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The News

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WEDNESDAY
22 November 2017

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A combined 67 years Local Government service recognized



☰ Above photo (L-R): Cr Keith Rhoades President Local Government NSW, Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent, Graham Smith, Pat Maybury (accepting the Late Jeff Mayburys' award), Cath Parsons & LG NSW Chief Executive Donna Rygate.

At last Wednesdays Cessnock City Councils' ordinary meeting three former councillors were recognized for their outstanding service to the community. The award were Outstanding Service Award for Jeff Maybury & Cath Parsons & Certificate of Service for Graham Smith. The presentation was done by Cr Keith Rhoades President, Local Government NSW and he was assisted by Local Government NSW Chief Executive Donna Rygate. Councillor Jeffrey Maybury Outstanding Service Award was for 35 years of loyal service

from September 1980 to July 2015. Accepting the award on his behalf was his wife Mrs Pat Maybury. Councillor Catherine Parsons Outstanding Service Award was for 20 years of loyal service from September 1991 until September 2016. Councillor Graham Smith Certificate of Service was for 12 years of loyal service from September 2004 until September 2016. Cr Keith Rhoades President Local Government NSW said that these ceremonies gave him great joy & this one in particular as they were

recognizing a combined total of 67 years service which was an incredible feat. "In those 67 years these councillors would have missed many family occasions in providing their service to the community," he said. In accepting the award for her late husband Pat Maybury said that she was honoured to accept Jeffs' award. "He gave 35 years service and in that time he had to forego many things but he insisted that it was for the communities benefit," said Pat. Congratulations to you all.

Local Remembrance Day ceremony remembers courage and sacrifice



☑ Branxton Junior U/12's Blue side taking a minutes silence on "Remembrance Day" this year

Silence fell in the Hunter Valley & across Australia to mark 99 years since the end of World War I and thousands attended ceremonies to commemorate the occasion.

At Branxton the service heard of the immeasurable sacrifice and suffering faced by Australian servicemen and women in all armed conflicts & that 2017 marked the 100th anniversary of Australia's bloodiest year in WWI.

The poppy remains a symbol of Remembrance Day, due to the famous poem which noted the abundance of the flower on the blood-soaked Flanders Fields in Belgium. Poppies were among the first plants that came from the battlefields of northern France and Belgium during World War I. Some people believed the popular myth that poppies were rich in their redness because they blossomed from grounds that were saturated with soldiers' blood.

NSW Governor David Hurley said it was important new generations remembered the Anzacs and created new ways to honour their service.

"It's important in this centenary period that we help them remember what that legacy from 100 years ago was but give it new meaning for the future," Governor Hurley said.

"They need to interpret through their own lens and their own filter."



Cessnock City Council Statutory Notices

Phone during working hours 4993 4100
After Hours Emergency 4940 7816

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

DRAFT CHAPTER 17 OF THE CESSNOCK DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN – HUNTLEE

At the Meeting of Cessnock City Council on 15 November 2017 Council resolved to place Draft Chapter 17 of the Cessnock Development Control Plan – Huntlee on Public Exhibition. Draft Chapter 17 of the Cessnock Development Control Plan – Huntlee outlines objectives and controls that apply to new development at Huntlee. The Draft document will be on exhibition from **22 November to 20 December 2017** at the following locations:

Cessnock Council Administration Building
Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries

A copy of the document is also available on Council's website www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au.

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.

Written submissions quoting '**57/2016/1 Draft Huntlee DCP**' should be received by no later than 5.00pm on **Wednesday 20 December 2017**. Submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and can be submitted via post or email council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au. If you have any further enquiries please contact Council's Strategic Planner Mr Iain Rush on 4993 4155.

ADOPTION OF THE CESSNOCK FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY & CHAPTER 9 OF THE CESSNOCK DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN – DEVELOPMENT ON FLOOD PRONE LAND

At the Meeting of Cessnock City Council on 15 November 2017 Council resolved to adopt the Cessnock Flood Risk Management Policy and Chapter 9 of the Cessnock Development Control Plan – Development on Flood Prone Land.

The Policy outlines when Council will consider flooding and the principles that Council will consider when making decisions regarding flood risk management. The Flood Risk

Management Policy is effective from 15 November 2017. Chapter 9 of the Cessnock Development Control Plan – Development on Flood Prone Land outlines how development on flood prone land will be managed to reduce risk to life and property from flood events. The DCP Chapter is effective from 22 November 2017. Copies of the documents are available on Council's website www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au. At the Meeting of Cessnock City Council on 15 November 2017 Council also resolved to repeal the following policies:

- B30.6 Determination of Building Construction on Flood Prone Land.
- B25.2 Building in relation to drainage easements.

If you have any further enquiries please contact Council's Senior Strategic Planner Ms Keren Brown on 4993 4127.

DRAFT ABANDONED OR UNATTENDED SHOPPING TROLLEY POLICY

At the Meeting of Cessnock City Council on 1 November 2017, Council resolved to place the Draft Abandoned or Unattended Shopping Trolley Policy on Public Exhibition. The Draft Abandoned or Unattended Shopping Trolley Policy will be on exhibition from **22 November 2017 to 20 December 2017** at the following locations:

Council's Administration Building
Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries
Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

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.

Written submissions quoting **Draft Abandoned or Unattended Shopping Trolley Policy** should be received by no later than **5.00pm on Wednesday 20 December 2017**.

Submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and can be submitted via post or email to council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au.

If you have any enquiries please contact Colin Davis, Council's Health and Building Manager on 4993 4290.

PO BOX 152
CESSNOCK 2325

STEPHEN GLEN
GENERAL MANAGER



Pets and Patrols with Ranger Kurt

The festive season is almost here and with more and more people coming to visit our beautiful region, we'd like to remind residents to keep our towns, parks and bushlands clean and dispose of rubbish the right way. Littering from vehicles and on our streets is an issue that won't be tolerated as not only

is it bad for our environment, but it just looks bad to both locals and the millions of tourists who visit our region.

Roadside litter in particular is one of our region's most unnecessary and preventable environmental problems.

In the Cessnock Local Government Area last year alone, 'Adopt a Road' groups collected a whopping 14.4 tonnes of waste and in NSW as a whole, 25,000 tonnes of litter is tossed annually.

With summer and the fire danger period fast approaching, throwing cigarette butts from vehicles is also an issue, not to mention extremely dangerous.

There are a number of simple ways that you can help to prevent litter including keeping a bag in your car to collect rubbish and cigarette butts; putting cigarette butts out and in the bin; putting your rubbish in the bin or take it with you; encouraging others to pick up their litter; making sure your load is covered to prevent windblown litter; and taking part in anti-litter campaigns by liking and sharing content on your Facebook page.

Another key way you can make a difference is if you see someone littering from their vehicle, report it to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). All you have to do is visit www.epa.nsw.gov.au/reporttoepa, register and report it – it's that simple! You just have to make sure it's reported within 14 days of the incident and you are able to provide the vehicle registration details and the location where the littering took place.

The EPA can issue fines of \$250 for an individual and \$500 for a corporation for littering from a vehicle, based on reports from members of the public.

The 'Report to EPA' service is part of a comprehensive NSW State Government anti-littering program that aims to deter people from littering from vehicles by increasing the likelihood of being seen, reported and fined.

We all have a responsibility to do the right thing when it comes to our environment and if we all chip in and do our bit, we can help to ensure our region remains beautiful both today and for future generations. In short, don't be a tosser.



You can contact Council on 02 4993 4100
or www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au



New era for waste in Cessnock



Photo above (L-R): Environment Protection Authority representative Steven James, Mr MacDonald & Mayor Pynsent

Cessnock City Council officially opened the redeveloped Cessnock Waste Management Centre (CWMC) today delivering the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) with a modernised, convenient and safe facility.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this is an exciting day for the community.

"The construction of this state of the art centre provides our community with an opportunity to lessen their impact on our local environment by increasing resource recovery opportunities."

"We know Australia is ranked as one of the highest producers of waste in the world and last year alone the Cessnock LGA

generated over 45 thousand tonnes of waste."

"We are dedicated to taking steps to future proof our services to ensure generations to come benefit and this facility will ensure our community has critical infrastructure to divert material from landfill." Residents can free themselves of unwanted waste safely and quickly while at the same time knowing they are minimising their impact on our environment.

- The redeveloped CWMC includes a new waste transfer station which allows for the disposal of Garden organics

- Metals and building waste

- Tyres
- Recyclables

The new facility also has a Community Recycling Centre, which was funded by a \$200,000 grant under the NSW Government's Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative.

The Community Recycling Centre allows for the disposal of problem waste such as oils, paints and gas bottles.

The Mixed Waste Area means residents will no longer need to visit the tip face.

The new facility is now fully operational, to find out more about the CWMC visit

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/wastecentre.

Soil collection ceremony included in Remembrance Day Service

As part of this year's local Remembrance Day Service, held in Branxton, student representatives from Branxton Public School & Rosary Park collected soil samples from the Branxton

Rotunda Memorial. The soil has been sent to the Department of Veterans Affairs & will be interned in the upgraded "Anzac Memorial" at Hyde Park in Sydney.

The internment is to signify the enormous sacrifice of our WW1 enlistments from Branxton. President of the Branxton RSL Sub-Branch, Brian Furner OAM, said that the

involvement of the local schools means a lot to the local Sub-Branch. "The sacrifices made all

that time ago will be remembered for generations to come as its significance is handed down to each new

generation," said Brian. "Lest we Forget"



© President of the Branxton RSL Sub-Branch, Brian Furner helps collect the soil sample



FREE Community Walking Group

The 'Walking Group' was established 5½ years ago in Branxton

WHERE: Miller Park Branxton
WHEN: Monday, Wednesday & Friday are the main walking days. 7am start; walk as little or as much as you like.

Beginners always welcome & it is FREE

On the first Thursday of the month we have a coffee morning after walking.

We also enjoy social outings together.

For more information contact Sonnie on 0455 683 607

WHAT CAN YOU MAKE? MONEY FOR CHRISTMAS!

Don't miss it ~ the inaugural North Rothbury Twilight Markets. This Saturday 6pm ~ 8pm

NORTH ROTHBURY TIDY TOWNS TWILIGHT MARKETS

North Rothbury Tidy Towns (encompassing Hanwood, North Rothbury, Tuckers Lane and Huntlee) will be holding a

TWILIGHT MARKET in the Ayrfield Miners Memorial Park **Sat 25 Nov 2017. 6pm to 8pm.**

Mark it on your calendar!

Villagers / Visitors will be able to rent a stall site for price of \$25.00 to sell of their handiwork and Christmas gift ideas

❖ This year too we look forward to having some market stalls with produce from local people and those with connections to our village.

NRTT will run the BEST SAUSAGE sizzle.

PLEASE NOTE: NO PARKING ON GRASSED AREAS

NO PRE ARRANGED STALL POSITION!

Persons selling food stalls will need a Temporary Food Stalls (see below). It is a condition of the approval to meet the following consent conditions:
1. The Temporary Food Business is only permitted to operate at Courts / approved events.
2. Temporary Food Business meets the minimum standards of the:
NSW Food Act 2009
Food Regulation 2010
Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code - Standard 2.2.1 Food Premises
Hunter Central Coast Food Surveillance Group Temporary Event Guidelines
3. All food handling is to be conducted in accordance with the:
NSW Food Act 2009
Food Regulation 2010
Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code - Standard 2.2.2 Food Safety Practices and General Requirements
4. The Food Business Registration to the NSW Food Authority must be current.
The approval is valid for one year from the date of approval. The approval must be displayed on the stall.

We can have twenty stalls, stall holders must prepare for wet weather conditions.

Phone Maureen 49 38 1430 / 0412 43 25 08 to register. (Before 5pm)
18 Mitchell Street North Rothbury. Please pay on registration. BSB 032530 Acc: 216685 Ref: TWM (+ your name)

Persons with only a small amount of stock should join neighbors and friends to set a stall up and running.

Margan Family Wines bring home GOLD

Margan Family Wines have taken home Gold at the 2017 NSW Tourism Awards last week in Sydney. Margan's won Best Tourism Restaurant and Excellence in Food Tourism. This award goes to a very hard working and dedicated team, who are passionate about tourism and a paddock to plate ethos in the Hunter Valley. Andrew Margan sits on the HVWTA Board of Directors and is an active ambassador and advocate for Hunter Valley tourism and encouraging the growth of visitors to the region. Margan Family Wines is a one hatted restaurant and this achievement underpins their successes as an iconic and leader in tourism for the Hunter Valley moving forward. Congratulations to Margan Family Wines and their passionate team. Margan Family Wines will go on to represent the state as finalists at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards next year on Friday 23 February, 2018.

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Husband Creche

Is he getting under your feet
Is he moaning about shopping
Would your morning be stress free without him

Ladies we have the answer

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

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

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



CLEAR THINKING

How to interpret the nonsense spoken by the Chattering Class.

But first I have to define who the **Chattering Class** are. A large part of our population has been persuaded to accept as absolute fact, points of view which are far from absolute or are, in fact, actually untrue.

Examples include:-

- * That climate change is being caused by increased man made carbon dioxide.
- * The widening gap between rich and poor.
- * Paying teachers higher pay will produce smarter students
- * Eating only low fat foods is the way to good health.
- * That President Donald Trump should not be.
- * That Israel is the cause of the plight of the Palestinians and is the cause of the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, which of course is the reason that IS came into existence.
- * That everything else that is wrong in Australia is the fault of Tony Abbott and the Liberal National Coalition.

Now these are just some of the ideas which the **Chattering Class** hold to be 'absolute' and that cannot be questioned in their view.

To see an example of this one has only has to watch an episode of 'Q & A' on the ABC. When these views are questioned the **Chattering Class** erupt in indignation and revert to abuse or even violence, as was the case the other week when a mob attacked Tony Abbott's sister at a Liberal Party Fundraiser.

The demographics of this class is generally 'inner city' and includes academics, professionals of various disciplines, business people and that vast array of individuals you see walking about the place drinking coffee out of cardboard mugs.

Do you really imagine that someone who drinks coffee from a cardboard mug could possibly have an original thought in their heads? Certainly not while trying to drink coffee that is too bloody hot!

Back to the point. When making a case for their argument the **Chattering Class** use some fairly simple tricks to gain authority.

The first, and the most common, is to assume a high moral ground as if there is really nothing to argue. The Greens do this as a matter of course and if that doesn't work they become immediately loud voiced and self righteous.

The next most common tactic is to make a sweeping statement which superficially makes sense (which is often call a Motherhood Statement) then the use that to argue a more specific point. *"The Governments should*

spend more money on education", then specify some obscure instruction that should be included in the school curriculum like sexual identity or gender discrimination. Another example is *"Politicians cannot be trusted"*; Tony Abbott is a politician and therefore cannot be trusted. (apologies to Tony Abbott.) Statistics and bloody lies. Advertisers use this line to flog stuff to consumers. *"8 out of 10 workers use industry based superannuation funds"*. What is not stated is that most workers do not have much choice in where their compulsory superannuation funds go because their employment is under a workplace agreement that specifies where the payments go. Another classic example is *"3 out of 10 Australians live below the poverty line"*. So what is the poverty line and WHO decides what it is? To conclude my rant, as politicians say; "let me just say this".

* Do not accept anything you read or are told at face value. First consider who is making the statement and what prejudices or agenda they may have & then deconstruct what is said; are they quoting some expert, or do they purport to be experts on the subject.... have they balanced what they have written or spoken with an alternative view or possible outcome? (remember the problem of unintended consequences).

* Use your intuition with the **Chattering Class** to 'suss out' the nonsense and put yourself in that persons shoes to understand what they are on about.

* Do not put faith in ideology or group thinking. Work out your own point of view and hold it until you get more facts or are persuaded to change your view by a better argument. Have a nice day. *Steve Lind*

Australia will receive up to \$50,000 for local projects that appropriately commemorate the end of the war 100 years ago. One-off grants of between \$3,000 and \$50,000 are available and I encourage all those in the Hunter who want to contribute to a significant period in our nation's history to submit an expression of interest to

Community Consultation Committee, whose role will be to seek the community's views on how best to commemorate the Centenary of Armistice locally.

The Committee will also assist me in reviewing all proposals before an application is submitted to the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Expressions of interest in the grants can now be lodged with my office by going to my website at www.joelfitzgibbon.com/grants. More information on the Program is available

at www.dva.gov.au or by calling 1800 555 254.

*Joel Fitzgibbon MP
Member for Hunter*

CUSTOMER RELATIONS
I would be quite happy for the bakers and florists to display a sign saying: "I voted no". This would save them, and us, the

discomfort of going anywhere near their businesses. Also, Scott Morrison's suggested amendment to the bill to allow parents to "withdraw their children from schools if they were taught about same-sex marriage" is absurd. A parliamentarian who does

not want children to be taught about the law should find another job.

