements of maths and science and are just some of the skills and critical thinking the children are engaged in whilst they participate in water play. Our nursery friends are also learning to share not only equipment but space as well, they are taking turns and using language with each other and their educators and above all they are having fun and enjoying the time spent together.

Our toddler and preschool friends recently used their imagination and creative thinking to plan and coordinate a bike wash just like the cars use! With some careful planning and assistance from their educators we were able to open and operate 'Tillys Bike Wash'. The children could use the ride through bike wash or opt for the hand detailed bike wash. The children worked together, negotiating, participating, listening, cooperating, problem solving and experimenting together while having fun and enjoying time spent with friends. Again many science and maths concepts were explored and practiced and educators used the opportunity to ask intentional questions which extended the children's thinking, expand their memory and supported their ideas.



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Slow Internet: One Quick Solution



There's nothing worse than having your Internet slow to a crawl. But what's worse is not being able to find an obvious problem behind it. It's not just affecting one or two web pages, you don't have any strange browser add-ons slowing you down, your computer is running just fine with other programs, and when you check the strength of your connection, it's right where it's supposed to be. What do you do now? One solution is to give your modem a reboot. Turn it off for a few minutes and also make sure to take out the battery. Then pop the battery back in and turn it back on. Your modem processes an incredible amount of information and sometimes it can get a little confused. A brief shutdown can help clear its brain.

Should I Let Malware Bytes Make Changes? A reader wrote in a panic after installing Malwarebytes. "I recently installed (I thought) Malwarebytes, I clicked on it yesterday, and it asked if I wanted to let this Program make changes to my computer. YES or NO??? I didn't know what to do so I just backed out of it. What do I do?? Did it not install properly?? Should I let it make the changes?? HELP!!!"

If you did indeed install Malwarebytes, the answer is yes. You can check your installed programs to make sure that Malwarebytes is actually there, but since you say you installed it, we can probably assume that it is. If Malwarebytes is going to be able to find and remove malware, the program is going to need to be able to make changes to the computer. Deleting malware is a change to the computer. In fact, installing a program is making a change to a computer, so you'll often be asked that question when you're installing something.

Can An Adapter Help My Internet?

A question I get a lot concerns USB WiFi adapters. People want to know how they can tell if a WiFi adapter will help speed up their PC. First, check the speed of the Internet connection that your computer is receiving compared to the speed of the connection that you're paying for. You can use a site like [Speed Test](#). If you aren't sure what the maximum speed of your Internet plan is, you can check with your ISP.

If you're getting the full speed that you're paying for, there's nothing an adapter can do for you unless it also has an antenna. That might allow you to pick up the signal from a greater distance within or nearby your home. An adapter can't make the signal faster than what's coming into the home. If you aren't getting the full speed, you need to choose an adapter that offers a higher speed than your computer is already capable of receiving. I hope that explanation clears it up a little.

Will Your Next Phone Be Foldable



How do you make people forget an exploding phone? Samsung may have found a way to make people forget about the disastrous launch of the Galaxy Note 7. According to Korean newspaper, the company has a phone that folds open into a 7 inch tablet waiting in the wings. This phone has a flexible folding screen and could hit the market by this fall. Samsung showed off a similar model in promotional videos a few years ago, but that idea didn't make it to market... yet.

Would you like a folding pocket tablet? **Apple Executives Take Pay Cut After Sales Fall** Apple CEO Tim Cook and other top Apple leaders are getting a 10% pay cut this year, all due to falling sales for Apple products. The company fell 5% short of its income goal and nearly 4% short of the sales goals.

Since executives receive incentive-based pay, they're only getting 90% of what they could have made. Don't feel too sorry for Cook, he did manage to take up almost \$US12 million for 2016, but that was \$US10 million less than the year before. Experts say slowing iPhone sales have caused the drop in income

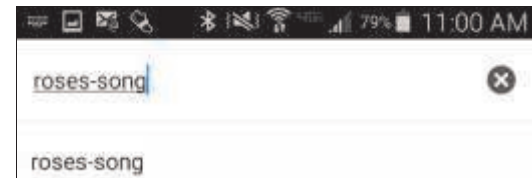
4 Hacks To Get The Most Out Of Google

We have all Googled different terms and phrases on the very popular search engine, but are we getting the most out of Google? Here are 4 hacks that help us in finding what we are actually looking for.



Putting exact phrases in quotes: Google, by default, assumes what we enter in the search bar are keywords and tries to find websites which contain these keywords irrespective of the order. If you are looking for a certain phrase or group of words in a particular order, consider putting them in quotes. For example, if

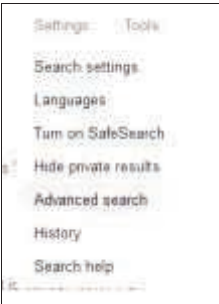
you wanted to search for a blog titled 'cars and me', you would search for "cars and me". Without the quotes, this blog doesn't even show up on the first page of the results. **Using the Hyphen to remove some results:** Let's say you were looking for different types of roses, or wanted a good image of roses. By typing roses on the Google search bar, you'd be surprised to see most of the results showing the name of a song instead. Now, by typing roses -song, you are asking google to display results which contain 'roses' but don't contain the word 'song'. This way the hyphen can be used to remove results with a certain word from showing up.



Getting around with the asterisk: If you are not sure of a certain word, you can ask google to fill up that blank with any word possible by using the asterisk symbol (*). For example, typing It's * or never in Google, you would get results matching the Elvis Presley song 'It's now or never'. Google searches through most words and finds the word which makes the phrase provide a large number of results. If you scroll through the results, you'll even come across a page saying 'It's meow or never'. That's acceptable too since you've asked Google to fill the blank with any word.

The OR option: You can use the OR option just as in programming languages. For example, by typing internships OR jobs you will get websites which may show up only internships or websites which focus only on jobs. Typing internships jobs instead would result in websites which contain both these terms.

Apart from these tips, don't forget the 'tools' option or the 'advanced search option' under settings. This is accessible from the toolbar just below the search bar and above your results. These options can help you further refine your search



Mac Users Hit By Malware

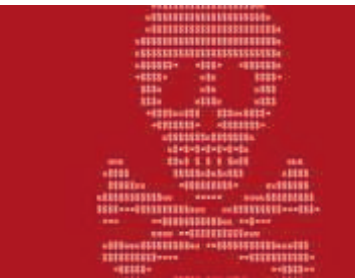
A new tech support scam is specifically targeting Mac users. According to the folks at Malwarebytes, users are tricked either by clicking on an attachment going to a malicious site. All Safari users need to do is visit the site and the malware will lock up their Mac. Then a warning like this comes on, directing users to call a number for assistance.



Sometimes the malware opens up iTunes and locks it down to. Of course, you aren't calling actual Apple Tech support, instead, you'll be making contact with scammers. And who knows what kind of damage they can do. According to the experts at Malwarebytes, if you've updated your Mac to macOS Sierra 10.12.2, you're protected from the malware that locks up your mail app, but the second version of the malware seems to still be able to target iTunes

Crooks Target Schools

Cyber criminals are targeting schools with ransomware in the USA. These crooks are impersonating government education officials and calling schools saying they need the email address of the principal so they can send important information to the school. Once they have the address, the crooks send an email that appears to have some type of Office document attached to the principal. Instead of important information from the Department of Education, users are actually opening ransomware that will lock their computer. Crooks will then demand a nearly \$US10,000 ransom to unlock the files.



This only goes to point out that it's vitally important that everyone in any organization be trained on basic cyber-security measures. Be very careful before you open any attachment.

MOVIE REVIEW

2017 Oscar Awards Nominees: 'La La Land' Leads With 14 Nominations

The 89th Academy Awards nominees were revealed on Tuesday morning, and as expected, Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone's musical movie, *La La Land*, earned the most nominations. *La La Land* earned 14 nominations, making the film tied with *Titanic* (1997) and *All About Eve* (1950) for the most Oscar nods in history.

Previous Oscar-winning and nominated actors -- including Jennifer Hudson, Brie Larson, Emmanuel Lubezki, Jason Reitman and Ken Watanabe -- read off the nominees in the pre-taped Oscars announcement.

Here's the full list of nominees:

Best Picture: *Moonlight*, *La La Land*, *Manchester By the Sea*, *Fences*, *Arrival*, *Hell or High Water*, *Hidden Figures*, *Hacksaw Ridge*
Best Actor: Casey Affleck, *Manchester By the Sea*; Denzel Washington, *Fences*; Ryan Gosling, *La La Land*; Viggo Mortensen, *Captain Fantastic*; Andrew Garfield, *Hacksaw Ridge*
Best Supporting Actor: Dev Patel, *Lion*; Jeff Bridges, *Hell or High Water*; Mahershala Ali, *Moonlight*; Michael Shannon, *Nocturnal Animals*; Lucas Hedges, *Manchester by the Sea*
Best Actress: Natalie Portman, *Jackie*; Emma Stone, *La La Land*; Meryl Streep, *Florence Foster Jenkins*; Isabelle Huppert, *Elle*; Ruth Negga, *Loving*
Best Supporting Actress: Viola Davis, *Fences*; Octavia Spencer, *Hidden Figures*; Nicole Kidman, *Lion*; Naomie Harris, *Moonlight*; Michelle Williams, *Manchester By the Sea*; Janelle Monae, *Hidden Figures*
Best Director: Damien Chazella, *La La Land*; Barry Jenkins, *Moonlight*; Kenneth Lonergan, *Manchester By the Sea*; Mel Gibson, *Hacksaw Ridge*; Denis Villeneuve, *Arrival*
Best Cinematography: Linus Sandgren, *La La Land*; Grieg Fraser, *Lion*; Bradford Young, *Arrival*; James Laxton, *Moonlight*; Rodrigo Prieto, *Silence*
Best Animated Film: *Zootopia*, *Kubo and the Two Strings*, *Moana*, *The Red Turtle*, *My Life as a Zucchini*
Best Visual Effects: *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, *The Jungle Book*, *Doctor Strange*, *Kubo and the Two Strings*, *Deepwater Horizon*
Best Adapted Screenplay: August Wilson, *Fences*; Barry Jenkins, *Moonlight*; Luke Davies, *Lion*; Theodore Melfi, *Hidden Figures*; Eric Heisserer, *Arrival*
Best Original Screenplay: Kenneth Lonergan, *Manchester By the Sea*