Name & contact details supplied but not published at request of writer



FUNDING AVAILABLE TO COMMEMORATE THE END OF THE WAR 100 YEARS AGO

I encourage the local community to apply for funding under the Armistice Centenary Grants Program. The grants program announced in November this year will provide

support for projects or activities in 2018 that commemorate the end of the First World War. Expressions of interest applications are now open with submissions due by 5pm Friday 15 December 2017. Every electorate across

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	
Rural Fire Brigades	Singleton... 6572 2799	
Belford..... 6574 7149	SES132 500	
Broke..... 6579 1491	Crime Stoppers	
Greta..... 4015 0000	1800 333 000	
Bishops Bdg 4015 0000	Poisons Info 131 126	
Nth R'bury... 4015 0000	Hunter Water	
Rothbury..... 4015 0000	1300 657 000	
Pokolbin..... 4015 0000	Ausgrid 131 388	
Rothbury..... 4991 1733	Gas Emergencies .131 909	
Bishops Bdg 4015 0000	Lifeline.....131 114	
Nth R'bury... 4015 0000	Mental Health Line	
Rothbury..... 4015 0000	1800 011 511	
Pokolbin..... 4015 0000	Domestic Violence Support	
Rothbury..... 4991 1733	4990 9609	
Scotts	Centrelink Self Service	
Flat..... 6575 1200	136 240	
Central	Medicare 132 011	
(Cessnock).... 4015 0000	Native Animal Rescue	
	0418 628 483	

Submit a letter to the editor

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

or emailed to thenews@hotmail.net.au

Greta Museum's Old Style New Wares & Sweet Shop

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The 25 guests and members attending the Land Cookery Day on Monday, 13th November were welcomed by a lovely morning tea of homemade biscuits and tea/coffee. Once everyone had time to catch up with friends and make new ones, Marie Shearer introduced guest speaker, Belynda Davies from Hunter Farm Collective. Belynda gave all the guests a very interesting talk on how she started her business and what work she has done in the past two years, and her plans for the future with providing fresh



Patron, Noeleen Bendeich and President, Leanne Bendeich.

vegetables and fruit, beef cattle, chickens and eggs direct to the consumer via local markets, restaurants etc. Thank you Belynda for your time and sharing your wonderful life experiences with all present. We wish you all the best for the future and will be looking out for your produce in the area. Cookery Judge Trish Walker from Aberdeen, assisted by

Cookery Officer Roslyn Shearer, had been busy judging all the entries in the Land Cookery Competition since 9.00 am and were now ready to let all the guests know the results. Only 1st places will be published, as they will be going onto the Hunter River Group Section in 2018. Noeleen Bendeich: Rainbow Cake, Fruit Pudding, Rhubarb & Ginger Jam, Orange & Marmalade, Lamingtons, Chocolate Sponge. Leanne Bendeich: Boiled Fruit Cake, Sultana Cake Roslyn Shearer: Monte Carlos, Donna Latter Memorial Cake Kerrie Bendeich: Coconut Cake, Coffee Cake Martin Shearer: Rhubarb Cake

Declan Shearer: Choc. Coconut Friands (under 12yrs)
Zac Shearer: Giant Anzac Chewy Biscuits (under 12yrs)

Congratulations to all 1st places and all the best for Group next year. Also, well done for 2nd and 3rd and all other entries.

After judging was completed, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch, followed by cakes and slices and tea/coffee.

Thank you to all who attended and for your great company. It was a lovely, relaxing day.

Like all voluntary groups, we would happily welcome anyone interested in helping to raise money to help others in need and also making new friends. Should anyone be interested in joining Branxton/Greta CWA, or like any information, please contact our Secretary, Marie Shearer on 0402015850 or email branxtongre-tacwa@hotmail.com Denise McGoldrick Publicity Officer.



If you require assistance please call

0414 757 826



Guests enjoying the day



Cookery Judge, Trish Walter and Cookery Officer, Roslyn Shearer.

RICHEEN

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Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

FROM THE MAYORS DESK

Resilience, this word captures the strength and spirit of the Kurri Kurri community following the storm that struck early last week. It only lasted a short time however it certainly left a trail of destruction. Many of you would be aware the Kurri Kurri Community Centre, Kurri Kurri Library and Ambulance Hall suffered damage, as well as many other local businesses and homes.

The Kurri Kurri Community Centre has done an exceptional job in dealing with this crisis and I congratulate them on how they have worked together. A big thanks needs to go to the State Emergency Services, local police, local firefighters and Cessnock City Council staff. Each of these groups acted very quickly ensuring the safety of our residents. Council will provide updates as they come to hand in relation to the Community Centre and Library.

Postie Bikes were roaring through Cessnock on the first weekend of November with the fourth Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix a success. Despite the wet weather it was great to see locals and visitors enjoying the entertainment. Well done to the Cessnock Motorcycle Club, this event will only continue to grow and develop.

Remembrance Day was an important day for our entire community, an opportunity to acknowledge servicemen and women. The Kearsley service was a moving occasion, as I imagine were the many other commemoration services that took place across the LGA. Thank you to all the organisers, your commitment to this service is admirable.

Cessnock City Council is hosting the Council Service Awards this evening, an opportunity to acknowledge former Councillors with some receiving service awards from Local Government NSW for the dedication to community. Congratulations to those recipients, your contribution and commitment to community is greatly appreciated.

Nominations are now open for the 2018 Australia Day Awards and Council is calling on the community to nominate locals who deserve to be recognised. There are a number of award categories to choose from including Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Event, Sports, Environment, Heritage, along with Achievement and Appreciation Awards. We are lucky to have so many people in our community willing to give up their time to make our city a better place and these awards are a great opportunity to celebrate their achievements. Applications close on Monday 11 December 2017, find out more here www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/australiaday.

We are celebrating local young people in our community building a career with the Mayoral Scholarships for 2018 now open. The Mayoral Scholarships are for any young person who is a resident of the Cessnock LGA undertaking additional study at university or TAFE. Scholarships are for one year and are valued at \$2,500. Applications close Friday 9 March 2018. For more information <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/mayor/scholarships>.

The Kearsley Information Bay is well underway and our work crews will have it

completed by the end of the year.
Cheers, Bob



Cllr Melanie Dagg - Cessnock City Councillor - Ward C

Greta Flood Study

Many of you will have received a survey in your letterbox seeking your thoughts on past experiences with flooding in and around your homes and businesses, particularly as a result of the flooding of Red House and Anvil Creeks. The Floodplain Management Committee are particularly interested in historical records of flooding including photographs, flood marks on buildings as well as any stories you may wish to share. Whether it be the April 2015 Super Storm, the Pasha Bulka Storm in 2007, or any other flooding event your information is vital to a full and proper strategy to best deal with planning and flooding related issues in the future. The questionnaire, photographs and other information are due back by Friday, 8th December and can also be completed online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GretaFloodStudy>

Bus Shelters Installed

You will notice the construction works at the East Branxton bus terminal have been finalised with the bus shelters to be installed shortly. This will greatly improve safety for road users and children, particularly around peak drop-off and pick-up times, and in addition vastly enhance the general appearance of the park and local amenity.

After much chasing I was finally able to secure a replacement bus shelter on the New England Highway outside Greta Oval. As most would know, the previous shelter was removed a number of years ago after being hit by a car and unfortunately bus users have spent all that time without a bench or shelter from the weather. This was one of the small jobs I wanted to fix when I was elected so I'm glad to see this ticked off the "to do list". I'm also continuing to follow up on a new bus shelter for Wine Country Drive in North Rothbury and hopefully this can be delivered soon.

Cemetery Consultation Continues

Council are currently reviewing and updating its Cemetery Strategy which will guide the future development, management and operation of the 12 cemeteries under its care and control. As such, Council are working hard to consult with the community to ensure its participation in the Strategy's direction. Death and dying is an emotive and sensitive topic and one which most of us avoid discussing. However, communication is important to ensure our policies reflect the wants and needs of the community. Workshops have been taking place across the LGA and you can also complete the survey here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CLB9V89> or obtain a hard copy from Council's admin building. It is important that the strategy not only provides for a peaceful, tranquil place for the community to memorialise and celebrate their loved ones, but that these places are economically sustainable and provide diverse and affordable options. Please take the time to consider your thoughts on the future care and direction of this very important Strategy. For any local government query, you can contact me via



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

For the past few months federal politics has been dominated by the Citizenship debacle and the marriage equality debate. The clear-cut result in the survey should be followed with a quick and positive parliamentary response and put behind us as a political issue. The citizenship controversy has done great harm to respect for our politicians, the parliamentary model and our democratic institutions. Where does it end? No one can be sure but it's hard to imagine it not ending in tears for Malcolm Turnbull and the Government. And the Bennelong by-election may be about to make the situation a whole lot worse. Beyond that, more Members and Senators could yet fall foul of Section 44 of the Constitution. It's therefore possible we are heading for a "Super Saturday" of by-elections in the first quarter of next year. That would be politically problematic for the Government. Will there be an early election? Again, it's hard to predict. The Government - whoever is leading it - will not go to an election voluntarily in the current political environment. Particularly before July 1 because it would have to be a House of Representatives election only, putting us out of sync with the Senate and adding to the look of dysfunction given only a minority of voters will remember the last time we had an election without voting on the make-up of the Senate. That means we will only have an election if the Government is forced to have one. I believe there are only two possible circumstances in which that might happen. The first is for the Government to lose the confidence of the House of Representatives. The Gillard Government lasted three years with 71 Members. In a House of 150 Members, you need 76 to govern as a majority Government but you only need one more than everyone else put together to govern as a minority government. If the Government wins New England and loses Bennelong, they will still have 75 and then 74 after delivering a Speaker. Labor plus the five cross bench Members will have also 74 if and when they chose to vote as one. On occasions when the vote is tied, it's the convention for the Speaker to use his casting vote to maintain the status quo. Having said all that, next week neither the Member for Bennelong or the Member for New England will be present creating a potential 73-74 vote against the Government. But there is another complication; for a Member to put a motion (say a no confidence motion or one advocating a banking royal commission) he or she must secure an "absolute majority" which is currently 75 votes (half plus one of 148 elected members). This of course provides the Government with a certain level of protection in the current circumstances. The second scenario in which the Governed might go to an election without choice is if and when the Parliament becomes so controversially dysfunctional that not going to an election is politically worse than calling one. We shall see!
Cheers, Joel



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR – OUR BRILLIANT EMERGENCY SERVICES AND COUNCIL EFFORTS AT KURRI KURRI

No doubt we all heard and read about the wind-storm event that ripped through Kurri Kurri just a few weeks ago. What an incredible thing it must have been. Shopkeepers told me stories about not being able to close the glass doors with 3 people pushing in effort; flying debris crashing through a shopfront window; a roof collapsing on workers inside; another roof from the local hall flying off and landing in the neighbouring property; and trees crashing down onto school buildings. I was in Albury and Wagga Wagga doing some Parliament Committee work at the time of the event. The pictures coming through were incredible; mess and carnage everywhere. It was hard to imagine what it must have been like, on the ground, at that time. I say that, having had my own experience of an Armageddon type moment, having been stuck overnight in King Street, Newcastle, during the Pasha Bulka storm of 2007. I drove up to Kurri Kurri from Sydney the next day. I could not believe my eyes. The streets were clean, yards and properties had been almost completely tidied and quite frankly if I hadn't seen the images myself the previous day, I would have found it hard to believe that there had been any storm at all. Had I come to the right place? Of course, it was no fluke or stroke of luck that so much work had already been done. Cessnock Council, our State Emergency Services and a host of volunteers and others had all been very hard at it, making sense on the insanity. It was an incredible effort and a tribute to the groups that plan and get ready for events like this. They are becoming experts as these storm events seem to be increasing in frequency. And of course in recognising the expertise of these groups, I wonder to myself what would the local MP role be in an instance like this – and I answer myself with "stay out of the way!" Thank you, well done, congratulations and of course stay safe is my message to all of those involved in any accident or event similar to the Kurri Kurri weather just two weeks ago.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROBLEM – AN UPDATE

I had some feedback on my phone troubles last week and dealing with my provider. Most feedback was in the "that happened to me too" category. So just a brief update, now that it is all so ridiculous that it is funny. To their credit, they have called me back on several occasions to try to resolve the problem. On one occasion I was told that I didn't have a payment history – which shocked the pants off of me, and I wondered where all of that money that I had spent had been going. And then I tried to visit one of their stores, their outlets, their shopfronts only to be told that I had to wait 45 minutes to see someone. "But I am a customer" I said "aren't you supposed to be set up and ready to serve customers? Isn't that what a shop does?" I didn't have the 45 minutes spare, so I left the store and look for-

ward to my next follow up phone call to resolve what I wrongly assumed to be a basic enquiry about my bill history. If I had to add up both their time and my time, and try to put a wage value against it, I would suppose that we would now be at \$800+ in wages, time energy and effort. Progress!

Cheers, Clayton



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

It's been a big week for Singleton with the Association of Mine Related Councils in town and as host for the RMS (Roads Maritime Services) regional roadshow that drew in people from across the region. And it's not over yet as we countdown to Christmas On John Street on Friday 24 November.

The two-day meeting of the Association of Mine Related Councils highlighted yet again the significant contribution Singleton makes to the State's coffers, and how we can work with other mining councils across NSW to share our experiences and lobby the State Government for the resources we need for our communities.

More than 20 delegates attended from across NSW, and we took great pride in showing off our community and all that we have to offer - not least the delicate balance we tread in Singleton between mining and other industries.

It was also a great opportunity to showcase the good practice we have here with mining issues such as the Dialogue and Enterprise Facilitation project.

An important outcome was that I was elected to the Executive Committee of the Association, which will give us a seat at the table to help steer the Association into the future and carry on from the great work by former Mayor John Martin and Cr Hollee Jenkins.

And no doubt it will also add weight to our continued campaign for a better outcome from the State Government's Resources for Regions program, as we wait for the outcome of our latest applications for funding to build on the revitalisation of the Town Centre and a community exhibition space for Townhead Park.

But while there's plenty of work being done, we're also looking forward to having some fun at Christmas On John Street on Friday. The event has developed into the official start of the festive season in Singleton with an abundance of family-friendly entertainment including live performers, a children's area complete with jumping castle and face painting, markets, and of course, a visit from Santa.

The event will be capped off with a spectacular fireworks display, generously presented by YanCoal.

I encourage everyone to put the date in your diary and come along from 5pm – and don't forget to pick up your free copy of the new Singleton Magazine while you're there.

The countdown is also on to nominate someone deserving you know for Citizen of the Year and Junior Achiever of the Year to be presented at next year's Australia Day celebrations. The awards recognise people who have made a significant contribution to our community over the past 12 months but time is running out - nominations close on 1 December 2017. For all the information you need or to download a nomination form, visit www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/australiadayawards
Cheers, Sue

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Lee Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

Flu season: Why it's been a particularly bad year for influenza

This year, the number of laboratory-confirmed flu virus infections began rising earlier than usual and hit historic highs in some Australian states. If you had been part of any gathering this winter, this is probably not news. States in the south-east (central and southern Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia) are more inflamed by flu than those in the north and west. For example, Queensland has seen more hospital admissions than in the last five years, mostly among an older population, while younger demographics more often test positive without needing hospitalisation. Meanwhile, flu numbers in New Zealand and elsewhere in the Pacific have not matched the same elevated levels. But did Australia really experience the biggest flu season on record in 2017, or are we just testing more and using better tools? This is hard to answer for certain because the information we need is not usually reported until later and public databases only show the past five years. We can say for sure that 2017 is on track to be a historically big flu year. **Why so bad this year?** Flu, caused by infection with an influenza virus, is

mostly a disease with an epidemic peak during July and August in non-tropical countries. Flu viruses are broadly grouped into two types: Influenza-A and Influenza-B. Influenza-B viruses have two main sub-types while the Influenza-A viruses are more variable. The Influenza-As you get each year are usually A/H3N2 (the main player so far this season) or A/H1N1, which lingers on from its 2009 "swine flu" pandemic. Multiple flu viruses circulate each year and serial infections with different strains in the same person in a single season are possible. H3N2 has played a big role in the past five flu seasons. When it clearly dominates we tend to have bigger flu seasons and see cases affecting the elderly more than the young. H3N2 is a more changeable beast than the other flu viruses. New variants can even emerge within a season, possibly replacing older variants as the season progresses. This may have happened this winter, driving the bigger-than-normal season, but we will not know for certain until many more viruses are analysed. Outside winter, flu viruses still spread among us. This year, in particular, you were encouraged to get vaccinated even during the peak of flu season. Vaccines are a safe way to decrease the risk that we or loved ones will get a full-blown case of the flu. Yet Australian flu vaccination rates are low. Data are scant but vaccination rates have increased in adults and some at-risk groups, but remain lower than for childhood vaccines. **The flu vaccine** Each season new flu vaccines are designed based on detailed characterisation

of the flu viruses circulating in the previous season. But the viruses that end up dominating the next season may change in the meantime. It is not clear whether that was a factor for this year's high numbers in Australia this year or precisely what the vaccine uptake has been in 2017. Much of this detail will not be reported until after the epidemic ends. Some testing suggests this year's vaccine is well matched to the circulating viruses. The flu vaccine is not the most effective of vaccines, but it is safe and the only preventive option we have for now. Of those vaccinated, 10-60 per cent become immune to flu virus. Future flu vaccines promise to account for the ever-changing nature of flu virus, reducing the current need for yearly vaccination. Until they are available, though, it remains really important to book an appointment with your vaccine provider and get a quick, safe vaccination, because we are unarguably in the midst of the biggest flu season Australia has seen in years. We have both vaccines and drugs to help us prevent and minimise disease and the extra load on hospitals caused by flu. The young, elderly, those with underlying disease and Indigenous Australian people are most at risk of the worst outcomes and this is reflected by government-funded vaccination for these groups.



All invited to help the festive season along at Cessnock City Council Carols in the Park

The event is proudly sponsored by Newcastle Permanent Building Society, Rover Motors and Cessnock City Council



Cessnock City residents should start warming their vocal chords as the Carols in the Park is fast approaching, on Friday 1 December 2017 at Cessnock Sportsground. The FREE event is the perfect way to kick off celebrations for the festive season with markets, music and fireworks. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this is one of his absolute favourite community events. "It is very heart-warming to see children, young people, family and friends celebrating the festive

season together." "We are also very lucky to have wonderful entertainment, including Country music star and local Tara Naysmith as MC, and the 14 piece big band Santa's Little Helpers which is made up of talented musicians from across the Hunter," Mayor Pynsent said. The night is also expected to feature a visit from the man himself. Santa will rest his reindeers in the nearby vineyards and enter in style in a helicopter generously provided by Slattery's Helicopter. The night will finish with a magical

fireworks display, making for a perfect grand finale after a night of festive fun. Residents are encouraged to pack a picnic blanket and picnic to enjoy the evening's celebrations. Gates open at 5:30pm, come down, and do some Christmas shopping at the markets before picking the perfect spot to enjoy the entertainment. The event is proudly sponsored by Newcastle Permanent Building Society, Rover Motors and Cessnock City Council. For more information visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

© Photo Mayor Pynsent with helpers



We overcook our eggs & other cooking tips

How do I stop scrambled eggs from going rubbery?