Damien Chazelle, *La La Land*; Taylor Sheridan, *Hell or High Water*; Yorgos Lanthimos, *Efthymis*; Filippou, *The Lobster*; Mike Mills, *20th Century Women*; Joanne Johnston, *Allied*; Colleen Atwood, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*; Consolata Boyle, *Florence Foster Jenkins*; Madeline Fontaine, *Jackie*; Mary Zophres, *La La Land*

Best Documentary Feature: *Fire at Sea*, *I Am Not Your Negro*, *Life, Animated*, *O.J.: Made in America*
Best Documentary Short: *Extremis*, *4.1 Miles*, *Joe's Violin*, *Watani: My Homeland*, *The White Helmets*
Achievement in Film Editing: Joe Walker, *Arrival*; John Gilbert, *Hacksaw Ridge*; Jake Roberts, *Hell or High Water*; Tom Cross, *La La Land*; Nat Sanders and Joi McMillon, *Moonlight*

Best Foreign Language Film: *Land of Mine*, Denmark; *A Man Called Ove*, Sweden; *The Salesman*, Iran; *Tanna*, Australia; *Toni Erdmann*, Germany
Achievement in Makeup and Hairstyling: Eva von Bahr and Love Larson, *A Man Called Ove*; Joel Harlow and Richard Alonzo, *Star Trek Beyond*; Alessandro Bertolazzi, Giorgio Gregorini and Christopher Nelson, *Suicide Squad*
Best Original Score: *Jackie*, Mica Levi; *La La Land*, Justin Hurwitz; *Lion*, Dustin O'Halloran and Hauschka; *Moonlight*, Nicholas Britell; *Passengers*, Thomas Newman

Best Original Song: "Audition (The Fools Who Dream)" from *La La Land*; Music by Justin Hurwitz; Lyric by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul; "Can't Stop The Feeling" from *Trolls*; Music and Lyric by Justin Timberlake, Max Martin and Karl Johan Schuster; "City Of Stars" from *La La Land*; Music by Justin Hurwitz; Lyric by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul; "The Empty Chair" from *Jim: The James Foley Story*; Music and Lyric by J. Ralph and Sting; "How Far I'll Go" from *Moana*; Music and Lyric by Lin-Manuel Miranda
Achievement in Production Design:



Arrival Production Design: Patrice Vermette; Set Decoration: Paul Hotte; *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* Production Design: Stuart Craig; Set Decoration: Anna Pinnock; *Hail, Caesar!* Production Design: Jess Gonchor; Set Decoration: Nancy Haigh; *La La Land* Production Design: David Wasco; Set Decoration: Sandy Reynolds-Wasco; *Passengers* Production Design: Guy Hendrix Dyas; Set Decoration: Gene Serdena; **Best Animated Short Film:** *Blind Vaysha*, *Borrowed Time*, *Pearl*, *Paper*; **Best Live Action Short Film:** *Ennemis Intérieurs*, *La Femme et le TGV*, *Silent Nights*, *Sing*, *Timecode*; **Achievement in Sound Editing:** *Arrival*, Sylvain Bellemare; *Deepwater Horizon*, Wylie Stateman and Renée Tondelli; *Hacksaw Ridge*, Robert Mackenzie and Andy Wright; *La La Land*, Ai-Ling Lee and Mildred Iatrou Morgan; *Sully*, Alan Robert Murray and Bub Asman; **Achievement in Sound Mixing:** *Arrival*, Bernard Gariépy Strobl and Claude La Haye; *Hacksaw Ridge*, Kevin O'Connell, Andy Wright, Robert Mackenzie and Peter Grace; *La La Land*, Andy Nelson, Ai-Ling Lee and Steve A. Morrow; *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, David Parker, Christopher Scarabosio and Stuart Wilson; *13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi*, Greg P. Russell, Gary Summers, Jeffrey J. Haboush and Mac Ruth

The 2017 Oscars will be hosted by Jimmy Kimmel, and will take place on Feb. 26, at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California.

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

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



encouraged him to attend wine appraisal classes which he is besotted with.

Although this is a very exciting time for him as he is also able to afford more and more expensive bottles, I have expressed to him my concern when he told me he attended a wine auction and spent almost as much money as I earn in a year on wines he had not only never drank, but never heard of. Apparently one of the auction staff kept winking at him as to say "buy" when what he really meant was lets have a drink later and see where that takes us.

I use my friend as an example of how easy it is to get caught up with wine. Occupation-wise he works in future marketing. He is so good at his job it alarmed me even further

when much of the wine he purchased at auction he paid far too much for and it was aged white wine ready for drinking now or even years ago. He attended the auction purely to purchase wine to be auctioned off at a later date. Yet that was to be the last time those wines were to change hands. The day he told me about his purchasing spree I

didn't congratulate him or say well done, you're a very astute businessman and your newly obtained wine collection will reap in much profit in years to come. I simply told him I would quickly finish what I was doing in the winery, have a shower, put my drinking boots on, bring a cock-screw and see him in around two hours.

Wine is made to be drunk as far as I am concerned, nothing more. Wine auctions are an ideal avenue to purchase some great wines not just from Australia, but rare wines from overseas. Fortunately or unfortunately (depending whom is the seller and who is the buyer) some wines can appreciate or depreciate in monetary value. I often attend wine auctions and have made some great decisions and bold offers on some great wines that I buy to drink.

Obviously there are many people in the wine auction game who do make astute purchases and are able to make profits on their initial investments and if that is what they choose to do with their wine, good luck to them. If you ever get the chance to attend a wine auction and you intend on selling or purchasing, the use of a wine broker is probably a good idea depending on you aim. As I said before, I enjoy the product for what it is, not as a futures commodity and I could really delve into this article a lot further featuring more examples and explaining how the auctions are conducted, who conducts them, the authenticity of your product etc... but again I stress, be smart with your investments whatever they may be and possible employ individuals or businesses with background knowledge to help you make the wisest decisions. Remember this though, if you ring or fax me to tell me you've just purchased some exceptional packages of auctioned wine, hide it well because I will be at your front door quick- smart dressed only in my drinking boots and a corkscrew in hand.

Cheers Andrew

This article was first published on ~

THE NEWS Issue No 113 9th May 2001 page 34

I recently attended a real estate auction in Sydney's trendy Paddington area. It was a very ordinary, run-down terrace house with the obvious selling point of being a "Renovator's Dream". The house sold for \$77,000 over the reserve. The people who bought the property were coincidentally friends of my elder brother.

Speaking with them afterwards they told me they had purchased the property as an investment and were keen on a similar one two doors down, again for investment reasons. I would have made a bid of the surfboard in my car and the rest of the packet of chewing gum in my pocket for the place as from what I could see touring through it, that was all it was worth.

Being serious though, this did not surprise me at all. Real estate in this area of Sydney has been escalating for years because of its proximity to many places including Sydney's CBD, but mainly because it is trendy to not only be seen going out in the area but living there as well!! Oh stop it!!

An auction is an auction though and a reserve price is placed on whatever it may be. So if someone who is either brilliant or a complete nitwit pays well over the reserve, the deal is done. I believe real estate is a great investment; a stable, practical initiative in most cases and anyone seriously considering purchasing a house or land in our district for the purpose of it solely being an investment, the world's your oyster. Sydney-siders are venturing for North to North West property themselves for places in our area and are pushing prices up. It could only be good. Real estate auctions are one thing we see and hear about and read in the newspaper all the time. You cannot drive more than one minute in the car without seeing a "For Sale" or "Auction" sign sitting in the front lawn of a house or tied to a property fence. The great thing is you can see what you are purchasing and are able to make your mind up accordingly... there's nothing hidden from view (white ants being an occasional exception.) The same applies with antiques, paintings, and sometimes, famous peoples belongings as misfortune has struck them later in life. The point is, you are buying something tangible and with even a small amount of nous you are likely to capitalize on your investment. So you won't be surprised when I tell you that wine auctions are extremely common.

A very good school friend of mine has been working extremely hard in the money market for years and has become fairly financially comfortable as a result. He purchased a house in Bondi many years ago which has probably doubled in value and invested in many stocks etc... just adding to the bulk in his bank account. He was married recently and so what I have written above you can disregard, as he now exists on a very modest allowance from week to week. One of his newfound passions is wine. He has caught the bug. Not a night passes when my phone doesn't ring with my friend telling me what wine he has just opened and wanting to know my opinion of it, or why it was made in that particular style or do I know the wine-maker and the list of questions continue... that's the bug - I know exactly where he is coming from so I have now



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



Thank you to Phil who not only stopped to see if he could assist me to take a cow off the Highway into her paddock but went home and got wire and tools to repair and secure the fence. Some hours later all done! Thank you so much for your help; few people would do what you did that day. May you and your family have Happy & Healthy New Year.



Thank you to the areas Fire Fighters, fire fighting pilots & emergencies personal who again put their lives at risk to contain the recent bushfires in our area. We have the best trained fire fighters in the southern hemisphere who not only give their time freely but also have to leave family for sometimes days at a time with their family and friends under much duress hoping that they remain safe and out of harms way; a good analogy 'they go off to war'!



Classified's

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

Classified's

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

Computer Tuition: From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908

Computer Services: Repairs, Sales & Service. Phone repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128

For Rent: Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460

Garage Sale: Deceased Estate, all must go - 8 Glissan Street, Branxton Sat 4th February from 7am

Garage Sale: 423 Wilderness Road, Rothbury - assorted general farming equipment eg., irrigation pipes, fencing materials, power tools. Some good fire wood; Moving all must go. From 7am until all gone

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

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

Fitness Classes: 'Core & Strength'. Get fit for summer. 8am - 10am Tue & Thur at Miller Park Branxton \$12/class. Text/Phone Louise P: 0439 383 478

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

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

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

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

Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841

Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292

Work Wanted: Lawn Mowing: best rates - large or small area. P: 0459 123 397

Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601

Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701

Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567

Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call

me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081

Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.

Work Wanted: experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804

Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153

Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons

P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989

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

Work Wanted: Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards - rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538

The pick of

GO TO FOR FURTHER DETAILS

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/branxonandsurroundsbuysellswapandfreebies/>

For Sale: Large Antique Curved Window. This will need some restoration work, is approximately 70-80 years old. All glass is original and in perfect condition. It has been removed to be restored and re used but due to a change in circumstances we can't use it now. All reasonable offers considered. Call or message Mick 0417945526



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

Dates for your diary >

Dates for your diary >

Fri 3 Feb - Handmade in the Hunter @ 9am Kevin Sobels Wines, CNR Broke Rd and Halls Rd, Pokolbin

Tue 7 Feb - North Rothbury Tidy Towns meeting ay Ayrfield Miners Memorial Park at 6:30pm

Sat 11 Feb - "The Boys in the Band" @ Cessnock Performing Arts Centre ... Frankie Valli, The Beatles, The Bee Gees, Jackson 5, The Beach Boys, and beyond!

Sun 19 Feb 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

Tue 7 Mar 2017 ~ "Night Time Bingo" at Greta Workers Club 7pm start

Sat 25 Mar 2017 - Damien Leith 10th Anniversary Tour @ Cessnock Performing Arts Centre Cessnock

Tue 9 Mar 2017 ~ "Night Time Bingo" at Greta Workers Club 7pm start

Mon 3 Apl 2017 - The World of Musicals @ Cessnock Performing Arts Centre Cessnock ... The new musical gala with an international cast brings London's 'West End' and New York's 'Broadway' to Australia

Sun 19 Mar 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

Fri 19 May 2017 - The Australian Bee Gees Show. The Saturday Night Fever 40th Anniversary tour: The Australian Bee Gees Show are digging out their flares and dusting off their platform shoes in preparation for the Australian leg of their 2017 world tour - so let the party begin! Cessnock Performing ARTS Centre

Sun 21 May 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

Sun 21 Jun 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

Sun 16 Jul 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

Tue 8 Aug 2017 ~ "Night Time Bingo" at Greta Workers Club 7pm start

Sun 20 Aug 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

Sun 17 Sep 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

Tue 10 Oct 2017 ~ "Night Time Bingo" at Greta Workers Club 7pm start

Sun 15 Oct 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

Sun 19 Nov 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

Sun 17 Dec 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

Please get your coming event for the remainder of 2017 noted in this section.

No charge!! Call Mike on

4938 1773

Helen Lowing, Proprietor & Licence-in-Charge

BRANXTON & VINE-YARDS REAL ESTATE

12 Clift Street
BRANXTON NSW 2335
P: 4938 3300

SPORTS RESULTS



FROM PAGE 23 went to Graeme Flynn (3rd) Adrian Kent (4th) Jeff Shanahan (8th) Jarrod Smith (10th) and Angello Korlevic (17th). Next week's event to be advised.
Sunday 15th January Visiting Golfers cashed in on

great course conditions with some outstanding results in the Weekly Challenge Nick Murphy from Merewether GC winning the event with 48 points from Simon Clegg a distant second with 41 points. **Tuesday 17th January** Graeme Flynn shot a Par round to win the Tuesday Stableford with 43 points from Gary Arnold 41 and Greg Ireland 3rd with 39 points. Ball winners were: Wayne Cowan 38, Scott Archibald 36, Rex Talbot 36, Dale Macklinshaw 35, Justin Ressler v34, Benn Corbett 34, Gary Marsden 34 and Chris Taggart 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to

Steve Piggot (3rd) David Peel (4th) Graeme Flynn (8th) 5 10th) and Gary Arnold (17th) **Wednesday 18th January** A very small field of brave Ladies played in the extreme heat on Wednesday with Jill Ramsden getting the better of Isabel Skeates on countback. The Ladies Summer Comp will continue next week. **Thursday 19th January** Garry Hedges led the way in the Vets Medley Stableford with 44 points from Wayne Berry on 42 on countback to John Carmody in 3rd. Ball winners were: Greg Noble v42, Ray Newton 41, Phil Durie 41, Peter Payne 40, Garry Marsden 39, Dale Macklinshaw 39, Paul Ireland 39, Grahame Sheldon 38, Garry Clarke 38, Kevin Smith 37 and David Peel 37.

Nearest-the-Pins went to Ray Newton (3rd) Ray Hodson (4th) Peter Payne (8th) and Doug Wand (10th & 17th). Next week the vets will play Quota. **Saturday 21st January** Conditions for the Blue Tee Challenge Medley Stableford were ideal with overcast skies and a cooling breeze most welcomed by the field. A Grade went to Graeme Flynn with 42 points from Ray Hodson 39, B Grade to Adam Fisher 39 from David Peel 36 and C Grade to Terry Mullan from Rdyde Parramatta GC with 38 points from Peree Watson with an even Par 36 points. Ball winners were: Troy McAllister v37, Justin Preece 37, Dale Maclinshaw 36, Mark Faulkner 36, Bruce Chambers 35, Peter Dow 35, Brad Burgess 35, Adrian

Kent 35, Mark Harry 35, Brett Spears 35, David Langlands 34, Joanna Spears 34, Todd Searl 34, Russ Calderwood 34, Angello Korlevic 34, Julie Van Den Berg 34, Rod Nyman 34, Rosie Moore 34, Mark Graham 34 and John Stewart 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Robert Flanagan (3rd) David Peel (4th) Col Bradley (8th) Rod Nyman (10th) and Russ Calderwood (17th)
Branxton Lady Golfers Wednesday 14th Dec 2016 9 hole Stableford. Winner ~ Caren Caldwell 20 points Runner Up Kerrie O'Connell 18 points NTP Caren Caldwell Birdie on 9th Caren Caldwell.
Nine Hole Stableford played Wednesday 4th January

Results Winner: Trish McMillan with 17 points Runner Up : Carol Miller NTP: Trish McMillan. Next Week will be the first round of the Nine Hole Summer Competition. Remember you can play any day and your best result will be used to calculate the winner of this competition which will conclude on 17th February. Ladies Wednesday golf will still be held and players are asked to put your name on the timesheet before 5pm Tuesday. Phone Marcus on 02 49382155 or drop into the pro shop.
Wednesday 9th January. Winner Toy Martin with 24 points Runner-up Carol Miller with 21 points

Nearest to the pin: Carol Miller
Results for Wednesday 18th January 9 Hole Stableford Event Nine ladies braved the 41 degree heat Winner on count back with 18 points was Caren Caldwell Runner-up Ruth McCarthy also on 18 points. Caren's birdie on the ninth edged Ruth to runner-up status Nearest to the pin was Chris Tancred. Upcoming Events 14th February Nelson bay Gala Day 23rd February- Belmont Open Day 3rd March- Dungog HRDGA Club Visit (Teams of 4, can be mixed)

BRANXTON GRETA CHAMBER
PRESENTS
Networking Breakfast at
Branxton Golf Club
25 Cessnock Road, Branxton
Tuesday, 7th February 2017
7.00am—8.30am
RSVP to info@branxtongreta.com.au

Payment and RSVP due by 1st February 2017. or pay on the day but please let us know you are coming

Direct Deposit Details:
Name: Branxton Greta Community Business Chamber Inc
Bank: The Mutual
BSB: 646 000
Acc No: 100041204
COST: \$15.00 each

Guest Speaker:
Mr Stephen Glen,
General Manager Cessnock City Council

Topic: **Woolly E.V.** is a full time mobile engineering business, with all Australia wide customer base. Our capabilities include: machinery, shafting and design work, hand tools, CNC turning, simple laser repair. We also provide gear cutting and water jet cutting for local engineers.

Get to know your local business chamber!

Greta Branxton Colts would like to invite those interested in junior coaching roles for the 2017 season to apply. The Colts extends this invitation to local persons to be a part of and help the club in any way possible. Those interested please ring Andrew on 0402426642 or contact the club at: gretabranxtoncoltsrflc@gmail.com

Rotary Club of Cessnock

Annual Book Fair!

ALL Books \$2.00
(Hard cover and paperbacks)

1000's of Books for all tastes
Fiction, Non fiction, Biography, autobiographies, History, Cooking, Geography etc

At
Wine Country Motor inn
Opposite Cessnock Leagues and BigW

Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th of February
8am til 1pm

All proceeds to the Rotary Club projects
0114842327

I Don't Have Time! Or do I?

"Everything changed the day she figured out there was exactly enough time for the important things in her life."
- Brian Andreas

"I don't have time" is the number one reason people give for not exercising. This was confirmed in a recent study by AUSPLAY which reported that for adults up to middle-age, time pressure is by far the main barrier to participating in sport or physical activity.

The next top four factors affecting involvement in physical activity were age (people thought they were too old), too lazy (at least they were honest?!), poor health, or injury, and they don't like sport or physical activity.

What does "I don't have time" really mean? I recently read an advanced copy of a book with exactly that title and it describes how being busy has almost become a badge of honour. When I ask someone I haven't seen for a while how they have been, I am often told "Oh I am so busy. I don't know if I am coming or going". I am regaled with descriptions of the daily schedule of going to work, driving kids to school and sporting commitments, and how "life gets in the way". I have one friend with two primary school aged children each of whom have at least one after school activity every day (and sometimes two activities) as well as team sport on Saturday and Nippers on Sunday.

I know many other parents, women especially, who forego their own physical pursuits in favour of taking their children to rehearsals, dance classes and football practice, and horse riding lessons.

At this time of year the excuse for not having enough time is "it's too close to Christmas" or "it's the holidays, it will be easier when the kids are back at school". Regular exercise programs fall by the wayside in favour of Christmas shopping, cleaning the house in preparation for an onslaught of visitors, or generally relaxing.