Time. It's an ingredient often lacking in cooking. I was told of a family who would microwave their "roast" chicken because it was quicker. They did this so they had time to watch the football. When I heard this I had a vision of a factory farm with humans eating pelletised food from a trough watching an endless loop of *Australia's Got Talent*. Enough dystopia. Take your time. The lower the heat they are cooked over and the slower you stir the eggs the lighter and smoother they will be. As they are heated the protein in the egg whites forms a net-like structure that holds in moisture. If you hit the protein with too much heat too quickly they coil up and squeeze out the moisture and you end up

with scrambled eggs like the ones at that dodgy school camp in year 7 – chewy egg lumps sitting in water. Heston Blumenthal has a recipe for eggs that requires seven eggs, 25 millilitres of milk, 20 millilitres of cream, 20 grams butter and a pinch of salt. These are gently mixed together in a bowl and then cooked in a double boiler over simmering water and gently stirred with a spatula for 15-20 minutes. It is delicious, but it takes time.

If chicken has been cooked, refrigerated, then left out at room temperature for five hours, is it safe to eat?

Put it this way. I wouldn't touch your chook with someone else's fork. Not being rude, I am sure there was a perfectly good reason for leaving your chicken out for so long. Chicken, like eggs, fish, meat and milk are considered "high risk" by authorities as foods that are fertile breeding grounds for harmful bacteria. Your chicken has been in what the health authorities call the Temperature Danger Zone, between 5C and 60C for more than their recommended maximum of four hours. After this time the risk of bacterial contamination has increased significantly. If you're not going to serve food straight away, particularly high-risk foods, cover and refrigerate, particularly in warm weather



Report

greater than an indictable quantity, four counts of possess prohibited drug, and deal with the proceeds of crime. He was refused bail to appear at

Ten charged following execution of multiple search warrants in Central Hunter Region

Ten people have been charged following coordinated search warrants in the Central Hunter Region last week. Strike Force Hoadley was established in December 2016 by officers from the Central Hunter Target Action Group and Central Hunter Drug Unit to investigate the ongoing supply of drugs in the area. As a result of ongoing investigations, officers executed search warrants at 12 locations (Wednesday 15 November 2017), at Cessnock, Newcastle, Bellbird, Mayfield and Jesmond.

At the Cessnock properties, police seized methylamphetamines, LSD, cannabis, cash, prescription drugs, replica firearms, ammunition, throwing knives and tools suspected of being stolen. A 71-year-old man was arrested at a Cessnock address and was taken to Maitland Police Station. He was charged with supply prohibited drug on an ongoing basis, four counts of supply prohibited drug, deal in the proceeds on crime and operate drug premises.

He was refused bail to appear at Cessnock Local Court today.

A 46-year-old man and 29-year-old woman were also arrested at Cessnock and taken to Maitland Police Station.

The man was charged with supply prohibited drug

Cessnock Local Court. The woman was charged with supply prohibited drug greater than an indictable quantity, and two counts of possess prescribed restricted substance. She was granted conditional bail to appear at Newcastle Local Court on Wednesday 29 November 2017.

A 32-year-old man and a 40-year-old man were also arrested at separate addresses in Cessnock and taken to Maitland Police Station.

The 32-year-old was charged with supply prohibited drug (x3) and the 40-year-old was charged with supply prohibited drug (x11), and supply prohibited drug on an on-going basis. Both men were refused bail to appear at Cessnock Local Court.

A 42-year-old woman and a 45-year-old woman were arrested in separate locations in Cessnock and taken to Maitland Police Station.

The 42-year-old woman was charged with supply prohibited drug on an on-going basis, supply prohibited drug (x16), and occupier conduct drug premises and refused bail to appear at Maitland Local Court.

The 45-year-old woman was charged with supply prohibited drug on an on-going basis and supply prohibited drug (x4). She was also refused bail to appear at Maitland Local Court.

At Bellbird, police located prohibited drugs including ecstasy pills, cannabis and methylamphetamines.

At a home in Mayfield,



One of the arrested on his way to be charged.



officers arrested two men, aged 47 and 52. Knives, knuckle dusters, samurai swords, nun chucks, a cross bow, replica firearms and an electronically controlled device were seized by police, as well as methylamphetamines, mobile phones and motor vehicles suspected as being stolen. The 52-year-old man was charged with supply prohibited drug on an on-going basis, supply prohibited drug (x6), and possess prohibited drug,

while the 47-year-old man was charged with supply prohibited drug (x4). They were both granted conditional bail to appear at Newcastle Local Court on Thursday 7 December 2017.

At a home in Jesmond, officers arrested a 37-year-old man. Methylamphetamine, MDMA, prescription medication, ammunition, drug paraphernalia and a cannabis plant were seized at the location. The man was charged with three counts of supply prohibited drug and granted conditional bail to appear at Newcastle Local Court on Thursday 7 December 2017.

Investigations by Strike Force Hoadley detectives are ongoing and more arrests and charges are anticipated.

Detective Inspector George

Radmore, Crime Manager of the Central Hunter Local Area Command, said that it was clear at the beginning of the almost year-long investigation that this was an elaborate drug operation that required expertise and patience.

"This operation will have a significant impact on the drug trade in the area and I commend all officers involved in breaking up this group.

"We will be providing more details and expect further arrests in the future,"

Detective Inspector Radmore said.

Break, Enter and Steal – School in Greta

Between 16:30 on Friday 10 November 2017 and 06:00 on Monday 13 November 2017

Property Stolen: BEVERAGES.

Unknown persons have entered the canteen/kitchen at the location by cutting a hole in the ground floor side wall by unknown means. Offenders have generally disturbed the contents of the kitchen and stolen a variety of beverages.

Suspended driver, Hunter Expressway

About 7.39pm on Friday the 3rd of November 2017, the Accused, a male, aged 19 from Heddon Greta was the driver of a white Toyota Hilux utility bearing New South Wales registration plates which he drove in a northerly direction on Hunter Express-way, GRETA.

Police stopped the Accused for the purpose of a breath test and requested him to produce his driver's licence in which he complied. Police conducted the breath test in which he returned a negative result.

Police conducted checks on the Accused in relation to his licence and found that the Accused is suspended due to fine default which commenced on the 01/11/2017. Police issued the Accused Field Court Attendance Notice.

Break in weather provides perfect opportunity to prepare



After a mild start to November the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is urging residents in the local area to prepare now before conditions heat up again. NSW RFS Inspector Brett Hagan said now was the ideal opportunity to complete a few simple tasks so that homes and properties are ready for fires, before the return of hot and windy weather. "Firefighters and emergency agencies will of course continue to do everything possible to keep communities safe, however preparation is a shared responsibility and residents must do their bit,"

Inspector Hagan said. "Getting ready for a bush fire is easier than you think. "Start by simply having a conversation with your family about what you would do if a fire was to start nearby. "Make, or update your bush fire survival plan and share it with everyone in your household, and maybe even neighbours. "Just a little bit of time and effort now will give your property a fighting chance next time there is a fire in the area."

The top five things you can

- do to prepare your home and property for bush fires:
- > Trim and remove overhanging branches
- > Mow your grass and have a cleared area around your home
- > Remove any materials that could potentially ignite and burn
- > Clear and remove leaves and debris from your gutters and around your home
- > Make sure you have a robust hose that can reach the whole way around your home.

Inspector Hagan said that basic preparation now could prevent a lot of heartache and financial loss.

"These fires don't discriminate. Embers can travel significant distances, crossing several properties and streets. We've seen burning embers travel up to 30 kilometres in the worst conditions; it's terrifying," Inspector Hagan said. "Don't give fire an opportunity to take hold, with temperatures predicted to rise as we head in to summer, now is the time to act."

For more information on preparing your home for bush fire visit

www.myfireplan.com.au

Daily Thoughts

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us. --Ralph Waldo Emerson
The smallest good deed is better than the grandest good intention. --Unknown



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Fishing Club Seafood Raffles Up and Running

Great news! The Tatts Hotel Fishing Club Seafood Raffles have now been running for a couple of weeks and are drawn at 6:45pm Friday before the Schooner draws, with two large trays on offer every week.

The Annual Presentation will be held at the Tatts Hotel Sunday 17th December at 1pm. From this point 2018 memberships will be available \$30 for Adults, or \$50 family.

The November "Open" Fishing weekend was held November 10/11/12 and saw people fish from Forster to Newcastle and Lake St Clair. Glen Beckett came out of the weekend on top with 109 points (12 Bream, 3 Tarwhine and 1 Whiting), and son Robbie Beckett became the overall leader after scoring 67.6 points (7 fish Bass and Yellowbelly). Brother Scotty scored a healthy 90.5 points (9 fish Bass and Yellowbelly). Orey Dorn had to settle for 1 Fish (Flathead 13.9 points) after he dropped a couple of Jewy in Newcastle Harbour, and father Brad beat his previous record for biggest Flathead with a 1kg stonker. Blake Barnes pulled further in front for the junior category (1 Whiting and a Flatty 27.1 points) and Judy Masters regained the lead in the female category (1 Bream and a Flatty 26.66 points).

Any enquires about the Club please forward to Steven.nevin@coalandallied.com.au or call/text Nevo on 0402762199.

Nominate a local legend for the 2018 Australia Day Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2018 Australia Day Awards and Cessnock City Council is calling on the community to nominate locals who deserve to be recognised.

There are a number of award categories to choose from including Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Event, Sports, Environment, Heritage, along with Achievement and Appreciation Awards.



Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent looks forward to the Australia Day Awards every year as they are a chance to recognise those who are dedicated to our community. "We are lucky to have so many people in our community who are willing to give up their time to make our city a better place and these awards are a great opportunity to celebrate their achievements."

"If you know someone who has made an outstanding contribution in one of the categories, make sure you get your nomination in before they close on Monday 11 December 2017," added Cr Pynsent.

Official nomination forms and selection criteria can be found on Cessnock City Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/australiaday. The winners will be announced at a Civic Reception held on Australia Day. More details about the event will be released closer to the date. For more information, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/australiaday.

Singleton Council Award nominations opened on Monday 9 October 2017 and will close on Friday 1 December 2017.

"The objective of the awards is to recognise outstanding personal achievement or outstanding contribution to the community during the previous year. All residents of the Singleton Council local government area are eligible to nominate," said Singleton Mayor Sue Moore.

IT'S OUR TURN

SUNDAY, 26 NOVEMBER • 12:30PM • MAITLAND PARK

Join us at a public rally to demand Maitland Hospital remains in public hands.

After a year-long campaign, the Maitland community is devastated to be the only hospital out of five that is still moving towards privatisation by the NSW Government.

Goulburn, Bowral, Wyong and now Shellharbour will all continue to operate as public hospitals.

Why should we have to give up our public hospital? The Maitland community deserves better!

Food, fun and games will be provided. Kids and families welcome.

Please support your local health workers by coming along.



Keep NSW in HealthyState.com.au

I'M FIGHTING TO

Keep NSW in a Healthy State

A growing state needs a growing public health system

REINSW
1000 NEW SOUTH WALK
4-10 CONCORD STREET
SYDNEY NSW 2009

for two quarters. "The Housing Group increased by 1.9 per cent for the quarter and 3.3 per cent for the year to September 2017. The major contributors to the increase in the Housing Group for the quarter were electricity (up 8.9 per cent), gas and other household fuels (up 5.2 per cent) and rates and charges (up 2.6 per cent). "Rents increased by just 0.2 per cent for the September quarter and 0.5 per cent for the year. This is the lowest annual increase in rents since September 1993.

"From 2013, when investment in housing started to pick up, we have seen the rate of increase in rents slow down in Australia. For the last eight quarters the average annual change has been 0.7 per cent. "The latest CPI figures show that the increased investment in housing through the current taxation arrangements has kept growth in rents lower than they have been historically. "In Sydney and Melbourne where much of the investor activity has been focussed the increase in rents in the past twelve months has been 2.3 per cent and 1.5

per cent respectively. "With the CPI figures always a central component of the RBA's consideration, the latest inflation data would suggest that home buyers can be comfortable in the knowledge that interest rates will remain stable for a while yet," Mr Gunning concluded.

First home buyers increasing proportion of housing market



The September housing finance figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) show that first home buyers continue to increase their presence in the housing market, according to the Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA). "The proportion of first home buyers, as part of the total owner-occupied housing finance commitments, increased to 17.4 per cent and is the highest proportion since November," REIA President Malcolm Gunning said. "By contrast, the value of investment housing commitments decreased by

0.5 per cent in September in trend terms following falls in the previous four months and is well down from its 2015 peak. "Overall the figures for September 2017 show, in trend terms that the number of owner-occupied finance commitments increased by 0.7 per cent. If refinancing is excluded, in trend terms, the number of owner-occupied finance commitments increased by 0.3 per cent and is the thirteenth consecutive month of increases. "In trend terms increases were recorded in all states and territories except Tasmania and the Northern Territory. Victoria had the largest increase of 1.6 per cent and the Northern Territory had the largest decrease of 0.8 per cent. Queensland remained flat. "In trend terms, the number of established dwellings purchase commitments increased by 0.7 per cent while new dwelling construction increased by 0.4 per cent and the purchase of new dwellings increased by 1.4 per cent. "It is pleasing to see the increased presence of first home buyers. The figures show that

owner occupiers and first home buyers responding to more stable conditions and, in the case of first home buyers, state government incentives," Mr Gunning concluded.

REINSW Submission on short-term letting



REINSW has made a Submission to the Short-term Holiday Letting (STHL) in NSW Options Paper by the NSW Government. Currently local councils take different approaches to regulate STHL and there is no standardised approach. The Options Paper was released in July 2017 to explore a new framework, including four potential options: industry-self regulation, strata regulation, planning regulation and registration. In response, REINSW prepared a Submission with members of its Property Management and Strata Management Chapter Committees, and members involved in STHL specialisation. REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin said: "Any reforms by the NSW

Government must ensure the needs, interests and concerns of all stakeholders are represented and take account of differing property types. "REINSW's submission has maintained a focus on the need to ensure fair and equitable outcomes across the sector to create a better short-term holiday letting system in New South Wales."

Favourite wins RBA Cup Day meeting

The Reserve Bank of Australia has backed the favourite at its November board meeting keeping interest rates on hold at 1.50 per cent. REINSW President John Cunningham said the streak of interest rate decisions, which has seen the cash rate remain at the record low of 1.5 per cent, has been extended again. "The Reserve Bank of Australia last made an interest rate move in August 2016 and on current form this will continue well into 2018. "We are on the home stretch for 2017 and are backing that the RBA will keep a firm hand on the reins next month," Mr Cunningham said.

The RBA will next meet on Tuesday, 5 December 2017.



Renters benefit from increased investment



The September 2017 quarter CPI figure continues to signal good news for home buyers and renters, according to the Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA). "The All Groups CPI, increased by 0.6 per cent in the June quarter giving an annual increase of 1.8 per cent. This is marginally lower than the annual increase of 1.8 per cent, the June quarter of 1.8 per cent," REIA

President Malcolm Gunning said. "The annual change for the analytical series of trimmed mean and for the weighted median was 1.8 per cent and 1.9 per cent, respectively, with the annual change in the trimmed mean being the same for the past three quarters and for the weighted mean the same

Sydney City Wanderers visit Branxton en masse

New RV Park facility comes up trumps



Some of the travellers needed access to power for a number of reasons and, again, the local Branxton RSL Sub-Branch came to their aid by allowing them to park at the back of their hall giving them power access.

Comments made about the facility were ... enjoyable, great, good, fantastic & excellent after the return of a questionnaire given out just prior to them leaving. The questionnaire also asked if they felt they were made welcome by the local community ... the answer was an overwhelming 'yes'.

Other positive comments made were about The Royal Federal Hotel, the Branxton Bakery, the dump point, the coffee, the IGA Supermarket, the clean public toilets, how nice & quiet the town is, traffic lights for safe crossing, the Girl Guides stall, oval parking in RSL grounds for disabled & a nice town walk.

President of the Branxton Greta Business Chamber, Brett Wild, said he was delighted with the feedback particularly the

comment saying that they were made to feel very welcome by the community.

"The business chamber has worked very hard on the RV facility by getting it planned, funded & finished. It is an asset for the whole community & the business's in our town.

"I would also like to thank the local RSL Sub-Branch for their hospitality & the amount of time that their President, Brian Furner, put into the weekend.

"We must be doing something right as they have booked the park again for the 8th, 9th & 10th December. There will be another 7 RV vans making a total of 40," said Brett.

The Business Chamber will be meeting with Cessnock City Council prior to there next visit & asking council to attend to a couple of items that need attending too such as a little better lighting & some better signage.

One of Australia's oldest RV Camping Clubs, the Sydney Wanderers, spent 3 days in Branxton putting our new RV (Recreational Vehicles) Park to a solid test.

33 Vans descended on the RV Park on Friday 10th

November & departed on the following Monday &, by all accounts, thoroughly enjoyed the stay.

The local RSL Hall was given over to our visitors, at a nominal charge, which gave them the use of all of its facilities.

Cessnock Council saves 51 lives

Cessnock City Council staff rolled up their sleeves and donated blood for the recent Red 25 National Council Blood Challenge involving councils from across the

country. Through Red25 the Australian Red Cross Blood Service is uniting organisations just like Cessnock from across the country

to save lives and take part in one of the most important Corporate Social Responsibility brands in Australia. Council had an 85% participation rate in the program seeing Cessnock take out the

award for NSW Highest number of donors vs Red 25 members.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent accepted the award on behalf of staff alongside "Billy the blood drop", who was all smiles following such a strong donation result from Cessnock Council.

Cr Pynsent said it was fantastic to get Council involved in the challenge and give staff

the flexibility to donate during their hours of work.