Interestingly, the top five factors which motivate people to participate in physical activity were (per the AUSPLAY study) physical health/fitness, fun and enjoyment, social reasons, weight control, and psychological reasons (ie to improve mental health).

So if there are all these great reasons to get involved in physical activity, and time availability is the number one factor stopping us, how can we "make time"? How can you manage your hectic schedule and the never ending "to do" list without feeling guilty about neglecting other aspects of your life?

Step 1 – Make a list

Write down everything you regularly do during the week – use your diary as a memory jogger and include the regular things you do which you don't normally write down, like getting the kids ready for school, cooking dinner, buying groceries (including how many times a week you go to the supermarket). Remember to include any regular exercise you already do each week, like go for a walk or play tennis with your friends.

Step 2 – Cross out everything that is not essential

How many of the things in your weekly schedule are "must do" (like go to work) and how many things take up your time without you realising it? Family commitments, housework, social media, attending meetings, reading emails, sending texts, watching TV – the list of responsibilities and distractions is endless. There are hundreds of reasons we cannot find time to exercise – just ask me, I've heard a lot of them, and I've even used some myself!

Only you can decide what is essential and what isn't. Going to work, spending time with your partner or making sure the kids get to school on time are very important. Spending an hour on Facebook after dinner may not be.

The most important part of this step is to own your decisions – once you decide to keep something in your schedule (eg going out to buy lunch instead of packing a sandwich and using the time instead to go for a walk), you must accept it - no more using that activity as an excuse not to exercise!

Step 3 – Decide what you can delegate

If you have a family, this may require some discussion with your partner or children.

Do you still pack the kids lunches for them even though they are now old enough to do it themselves? Perhaps you drive them to school because they are always running late for the bus? Are you the person who always hangs out the washing (or, worse RE hangs it!) because you are the only one who does it the "right" way? Can someone else in your family cook dinner (even if it is just baked beans on toast sometimes)? However you do it, decide what can be delegated, and don't fall back on habitual assumptions. Make sure you talk to other people before you rule out delegation as an option. I have always found that if I explain why I want to delegate, the people in my life are understanding and supportive. Besides, hanging out the washing (even if it is a bit lopsided) and being on time to walk to the bus are great "life skills" to teach your children – you will be doing THEM a favour!

Step 4 – Put exercise into your schedule

Now you have cleared some time in your diary, write in what you are going to do instead. Are you going to go the gym? Maybe go to an outdoor fitness class? Perhaps you can do that Yoga video you have had sitting near the TV since last Christmas? Or maybe you will finally accept the invitation to go walking with friends? Whatever you decide, make sure you commit to it. Put it in your diary and treat it like any other appointment.

Step 5 – Find the right time to exercise

Personally, I prefer the morning. There are fewer interruptions at 6am! But my two exercise passions are horse riding and running – two things which it is best to do when it is cool. I also run some fitness classes at the park at 6AM, and as they fit into the "essential activity" category, they take priority.

So I have a morning schedule for riding the horses and I run in the afternoon or evening (when I am not running a class). Alternatively I run or walk during the day, even though it is not my preferred time. If it is particularly hot, I make sure I take appropriate precautions when I exercise – like drinking lots of water, exercising in the shade, or putting ice in my drink bottle! Once I have made time to exercise, I don't want any other excuses getting in my way!

Step 6 – Be prepared

Do you have trouble getting out of bed to exercise in the morning? Or perhaps your emails keep you at your desk during your lunch break? To prepare for the morning, lay your clothes out the night before, so you know as soon as you wake up you are organised. When I was working full time I also packed my lunch the night before, usually while I was making dinner. That way I could ride two horses in the morning, have a quick shower, get my son off to school, grab my lunch and head out the door to work. Another time saver is making meals which can be put in the fridge to eat later in the week. My personal favourite is a large quiche – great for lunches as well as dinner!

Step 7 – Stick to your plan

It's easy for excuses or "non-essential" activities to creep in and stop you from doing your chosen exercise. Stand firm, to yourself and to others. Remind yourself why exercise is important to you, and remember that your family has taken some of the load off you so you CAN go to the gym or a run. How will they feel if you fill the time doing something which is not exercise related?

Step 8 – Enlist support

Tell your friends and family what you are doing and why, and ask them to help you. It also helps to have an exercise buddy, someone who is relying on you to show up at the appointed time, and who won't let you off the hook. If you don't have a like-minded friend, join a group (I have written before about how joining a running group has helped keep me motivated and accountable), or commit to an organised fitness class. The trainer is paid to keep you interested and motivated, and it takes the pressure off you to plan what you are going to do each exercise session.

Emma Grey, co-author of "I Don't Have Time" (<http://idonthavetime.net/>), once told me – "you have the same number of hours in the day available to you as Albert Einstein or Marie Curie did – it's up to you what you do with them". So turn off the TV, put down your smart phone and get out there!

Louise Cairns Fit for Life

(Louise Cairns is a Personal Trainer and Motivational Coach who has lived in Branxton for 20 years, she has recently retired from a career with the Australian Government and set up her own Fitness and Coaching business, Louise Cairns Fit for Life. You can find out more at www.louisecairns.com.au)





Whole farm planning workshop

Manning Great Lakes
February or March 2017
 Hunter Local Land Services is seeking registrations of interest for a four-day Whole Farm Planning workshop in the Manning and Great Lakes region.

Restore Regenerate Revegetate

Details
Registration for the Restore, Regenerate, Revegetate Conference is now open.

Over five days in February 2017, you are invited to the University of New England to contribute to our joint understanding of the challenges and successes in restoration, revegetation and reintroduction in a fast-changing world, with some of Australia's and the world's leading practitioners, scientists, consultants and advisers working restoring ecological processes, ecosystems and landscapes.

Register online to attend the Restore, Regenerate, Revegetate conference

There is a special field day program for landholders as follows:

Tuesday 7 February – Single Day

- Admission to the landholders symposium and other sessions
- Admission to the industry demonstrations and trade exhibition

Wednesday 8 February – Single Day

- Plenary presentations prior to excursion
- Admission to field excursion sites including transport
- Morning and afternoon tea and lunch

NB: Delegates registering as landholders are welcome to purchase tickets to the social functions via the registration form

Please direct registration enquiries to New England Conference Company 0408 668 664 or info@conferencecompany.com.au

Whole farm planning workshop - part 1

When ~ **9th Mar 2017 - 10th Mar 2017**

Details
 Hunter Local Land Services is seeking registrations of interest for a four-day *Whole Farm Planning* workshop in the Manning and Great Lakes region.

The workshop will focus on farm management and farm resource management covering various topics, including:

- Understanding the farm landscape
- Setting landscape goals
- Assessing your farm's resources
- Identifying issues and setting targets
- Strategies for farm improvement
- Developing your farm plan

David Hardwick and his team from Soil Land Food will be presenting the workshop.

The four-day farm planning course is designed for managers and landholders of medium to large properties, requiring detailed information to develop whole-farm plans for their business needs.

A workshop cost of approximately \$50 will include learning resources and an A1 colour map of your property showing contour lines which will assist with your farm plan.

The four day workshop will be delivered in two separate two-day blocks on 9-10 and 30-31 March 2017.

The workshop will only run if there is sufficient landholder interest. To register your interest or for further details or please contact Mitchell McGrath mitchell.mcgrath@lls.nsw.gov.au or phone 0428 867 142.

Blood On The Track

Formerly Racing & Breeding Brian Russell
 Bloodstock Media Service

Frankel to challenge Galileo for classic supremacy

FRANKEL, the 2008 Great Britain foaled son of Galileo (Sadler's Wells) and Kind (Ire), a Listed winner by Danehill, who, after winning all his 14 starts, 10 of them Group 1, is admired as one of the world's greatest racehorses of all time, showed signs with his first crop of 2-year-olds in 2016 that he could challenge his sire for classic supremacy this year.

This resident in GB at the Juddmonte stud owned by Prince Khalid bin Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, a world leader in breeding and

racing who also has studs in Ireland and Kentucky, missed the leading European first season sire title but two stakes winners in Japan helped him to this honour on worldwide earnings. He was also the most successful first season sire in the northern hemisphere by stakes winners.

Frankel's statistics for his year of representation are 44 starters, 18 winners of 31 races, seven others placed, six Group race winners, all but one a filly, and earnings in excess of \$2million. His two Japanese runners were Soul Stirring (dam by Monsun, three wins 1600m

-1800m, Group 1 Juvenile Fillies) and Mi Suerte (Pulpit, two wins 1400m-1600m, won Group 3, Group 1 fourth).

The best in Europe were Queen Kindly (Rahy, 3 wins to 1207m, York Lowther Stakes-G2, fourth Chevely Park Stakes-G1) and Frankuus (Linamix, colt, 3 wins to 1800m, Chantilly Prix de Conde-G3, Haydock Ascendant Stakes-L) and Fair Eva (Observatory, 2 wins to 1207m, Ascot Princess Margaret Stakes-G3, 2nd Newmarket Rockel Stakes-G2, 3rd York Lowther Stakes-G2).

Most of the runners by Frankel were by sires who added stamina and quite a few were better racehorses at distances beyond 1200m. Both qualifications add up to quality Frankel classic



Detailed saleyard report

Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton report date 25/1/17

Yarding 610 ~ **Change -75** (Comparison Date 18/1/17)
 Consignments eased marginally and the quality in the penning remained mixed. The younger cattle made up the bulk, with the export drafts limited in supply. The usual orders competed, as the younger steers sold to very strong competition. The over 200kg vealer steers returned to the paddock lifted 15c ranging from 346c to 440c/kg. The equivalent weighted heifer portion also to restockers and backgrounders struggled to maintain similar prices and slipped 6c to average 362c after reaching 375c/kg. The yearling steers suitable for further finish lifted 11c across all categories, as the medium weights made from 320c to 370c, with the lighter end topping at 402c/kg. The yearling heifers sold close to firm, with the majority entering the lighter categories, prices ranged from 310c to 362c/kg. Prime conditioned younger drafts suited for the butchers topped at 375c/kg. Heavy weight grown steers to slaughter made from 265c to 280c, as the lighter end to the lot feeders topped at 340c/kg. The plainer cows struggled in the competition and slipped 10c/kg, however yield and quality did slip, week-on-week. The 2 scores averaged 215c, with the better finished heavy weights averaging 229c/kg, close to equal to the previous market.



Score report date 24/1/17

Yarding 1249 ~ **Change -123** (Comparison Date 17/1/17)
 Numbers dropped with just over 120 fewer cattle yarded. There were less export cattle available, while well-bred grain assisted yearlings sold strongly. Medium weight vealer heifers sold cheaper as did medium weight yearling steers. One major processor wasn't operating, however the reduction in export numbers saw prices still improve up to 6c/kg. Light vealer steers returning to the paddock sold 11c dearer ranging from 386c to 428c and averaging 403c, the similar weight heifers followed a similar trend up 12c averaging 386c, after reaching 427c/kg. The 280-330kg yearling steers lifted 15c on average ranging from 320c to 398c to settle on 375c/kg. However, the heavier weights eased 2c to average 351c/kg. Medium weight heifers returning to the paddock ranged from 320c to 377c, averaging 334c, up 5c/kg week-on-week. Medium weight D2 cows sold from 205c to 230c, up 6c, while the heavier better quality cows ranged from 228c to 243c averaging 233c/kg. Good quality heavy bulls ranged from 200c to 235c/kg.



TRLX Tamworth report date 23/1/17

Yarding 1850 ~ **Change +141** (Comparison Date 16/1/17)
 Numbers showed a slight increase, with a good selection of yearling cattle penned. There was fair representation in all other categories. The quality of the offering was generally good and well finished cattle were well supplied. A full field of buyers were in attendance. Market trends showed a little variation in the young cattle with light weight vealer and yearling steers selling on a firm to cheaper market trend. A single line of heavy weight vealers steers to restock sold at above average prices. Medium weight yearling steers to restock also sold on a firm to cheaper market trend while the heavy yearling feeder steers experienced little change. Light and medium weight yearling heifers saw a firm to slightly dearer market trend for those to feed with their ability to lay down desirable fat cover in a shorter time frame, making them an attractive proposition compared to the steer portion. Reduced domestic trade competition saw the well finished medium and heavy trade yearlings record a cheaper trend. Heavy grown steers sold to a dearer trend with increased demand. The cow market also attracted increased demand to show a firm to dearer market trend. There was little change on the best of the heavy weight cows however, those not quite as good improved by as much as 9c/kg.



Cattle projections

Eastern Young Cattle Indicator for 25/Jan/2017 Daily Summary Report

Market information provided by MLA's National Livestock Reporting Service

	Today	Change Since			
		Yesterday	Last Week	Last Month	Last Year
Price (c/kg cwt)	651.50	0.25	-0.75		68.00
Head ^a	18768	-506	-1488		9737

performers.

There is extra interest in the fortunes of Frankel in Australia as he is being mated each year to southern time to a small number of mares for Australian breeders. All produced in Australia, he supplied five foals 2014 (current 2yos; one exported to Japan), seven 2015 and four 2016. None of his Aussies have raced yet, but the John Singleton (Strawberry Hill Stud) bred and owned, Waterhouse-Bott trained filly Woman showed good promise when less than a length fourth in a trial last month. She is out of

Singleton's celebrated More Than Ready racemare More Than Joyous and on this breeding could be an Australian classic prospect. Frankel has four lots, all colts, in the Easter catalogue, products of Deedra (Zabeel) (a/c Strawberry Hill Stud), Give Me Five (Ger) (Monsun) (Newgate Farm), Lovetorn (USA) (Giant's Causeway) (Glastonbury Farm) and Precious Lorraine (Encosta de Lago) (Newgate Farm).
Brian Russell Hunter Hall of Fame Nom
 This is something that I

(Lesley Moore) am doing without Brian knowing as I think he deserves recognition for his services to the Thoroughbred and Racing Industry in NSW. This is an initiative of the Newcastle Jockey Club where there are four categories where you can nominate Horses, Trainers, Jockeys and Associates (which is where Brian sits). If you go to www.newcastlehunterhof.com.au and select 'Make a Nomination'. Go to Nomination Proposed by and fill out your details. For the number of nominations you wish to make select 'ONE'

and then go to 'Select one Category' and tick 'Associates'. Name of the Person Proposed: Brian Russell Relationship to the Person Proposed: Friend, Relative, Acquaintance, Reader of his Newsletter etc. Details of the Person Proposed. I have taken some information from Brian's Newsletter of the 5th September 2016 to assist you with this as some of the things he has done may not be known to everyone.
 CONT NEXT PAGE

SPORTS RESULTS



Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 15-12-16
 2 Person Ambrose
 1st I Harris and G Gazzard 44.1/4 pts
 2nd M Ford and Rod Moylan 45.3/4 pts
 3rd B Payton and E Munzenberger 47.00 pts
 4th J Flynn and B Ward 47.3/4 pts
 5th F Oakes and

T Seamer 48.00 pts
 NTPs Ladies R Friis
 Gents R Yandle
 Members draw - Not won.
 Well! what a change in the weather, from super hot to what could be described as 'heavy drizzle'. It was good to see the smiles on the faces of the 30 players, who had gathered in the refreshing conditions to compete in to-days event. Sure, now and again an umbrella was needed, (to keep the score card dry) along with a jacket. But! A good day was had by all and judging by the scores, the weather caused

little interference to the golf. Congratulations to Ivan Harris and Gary Gazzard on winning the day and a well done to the placegetters.

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 22-12-16
 Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Beeton 35 pts (c/b) (SOD)
 R/u R Williams 35 pts
 3rd J Vassar 33 pts
 Div 2 Winner I Harris 33 pts (c/b) R/u P Tracey 33 pts 3rd C Christie 31 pts
 Ladies Winner T Martin 34 pts R/u S Williams 32 pts 3rd M Hunt 31 pts
 NTPs Ladies M Hunt
 Gents G Beeton
 Members draw - Not won.
 An overcast sky with a gentle breeze was the order of the day and the 40 players, who gathered to play a round of golf, revelled in the conditions, with some creditable scores being gained. Congratulations to Gary Beeton on winning his

division and achieving the 'Score of the Day'. A well done to all winners and placegetters.

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 29-12-16
 Stableford

Div 1 Winner B Turner 31 pts (SOD) R/u E Munzenberger 30 pts 3rd G Gazzard 29 pts
 Div 2 Winner R Chalmers 30 pts R/u M Lutovac 29 pts (c/b) 3rd J Flynn 29 pts
 Ladies - Insufficient numbers to form a division.
 NTPs Ladies M Hunt
 Gents A Hackett
 Members draw - Not won.
 With the festive season in full swing, some 29 players joined together to play a round of golf and enjoy our last golfing day for 2016. 2016 has been a successful year for Branxton Veteran golfers, who! filled with excitement, are looking forward to the New Year with hope and anticipation, of catching up with old friends

and making new ones. Congratulations to Barry Turner on winning his division and achieving the 'Score of the Day'. A well done to all winners and placegetters.

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 5-1-17
 Stableford

Div 1 Winner E Munzenberger 30 pts R/u K Anderson 28 pts 3rd G Gazzard 27 pts
 Div 2 Winner I Harris 36 pts (SOD) R/u R Hebbe 35 pts 3rd A Hackett 33 pts
 Ladies Winner T Martin 27 pts R/u R McCarthy 25 pts 3rd J Scobie 24 pts
 NTPs Ladies T Martin
 Gents R Hebbe
 Members draw - Not won.
 On a warm, overcast day 31 players gathered to participate in our first round of golf for the New Year, 2017. All members entered into the spirit of the occasion with some creditable scores recorded. Back in the clubhouse there were lots of

chat about how Christmas and New Year was spent. Congratulations to Ivan Harris on winning his division and achieving the 'Score of the Day', plus a well done to all winners and placegetters.

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 12-1-17
 2 BBB

1st R Brooks and K Anderson 39 pts
 2nd J Atton and J Fynn 38 pts (c/b)
 3rd G Gazzard and I Harris 38 pts (c/b)
 4th P Hocking and R Chalmers 38 pts
 5th T Martin and L Bootes 37 pts
 NTPs Ladies N Craig
 Gents B Payton
 Members draw - Won
 An overcast, humid day greeted the 38 players who gathered for a round of golf. Congratulations to Robert Brooks and Keith Anderson on winning today's event.

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 19-1-17
 Stableford

Div 1 Winner K Anderson 31 pts R/u R Hebbe 30 pts (c/b) 3rd M Ford 30 pts
 Div 2 Winner S Condran 34 pts R/u B Smith 33 pts 3rd R McMillan 31 pts
 Ladies Winner M Hunt 34 pts (SOD)(c/b) R/u R McCarthy 29 pts 3rd T Martin 27 pts
 NTPs Ladies M Hunt
 Gents P Tracey
 Members draw - Not won
 A much cooler, overcast day was welcomed by the 36 players that turned up for a round of golf. Congratulations to Margaret Hunt on winning her division and also achieving the 'Score of the Day'. A well done to other winners and placegetters.