"As a community it is important we support the Australia Red Cross Blood Service.

I'm very proud of our staff who generously donated."

"Congratulations to each of you, your donation has saved three lives," Cr Pynsent said.

Council is urging other local organisations to get involved, as no matter how large or small.

Always Remembered ~ Never Forgotten Very much loved ~ Neil & David Rowlands



In memory of the passing of our parents one year ago, the passing of Robert two years ago & brother Peter in May 1979 ~ Never forgotten as we remember the good times together; the good 'ol football days & Mum's beautifully prepared meals



FREE Community Walking Group



The 'Walking Group' was established 5½ years ago in Branxton

WHERE: Miller Park Branxton

WHEN: Monday, Wednesday & Friday are the main walking days. 7am start; walk as little or as much as you like.

Beginners always welcome & it is FREE

On the first Thursday of the month we have a coffee morning after walking. We also enjoy social outings together.

**For more information contact
Sonnie on 0455 683 607**

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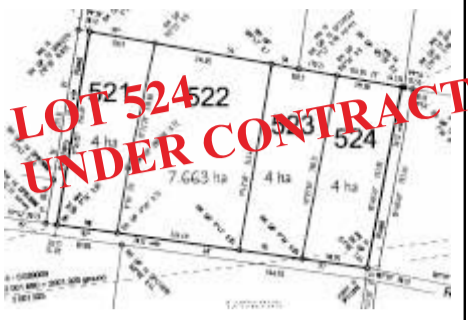
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For Sale

NORTH ROTHBURY



Lots 521, 523 & 524
Littlewood Road,

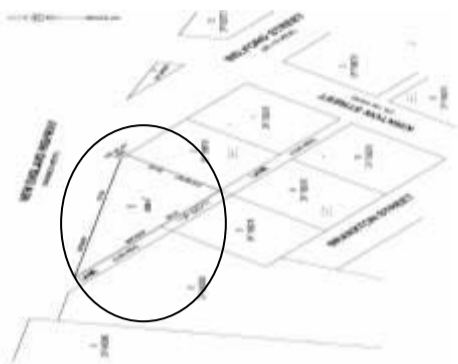
Vacant blocks

4ha (10 acres) very private bush blocks.

Fully Fenced & within minutes to Hunter Wine Country

ASKING: \$420,000 each

BELFORD



Vacant Land
2559m²

Vacant Land with building approved

Lot 1 DP 1205549

Well over half an acre of good level block.

ASKING \$160,000 ONO

BRANXTON



Excellent family home
in very popular street

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

This property has been very well maintained & is on 1011square metres; a quarter acre block.

ASKING \$365,000

East Branxton



Your own little 'Hobby Farm'

A very spacious five bedroom family home + large office; main bedroom with en-suite & walk-in robe. All other bedrooms have good built-ins + fans. There are two large living areas plus a large, under cover, entertainment area.

The property is fenced into 3 paddocks with a good garden shed & dog yard.

There is also a triple lock-up garage. All the benefits of urban living with the benefit of a large semi-rural lot.

ASKING \$675,000

GLENDON BROOK RETREAT!

GLENDONBROOK ROAD, GLENDON BROOK

(Lot 61 DP 1100235)

6.217HA

Features include:-

- 15Acres approx divided into 2 paddocks.
- Double frontage to Webbers Creek (permanent water supply).
- 90% flat country. Bitumen to front gate.
- Weekly rubbish service. 20 min to Singleton & Branxton & 15 min to Gresford.
- 800mm annual rainfall. Fully fenced 2 paddocks + barn area.
- 20% Kikuyu & 80% native grasses (paspalum, rye, couch etc.).
- 13.5m x 10.5m 'American Barn' with 3 equal 3.5m bays & a 3m x10.5m workshop.
- 3xphase 100amp/phase underground power from front gate to barn.
- Barn has ample fluoro lighting & GPO's, ceiling fans, instantaneous gas Hot Water Service, electric upright stove & oven, small kitchen with sink & microwave + pantry.
- Bathroom with shower, toilet (flush), laundry tub.
- Barn has council occupation certificate whilst building new house.
- Council approved in-situ water treatment plant (enviro-cycle).
- Phone cable installed underground to barn but not connected.
- DA approved new residence (Colonial style 4 bedroom with all plans & engineering certificates available).
- Honda pump on Webbers Creek with underground piping to barn.
- 2 x 30,000 litre fresh water tanks with pressure pump.
- 2 x horse stables with underground water from barn & horse proof yards attached.
- All weather gravel road from front gate to barn & Bushfire free.

ASKING \$750,000



We have had an extraordinary number of enquiries for home units & rental properties.



Maria Slusarski

(Known as Mum and Bucpia)
7/4/1926 ~ 6/9/2017



Maria was born on the 7th April 1926 at Jaworon, Poland. She was named Marianna Dobrowolska by her parents Stefan and Corina (Ksenia) Dobrowolski. Maria had four brothers who have all predeceased her. They were Ivan, Michael, Basil, and Peter. Peter, who was three at the time, died while Maria was looking after him when their mother went to get the doctor because of how ill he was. It would not be the last time Maria saw death in her life. When Maria was 16 she was taken by the German Army to work as a cook in a prison farm in

Germany. It was here that Mum met Dad, Stanislaw Slusarski who was also taken by the Germans from his father's butcher shop to work as a butcher at the same prison farm. They came from different towns and may never have met otherwise. Mum used to peel the vegetables extra thick and Dad used to trim the meat extra lean and this is what they ate instead of feeding the pigs. It wasn't easy going and they were both beaten, whipped and at one stage Mum was placed in the Straphlarger Prison for three months as a harsher punishment; this included sewing body bags for German soldiers.

the 27th December 1948. The big trip to Australia took place on the ship 'Nellie' and in 1950 they all landed in Melbourne and were sent to Bonegilla Migrant Camp. From here Mum asked if she could be moved closer to Dad who was assigned to work for the Sydney Water Board. Her transfer application was finally granted after dozens of requests and she was sent with Chris and Wanda to Cowra where Stan jr. was born on the 8th January 1951. She moved so Dad didn't have that far to travel to see them for visits. In 1953 Dad was transferred to work on the new Glenbawn Dam project and Mum again packed up and moved to Greta Migrant Camp to work as a cook and to raise their 3 children. It was here that I was born on the 25th July 1955. With the money Dad sent home to Mum and the money she made as a cook, Mum had saved 600 pounds which was the deposit for their house. The only way they could secure their home was to get their loan through a Solicitor, Brian Buffier who helped many migrants secure their loans through the ANZ bank. Dad eventually went to work at the BHP Newcastle after Glenbawn Dam was finished and Mum worked where she could. They used to get 6 pounds every 3

months child endowment and that was it from the government. Mum worked at the Star Cafe in Greta, as a cook for Bob and Shirley McIlwaine. She also went grape picking, potato picking and eventually landed a job as a cleaner at Bradmill that later became National Textiles at Rutherford where she was injured and did not work again. That didn't stop her from pottering around in the garden. Mum always wished to see her family before she died and we arranged trips to Poland and the Ukraine because the area where Mum grew up was taken from Poland and given to the Ukraine by the Russians and they all had to speak a new language. Mums parents and older brother Ivan died before she got back, but she was happy to catch up with both Michael and Basil and their families. It would have been great to see the look on all their faces when she first arrived. Mum made the hard decision to go into The Mercy Nursing Home Singleton in July 2014 and moved in in August 2014 as she was starting to have problems with her legs and balance, She said it was difficult at first to get used to it but then proceeded to get into the swing of things and enjoyed her time there. I do believe her life was extended by the care she received. Mum has always said she had a good life and

always tried to make the most of what it had to offer. I remember many things as if they were yesterday but two stand out. The first being about Dad and his mate Father Martens our Parish Priest who lived next door. Quite often on a Saturday afternoon the two of them would go to the pub in their shorts and white singlets and watching them go down the hill to the pub Mum said two great friends who cannot understand much about what each other says but after a few beers and a vodka the Pole and the Dutchman would understand each other perfectly as they helped one and other back up the hill. The other was when Dad finally talked Mum into learning to drive and I got the job to teach her. We sat in the car in the backyard getting her used to the peddles and gears. Suddenly the car lurched forward and Mum steered straight at her garden with her beloved roses and ran over quite a few of them. The car stalled and she got out looked at the roses, looked at me and went inside in disgust and never got behind the wheel again. The roses did survive. Mum and Dad are survived by their four Children, 8 Grandchildren and 10 Great Grandchildren. Mum put a lot of time into her Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren and loved them all.

John Slusarski.

The Officer-in-Charge of the prison farm, Hermann Delger, allowed Mum and Dad to marry on the 1st July 1945. After the Second World War, they were put in Displaced Persons Camps in Germany waiting on a migrant application for either Canada or Australia to be approved. Australia won out because of the distance from the war-torn strife area. During this time, they worked hard and had started a family with their eldest daughter Christine, now Chris Lewis, being born on the 13th December 1946. Their second daughter Wanda, now Wanda Dunshay, was also born in Germany on

WHAT CAN YOU MAKE? MONEY FOR CHRISTMAS?

NORTH ROTHBURY TIDY TOWNS TWILIGHT MARKETS

North Rothbury Tidy Towns (encompassing Hanwood, North Rothbury, Tuckers Lane and Huntlee) will be holding a **TWILIGHT MARKET** in the Ayrfield Miners Memorial Park **Sat 25 Nov 2017. 6pm to 8pm.** Mark it on your calendar! Villagers / Visitors will be able to rent a stall site for price of \$25.00 to sell of their handiwork and Christmas gift ideas

- This year too we look forward to having some market stalls with produce from local people and those with connections to our village.

NRTT will run the BEST SAUSAGE sizzle.

PLEASE NOTE NO PARKING ON GRASSED AREAS

NO PRE ARRANGED STALL POSITIONS

We can have twenty stalls...stall holders must prepare for wet weather conditions.

Phone Maureen 49 38 1430 / 0412 45 25 08 to register. (Before 5pm)
18 Mitchell Street North Rothbury. Please pay on registration. BSH 032516 Acc 216685 Ref. TWM (+ your name)

Persons with only a small amount of stuff might join neighbours and friends to get a stall up and running.

WANTED

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LEASE

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

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"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living, Branxton

Recent sales

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

Things You May Not Know About

with Neridah Kentwell

.....GRETA

Eight Good Reasons to Visit Your Local Greta Museum

You can touch and feel the past of the area you live in, in the museum. It is in the objects found from sometimes long ago, and others from more recent years that you may recognise from your parent's or grandparent's use of them. History is in the photos that are everywhere

around the museum, in the stories on the walls and in the books sitting in the bookshelf. And local history is in the very walls that house the museum as they once held the Greta Council Chambers that was built in 1912. You may run into a long-lost friend or relative in the Greta Museum who is researching their family history or looking for you.

For residents who were once

children in the Greta Migrant Camp and thus have a shared past, there is the opportunity to meet there and catch up while looking at the old photos.

The Greta Museum's gift shop has new, 'old style' household goods and toys which make great gifts, especially for the coming Christmas season.

For anyone with a sweet tooth the gift shop also provides old fashioned sweets sold by weight so you can buy as little, or as much, as you want.

The Greta Museum is a community service that opens to benefit the community. Bring in ideas of anything you feel the area would benefit by, that the museum may be able to help with.

By supporting Greta Historical

Museum with occasional visits and small donations or buying gifts or sweets, you help to keep it open for yourself and your children and your grandchildren, thus continuing the flow of your life's history in the town.

Greta Museum is also a good place to bring your out-of-area visitors to visit. European overseas visitors will be interested in the story of the Migrant Camp History and the Displaced Persons from war torn Europe who found a home in Greta. Any Service people will be interested in the previous Army Training Camp and the photo of HMAS Australia whose picture frame is made from the ship's floor boards. Other visitors will appreciate the charm of the small town and its rich history. The Greta Museum's volunteer curator, Neridah, will do her best to help you locate any mention of your ancestors that lived in the area.

The Greta Museum Building's History

The Greta Museum is housed in the former Greta Council Chambers. The first election of the mayor and aldermen of the Greta Council was held in the ante-room of the School of Arts building in 1890, when Greta was in its heyday, i.e. 1750 residents in Greta. (There was only 1025 residents in Greta in 2014.)

It wasn't until 30th July 1912 that the ceremony for the laying of the foundation stone of the present Greta Council Chambers building took place. After the Greta Colliery Fire in 1900 when five lives were lost and the coal mine closed, quite a few residents (including rate payers) left the town looking for work. At the same time the Anvil Creek pit closed.

The Greta Municipal Council was taken over by Kearsley Shire Council in 1934, in the middle of the Great Depression. Greta Council was no longer viable due to so few people being left in town to pay their rates, as it was essentially a mining town then, and little work was to be found. The doors to the building were closed but its current long serving mayor, James Proudfoot, moved over to the new council to become Greta's town representative.

In 1956 Kearsley Shire Council amalgamated with Cessnock Municipal Council to become the Greater Cessnock Municipal Council, which in 1984 was renamed the City of Cessnock Municipal Council.

In the late 1980s/early 1990s, the former Greta Council Chambers re-opened as a Community Services building. Four services were offered then – Community Health, Home Care, Dementia Support, and Community Options. A Baby Health service was offered in the Community Health section. When one of these services left, Greta Museum artefacts slowly filled the room, with lots of help by a local, Val Randall, and other Greta community members. Now it has taken over the whole building. Greta Museum is open most Wednesdays and Saturdays between 11am and 3pm. For more information call/text Neridah on 0427657150 or Peter on 0478896722, or email gretahistoricalmuseum@gmail.com.



WANTED

Croquet players wanted to join friendly, established club at 8 John Rose Avenue, Branxton. Come and try for free, no experience or equipment needed. You'll have lots of fun! Phone Carole on 0249387234 or call at grounds between 9am and 12am on Tuesday or Saturday.

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MILLER PARK SPORTS CLUB
6 MAITLAND RD EAST BRANXTON
4938 1226

GRETA WORKERS

OAKS RESTAURANT

AUSTRALIAN CUISINE

ALL NEW MENU

STEAKS & SCHNITTY'S
\$15.00

**MEAT & HAM
RAFFLES**

**FRIDAY & SUNDAY
'TIL XMAS**

FRIDAY 24th NOVEMBER

"SHOWTIME"

KARAOKE

FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER

ROB WILSON

MEMBER'S BADGE DRAW

WEDNESDAY

22nd NOVEMBER - \$2,700

SUNDAY

26th NOVEMBER - \$700

HAPPY HOUR

MILLER PARK WEDNESDAY

4.00 – 7.00pm

GRETA THURSDAY

4.00 – 6.00pm

\$3.40 a Schooner

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

THURSDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

\$2,800

SUNDAY 26th NOVEMBER

\$5,000

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

THE PARK RESTAURANT

**WEDNESDAY — SUNDAY
LUNCH & DINNER
GREAT FOOD**

RAFFLES

FRIDAY

MEAT TRAYS HAMS

7.00pm

SUNDAY

MEAT TRAYS

& HAMS

6.00pm

MILLER PARK

The New York Times Best Sellers ~ Fiction

1. New this week
TWO KINDS OF TRUTH

by Michael Connelly
While he investigates the murder of two pharmacists, an old case comes back to haunt Harry Bosch.

2. 2 weeks on the list
THE ROOSTER BAR

by John Grisham
Three students at a sleazy for-profit law school hope to expose the student-loan banker who runs it.

3. 5 weeks on the list
ORIGIN

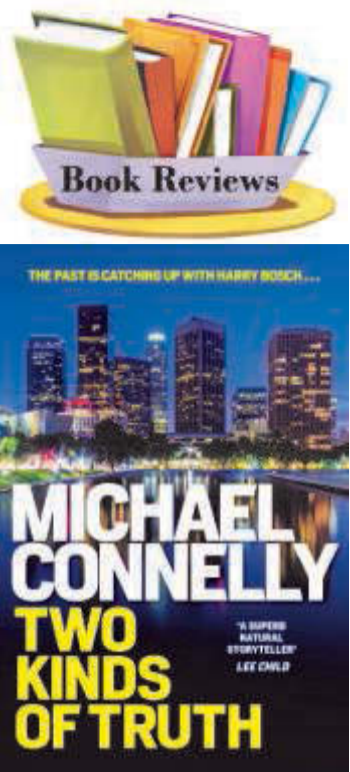
by Dan Brown
A symbology professor goes on a perilous quest with a beautiful museum director.

4. 25 weeks on the list
THE HANDMAID'S TALE

by Margaret Atwood
Men and women in a dystopian future. The basis of the Hulu series; originally published in 1985.

5. 5 weeks on the list
THE SUN AND HER FLOWERS

by Rupi Kaur
A new collection of poetry from the author of "Milk and Honey"



Boston, living off his parent's money while he partied and acted like a celebrity without any real claim to fame. Now, three decades later, Bosch is notified by the DA's office that new evidence has emerged thanks to better technology, which has matched DNA on Skylar's pajama bottoms to another known rapist who died in prison after being convicted of other crimes. The shocking revelation means that Preston Borders will get to walk out of San Quentin, where he'd been awaiting a state execution, alive and free. The shocking revelation means that Preston Borders will get to walk out of San Quentin, where he'd been awaiting a state execution, alive and free.