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB - SAT 24TH DEC STABLEFORD

A GRADE WINNER
 PETER WILTON 41 PTS
 A GRADE RUNNER UP- CAMERON JOHANSON 40 PTS
 A GRADE THIRD
 CHRIS ZAWIRSKI 38 PTS
 B GRADE WINNER

LEE HUNT 43 PTS
 B GRADE RUNNER UP
 STUART ROBINSON 40 PTS C/B
 B GRADE THIRD
 PAUL BUSH 40 PTS
 C GRADE WINNER
 EDWARD NEALE 44 PTS
 C GRADE RUNNER UP- STEVEN PRIMMER 43 PTS
 C GRADE THIRD
 GEOFF JONES 40 PTS
BALL COMP
 35 PTS
 NTP
 C LAMB 97 CM
 C LAMB 382 CM
 R HEBBE 175 CM
 D KINCH 268 CM
 Peter Wilton once again played solid golf to win Saturday's A Grade Stableford with an excellent 41 pts, a par or better round from this talented golfer. Cameron Johanson finished runner up with an outstanding 40 pts after having a 68 off the stick with 3 birdies and only one bogey. Chris Zawirski finished third after his pleasing round of 38 pts. The winning scores were low in all grades with Lee Hunt demolishing B Grade with his 43 pts, with Stu Robinson continuing his recent solid form finishing runner up with 40 pts, with Paul Bush third on a count-back with 40 pts as well. Ed Neale had the best stableford score of the day with an unbelievable 44 pts, just defeating Steve Primmer's 43 pts and Geoff Jones third with 40 pts. Players needed 35 pts to figure in the ball competition, with the day's DSR rating a 67. The shot of the day belonged to Corey Lamb whose shot to the 2nd finished only 97 cms away—he also had the nearest the pin on the 4th indicating the quality of ball striking from this very talented young golfer.

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB SAT 31ST DEC STABLEFORD

A GRADE WINNER Mitch Butler 42 pts
 A GRADE RUNNER UP Cameron Johanson 40 pts
 A GRADE THIRD Joshua Tracey 39 pts
 B GRADE WINNER Ed Garland 42 pts
 B GRADE RUNNER UP Barry Turner 37 pts c/b

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Brian Russell Hunter Hall of Fame Nom

He wrote:

"My nostalgia at the closure of Racetrack flows from a ten year association I had with the magazine in my half century as a professional writer on thoroughbred breeding, a career which began in 1963 at NSW Country Life, a weekly stock journal now absorbed by The Land. In 1971 I moved to Racetrack as bloodstock breeding editor with the view to developing an extensive breeding section.

In 1982 I established my own publication, The Australian Bloodhorse Review, one which now has new owners and is the leading Australian breeding magazine under the name of Blue Bloods. I make a modest contribution to each monthly edition, but primarily concentrate on the production of my own publication "The Australian Thoroughbred" (sent 24-30 times annually, by email, to over 3000 recipients in the breeding and racing industry) and Blood On The Track (sent weekly to over 70 media outlets). The copy in Blood On The Track also appears in the Australian Thoroughbred and some of it on national breeding websites. I also distribute clients' promotional material on its own or with the Australian Thoroughbred.

The Brian Russell publications are produced at my home office at 67 Brecht Street, Muswellbrook solely by myself except for part time office assistance by Lesley Moore, a friend of over forth years."

I do hope as many of you as possible nominate Brian for this honour as I feel he richly deserves it. Thank you to you all in advance. Lesley Moore.

GIG GUIDE

FEBRUARY

Fri 3rd **Mundine v Green Fight**

Sat 4th - Gen-X

Fri 10th - StateFX

Sat 11th - Recharger

Fri 17th - XYZ

Sat 18th - Alias

Fri 24th - Big Night Out

Sat 25th - Hummingbirds



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SPORTS RESULTS



B GRADE THIRD Joseph Bereza 37pts
C GRADE WINNER Richard Turnbull 41 pts c/b
C GRADE RUNNER UP Geoff Jones 41 pts c/b
C GRADE THIRD John Parr 41 pts

BALL COMP 36 pts
NTP A Henderson 36 cm S Kearney 196 cm R Hale 202 cm D Kinch 365 cm
The last game of the 2016 year continued the recent excellent scores around the tight Branxton circuit. Mitch Butler won A Grade with a very impressive 42 pts, an excellent winning score in A Grade. Runner Up was Cameron Johanson who is starting to really hit his straps as he had a 3 under par score from his new low handicap of one. His round included 4 birdies and just one bogey—a great round by anyone’s standards. Joshua Tracey was equally impressive having 39 pts which would also equate to a sub-par round. Eddie Garland has enjoyed his golf of late producing an excellent round of 42 pts to easily win B Grade. Barry Turner finished runner up with his 37 pts just ahead of Joe Bereza. Local Singleton High School teacher, Richard Turnbull showed that the school holidays are agreeing with him by having 41 pts to win the C Grade competition. He only won on a countback from Geoff Jones and John Parr who also had 41 pts. 36 pts was needed to win a golf ball indicating that there were many good rounds of golf produced on Saturday. The shot of the day belonged to A. Henderson on the 2nd which finished only 36 cms away.

STABLEFORD, 14th January 2017

A GRADE WINNER Chris Zawirski 41 pts c/b
A GRADE RUNNER UP Stephen Kearney 41 pts
A GRADE THIRD Lee Heuston 40 pts
B GRADE WINNER Darren Gilroy 46 pts
B GRADE RUNNER UP Lee Hunt 45 pts
B GRADE THIRD Troy Hunt 42 pts
C GRADE WINNER Col Hughes 46 pts
C GRADE RUNNER UP Justin Sauer 44 pts
C GRADE THIRD Michael Maddock 43 pts
BALL COMP ~ 38 pts
NTP ~ S Kearney 214 cm D Turner 277 cm K Howard 100 cm M Butler 416 cm
All players enjoyed the excellent conditions on Saturday after the horrendous weather from the previous few days. The course was playing benignly due to the extra run and preferred lies through the green, resulting in a DSR of 66 for the day. Chris Zawirski won A Grade with a an excellent 41 pts, defeating Steve Kearney on a countback with Lee Heuston a point behind.

Steve’s usual precise iron play was evidenced with his nearest the pin on the 2nd. The round of the day belonged to Darren Gilroy

who won B Grade with an outstanding 46 pts, a round he will certainly remember. Lee Hunt finished with 45 pts and would have been very disappointed to finish runner up after such an excellent round, with Troy Hunt third with his 42 pts. Col Hughes also had a round to remember winning C Grade with 46 pts as well, just ahead of Justin Sauer who also had a wonderful round of 44 pts, with Michael Maddock’s 43 pts only good enough for third, on a day when 38 pts was needed to win a ball. K.Howard’s shot to the ninth which finished only a metre away proved to be the shot of the day.

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB –SAT 21st JAN STABLEFORD

A GRADE WINNER Rod Wilton 38pts
A GRADE RUNNER UP Edward Barrett 37pts
A GRADE THIRD Lee Heuston 36pts
B GRADE WINNER Neil Jordan 42pts
B GRADE RUNNER UP Harrison Skinner 41pts
B GRADE THIRD Troy McCaw 39pts
C GRADE WINNER Troy Hunt 41pts
C GRADE RUNNER UP Mick Lutovac 39pts
C GRADE THIRD Lee Jackson 39pts
BALL COMP ~ 33pts
NTP
D Hollis 242cm L Porter 398cm T Seamer 6cm S Robinson 190cm
Captain Murray set up the course with a little more difficulty on Saturday with pin positions well placed and preferred lies only allowed in the fairway. Despite this the DSR was still a 68 with a number of players still recording excellent scores, although only 33 pts was needed this week to win a ball after last week’s 38 pts. Rod Wilton did the best of the A Graders winning the stableford competition with a well compiled 38 pts, just ahead of the ever consistent local veteran Eddie Barrett with Lee Heuston third with his 36 pts. Neil Jordan played very solid golf to win B Grade with an excellent 42 pts, bringing back memories of his old form as an A Grader. He did this without holing big putts or playing miraculous shots, he just played solidly and consistently all day, showing glimpses of his ability. Harry Skinner finished runner up with a very leasing 41 pts while Troy McCaw’s 39 pts was good enough for third. Troy Hunt won C Grade with his 41 pts, a score of which Troy is capable each week. Mick Lutovac finished second with his 39 pts with Lee Jackson third with the dame score. Undoubtedly the shot of the day belonged to Tony Seamer whose tee shot finished only 6 cms away on the last—oh so close to that elusive hole in one.

STROKE MONTHLY MEDAL MEDAL WINNER – ROB MILLER 64 NETT

A GRADE WINNER TOM FOSTER 67 NETT C/B
A GRADE RUNNER UP GREG GILLARD 67 NETT C/B
A GRADE THIRD TROY FELAN 68 NETT
B GRADE WINNER ROBERT HALE 65 NETT
B GRADE RUNNER UP DARREN GILROY 69 NETT C/B
B GRADE THIRD ERROL MUNZENBERGER 69 NETT
C GRADE WINNER RONALD SMITH 69 NETT C/B
C GRADE RUNNER UP MICK LUTOVAC 69 NETT C/B
C GRADE THIRD COL HUGHES 69 NETT
BALL COMP ~ 73 NETT
NTP ~ D HOLLIS 99CM
D HOLLIS 222CM
D GILROY 184CM
E GARLAND 85CM
Robert “Shir!” Miller played his best round in about 5 years to win Saturday’s Monthly Medal with an excellent 64 nett. His round reminded him of the “good old days” before having some major surgery when he would consistently score around the 80 mark. His win has been thoroughly deserved although his partner, Barney Walsh, might be looking for a new partner if he loses too many strokes. Bobby Hale recorded the day’s next best score of a nett 65, good enough to take out the B Grade Competition. When I was commenting to him about how good the course is at the moment, Bob quickly agreed as he had just finished playing such an excellent round. Tom Foster has certainly enjoyed the school holidays, regaining some form to win A Grade with a very sound 67 nett, on a countback from Greg Gillard with Troy Felan also returning to form, third with his 68 nett score. Darren Gilroy finished runner up in B Grade with a 69 nett just ahead of Errol Munzenberger with the same score. Ronald Smith’s 69 nett score was just good enough to win C Grade with Mick Lutovac and Col Hughes finishing with the same score. A 73 nett was needed to win a ball with a DSR rating of 68, which was a little higher than the last few weeks, mainly due to the nature of stroke events and the difficult set up of the course. The shot of the day no doubtedly belonged to Eddie Garland whose shot to the very difficult 13th finished only 85 cms away, with Dave Hollis on fire on the par three winning two nearest the pins. Having just returned from Victoria and having played one of the better courses around at Sandhurst, the home of the PGA of Australia, I can honestly say that the condition of the Branxton greens at the moment are far better than their Victorian counterparts. It is a credit to the local volunteers and greenkeeper that the Branxton Greens are in such excellent condition, especially with the hot, changeable weather at the moment.

Branxton Golf Club Results
2BBB Stableford plus Singles in Conjunction
Branxton Pro Shop Christmas Golf Day
2BBB Winners: Tony Seamer and Lee Jackson 50 pts
Runners Up: Murray Johanson and Rob Watson 49 pts

3rd: Rod Moylan and Ian Barnes 48 pts
4th: Stu Robinson and Troy Hunt 48 pts
5th: Dave Kinch and Michael Carling 46 pts
6th: Gary Walsh and Robert Miller 45 pts
Singles Winner: Wayne Oliver 42 pts
Runner Up: Murray Johanson 42 pts
3rd: Ian Barnes 41 pts
Nearest the Pins 2nd/11th. A Grade: Chris Callaghan B Grade: Dave Kinch C Grade: No winner 4th 13th: A Grade: Peter Wilton B Grade: Murray Johanson C Grade: No Winner 9th/18th. A Grade: Gary Wilton B Grade: Robert Miller C Grade: Kevin Walton
Longest Drives:
A Grade: Peter Wilton
B Grade: Daniel Turner
C Grade: Rob Watson
Ladies: Kerry O’Connell
The Branxton Pro Shop’s Christmas Golf Day proved to be very popular with 66 players enjoying the shot gun start and the hot, tricky conditions. Tony Seamer and Lee Jackson won the day with an impressive 50 pts, each winning a pair of golf shoes. Club Captain, Murray Johanson, had an excellent day, finishing runner up with Rob Watson, with 49 pts, as well as finishing runner up in the singles event with 42 pts on his own—well done Muz! Rod Moylan and Ina Branes finished third with 48 pts, with Ian enjoying a great day out finishing third in the singles with 41 pts. Stu Robinson teamed up with the ever improving Troy Hunt to finish 4th with 48 pts as well. Watch out for Troy in the new year as he has the ability to lower his handicap quite dramatically—he would be an excellent 4 ball partner! Wayne Oliver won the singles event with 42 pts, an excellent score on any day defeating Murray Johanson on a countback. Joshua Tracey had an eagle on the 16th, not surprising for a golfer with so much ability. Stu Robinson did the same last week, and he reminded me that I hadn’t mentioned it—well done Stu for “regulation” eagle. Peter Wilton had the longest drive in A Grade showing he can get it out there.

HVGC
Sunday 11th December The Weekly Challenge has been won by Grahame Mankelow with a great 44 point round from Steve Piggot who carded 39 points from his 8 handicap. **Tuesday 13th December** The Tuesday playing group were given a treat with the course set up as 18 Par 3’s with a Lunch deal thrown in after the golf. A countback was needed for all placings with Rick Turnchini fairing best from Brian Young and Chris Taggart after all had 47 net returns. Ball winners were: Matt Stafford 48, Ken Scott-Mackenzie 48, Paul Smith 50, Dean Morison 50, Rex Talbot 50, Grahame Sheldon 52, Scott Archibald 52, Ken Wright 52, Angelo Korlevic 53, Jay Dunn 53, Gary Arnold 53, Greg White 53 and Garry Clarke 53 c/b. As the course will be unavailable to the public next Tuesday due to the Jack Newton Classic the day was planned as a novelty for the Tuesday regulars and with the warm recep-

tion from all should become a Calendah event. **Wednesday 14th December** AThe heat on Wednesday led to a small field of Ladies contesting the individual Stableford with Lynette Russell winning the day from Kerrie-Anne Skinner. The Ladies will also have a rest this week with the Newton Classic running until Wednesday. Any Lady wanting a hit this week will be most welcome on Thursday with the Vets. **Thursday 15th December** Most of the Vets field tee’d off in light rain on Thursday morning will not many complaining after the week’s earlier heat and scores were quite good despite the fact some of the showers became heavy. Mark Barrow to the win on countback to Wayne Berry after both returned 41 points with Dave Fury also surviving a countback to take 3rd spot with 40 points. Ball winners were: Eric Smith 40, Greg Ireland 39, Dale Macklinshaw 39, Darrell Preston 39, Greg White 39, Gary Marsden 38, Ken Harris 38, Graeme Flynn 36, Brian Doherty 35 and John Pascoe 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Kevin Smith (3rd) Ray Hodson (4th,8th & 10th) and Graeme Flynn (17th). Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford. **Saturday 17th December** The rain cleared away for the members and guests to play in ideal conditions with soft greens leading to some fine results. Consistent Graeme Flynn won A Grade with a solid 40 points from David Preece on 39, B Grade went to Ben Pickering with 40 points from Nicholas Hain and Simon Nicholson returned 40 Points with Nicholas getting the judges nod. Ball winners were: Simon Clegg 39, Wayne Jenkin 39, Adrian Kent 38, Chris Connolly 38, Neil Day 38, Ben Enright 37, Dean Morison 37, Peter Milas 36, Peter Puerta 36,Paul Bullock 36, Tony Lamb 36, Tim Loneragan 36, Rob Flanagan v35, Ken Smith 35, Ben Bradley 34, John Stewart 34, Bruce Chambers 34 and Nathan Sweeney 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Simon Nicholson (3rd) Rob Flanagan (4th) John Brown (10th) and Corey Lamb (17th). Next Saturday’s Golf will be a Medley Stableford.

Sunday 18th December With the Jack Newton Celebrity Classic held over 3 days this week members competition was restricted to only 3 events beginning with the Weekly Challenge which was won by Shawn Parish with an amazing 45 point round from Ian Taylor who had a great 42 point round as well. **Thursday 22nd December** Peter Munro produced one of his best rounds after returning to the fairways after a holiday break to claim the Vets Stableford with a solid 41 points from Ryan Wilson on 40 and John Stewart 3rd with 38 points. Ball winners were : Wayne Berry 36, Ray Hodson 36, Ian Newell 36, Graeme Flynn 36, David Peel 35, Brian Doherty 35, Ken Harris 35, Kevin Smith 34 and Grahame Sheldon 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Lorraine Clack (3rd) Grahame Sheldon (4th) Steve Rawlings (8th) and Ray Hodson (10th & 17th). Next week

the Vets will play a 4BBB Stableford. **Saturday 24th December** With the course in fine ‘fettle’ following the Newton Classic many of the players cashed in with great scores on Saturday with Maitland visitor Peter Bell leading the way and winning A Grade with 44 points from Mark Harry with 42 points, B Grade to Brad Burgess with 40 from Brian Doherty 38 on countback and C grade to Brad Nicholson with 44 points from Mark Faulkner on 37 points also on countback. Ball winners were : David Condran v40, David Preece 40, Regan Powell 40, Phousang Sihapanya v38, Angello Korlevic 38, John Stewart 38, Shawn Parish 37, Bruce chambers 37, Brad Duncan 36, Ben Bradley 36, Neil Feyn 36, John Stojanovski 36, Scott Jones 36, Troy Wallis 35 and Steve Piggot 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Angello Korlevic (3rd) Kevin Smith (4th) Sue Peel (8th) Brad Burgess (10th) and Brian Doherty (17th). Next Saturday’s event will be a Medley Stableford. **Friday 23th December** The Weekly Challenge concluded today with Christmas Day falling on Sunday with Shawn Parish claiming victory with 44 points from Bohdan Ling who carded 40 points. **Tuesday 27th December** Tom Bellamy won the Tuesday Syableford on a countback from Simon Clegg after both had 42 point returns, Rex Talbot claimed the minor placing with 40 points. Ball winners were: Brad Burgess 39, Angello Korlevic 38, Matt Gordon v38, Julie Van Den Berg 38, Ray Hodson 38, Steve Rawlings 37, Byron Phillippe 36, Troy Wallis 36, Ian Newell 35 and Geoff Sweetman 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Shawn Parish (3rd) Dean Morison (4th) Ray Hodson (8th) and Tom Bellamy (17th) **Thursday 29th December** The Vets 4BBB has been won by Wayne Berry & Darrell Preston with 52 points from John Harrison & Brian Doherty on 50. Ball winners were: John Stewart & Graeme Flynn 49, David Peel & Grahame Sheldon 47, Ray Hodson & Ray Newton 45 and Eric Smith & Heinz Kestermann with 44 on countback. Nearest-the-Pins went to Eric Smith (3rd) Rex Talbot (4th) Graeme Flynn (8th) David Peel (10th) and Brian Doherty (17th). Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford. **Saturday 31st December** The last competition of 2016 has been completed with some outstanding scores across all grades. A Grade went to Steve Piggot with 41 points from Ben Bradley on 40, B Grade to Col Bradley with 43 points with Maitlands Mark Curran runner up with 40 on countback and C Grade to Scott Jones with the ‘round of the day’ 44 points with Mathew Merlo one shot back in 2nd spot. Ball winners were: Adrian Kent 40, David Peel 39, Brad Burgess 39, Dean Morison 39, Hieu Le 39, Simon Nicholson 39, John Stojanovski 39, Gerad Whitford 39, Tom Bellamy 39, Rex Talbot 39, Grahame Sheldon 38, Andrew Palozzi 38, Peter Tierney 38, Corey Lamb 37 and Wade Attewell