REVIEW Michael Connelly's *Two Kinds of Truth* & The Top 5 Fiction Bestseller List ~ NY Times

The news doesn't sit well with Bosch, who is still volunteering with the San Fernando Police Department where he uses his nearly four decades of experience looking into cold cases for them — while also mentoring the department's three young detectives. Bosch refuses to sit back and watch Preston Borders walk free, but he has just nine days to prove once and for all that Borders was the real killer. To make matters worse, Border's attorney, Lance Cronyn, filed a habeas corpus petition claiming that Bosch planted evidence during the original investigation that ultimately led to his client's guilty verdict. On top of that, the district attorney's office is working to negotiate a financial settlement with Borders, but that won't necessarily include protection for Bosch — who still isn't on good terms with city officials since he sued to keep a foot in the door with the LAPD years prior —

ABOUT
Michael Connelly (born July 21, 1956) is an American author of detective novels and other crime fiction, notably those featuring LAPD Detective Hieronymus "Harry" Bosch and criminal defence attorney Mickey Haller. His books, which have been translated into 39 languages, have garnered him many awards. Connelly was the President of the Mystery Writers of America from 2003 to 2004. When starting a book, the story is not always clear, but Connelly has a hunch where it is going. The books often reference world events, such as the 1992 Los Angeles riots and the September 11 attacks. Even events that might not be considered as world-changing are included in some of the books, because they are of personal interest to Connelly. For example, in *City of Bones*, Detective Bosch investigates the murder of an 11-year-old boy. This was written during Connelly's early years as a father of a daughter, and it hit close to home. According to Connelly, he didn't mean to write about the biggest fear of his life; it just came out that way. Detective Bosch's life usually changes in harmony with Connelly's own life. When Connelly moved 3,000 miles across the country from Florida, Bosch had some life-changing experiences that sent him in a new direction in the book written at that time, *City of Bones*. According to Connelly, his "real" job is to write about Bosch, and his purpose in bringing McCaleb and Bosch together in *A Darkness More Than Night* was to use McCaleb as a tool to look at Bosch from another perspective and keep the character interesting.




leaving him open to a civil suit that could ruin him financially. In the middle of Bosch's search for a way to keep Borders behind bars and on schedule for his execution, a pharmacist named José Esquivel Senior, and his son, José Junior, are gunned down inside their family-owned pharmacy. The double homicide shakes the small town of San Fernando, which doesn't see many murder cases. The relatively inexperienced detective squad struggles to keep up with the high-profile case, and it doesn't take long for the chief to call on Bosch to take the lead on the investigation — making it his first non-cold case homicide since he started volunteering with the SFPD. The Esquivel pharmacy case takes an interesting turn when Bosch discovers evidence suggesting that the family's pharmacy was part of a much larger pill mill — prompting him to go undercover as a drug addict, something that's both painfully real and emotionally difficult for Harry to deal with. Connelly masterfully

weaves both plotlines together while mixing in several cameos from fan-favorite characters — including Bosch's former partner from his days with the LAPD's Open-Unsolved Unit, Lucia Soto, and Harry's half-brother, defense attorney Mickey Haller. Each plays an important role in helping Bosch as he makes his way towards a shocking discovery that'll surprise even the most observant and seasoned readers, as Connelly pulls off another high-powered twist, proving that he's still the undisputed king of crime. With his reputation on the line and the weight of two major cases threatening to come crashing down around him, Harry Bosch realizes for the first time in his storied career that he might have finally bitten off more than he can chew... This series, now twenty books in, just keeps getting better and better. *Two Kinds of Truth* is some of Michael Connelly's finest work yet, and a real contender for best crime novel of the year.

The past comes back to haunt Harry Bosch in Michael Connelly's *Two Kinds of Truth*, the must-read follow-up to last year's *The Wrong Side of Goodbye*. It's been thirty years since Bosch worked on a homicide case involving the murder of Danielle Skylar, a small-town girl who moved to Hollywood to pursue her dream of becoming a movie star. Instead, she was found naked and strangled to death in her Toluca Lake apartment after being brutally raped. Skylar's case was one of the first Bosch worked with his former partner, Frankie Sheehan, a year after he got his detective badge in 1977. It hadn't taken Bosch and Sheehan long to zero in on Preston Borders, a Los Angeles resident by way of

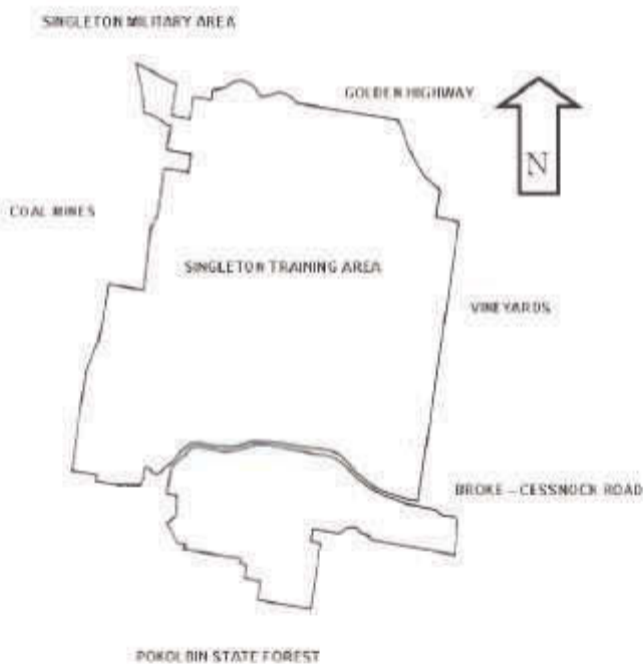
NY Times Best Seller list ~ FICTION



Australian Government
Department of Defence

DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES

WARNING NOTICE



Residents of areas adjacent to Singleton Training Area are warned it is an Army Live Firing Range. Singleton Training Area is described generally as the area bounded to the south by Pokolbin State Forest, to the east by commercial vineyards and to the west by a combination of rural developments and open cut coal mines. The northern boundary is defined by the Golden Highway which separates the range area from the Singleton Military Area. Firing practices using live ammunition are conducted continuously on this training area. Low power laser range finders are also used. Death or serious injury may result from being struck by a projectile. Eye damage may occur when viewing laser beams from within the training area boundary. Unexploded ammunition is extremely DANGEROUS and should NOT be handled, but should be reported immediately to the nearest Police Station or Army unit. No reward will be paid for the reporting of ammunition which may be located on the training area. Persons found trespassing on Army Training Areas will be prosecuted. Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:
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Do you have what it takes to be a White Ribbon Ambassador?



White Ribbon Day is coming up on the 25 November and Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent is calling on passionate people in our community to join him as an Ambassador. White Ribbon, like many great initiatives, started in response to tragedy. On 6 December 1989, a student at the University of

Montreal massacred 14 of his fellow female students which traumatised a nation and brought the issue of violence against women to the forefront of people's minds. What started in Canada by a small group of men is now a global movement of over 57 countries who are working to end violence against women.

The statistics of violence against women in Australia are harrowing to say the least. One in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence by someone known to them, one in five have experienced harassment in the workplace and on average one woman is killed by their partner every week.

The issue also hits closer to home, as in the State Rankings for Crime, the Central Hunter Local Area Command ranks 5th in NSW for domestic violence incidents. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said these tragic statistics highlight the work that needs to be done to prevent violence against women

right here in the Hunter. "The current statistics are unacceptable and as a White Ribbon Ambassador I am passionate about making sure our community is talking about domestic violence, because if we don't talk about it, it simply won't improve." "In the lead up to White Ribbon Day, I have received numerous requests to attend events across the Hunter region and this highlighted the need for more Ambassadors." "For this reason, I am calling on people in our community to join me as a White Ribbon Ambassador to help shift the culture of violence across our region and prevent this tragedy from continuing." "It's also important to work with our young people to help build a better future and I'm proud of the students and teachers at Mount View High who set an example and became a White Ribbon Ambassador school in 2015," added Cr Pynsent. The White Ribbon Ambassador program engages men to make women's safety a man's issue too. The new Ambassador program will launch next month and you can apply to become an Ambassador via the White Ribbon Australia website at www.whiteribbon.org.au.

@ Above Mayor Pynsent centre

Let's talk local

history

CESSNOCK

Library News



Join Carl Hoipo of the Cessnock Historical Society on Thursday 7 December at Cessnock Library for a free local history talk exploring the earliest years of education in Wollombi. Today the right to an education is taken for granted, but it wasn't always so. In the 19th century, particularly for children growing up in regional areas, access to education varied widely. If you were lucky it was a private governess or lessons via correspondence, or perhaps attending a church-run school. Poorer families, particularly rural ones, could often not afford to educate all their children. Instead, they were required to work on the family farm rather than sit in a school room. For adults, the local School of Arts was vital in providing access to educational talks and publications. Carl Hoipo will explore these early years of education in rural Wollombi up to the opening of Wollombi Public School in 1852. Library Services Co-ordinator, Rose-marie Walters said the library team are committed to bringing our local history alive through the telling of these fascinating stories. "This is the final event in our Talking History program for 2017. Make sure you are signed up to the Library newsletter to see the wonderful local history programs which will be offered next year." Talking History: Education in early Wollombi presented by Carl Hoipo will take place from 10am to 12noon on Thursday 7 December 2017 at Cessnock Library. Morning tea will be provided and bookings are essential. Phone 4993 4399 to reserve your place today.



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Raffle 7.15pm



Branxton Golf Club Community Christmas Spectacular
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Friday Raffles
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Family.....\$40.00 Admits 2 Adults & 3 Children (Under 3yrs Free)
Couple.....\$30.00 Admits 2 Adults
Single.....\$15.00 Admits 1 Adult
Each person receives a sausage sandwich and a can of soft drink.



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TAKE SOME GOOD ADVICE

How to Store and Backup Photos, for Those Who Care About Their Images



There are few things sadder than hearing from someone who has just lost all their photos because of a hard drive crash, lost laptop, fire, or even the proverbial lightning strike. By then it's usually too late to do much about it. The time to deal with how you store and protect your digital media and memories is *before* something bad happens.

Those who photograph professionally also have a business need for both accessible photo storage and reliable backups. Best practices change with the technology, and are affected by the size of your image library and your budget, but there are a number of basic principles and techniques that are well worth sharing. **Think of Your Image Library as a Multi-level Waterfall**

Every image library has certain common elements. First, there is working storage—typically the hard drive or drives where you keep the images and videos you're currently working on. Second, there should be at least one level of reliable local backups. Third, for disaster protection you need an offsite copy of your library. We'll walk through each of those, and some tools for managing them, in turn.

Waterfall Level 1: Your Local "Working" Storage In the simplest case, your working storage is the hard drive in your computer. Ideally you want to use an SSD for performance. However, as your image library grows, an SSD may be too expensive to house all your images. That leaves you with some options. You can live with the performance of a traditional hard drive, or manually pull over images to your local SSD and put them back onto a larger drive when you're finished. Recently, though, a third option has become available.

With the advent of high-speed RAID solutions, you can actually get near-SSD speeds from a network attached server (NAS) or directly attached equivalent. If you're going over the network, you'll need to get a NAS that supports 10 Gigabit

Ethernet.

If you're connecting locally, you'll want a high-speed Thunderbolt connection or something equivalent. This works because your NAS isn't tying up your CPU doing disk access, and is able to read data from several disks at once, speeding up transfers. You can configure a RAID locally to get a similar effect, but it will put additional workload on the same CPU you're using to catalog and edit your images. Note that dual Gigabit LAN ports don't really help here. Even if they are bonded, a single client-server connection only runs up to 1Gbps. Since 10-Gigabit switches are still fairly expensive, I've got my high-speed NAS hooked up point-to-point over a private network to my main workstation, with the NAS using a separate Gigabit link to connect to everything else.

Waterfall Level 2: A Reliable Copy of Your Images

If you have a limited-size image library you may be perfectly happy simply adding it to your normal system backup routine (and you do have a system backup routine, don't you?!). However, as libraries get larger, the overhead of backup software packaging all the files and storing them in its own format is painful. Instead, it is usually more practical to simply clone the library file-by-file to another location. That has the big additional advantage that you can easily browse the backup or restore individual files without having to crack open proprietary backup files.

There are a number of tools to help you do this. Two that I use on Windows are Allway Sync and GoodSync. Both are reasonably priced, well maintained, and offer plenty of options. You will need to make some decisions, though. First is whether you want the cloning to be automated. If it is, you don't have to worry about forgetting. But you also risk having the system propagate your mistake if you accidentally mess up a file or folder. Second, you can either do a living clone, so deletions are propagated, or you can just let everything pile up on the backup system, so you can always find even images you've since deleted.

If you are using a NAS, like ones from Synology or QNAP for example, they also offer Sync utilities that work with a variety of client systems. Because my image library is quite important to me, I actually use two NAS units for my local backup copies. The first one is

automatically synced with my working NAS, so I have additional redundancy. The second is only synced manually, which I do only when I'm fairly sure the library is in good shape. Essentially that gives me a Waterfall 2a and 2b. The good news for your budget is performance isn't important for these units, so you can go with a low-cost NAS and inexpensive hard drives.

A Quick Note About RAID Arrays

Any place you have a hard drive with valuable information, it's worth considering making it part of a RAID array. However, not all RAID levels offer protection from a drive failure. RAID 0, for example, simply spreads data across multiple disks for performance. So make sure whichever type of RAID you use provides the level of fault tolerance you're looking for. NAS vendors have also developed their own RAID versions that often offer additional capabilities like dynamic expansion of an existing array, and are usually more user friendly than the traditional RAID levels.

There is also a new filesystem, btrfs, that enhances the more traditional ext4 file system with better error detection and even repair. It isn't available on all NAS models, but is something to look for. I've just started to work with it, but it appears to offer help with the "bit rot" problem that plagues large image libraries.

Waterfall Level 3: Offsite Storage

The simplest kind of offsite storage is hand-carrying a drive or drives with all your images to a friend's house every once in a while. Keep in mind that RAID drive sets (other than mirrored drives) are proprietary to a particular vendor and model, so you probably don't want to rely on a set of them being readable long-term. Drobo promises its drives can be used in different models, so I've used a set of Drobo drives when my image library wouldn't fit on a single drive. These days you can get 10TB hard drives, so for almost everyone a single drive is plenty.

Using the Cloud for Offsite Storage

There are a number of cloud vendors who will be happy to take your money to store your images. Most recently Adobe has gotten into the game by emphasizing Adobe Cloud in the new version of Lightroom. Figure on spending about \$100 per terabyte per year. That adds up. But there are some ways to work around it. One I've been experimenting with is Amazon Drive. For \$60 per year you get not just 1TB of

storage, but unlimited photo storage (including RAW files). That's pretty cool. We'll see how long it lasts though, as one problem with the cloud is the plans keep changing. Microsoft and Google have both offered generous storage plans in the past, only to discontinue them later.

Of course you need to get your images to the cloud to take advantage of one of these systems. You'll want to do the math about how long it will take you to upload all your images. You should also check whether your ISP has a data cap. I learned the hard way that Comcast has put a 1TB-per-month cap on most of its users. There are some hefty charges if you go over that. My workaround is to use the CloudSync utility that Synology provides for my NAS, but set it to a low enough bandwidth limit to stay under 1TB per month. The bad news is that means it will take nearly a year for all my images to be uploaded. I hope they don't change their rate plan by then! In the meantime, I simply keep a set of drives offsite. Some cloud vendors may allow you to send them a drive to seed your storage, but that often comes with its own price tag

Some Tips & Tricks

I Thought Everyone Knew This Trick: I Was Wrong

There's a keyboard shortcut that I use daily. One so common that I thought everyone knew about it. But I found out the other day I was wrong. A friend accidentally deleted a paragraph she was working on and went to open a drop-down menu to see if "undo" was available. I said, "Why not just use Control Z?" She said, "What's that do?"

To be fair, this was a very young friend, who actually doesn't use a PC often. She's more of a smartphone gal. Well, in case you didn't know, pressing the Ctrl key on the keyboard plus the Z key is just about magic. It will undo almost any action on a Windows PC. If you're a touch typist, move the pinky from the a down to the Ctrl and your ring finger from S down to Z

Windows 10: Show File Extensions

Here's a quick to make sure Windows File Explorer always shows the file extensions to let you know what kind of file you're looking at. First, type **File Explorer Options** in your Windows 10 search box and click on the result.

Click the View tab when the File Explorer Options control panel opens. Then scroll down and untick the box beside **Hide extensions for known file types**.

MOVIE REVIEW

THOR: RAGNAROK



bout halfway through "Thor: Ragnarok" — to be more precise, sometime after a bunch of people die, but long before a ton of stuff blows up — Thor does something he should have done at least five movies ago but never had the courage to pull off. He gets a haircut. Sorry, I probably should have issued a warning before giving away one of the story's few legitimately thrilling developments (though I haven't said who administers the haircut). Then again, the busy marketing mavens at Disney have already spoiled it for you, given how liberally they've splashed Chris Hemsworth's freshly groomed mug all over their advertising. You can hardly blame them. It's a handsome mug, certainly much too handsome to be hidden away in electronic-press-kit obscurity, or to be marred any longer by that greasy blond mop that always seemed just one sequel away from devolving into a mullet. I wish I could report that Thor's new-and-improved coiffure were some kind of qualitative metaphor — that "Thor: Ragnarok" is, in fact, the shortest, tidiest, most beautifully maintained movie yet about everyone's favorite hammer-wielding god of thunder from another planet. At 130 minutes, though, the movie actually runs a bit longer than either "Thor" (2011) or "Thor: the Dark World" (2013), and although I lost count at a certain point, it's safe to say that it features more noisy scenes of CGI mass demolition and frenzied inter-dimensional transit than its predecessors combined. It certainly features a lot more jokes. Directed by Taika Waititi, the gifted New Zealand filmmaker known for such goofily singular oddities as "What We Do in the Shadows" and "Hunt for the Wilderpeople," "Thor: Ragnarok" at least has a human pulse and doesn't take itself too seriously. Seriously, it takes seriously is that you know how un-seriously it takes itself.

To some extent, this has become the Marvel Studios way. I wouldn't be the first to point out that "The Avengers," "Guardians of the Galaxy" and their various offshoots are basically punchy, predictable sitcoms in comic-book drag. Or that, at their best, these movies offer an enjoyable antidote to the crushingly pretentious

psychodrama of Bruce Wayne, Clark Kent and other cape-carrying members of the Martha Cinematic Universe. But an excess of levity can quickly become its own kind of leadenness, and for long stretches between its genuinely amusing gags and set pieces, "Thor: Ragnarok," credited to the screenwriting trio of Eric Pearson, Craig Kyle and Christopher Yost, is a bit too taken with its own breezy irreverence to realize when it's time to rein it in. From the opening scene of Thor hanging out in a subterranean cavern, blissfully unconcerned that he's being held captive by an ancient fire demon named Surtur (picture a more eloquent Balrog), you are invited to kick off your clogs, settle in and pay as much or as little attention to the plot as you please. One of the more disarming aspects of "Thor: Ragnarok," at least initially, is that it treats its relatively high-stakes premise as if it were no big deal: Ragnarok, for those audiences not up to speed on their intergalactic Norse mythology, refers to the apocalyptic doom that is one day destined to befall Thor's home kingdom of Asgard. The cataclysm is set in motion by the sudden departure of his father, Odin (Anthony Hopkins), and the equally sudden arrival of Hela (a divinely nasty Cate Blanchett), the evil, all-powerful firstborn sister he never knew he had. What do you do when you find out you're related to someone who answers to the nickname "the Goddess of Death"? In the case of Thor and his treacherously twerpy brother, Loki (Tom Hiddleston, invaluable snide as ever), they have little choice but to gape in awe at their sister's groundbreaking contributions to camp couture, complete with smoky goth eye shadow and a retractable antlered headdress that Maleficent, Chernabog and deer poachers across the universe would envy. Hela swiftly establishes her Asgardian reign of terror, using her limitless arsenal of magical flying spears to turn all who oppose her into giant club sandwiches. Meanwhile, Thor, his once-mighty hammer proving utterly ineffectual against his sister's onslaught, is unceremoniously deposited on a dusty, garbage-strewn planet that wittily underscores the movie's own dumpster-diving aesthetic.

Waititi is both a diligent cinephile and a pop-cultural magpie, and here his bright, gaudy sets, his swirling, psychedelic colors and even the otherworldly synth blasts of Mark Mothersbaugh's score suggest a deliberately disjointed trip down memory lane, evoking inspirations as different as "Flash Gordon," "Star Wars" and "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." Perhaps the most recurrent cinematic influence here is that worse-than-you-remember 1984 chestnut "The NeverEnding Story," whose visually haphazard fantasyland seems trippily of a piece with this one. (Note the friendly rock monster, voiced by Waititi himself.) Not long after he arrives, Thor is reunited with his old buddy the Hulk (played by Mark Ruffalo in his infrequent bursts of Bruce Banner lucidity). The pretext for this development is an epic gladiatorial contest overseen by a preening, sadistic ruler known as the Grandmaster played by Jeff Goldblum, a choice that's typical of the movie's self-consciousness. The joke is all in the casting; if only the actual performance were anywhere near as funny or inspired.

There are bright spots and imaginative touches here and there, including a high-functioning alcoholic mercenary named Valkyrie (the excellent Tessa Thompson) who winds up entangled in the inevitable war for Asgard's survival. But whether Waititi is cross-cutting distractedly between planets, letting Blanchett channel her inner Jean Marsh or trying to give Idris Elba and his orange contact lenses something to do, he never finds a proper groove or holds your attention for more than minutes at a time. Maybe that's not a bug, but a feature. The director has set himself the unenviable task of making a movie that never stops trying to wow you, all while seeming too cool and insouciant to care if you're wowed or not. This viewer, attending a packed Thursday night show, was wowed in fits and starts, but mostly filled with a new, ungrudging respect for Hemsworth. The actor grins, scowls, charms and pummels his way through his latest stand-alone showcase with the kind of good-natured star wattage that might be the most underrated of the movie's many special effects; there are some scenes where I could almost swear Hemsworth's biceps were smiling. This Thor isn't just the god of thunder; he's also the anti-Samson. Losing all that hair can only have magnified his appeal, though time will only tell if it sustains him through the many, many Marvel movies still ahead of him. The never-ending story continues.

4/5



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

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



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



"But if you want to watch TV, you're more than welcome to come over to my place.....I'm sure the wife and kids won't mind."
The highlight of our very short stay down here was a one night getaway without the kids. For all you golfers out there, you will turn green with envy when I tell you that we had two games of golf and an overnight stay at 'Barnboughe Dunes' golf course. Barnboughe Dunes is only four years old yet it has already been rated the number one public access course in Australia and number 35 in the world. It is a seriously challenging course yet its high reputation is fully justified. If you love your golf, you have to make the trip – you'll love it!

An interesting fact about Tasmania is its incessant ability to parenthesise names of towns and cities on street signs. For example, if you were travelling to Hobart from Launceston, the sign will clearly state that Ross is 45km away and (Hobart) 120km away. So every town or city after the closest city, is written and suffocated in these brackets, almost as a precautionary measure. I recognised this mainly on the road to Scottsdale, where tiny towns would pop up in parenthesis as if to suggest Branhholm is 15km but if you really want to or you are an adventurous thrill seeker, you may drive to (Telita) which is 18km away on a side road but we strongly advise you not to. It would be like travelling from Newcastle inland with a sign displaying Kurri Kurri 16km and directly beneath it (Cessnock 25km). Kurri Kurri is a great little place but we strongly advise you to only venture on to Cessnock if you absolutely have to or in response to a state of national emergency!! (I can almost hear the good people of Kurri whispering under their breath that this has a ring of sensibility or even practicality about it).

On our two and a half hour journey north to Bridport, where Barnboughe is situated, we managed to stop at many of the tourism diversions I normally cringe at whilst travelling long distances. None of them stick in my mind, which is not necessarily a bad thing and a reason I suppose they refer to them as diversions. One common theme of Tasmania however, is their love of business related awards. Tasmanian shops proudly display an array of ribbons and certificates and trophies upon mantle pieces dedicated to their particular business. Every bakery you visit has awards for the best cakes or pies, every butcher seems to be the best in Tasmania (and some say Australia) and every seafood place is a well hidden secret with a carpark with a capacity for thousands. A quaint cheese shop not far out of St Helens has no fewer than 50 ribbons pinned to a wall from the local annual cheese awards. They look impressive and give the room a slightly more convincing feel yet upon closer assessment you begin to get the feeling that they seem to be the only participants in the award categories. Tasting the cheese was an interesting experience in itself. Let's just say the judging panel more than likely should judge the home-made whisky awards after the cheese and not before. That's all I'm saying.

Unfortunately a wave has just jumped up and wet my writing pad so I'd better finish up. If any of you see the police, tell them good luck in finding me here in Falmouth. Then again, if they did decide to advance on me, surely they would take great heed when the roadside signs say Scamanda 25km.....(Falmouth 31 km)!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Cheers, Andrew

I am sitting on a rock, overlooking a pristine bay, full of colourful shells and a remoteness only on par with a lost island in the Pacific or perhaps somewhere closer to home – Broke! I have come here specifically to hide from the police as they are looking for me. Put it this way, this is indeed a place I would come if the police were actively seeking my whereabouts. The exact location I talk of is the east coast of Tasmania, in a small community about 30km south of St Helens, called Falmouth.
Falmouth is a special place. Whereas the people from the mainland (as we are affectionately known) go to great lengths to lobby their local councils to continually upgrade public facilities, the people of Falmouth have recently undergone a council survey with startling results. The common thread of thought is that residents do not want their roads sealed, do not want their sidewalks curbed and properly guttered and do not want any street lights erected, despite the council being willing and able. This may sound somewhat strange to an outsider (even though we are talking about Tasmania) yet the beauty and personality of Falmouth rests with this old style charm. I love it here.
So what brings me to this unique part of the world? Basically, my parents-in-law have recently purchased a house here, which strange as it may sound is a rare occurrence. There are no more than about 30 or 40 houses in Falmouth and they are generally kept in families for several generations. My in-laws owned a large highland grazing property between Lake Crescent and Lake Sorrell, aptly named 'Interlaken', which concentrated primarily on very fine wool. Due to the property's sheer size and reputation, it is often identified on maps of Tasmania. I love maps of Tasmania. Hehehehehe!
Getting back to the story, my in-laws sold the property not long ago but wanted to keep their strong Tasmanian connections. Falmouth is, in short, a haven for the who's who of mid-Tasmanian agriculture. A great majority of the houses in Falmouth are owned by farmers in and around Outlands, Ross and Bothwell, all the way through to Longford. It is not unlike communities such as Scone and Merriwa having holiday houses at Terrigal. Why you would want a beach house in Tasmania to begin with is a question that will plague me forever, although the people who frequent Falmouth think it is God's country.
Regardless of the bullish jokes we mainlanders place upon Tasmania and its people, it is without doubt, one of the more beautiful parts of our country. Tasmania exudes an underlying aura which unintentionally penetrates the soul. It's an unidentifiable vibe. To take a line from the Aussie flick The Castle... "it's Mabo.....it's the constitution.....it's Mabo.....it's the vibe... yeah, it's the vibe!" Due to my love of surfing, in the very precious time we have away from the vineyard and winery, I like to spend it in warm locations with great surf. To be brutally honest, I normally vigorously protest the antiquated idea of a trip to Tassie and drag it out all the way to the airport with a sullen and disinterested look on my face. Once arriving however, I feel instantly at ease and at peace with the world. Tasmanians are notoriously laid back and I've come to understand why. The 'Austar' chap came over this morning to replace the satellite dish and found he needed another part before he could reassemble it.
"I'll get on to it right away," he quipped, "I'll be back down this way on Friday week or the following week after that or at the latest by July." There was clear frustration on my in-laws faces which the guy sensed.

I live on Dalwood road East Branxton. I cannot believe the amount of speeding drivers on this road everyday. It's a 50km residential area. People that come flying up and down this road wouldn't like me flying around the back streets past your place like you all do. How about being a bit more respectful of others ... to the drivers of the coal trucks that come bouncing down the road all times of the DAY and NIGHT wake up to yourselves ... slow down everybody before someone gets KILLED. I HAVE ALOT OF CARS ETC., ON VIDEO speeding, The Police have informed me I only have to hand it over.

To Lyn & John at Branxton IGA ~ thank you for your very generous donation of a 'Christmas Hamper' & ham for a North Rothbury Tidy Town raffle. The Raffle will be drawn at their Twilight Markets next Saturday evening. They would also like to invite everyone to attend the markets which starts at 6pm and finishes at 8pm. The venue is Ayrfield Miners Memorial Park. There is a good array of markets & plenty of food on offer, just in time for Christmas.

To the self appointed, so called, Mayor of North Rothbury; your recent rant published in The Advertiser, The Newcastle Herald & The Maitland Mercury about the alleged dangers that the North Rothbury community is facing concerning your opinion that the old Ayrfield Colliery is a 'time bomb' and that it is a very dangerous situation. What a lot of crap! The article was poorly written & void of any expert opinion ... all you have done is scare the crap out of the community for very little reason. We'll just add it to your other lousy predictions.

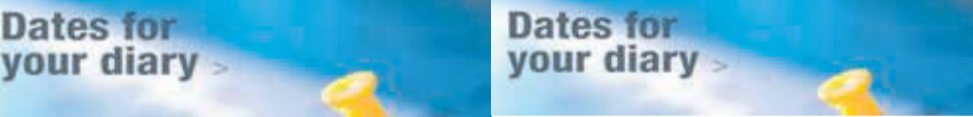
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- Computer Tuition:** From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908
 - Computer Services:** Repairs, Sales & Service. Phone repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128
 - For Rent:** Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460
 - For Sale:** 1993 Ford Laser. No rego. Good for spare parts \$100 Phone Neil 0422 874 634
 - For Sale:** Old collectable rabbit traps from \$10ea. P: 0421 102 711
 - For Sale:** Free range eggs. \$4/doz Greta 0412 976 809
 - Guitar Lessons:** Branxton. Limited places available. Please inquire soon. P 4938-3380 or 0409-038-271.
 - Microchipping:** Cats and Dogs, all sizes and breeds, will come to you. \$20 per animal, please call Angela on 0431649947.
 - Mobile Travel Agent:** 20 yrs experience. Will come to you for expert holiday planning. Obligation free appointments. P: 1300 365 68 (ext 595) M: 0404 831 867 W: www.mtatravel.com.au/sfenton E: sfenton@mtatravel.com.au
 - Fitness Classes:** 'Core & Strength'. Get fit. Classes are 6am and 10am Tuesday, 6am and 8am Thursday, at Miller Park Branxton \$12/class. Text/Phone Louise P: 0439 383 478
 - Riding Lessons:** 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:** HAVE UTE WILL CARRY. Need something moved? Phone Phil on 0447 381989
 - Work Wanted:** Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292
 - Work Wanted:** Lawn Mowing; best rates ~ large or small area. P: 0459 123 397
 - Work Wanted:** Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601
 - Work Wanted:** HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701
 - Work Wanted:** Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567
 - Work Wanted:** Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081
 - Work Wanted:** Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.
 - Work Wanted:** experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804
 - Work Wanted:** Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153
 - Work Wanted:** Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989
 - Work Wanted:** Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards ~ rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538
- GO TO FOR FURTHER DETAILS
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/>
For Sale: Buggy Trailer: Electric Brakes/New Led lights/ New wheel bearings/3 New tyres plus another spare rim .../ Internal measurements for buggy area are Width 2210mm Length 3640mm Drawbar 1450mm/Great to tow and light/ NSW rego \$2000.00 Ph 0447 179 556

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



- Thur 23 Nov** ~ Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group meeting at Cessnock Leagues Club 3pm. Guest speaker Dr Martin- Calvary Mater Hospital. Topic: What's new in Radiotherapy for Prostate Cancer, how we are reducing the number of treatment visits required, increasing accuracy, combining treatments with newer drugs and exploring new imaging. Meeting open to the public. Cost Free. Contact. Barry or Rose 49904554.
- Fri 24 Nov** ~ Singleton's annual community festive celebration John Street. Singleton Council is partnering with Rotary of Singleton, Singleton Business Chamber and Yancoal for a community Christmas party complete with roving performers, magicians, face painting, Christmas elves and more from 5pm. There'll be markets for the adults, a jumping castle to keep the kids entertained and members of Singleton Rotary Club will be cooking up a barbecue to keep everyone's stomachs happy.
- Sat 25 Nov** ~ Nth Rothbury hosting 'Twilight Market' at Ayrfield Park. 6pm ~ 8pm.
- Tue 28 Nov** ~ Branxton Lions Club Christmas Seniors Dinner at RSL Hall Greta; 6pm start
- Thur 30 Nov** ~ Branxton Public School P&C's Carols by Torchlight
- Fri 1 Dec** ~ Cessnock City Councils' "Carols in the Park". The FREE event is the perfect way to kick off celebrations for the festive season with markets, music and fireworks. The night will finish with a magical fireworks display, making for a perfect grand finale after a night of festive fun. Residents are encouraged to pack a picnic blanket and picnic to enjoy the evening's celebrations. Gates open at 5:30pm
- Tues 5 Dec** ~ Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting; 4pm at Branxton Golf Club
- Tues 5 Dec** ~ Branxton Lions Club Christmas Seniors Dinner at Branxton Community Hall; 6pm start
- Thur 7 Dec** ~ Join Carl Hoipo of the Cessnock Historical Society on Thursday 7 December at Cessnock Library for a free local history talk exploring the earliest years of education in Wollombi. Talking History: Education in early Wollombi presented by Carl Hoipo will take place from 10am to 12noon on Thursday 7 December 2017 at Cessnock Library.
- Fri 8 Dec** ~ 2017 Christmas Spectacular at Branxton Golf Course
- Sun 10 Dec** ~ Branxton Public School P&C Maitland Bunnings BBQ fundraiser
- Mon 11 Dec** ~ Nominations close for Cessnock City Council Australia Day Awards. Official nomination forms and selection criteria can be found on Cessnock City Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/australiaday. There are a number of award categories to choose from including Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Event, Sports, Environment, Heritage, along with Achievement and Appreciation Awards.
- Tue 12 Dec** ~ Branxton Public School Presentation Day
- Tues 12 Dec** ~ Branxton/Greta CWA Staff Room, old St Brigid's School, Station St, Branxton
- Thurs 14 Dec** ~ Branxton Public School Sports Presentation
- Sun 17 Dec** ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm **CANCELLED**
- Sun 17 Dec** ~ The Tatts Hotel Fishing Club Annual Presentation at the Tatts Hotel from 1pm. From this point 2018 memberships will be available \$30 for Adults, or \$50 family.



Ⓚ Packages for the troops

Branxton Public School

Branxton Public School's PBL Assembly and reward afternoon took place in Week 5. Many students received their Power Pup medallions at the assembly, a huge achievement! Rewards consisted of craft, disco, sports, library games and computers and STEM activities. Fun for all!

Our school collected items to make care packages for the troops serving overseas. Altogether we were able to put together eighteen boxes which will be sent off in time for Christmas.

Congratulations to our Year 5 students who put themselves forward for leadership positions in 2018. Year 5 chose ten students to present their speeches to the whole school. All students did an excellent job and we now wait until Presentation Day to find out who our leaders will be.

Many Stage 3 students attended a League Tag day at Singleton in Week 6. Students enjoyed the opportunity to run around and have some fun with new friends. Thank you to Mr Breard for organising.

Kindergarten Orientation has been completed and we look forward to seeing all those fresh, happy faces back in 2018. This year's Kinder students enjoyed the time with their Buddies doing fun activities with Miss Towns and Mr Foster.

Mr Johanson, Mr Foster, Josh and Mr Breard are still growing their moustaches and so far Josh is ahead by a whisker. The winner will be judged by Mrs Maier on Thursday the 30th of November and will receive bragging rights for having the best moustache at Branxton Public School. Donations go to the Movember Foundation.

Not long now until the annual Branxton Public Carols by Torchlight! There will be student performances, costume prizes for all, \$2.50 sausage sizzle, glow products stall, face painting, lucky door prize, drawing of the Christmas hamper raffles and a visit from Santa assisted by the North Rothbury Rural Fire Brigade. It will be a great community event.