37 c/b. Nearest-the Pins went to Shawn Parish (3rd) Wade Attewell (4th & 17th) Ben Bradley (8th) and David Peel (10th). Next weeks event will be the Monthly Stroke rounds. **Footnote:** Ladies Summer Stableford competition will resume this Wednesday 4th January. **Sunday 8th January** The Weekly Challenge set the tone for a week of great scoring on Hunter Valley Golf course with players reaping the benefits from the efforts of greens staff hard work to maintain the playing surface with the extreme heat of late.Jaye Stevens performed best over the week with 45 points with Scott Conti runner up with 44 and consistent Shawn Parish 3rd with 43 points on countback. Ball winners were: Brad Moore 43, Maclayne Hart 42, Regan Powell 41, Jason Taylor v40, David Condran v40, Simon Bellette 39, Nathan Sweeney 39, Anthony Bower 39 and Brennden Dewson v38 c/ b **Tuesday 10th January** Gary Arnold continued his run of form to claim the Tuesday Stableford with a solid 40 points from Simon Clegg 39 getting the judges nod over Grahame Mankelow who also returned 39 points also on countback. Ball winners were: Wayne Cowan 39, Rick Turnchini 39, Chris Edwards 39, Gary Thomas 38, Scott Archibald 38, John Stewart 37, Robert Dial v37, Rick Madden v37, Chris Taggart 36, Hieu Le 36, David Peel 36 and Matt Delforce 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ray Hodson (3rd) Robert Dial (4th,8th & 10th) and Greg Ireland (17th) **Wednesday 11th January** The Ladies Summer Stableford went to Jill Ramsden with 36 points on countback to Sue Peel. The Summer Stableford format will continue next week. **Thursday 12th January** The Vets Stroke event went to David Irwin with 63 net from Eric Smith 65and Garry Hedges 66 net. Ball winners were: Steve Rawlings 67, Rex Talbot 68, John Stewart 68, Dave Fury 68, John Carmody 68, Wayne Drayton 69, David Peel 69, Paul Ireland 69, Graeme Flynn 70, Wayne Berry 70 and Doug Wand 71 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Cowan (3rd) David Peel (4th & 17th) Dave Fury (8th) and Darrell Preston (10th). Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford. **Saturday 14th January** The great scores continued in the Saturday Medley Stableford with Chris Edwards claiming A Grade with 44 points from Justin Preece on 43 points, B Grade to Todd Mitchell with 42 points on countback to Lachlan Peacock also on countback and C Grade to Kevin Smith with 43 points from Jeff Shanahan with 40 points. Ball winners were: Nathan Sweeney 42, Matt Delforce 42, Bruce Chambers 40, Adrian Russell 40,Michael Chapman 40, David Peel 39, Angello Korlevic 39, Colin Mills 39, John Stewart 38, Tony Butler 38, David Preece 38, Jodie Dunn 38, Adrin Kent 38, Graeme Flynn 38, John Parish 37, Steve Piggot 37, Gary Thomas 37, Dale Macklingshaw 37 and Ben Pickering 36 on countback. Nearest-the-Pins

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS



with Mark Bercini



The NewSPORT



3rd grade skipper Sean Wright who notched an unbeaten 184 in week 12 against Supporters at Miller 2.

Cricket Report – Week 12
District cricket resumed back after the Christmas/New Year break, with the highlight of the round being Greta/Branxton thirty-five-year-old third grade skipper Sean Wright's unbeaten 184 against Supporters at Miller 2. Wright opened the batting and blasted sixteen boundaries and cleared the rope a remarkable fourteen times on his way to 184 before retiring to give a few

of his team mates a hit. After bringing up his maiden cricketing century, he was raising the bat for his 150 just ten deliveries later, catching the eye of the BBL talent scouts in the stands. He was quickly on the phone to fellow board member Barry Richards back in the sheds to let him know he had surpassed Richards' first grade knock of 172no in the previous round. First grade were beaten by 36 runs by undefeated

Mulbring at Mulbring Oval. The home side batted first and some very tidy bowling from the Greta/Branxton seamers saw Mulbring at 2-60 at the drinks interval. However Mulbring ramped things up after the interval and managed to post what was still a below par 3-172 from their forty overs, with Craig Brook (1-29 off 10), skipper Brent Watson (1-42 off 10) and Martin Shearer (1-47 off 8) collecting the wickets. Greta/Branxton were all out for 136 in reply, with Greg Andrews leading the way with a crisp 47. Nathan Holz (18) and Watson (15) were the other main contributors. Second grade had an early afternoon in disposing of Mulbring by 8 wickets at Miller 1. In a complete form reversal that saw the exact opposite result to the last time these sides met, Mulbring batted first and were skittled for just 58. Hayden Regan was the star with the two-piece, collecting a well-earned 5-16 off 3.5 overs, with Andrew Bercini (2-25 off 6) and Mark Peace (2-18 off 6) taking a brace each. Greta/Branxton wasted no time reeling in the small target, passing it with 8 wickets left in the sheds. New comer Anthony Brunson (25), Andrew Bercini (21no) and Trent Fuller (13) did enough to get keep Greta/Branxton in second spot on the ladder. Third grade amassed 2-344

thanks to Wright's innings mentioned above, with Zac Watkins also playing a fine hand with 73no. Ben Lahey and Steve Peace scored 31-apiece, with Paul Walkling as per usual notching a crafty 15no. Supporters were dismissed for 70 in reply, with Ayden Wilkinson (3-34 off 7), Jarrad Wilkinson (2-20 off 8), Adam Holmberg (2-8 off 3) and Murray Wilkinson (1-1 off 1.4) sharing the wickets. Fourth grade Blue continued on their merry way with a 6-wicket victory over Supporters at Baddeley 2. Supporters batted first and made 4-156 from their forty overs, with Greta/Branxton's wickets being shared between Dion Charnock (1-24 off 10), Aaron Stephenson (1-32 off 8), Stewart Ison (1-20 off 3) and Jamie McNamara (1-14 off 5). Greta/Branxton reached the target four wickets down with a couple of overs to spare, with Neil Bird blasting 67. Will Regan made 29 with Mitch Bird carrying his bat at the top of the order with a stonewall 25 not out. Fourth grade White went down by 54 runs at the hands of Bellbird at Carmichael 2. Bellbird batted first and made 6-197, with skipper James Shoulders jnr leading the way with the ball with 2-15 off 5. Dan Minchin (1-43 off 10), Jesse Minchin (1-26 off 10) and James Shoulders snr (1-30 off 6) were the other wicket takers. Greta/Branxton were all out for 143

in reply, with Jesse Minchin smashing 70 of these. Shoulders snr (23), Sam Dagg (14) and Dan Minchin (13) were the other batsmen to make starts. **Cricket Report – Week 13**
Week 13 of district cricket saw Greta/Branxton record victories in second, third and fourth grade blue. Fourth grade white were beaten while first grade enjoyed the week off with the bye. Second grade recorded a fairly comfortable 5-wicket victory over Peden's Hotel at Miller 1. Sent in to bat Peden's were dismissed for 135, with Pat Andrews (3-26 off 4), Mark Peace (2-15 off 7), Anthony Brunson 2-7 off 1 and Nathan Velt (1-27 off 6) sharing the wickets. Greta/Branxton achieved the target with 15 overs to spare and five wickets left in the sheds. Shayne Franklin finally found some form with his team's top score of 32no, Andrews completed a fine all-round game with unbeaten 31, Holz was productive in his 31, with Mitch Fallon (12) the other batsman to make a start. Third grade continued to chip away and remain in second position following their 6-wicket victory over Wine Country at Kearsley. Wine Country batted first and posted 159, with Greta/Branxton's wickets being shared between Ayden Wilkinson (3-40 off 7), Jarrad Wilkinson (3-35 off 6.1), Adam Holmberg (2-37

off 10) and Alex Walkling (1-41 off 9). Greta/Branxton achieved the target with little dramas in reply, reaching it in the 29th over after losing just the 4 wickets. Not to be overshadowed by his big brother Sean's 184 the previous week, Andrew Wright showed he is no mug with the willow, smashing an unbeaten 91, with the target reached already probably preventing him from reaching his ton. He received good support from Alex Walkling (30no) who was also there for the winning runs, while Ben Lahey notched 23 at the top of the order. Fourth grade Blue remain at the top of the ladder following a convincing 102-run victory over Wine Country at Miller 2. Greta/Branxton batted first and compiled a very healthy 7-263, with Cade Bradley leading the way with an unbeaten 56. Neil Bird was the other half centurion with 50, whilst Will Regan (34), Jamie McNamara (31no), Jason Stephenson (25), Aaron Stephenson (17) and Will Young (16) all made worthy contributions. Wine Country were all out for 161 in reply, with Dion Charnock (4-38 off 10), Will Regan (2-22 off 7), Aaron Stephenson (1-43 off 7) and Jamie McNamara (1-16 off 5) taking the wickets for Greta/Branxton. Fourth grade White unfortunately slumped to their fourth straight defeat

but still remain in third place on the ladder. This time they were convincingly beat by second placed Paxton at Baddeley 2. Batting first Paxton made a modest 132, with Greta/Branxton skipper James Shoulders jnr bagging 6-28 off 6.4. Jesse Minchin (3-32 off 10) and James Shoulders snr (1-25 off 6) were the other wicket takers. Greta/Branxton were skittled for just 56 in reply, with Daniel Minchin the only batsman to reach double figures with 17. **Points Tables**
First Grade Mulbring 67, Bellbird 49, Greta/Branxton 48, Wine Country 44, Peden's Hotel 40.
Second Grade Bellbird 78, Greta/Branxton 66, Mulbring 62, Supporters 58, Peden's Hotel 54, Wine Country 51*. * Lost points 29/10/16 for clearance breach.
Third Grade Bellbird 87, Greta/Branxton 76, Laguna 74, Denman Hotel 70, Peden's Hotel 62, Wine Country 62, Mulbring 57, Supporters 46.
Fourth Grade Greta/Branxton Blue 81, Paxton 80, Greta/Branxton White 69, Denman Hotel 66*, Wine Country 62, Bellbird 58, Supporters 54, Peden's Hotel 50. * Lost points 5/11/16 for clearance breach.
Club Championship
Bellbird 451.30, Greta/Branxton 423.100, Mulbring 421.70, Wine Country 354.10, Peden's Hotel 340.40.




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