Dates for the Calendar
 Thursday 30th November – P&C's Carols by Torchlight
 Sunday 10th December – P&C Maitland Bunnings BBQ fundraiser



Ⓚ PBL 1



Ⓚ Leadership candidates



Ⓚ PBL



Ⓚ PBL 3



Ⓚ Kindergarten with their 'Buddies'



Ⓚ League Tag Day at Singleton

The students & staff of Branxton Public School together with the Branxton Public School P & C Association bring to Branxton..

Carols by Torchlight

Thursday 30th November 2017

6.00pm – Gates open / BBQ starts
 6.30pm – A visit from Santa
 7.00pm – Student performances on stage

Entry is \$2 per individual and \$5 per family with fantastic Lucky Door Prizes!

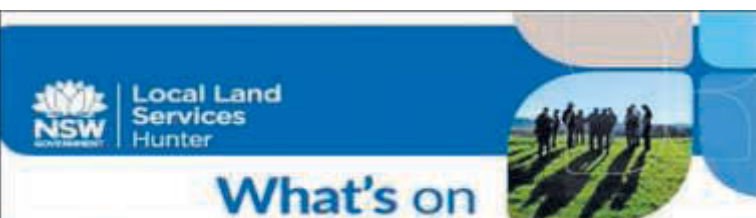
A HUGE Christmas Hamper Raffle! Tickets on sale soon.

Dress up in Christmas themes: elf, reindeer, angel, tree, santa, wise men, barn animal, etc
 A prize for all in costume!

On Sale:
 Sausage sizzle / BBQ
 Drinks and lollies
 Glow hair, necklaces, bracelets, teeth, rings, etc

Face painting!

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



Extra \$500,000 for the war against weeds

Hunter Local Land Services is working with local government and public land managers across the region to tackle problem weeds over the next five years. The Hunter Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan developed by the Hunter Regional Weeds Committee is now being implemented. The plan signifies a new level of partnership on weed control represents the commitment of Hunter Local Land Services, local government authorities and public land managers across the region to support landholders address the economic and environmental impacts of weeds. Hunter Regional Weeds Committee Chair Daryl Dutton says weed management is everyone's responsibility, and the plan will help guide the community to work together across tenure to achieve better control outcomes.



Fire weed

"Everyone has a responsibility to meet their biosecurity obligations and weed management is a crucial part of general biosecurity duty," Mr Dutton said. "This plan will enable the community and industry in the Hunter to respond to future weed challenges and help develop a strong, biosecurity-aware culture." The plan outlines how government, the community and industry will work together to identify, minimise and manage high risk invasive weeds, across tenure. The emphasis is on preventing new weeds from entering the region and eradicating, containing and managing the spread of existing weeds.

"We will support landholders to manage the weeds they have with the best information we can provide, but we must prioritise preventing new weeds from taking hold in our region," said Mr Dutton. Hunter Local Land Services has allocated an additional \$200,000 for strategic weed eradication projects and programs targeting weeds that affect agricultural production. Hunter Local Land Services has also allocated \$296,000 for programs targeting weeds, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, Catchment Action NSW and Hunter Catchment Contributions. This extra investment is on top of the \$1.2 million Weed Action program funding from the NSW government.

"It is far more economic to prevent new weeds coming in than to try to get rid of every weed we have. "For example we want to prevent Chilean needle grass and Serrated tussock from establishing in the region, so they are Regional Priorities for Prevention."

DAIRY SPECIFIC JOHNE'S DISEASE (JD) AND BIOSECURITY PLANNING INFORMATION SESSION

Local dairy farmers are invited to a Johnes Disease and biosecurity planning information session at Harrington on 27 November.

The management of Johnes Disease and the Dairy Assurance Score has undergone a number of changes over the last 18 months. Further refinements have recently been made, to bring the Johnes dairy score in line with the beef scoring system. These updates have resulted in the soon to be released Johnes Dairy Assurance Score - to be called the J-DAS.

It is expected the J-DAS will make it easier for producers to calculate their score, and also addresses some of the difficulties that farmers may have experienced implementing previous elements of the DAS. Please come along to hear directly from Kathryn Davis, a Dairy Australia working group member responsible for the J-DAS updates and improvements.

This is great opportunity to ask questions and clarify your understanding of J-DAS and how the new score system can apply to your farm.

Hunter Local Land Services District Veterinarian Lyndell Stone will provide a snapshot of Johnes Disease in the Hunter.

This session will also outline dairy producer exemptions concerning biosecurity planning and the recent LPA /NLIS changes that all red meat producers must comply with.

This session will be delivered by Hunter Local Land Services and Dairy Australia with the support of Mid Coast DAGS and Mid North Coast Women In Dairy. The session is open to all dairy farmers, veterinarians and their supporting businesses.

Details:
Harrington community centre on Monday 27 November 2017 from 10am to 12.30 followed by lunch. Please RSVP by 20 November to Megan Nicholson 0427 567347 or Marelle Robinson 0488593093

Hunter to host community briefing sessions on carp control

Hunter region residents are invited to attend a community briefing session hosted by the National Carp Control Plan (NCCP) and Hunter Local Land Services. The community briefing session will be held at Maitland and Muswellbrook and will provide participants an opportunity to hear first-hand from the NCCP and Hunter Local Land Services, as well for residents to contribute feedback to the plan.

The NCCP is investigating ways to control carp centered on the use of a species-specific virus known as Cyprinid herpesvirus 3 (the carp virus) as a biocontrol agent, and to ensure that risks associated with its potential use are identified and mitigated. Operating through the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) on behalf of the Australian Government, the \$15 million initiative will provide detailed information to enable governments to make a well-informed decision on the best approach for carp control at the end of 2018.

NCCP National Coordinator Matt Barwick says waterways are the lifeblood of many rural and regional communities and they need to be rehabilitated.

"We encourage all members of the community to participate in this briefing session and ask any questions they may have in relation to the plan.

The details of the sessions are:

6 pm - 8 pm, 4 December - **Maitland** at Best Western Hunter Gateway, 11 Denton Park Dr. RSVP (02) 4930 1030

6 pm - 8 pm, 5 December - **Muswellbrook** at Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music, 80 Bridge St, RSVP (02) 6540 2400

DETAILED SALEYARD REPORT



Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton Report date 15/11/17

Consignments nearly doubled as the quality in the penning remained mixed. The bulk entered the younger categories, with the cow numbers reducing by half compared to the previous market. There were few export weight steers in the penning, with the majority of the cattle suitable for the restockers and feeder orders. There were pens of high yielding and well-muscled younger drafts suitable for the butchers in the offering. The over 200kg vealer steers and heifers to the restocking orders were, on average, plainer for quality and breed this week and prices eased 12c to 15c/kg. The steers ranged from 292c to 388c and the heifer portion made from 280c to 334c/kg. An extra restocking order improved light weight yearling steers, which sold 8c dearer to top at 340c, while the heavier drafts remained close to firm to make from 280c to 312c/kg. The yearling heifers sold at similar prices, with quality contributing to some price variations in places. Heavy weight grown steers to slaughter were mainly unfinished, with the bulk being lighter weights and suitable for the feeder orders. The export weight heifers topped at 270c/kg. Cows maintained firm prices. Plainer 2 score cows averaged 204c, while the better finished heavy weights ranged from 230c to 232c/kg.

Score report date 14/11/17

Consignments increased significantly and quality was mixed, with some well-bred cattle along with plainer lines. The bulk entered the younger categories, while there was a good penning of 180 cows and an increased yarding of older steers. The usual buyers competed in a firm market, with breed and quality the contributing factor in price changes. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers ranged from 294c to 390c, as the heifer portion to the same orders lifted 3c, making from 284c to 348c/kg. Yearling steers and heifers sold at similar prices, with the medium weight steers to the restockers ranging from 276c to 312c, as the heifers sold from 278c to 329c/kg. The prime young cattle to the butchers sold to solid competition, with the best topping at 346c/kg. Heavy weight grown steers to slaughter sold from 244c to 280c, with the lighter end to the lot feeders making from 236c to 306c/kg, depending on age. Cows remained firm to 6c dearer, with the plainer 2 scores averaging 210c/kg. The better covered heavy weights ranged from 215c to 234c/kg.

TRLX Tamworth report date 13/11/17

The overall numbers showed an increase with large supplies of yearling feeder cattle. Steers were particularly well supplied. Well finished grown cattle were also presented in good numbers. The overall quality of the offering was good with the majority of the cattle showing condition that reflects the good seasonal conditions. The full field of regular buyers were in attendance, however there was less processor competition. Despite the increased supply, demand for all classes of young cattle was high. Market trends were generally firm to dearer. Medium weight yearling steers to restock and feed sold as much as 10c/kg dearer. One major lotfeeder continued to purchase backgrounders to put in the paddock, taking advantage of the seasonal conditions to improve weights and sure up forward supplies. Heavy weight feeder steers remained firm. There was little change in the market for medium weight yearling heifers to restock and feed, while the heavy weights sold to a dearer trend. There were very few heifers purchased by trade buyers.

Heavy grown steers sold on a firm to dearer market trend, up to 4c/kg.

There was some price change noted as a result of increased weight and age. There was little change in the market trend for grown heifers. The cow market saw little but quality related price change in an otherwise firm market.



Australian Thoroughbred

Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Service

Darley sires trifecta 2017 Cox Plate

When the John Camilleri (Fairways Thoroughbreds) bred, Coolmore foaled, reared and sold Chris Waller trained Winx (Street Cry (Ire) - Vegas Showgirl, by Success Express sire Al Akbar) won the \$3million Cox Plate at Moonee Valley on Saturday, she set a new track record (2:02.94s), equaled Kingston Town's record sequence of three wins in the race, recorded her 22nd win in succession and took her earnings to \$15,627,925, a new Australian record. Three Times Melbourne Cup winner and 2005 Cox Plate winner Makybe Diva had established the previous record, \$14,526,685, held the old mark for ten years and Winx herself the track record, 2:02.98, one set when she won the Cox Plate in 2015.

Winx got the biggest scare in her illustrious career in this year's Cox Plate, scrambling home by only a long neck from fast finishing Humidor, a Darren Weir trained, Blake Shinn ridden 5yo gelding who on September 16 won the Makybe Diva (1600m) at Flemington.

Raced by a big syndicate, including his breeders, Jomara Bloodstock Ltd, Humidor was bred in New Zealand after the mating at Darley's Kelvinside Stud

near Aberdeen, NSW of their shuttling Galileo sire Teofilo (Ire) with Zalika, a Zabeel

grandaughter of Habiti, a half-sister to wonder broodmare Eight Carat.

Galileo also played a role in the production of Folkswood, the English visitor who finished third in this year's Cox Plate. Godolphin raced, Darley UK bred, he is by Exceed and Excel, a dual hemisphere used Australian, and from Magic Nymph (Ire), a mare by Galileo.

Each of the three placegetters in the Cox Plate are by Darley dual hemisphere used sires, Street Cry (deceased), Teofilo and Exceed and Excel.

Best sprinter in the land

Redzel proved himself the best sprinter in the land and capped off a big day for



Inglis graduates on both sides of the Tasman with a courageous all-the-way victory in today's Group 1 Darley Sprint (1200m) at Flemington. Fresh from his win in The Everest at Randwick a month earlier, Redzel (Snitzel x Millrich) used his wide gate to his advantage down the Flemington straight, crossing to the outside fence and running his rivals into the ground. The victory gave his Arrowfield sire Snitzel another Group 1 win, much to the delight of Stud boss John Messara. "If you want to know what Snitzel is all about, Redzel is all you need to watch - championship speed, superior class and a great competitive spirit," Messara said.

"What excites me most about Snitzel is that he appreciates quality in his mares and Redzel's dam is a good example, Millrich was a Group-winning two-year-old and already a Group producer when she visited Snitzel."

Redzel is a graduate of the 2013 Inglis Australian Bloodstock-Select Weanlings Sale, where Marquee Stud purchased him for \$45,000.

He was sold by PPB Advisory as Receivers and Managers of his breeder, Lee Fleming Thoroughbreds. Today's win was Redzel's sixth consecutive and took his career earnings to \$7.8m.

© Redzel - Grant Courtney

SPORTS RESULTS



with Mark Bercini

Cricket Report – Week 6
Week 6 of district cricket saw Greta/Branxton record victories in first, second, third grade blue and third grade white, with fourth grade going down in a cliff-hanger of a finish. First grade avenged the disappointment of their first

round loss when they disposed of Wine Country by seven wickets in the return match at Miller 1. Winning the toss and electing to bat in pristine conditions, Wine Country never got out of second gear, and were all out inside 26 overs for 106. A rarity happened in the Wood Ducks' innings, with drinks being called after 16 overs due to an intruder in the form of a red-belly black snake invading the pitch. The unpretentious reptile was calmly removed from the field by Greta/Branxton third grader Jamie McNamara, and play got back underway shortly after. Martin Shearer was the pick of the Greta/Branxton attack with an expensive 4-33 off 5.1, with skipper Brent Watson (2-21 off 9), Nathan Holz (2-18 off 7) and Alex Walkling (2-23 off 4) picking up a brace of wickets each. The Greta/Branxton run chase started a little shakily,

but the experience of incumbent association player of the year Josh Dagg (47no) and Barry Richards (24no) guided the home side to victory. They reached the target in the 21st over having lost just the three wickets. Greg Andrews also made use of the limited time he had in the middle with 21. After a fairly ordinary start to the season, second grade got back on track with a confidence-boosting 22-run victory over Mulbring at Mulbring. On a belter of a wicket Greta/Branxton erased the memory of their last start batting woes by posting 6-218 from their forty overs. Chris Redmond made 51, skipper Peter Mackenzie notched 37, with Darren Holz (35), Brett Bridge (28), Anthony Brunsdon (20) and Pat Andrews 17no all scoring freely. In a tight finish Mulbring were all out for 196, with Mark Peace the pick of the Greta/Branxton attack with 4-40 off 9. Pat Nugent (3-45 off 8) and Hayden Regan (2-30 off 5) also took vital wickets. Third grade Blue recorded

another comfortable victory, this time defeating Denman Hotel by 55 runs at Baddeley 3. Batting first Greta/Branxton made 162, with Andrew Wright leading the way at the top of the order with 68. Opening partner Ben Lahey was next best with 30, with James Shoulders jnr making 27. Denman Hotel were all out for 107 in reply, with Steve Peace (3-23 off 9), Adam Holmberg (3-11 off 7) and leg spinner Jason Varley (3-42 off 7) taking a treble each. Third grade White continued their good recent run of form with a 46-run victory over Wine Country at Miller 2. Adam Kerry (60) and Will Young (17) were the main contributors in Greta/Branxton's total of 136. Wine Country were all out for 90 in reply, with Connor Thomson pressing his claims for a promotion to second grade with 5-22 off 10, with Jamie McNamara chipping in with 2-25 off 10. Fourth Grade were edged out by 2 wickets to Wine Country in a cliff-hanger at St. Phillips. Batting first Greta/Branxton posted a modest

9-139 from their forty overs. James Thomson timed the ball nicely for a well-made half century (58), with Ethan Allerton (16), Ben Ciba (15) and Lachlan Prestwich (12no) making starts. Wine Country achieved the target with just three balls to spare after losing 8 wickets. Same Hines (2-13 off 6) and Thomson (2-8 off 6) took a brace of wickets each, with Ciba (1-24 off 10), Reece Fletcher (1-58 off 10), Patrick Smith (1-18 off 5) and Cooper Wilton (1-12 off 4) picking up one each. **Cricket Report – Week 7**
Week 7 of district cricket as has been the case on many occasions this year was vastly affected by rain, with just the two matches completed at Miller Park in which First and Third grade both recorded important victories. First grade jumped into outright third on the ladder with a convincing six-wicket victory over Peden's Hotel on Miller 1. Greta/Branxton skipper Brent Watson won the toss and asked Peden's to have a bat first. This proved to be the correct call for a change, as

the Piranhas were skittled inside 18 overs for just 68. Nathan Holz again continued his press for a permanent new-ball gig with 4-17 off 7, with Martin Shearer chipping in with 2-9 off 3. Greta/Branxton reeled in the target inside 14 overs in reply after losing four wickets. In an unfamiliar role at the apex of the order Cliff Newling played some neat strokes square of the wicket on the off side in his unbeaten 26, with Josh Dagg (10no) ensuring the home side received an early shower. In complete contrast to the rest of the district, the only water Miller Park received was when curator Chris Charnock put the sprinklers on at the completion of the match. On Miller 2 Third Grade Blue continued to build momentum and made it three wins on the trot after overcoming Supporters by 5 wickets. Supporters batted first and posted a very competitive 7-180 from their mandatory 40 overs. Ben Lahey (3-40 off 9) and leggy Jason Varley (3-43 off 10) were the main contributors for Greta/Branxton with a

treble of wickets each. Greta/Branxton reached the target in a canter inside 33 overs after losing just the 5 wickets. Lahey completed an exceptional all-round game with an unbeaten 70. Skipper Sean Wright was next best with 36, meanwhile Reuben Andrews showed his old man how to preserve his wicket properly with a timely 25 in great support to Lahey. Fourth grade got underway against Peden's Hotel at Turner Park, but play was called to a halt due to the rain after 17 overs with Greta/Branxton in a strong position at 2-113. Reece Fletcher was unbeaten at the crease on 45, with Anthony Lawrence notching 28 in his first game for the club after a long lay-off from the game. Second Grade and Third Grade White were both washed out before a ball was bowled. **Points Tables**
First Grade Mulbring 34, Supporters 34, Greta/Branxton 33, Wine Country 30, Bellbird 26, Peden's Hotel 25. **CRICKET**

CONT NEXT PAGE

Park, Oaks Cypress lakes Resort, Estate Tuscany, Pokolbin Village, Hermitage Lodge, Chateau Elan, Spicers Vineyards Estate, Grand Mercure, Hunter Valley Resort, Harrigan's Irish Pub & Accommodation, Potters Hotel Brewery Resort, Leisure Inn and Wine Country Catering & Events. Pledges should be made before the 22nd November by calling Jo Thomas at the Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association on 02 4990 0900. **GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN WINE COUNTRY.** A seminar for the wine, food, beverages and services sector highlighted programs and assistance to help grow our businesses was held in Wine Country. The Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association and NSW Department of Industry worked together to host this seminar which was held on Thursday 16 November 2017 at Estate Tuscany, Pokolbin. It got underway from 9.45 am going through to 12.30 pm. There were presentations from key government agencies, industry groups and service providers. After the presentations, an opportunity to speak directly with representatives and obtain further information was applauded. The seminar aimed to build awareness of funding opportunities and assistance that is available to grow businesses in the Wine Country area. Cheers, Jo

with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

THE HUNTER VALLEY WINE & TOURISM ALLIANCE HAS ALMOST REACHED \$300,000 IN PLEDGES FROM GENEROUS LOCAL BUSINESSES

The Hunter Accommodation Association (HAA) has recently contributed \$70,000 towards the Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Alliance's proposed major destination marketing campaign. The Alliance (Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association, Cessnock City Council & Singleton Council) are aiming for contributions of \$300,000, which, together with matching money from Destination NSW, will result in a \$600,000 major destination campaign. Cessnock City and Singleton Councils together have pledged \$80,000 with Wine Country businesses and wine and tourism operators pledging a generous \$110,000 towards the campaign. The \$70,000 contribution under the banner of the HAA goes a considerable way to achieving the overall goal and it is greatly appreciated. The HAA represents Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley, Kirkton

DECEMBER

ENTERTAINMENT

FRI 01	BARRACUDA 8.30PM
SAT 02	EVERGREEN 8.30PM
FRI 08	SOUNDBABOUT 8.30PM
SAT 09	KRISTY JAMES 8.30PM
FRI 15	PRESIDENTIAL SWEET 8.30PM
SAT 16	STEEL CITY 8.30PM
FRI 22	LITHIUM 8.30PM
SAT 23	JADE HOLLAND BAND 8.30PM
SUN 31	OUTLAW AVENUE 8.30PM



-Ann Robertson was 3rd with 32 points c/b. Ball winners were: Christine Tancred 32, Jenny Chambers 31, Brenda Mannix 27 and Dale Hamilton 27. Next week the Ladies will play individual Stableford.

Thursday 9th November Ray Hodson has continued in fine form to take top honours in the Vets with a solid 40 point return from Garry Marsden 2nd with 39 and Keith Dunlop getting back toward his best with 38 points and 3rd place. Ball winners were: David Peel 37, Steve Piggot 37, Bruce Chambers 36, Garry Hedges 35, Dave Fury 35, Ken Harris 35, Ken Springbett 34, Ian Newell 34 and Michael Watson 34 on countback. Nearest-the-Pins went to David Peel (3rd, 8th & 10th) John Carmody (4th) and Kevin Smith (17th). Next week the Vets will play Stroke.

Saturday 11th November Ideal conditions greeted the Medley Stableford field on Saturday with only a few able to take advantage of the day. A Grade went to Steve Piggot with 37 points from Belmont Visitor Ryan Stig with 34, B Grade to Ken Springbett with 38 points from Howlong GC visitor Wade Horner with 37 and C Grade to Russ Lightfoot with 'round of the day' a great 41 points from evergreen Colin Mills on 38. Ball winners were:

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE
Second Grade Bellbird 40, Chelmsford Hotel 36, Supporters 36, Mulbring 32, Denman Hotel 29, Greta/Branxton 28, Peden's Hotel 28, Wine Country 25.
Third Grade Bellbird 40, Greta/Branxton Blue 39, Greta/Branxton White 36, Laguna 35, Denman Hotel 29, Wine Country 26, Peden's Hotel 25, Supporters 23.
Fourth Grade Greta/Branxton 33, Mulbring 33, Wine Country 33, Peden's Hotel 29, Supporters 29, Bellbird 25.
Club Championship Bellbird 294.57, Supporters 289.73, Greta/Branxton 288.80, Wine Country 249.10, Mulbring 246.03, Peden's Hotel 235.13.

C Grade Winner: Geoff Jones 39pts
 C Grade R/UP: Kevin Walton 37pts
 NTP 2nd Michael Simpson 245cm; 4th Len-nard Porter 108cm; 9th John Parr 540cm; 13th Steve Eccles 788cm
 Ball comp – 33pts c/b
 Neil Jordan has "turned back time" after displaying some of his old form to win Saturday's Stableford Competition with an outstanding 42 pts from his 13 handicap. Neil was once a single figure handicap player and is now showing his ability to be there again. His form throughout 2017 has brought his handicap down from 17 to 13 with this round ensuring another stroke may be lost. Troy McCaw continued his excellent form from this year to finish runner up. Bobby Hale played beautifully to win B Grade with his 40 pts. Dr Jeckyll obviously turned up as he played consistently well all day. Robert Miller finished runner up with a very pleasing 39 pts. Geoff Jones's 39 pts was good enough to win C Grade with Kevin Walton runner up with his 37 pts. The shot of the day belonged to Lennie Porter on the 4th, finishing just over a metre away. 33 pts was needed to win a ball. All players are reminded that the Club's Presentation Night is only 2 weeks away where finger food and drinks for 3 hours are provided so please save this date.

Branxton Lady Golfers

The last two weeks results are:
 Wednesday 1st November
 3 clubs and a putter
 Winner on 35 points Jan Scobbie on count back from both Ruth McCarthy and Trish McMillan
 NTP Trish McMillan
 Wednesday 8th November
 Winner on 30 points Carol Miller
 NTP Carol Miller

Hunter Valley Golf Club

Sunday 5th November Gary Counsell has recorded 43 points to claim the Weekly Challenge from inform Steve Piggot with 39 points on countback to Tom Freebody. Ball winners were: Drew Dewar 37, Nathan Sweeney 37, Jason Cowburn 36, Tom Bellamy 35, Neil Thomas v35 and Justin Lawrence 35 c/b
Tuesday 7th November Wayne Cowan has produced one of his best rounds to win the Tuesday Stableford with 41 points from Dan Taylor 39 and Bob Prentice in 3rd with 38 points. Ball winners were: George Makras v37, Ray Wilton v37, Dale Macklinshaw 37, Sue-Ann Robertson v36, Lachlan Peacock 36, Gary Arnold 36, Ian Newell 36, Peter Maer v36, Ray Newton 35 and Ray Hodson 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to David Spruce (3rd) Rick Turnchini (4th) Steve Rawlings (8th) David Peel (10th) and Steve Piggot (17th)
Wednesday 8th November A countback was required to find the Ladies Stableford winner this week after Lorraine Clack and Jill Ramsden both had 33 points with Lorraine gaining the judges nod, Muree GC visitor Sue

John Barbour 36, Peter Franks 36, David Trudwick 35, Phil Darcy 35, Nathan Mudd 34, Brian Doherty 34, Ray Newton 34, Lorraine Clack 34, Michael Booth 34, Jesse Gaffney 34, David Peel 34, Paul Bullock 33, Brad Burgess 33, Errol Gardner 33 and Kerrie-Anne Skinner 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to David Peel (3rd) John Brown (4th) Steve Abel (10th) and Tony Butler (17th). Next week's event will be a Tiger Tee Medley Stableford
Sunday 12th November A countback was needed to find the winner of the Weekly Challenge after Kyle Blinco of Muswellbrook GC and Earle Carvin from Russell Vale GC returned 40 points with Kyle getting the nod from Earle who also survived a countback.

Tuesday 14th November Great scoring featured with ideal condition for golf greeting the Tuesday Stableford field with Dean Morison leading the way with 42 points, the minor placings required a 4 way countback with Peter Wilson runner up with 40 and Bob Prentice holding 3rd place also with 40. Ball winners were: Geoff Sweetman 40, Scott Goldman 40, Tom Bellamy 39, Rick Turnchini 39, Col Bradley 39, Michael Watson 39, Steve Abel 38, David Peel 38, Peter Payne 38, Paul Hyslop 36 and Ian Newell 36 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Nick Wilson (3rd) Jodie Dunn (4th) Greg Amlöh (8th) and Dean Morison (10th)

Wednesday 15th November Lorraine Clack led the way in the Ladies Stableford event with 38 points from Jenny Chambers 37 and Christine Tancred 3rd with 34 points on countback. Ball winners were: Brenda Mannix 34, Kerrie-Anne Skinner 33, Ann Grace-Smith 31 and Jeanette Irwin 30 c/b. Next week the Ladies will play Par

Thursday 16th November Inform Michael Watson produced one of his best with a 1 over scratch round to record 62 net for the win in a keenly contested Vets Stroke round, runner up went to Mick Brent with 64 net with Wayne Barber 3rd on 67 net. Ball winners were: Garry Marsden 68, Ray Newton 70, John Carmody 70, Steve Piggot 70, David Peel 71, Doug Wand 72 and Geoff Sweetman 72 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Barber (3rd) David Peel (4th & 8th) Andrew Hamilton (10th) and Doug Wand (17th). Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford
Saturday 18th November The only known details from the Blue Tee Challenge are the placing's in each grade with Tony Lamb successful in A Grade with 37 points from Graeme Flynn 36, B Grade to Paul Davies with 37 points fom Pacific Dunes visitor Jason Powell with 35 on count-back and C Grade to Russ Lightfoot with 'round of the day' 41 points with David Gould runner up with 37 points. Ball comp nor NTP's have been released at this stage. Next weeks event will be a Medley Stableford. **Extra** The club are having a 4 person teams event for all members next Sunday (26th) prior to this years Presentation and AGM with spots still available in the field. **Photo Above: The U/12's ready for their Remembrance Day game.**

There's no time like the present.

We've all heard the joke. "How many electricians does it take to change a light bulb?". The answer? Only one, but the light bulb has to WANT to change!"

The same goes for people. I have had so many people tell me that it's too close to Christmas to start anything new, or that there is not enough time to do "anything" before Christmas. By the time this is published Christmas will still be 34 days away! It takes only 21 days to form a new habit. So how many new habits (and goals) could you achieve by Christmas if you started today? Well that is entirely up to you! In 34 days (or just under 5 weeks) with the right exercise and food plan you could safely lose 4 kilos, if doing a Park Run in the New Year is a goal, in four weeks you could be well on your way to learning to run 5km (even if you aren't currently a runner).

If you write 400 words a day (about a page and a half) in 34 days you will have enough content to publish a short story (or the first chapter of a new book!).

If you stop smoking today, by Christmas your chronic cough will have disappeared and your circulation will be similar to a non smokers. But how do you "find" time to take action towards these new goals, with the spectre or Christmas looming?

Start small

You don't eat an elephant in one sitting. If you have never run before, or you are only running a little bit each week, don't aim to do too much straight away. And it is perfectly ok to run a bit then walk a bit. If you normally go for a walk in the morning you can start by running between telegraph poles. Run for one then walk for two. Or pick a marker on the side of the road and run to it. And if time is an issue, think about the most practical time to get out and stick to it. Even if it is only ten or twenty minutes a day, three days a week, every little bit counts.

Don't expect too much (too soon)

But do expect results! If you want to start a writing habit, you don't need a theme. Just start writing about anything that comes into your head. You will soon find your brain gravitating to the topics that are important to you. Just a few hundred words a day will soon add up!

Ask for help

If you need time to take action on your goals, talk with your friends and family. Delegate some of the housework. School age kids can hang out the washing (they might need a crate to stand on) and they can get it off the line too! Just don't worry too much about how it is hung out, or whether or not it is folded neatly in the basket. Noone will ever do it as well as you do. The important thing is someone else is doing it, and they will get better with practice!

If you want to give up smoking, seek help from your medical professional. And remember that the anxiety and sleeplessness and anger that comes with going cold turkey disappears in about two weeks, so it is worth sticking it out at least that long – once again, break it down into bite size pieces which are achievable.

If you plan to start a new exercise habit, ask a friend or family member to join you and keep each other accountable. You can also explain to your family what you are doing – you will most likely find that they will be more than happy to help if they know what you are doing.

Keep a journal

This can be part of your daily writing habit, or separate. Every night write down "I am happy and grateful that ...". It can be something that happened that day (for example "I am happy and grateful that I exercised for 10 minutes today"). Or set your intention for the next day by writing "I am happy and grateful that I am going to have a smoke free day tomorrow", or "I am happy and grateful I am setting an example for my children".

Focus on what you want to achieve.

Losing weight is in itself NOT a goal. It's a action. What is your reason for wanting to lose weight? Do you want to fit into your favourite party dress? Do you want to feel good when you look at the Christmas photos? Do you want to set a good example for your children? Do you want to lower your risk of heart disease, or get in and out of the car easily? Similarly, running 5km in itself is not a goal, it's an action. And the training you do is also an action. You might want to run 5km so you can do Park Run with your kids or other family members. You might want to do it because you love the endorphins (the "feel good hormones" that are released when you exercise in the fresh air.

Be clear about exactly what you want to achieve, and why. Once you focus on the What and the Why, the How will take care of itself.

Follow a proven plan

Setting out towards your goal without a plan is a bit like making a cake without a recipe. You might get something at the end that looks a bit like a cake (especially if you used a cake tin ...) but it won't taste very good, probably because you left one of the key ingredients out, or added them to the bowl in the wrong order.

Don't try and reinvent the wheel. If you know someone who has achieved what you want to achieve, find out what they did to get to that goal and do it. For example, keeping a food diary is a common theme for people who have successfully lost weight and kept it off. It takes just a few minutes a day and it works!! So why do so many people resist doing it? It comes down to what you are really trying to achieve, and what is really holding you back. There are so many things you can start - and finish - by December 25, when you get started today.

What else is happening at Louise Cairns Fit for Life?

We are half way through our final 6 week challenge for 2017. Classes are also continuing at Miller Park Branxton on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Remember if you need help setting and achieving your goals, you can also download a copy of my free guidebook from my Website.

About Louise

Louise Cairns is a Personal Trainer and Life Coach based in Branxton. Louise runs regular fitness classes at Lochinvar and Branxton, as well as PT sessions in Branxton and Kurri Kurri. Find Louise on Facebook or check out her website at www.louisecairns.com.au



BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NewSPORT

Greyhound Racing...



Local Report

with Sam



broodbitch RUM BLASTER. The Maitland Gold Cup was first run in 2003, a group 3 race over 457m won by THREAD PRINCE in 26.74sec. In 2009 the race was elevated to group 2 status over 450m and has an impressive list of winners; MAQNIFIQUE 2009, ELITE STATE 2010/11, OAKS ROAD 2012, BLACK MAGIC OPAL 2013, PAW LICKING 2014, SPACECRAFT 2015, MARBO MAGIC 2016 and AUSSIE INFARED took home the \$40,000 this year. Greta trainer Jonny Sledzianowski and his number one handler Richard Matt suited up for the 2015 final with ALTERED MIST after defeating RIVERGUM DRIVE in the heats, a hot field dashed their dreams in the final. **GBOTA NEWS.** Maitland branch recently held their 2017 presentation night at Lorn Bowling Club. Greta's Peter Akers took out four awards: Leading Broodbitch, (RUM BLASTER) Best Bitch, (LEGGY BLONDE) Best Distance Dog (LA MONTENERA) and top male trainer. The Greta GBOTA branch will hold their next meeting at the **GRETA WORKERS CLUB** on Sunday 3rd December, 7.30pm. New members and visitors are always welcome. **SEE YA AT THE TRACK SAM.**

THE HUNTER'S HAROLD PARK Maitland greyhound track ranks as one of the oldest and best in N.S.W. In 1929 Rufe Naylor introduced racing to the showground, unfortunately the first meeting was abandoned after the lure failed in the first race. Lure fixed, up and running the first feature race the Rufe Naylor Cup was run and won by CAREFUL CHARLIE, trained by Charlie Wright. The track was redesigned in 1934 and the shape has remained the same, on a slightly smaller scale to Harold Park. It offers all dogs a winning chance with one big turn and a long run home. Patrons that year got to witness the first running of the Grand National Hurdle over 440yds, won by SARS O'SHAN. **THE CHIEF** The boom dog in the late 40's was the great CHIEF HAVOC from Gunnedah, winning his maiden over 440yds at Grafton and smashing the track record in the process. In the following six months he went on to win the Tamworth Derby, Gosford

Champion of Champions and Wentworth Park N.C.A. Championship. He travelled to Maitland in 1946 for the Maitland Challenge but had to settle for second to JEAN'S DREAM. With an impressive record of 26 wins and 20 track records on 15 different tracks he was sent to stud. His prodigy had success in the Maitland Oaks with ROBIN BUCHANAN (1951) SALLY MASCOT (1952) and MANDI HAVOC (1953) all impressive winners. **GOLD COLLAR AND CUP** The major two races on the current Maitland calendar are the Maitland Gold Collar and the Maitland Gold Cup. The Collar was first run in 1969, won by the local JOEY VALENTINE and

trained by Noel Olsen. Noel had a huge advantage over his rivals, prior to the heats and final 'Joey' was checked by the Hunters best conditioner, Ken Cheetham at Harpers Hill. The 1971 final was a very popular win for locals and the Ernst clan; KALINGALTOR defeated TAKE COUNT and HAPPY TOAST in the time of 23.4sec. KALINGALTOR was bred, reared, owned and trained by Ed and

Colleen Ernst. The TAB held a record turnover of \$158,975.50 on the meeting, proving night racing at Maitland very popular with punters. Colleen said the 50 cents in the turnover was her nephews 25 cents each way. Greta was represented in last year's final with ALL A MISS, trained by GBOTA branch member Frank Cini and bred in Greta by Peter Akers out of his topline

∞ Photo above: Peter Akers with leading broodbitch Rum Blaster and the trophy Linda loves to dust.

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