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WEDNESDAY
6 December 2017

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Nominations

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SNUBBED!

The 2017/18 Resources for Regions program has not given the Branxton to Greta Memorial Cycleway a 'heads up' with the local Branxton Greta Business Chamber at a loss to understand why the proposed project was snubbed.

The funding, established under the NSW Government's Restart NSW Fund, aims to deliver improved local infrastructure to mining affected areas. Cessnock became eligible to apply for the funding back in 2014 when a decision was made to extend the program to include communities impacted by mining legacy issues with a proviso that projects submitted must be for public infrastructure and

demonstrate good value for money, sound project planning, positive economic benefit and region-wide impacts.

Cessnock City Council had included the Memorial Cycleway, with five other projects, in the \$50 million 2017/18 Resources for Regions program Expressions of Interest (EOI) application.

The six projects submitted were the Branxton to Greta Memorial Cycleway, Cessnock to Kurri Kurri - HEX Cycleway, 'Bridges Hill, Convent Hill and East End Oval Upgrade', Cessnock Airport Upgrade, Stage 2 of the Cessnock CBD Revitalisation and the replacement of Abbotsford

Street Bridge at Bellbird. Of the six proposed projects only three were shortlisted; Bridges Hill, Convent Hill and East End Oval Upgrade', the Cessnock CBD Revitalisation & replacement of Abbotsford Street Bridge at Bellbird.

The Branxton Greta Business Chambers' President, Brett Wild, said that the Memorial Cycleway project had also been included, in August this year, as one of Cessnock Council's local infrastructure projects to be included in the Australian Local Government Community Infrastructure register.

"Cessnock City Council nominated the Cessnock Airport upgrade, Richmond Vale Rail Trail project, the refurbishment/replacement of timber bridges and the Branxton Greta Cycleway construction as the priority projects, which was unanimously supported by

Councillors," said Brett. "When this was announced Cessnock Council Mayor, Bob Pynsent, said that the four projects submitted were critical to the future of the local government area and would generate economic and social benefits for our community. When it was announced the council also said that register proposed by the Australian Local Government Association looks to attract federal government support for local infrastructure projects vital to local government areas across Australia. The word 'vital' wasn't used lightly," said Brett.

"In its blurb about the purpose of the funding it states that the ... Resources for Regions program aims to deliver improved local infrastructure to mining-affected communities and improve economic growth

and productivity in NSW. While the mining industry makes a significant contribution to the economic prosperity of the state, the NSW Government recognises that this mining activity can place additional stress on regional communities and infrastructure. It also states that it is in vogue ... to support job creation and economic growth in mining communities in regional NSW. This fund will help build infrastructure across health, water, road, education, tourism and CBD renewals to attract new business, tourists and residents," said Brett.

"This local community has, for well over 100 years, been the conduit to the mining industry; every coal truck, wide load, miner and spare part traversed our roads through our main streets. In

all this time we have never complained & have never asked for special treatment. We have simply done our bit to ensure that NSW is a strong and vibrant and financially stable state. Although the Hunter Expressway is opened and the traffic has diminished it should be noted that the towns that have given so much have nothing to show for it compared to Singleton & Cessnock. Neither Branxton or Greta received a Main Street redevelopment, no financial or remarketing assistance to ensure local business that have done so much remain viable," said Brett.

"The importance of the proposed Memorial Cycleway is three-fold; connectivity between Branxton and Greta, a agent to attract people to our towns which will help the local



© Cllr Melanie Dagg

businesses & a memorial to those local residents who served our country in times of conflict & national emergency. "Branxton has the swimming pool, supermarket and most of the sporting fields & Greta has a museum and skate-park. "There is no safe way to access both towns for young people and in fact a number have been run-over trying to access the towns. These facts are well known to the RMS." "The cycleway will be dedicated, and it will happen, to those who served in all the armed conflicts our country has been involved with. "We have identified that from the local community over 40% of the entire town population enlisted and served in the Great War. The Memorial Cycleway will be an

enduring edifice to their sacrifice. "The funding application included to install memorial aspects for all those who served over the length of the cycleway," said Brett. Local Ward 'C' Councillor Melanie Dagg said that the project in its various forms has been discussed for years, decades even. "Its importance can not be underestimated in that it will not only create a physical link between the townships, allowing safe access by bike or foot and increased patronage by tourists to both towns, but it symbolises the special connection we have as two separate towns yet one combined community. "The proposed memorial element involves dedications to the courageous local men who made the ultimate sacrifice during World War I, remembrance of contributions made to the various wars and peace keeping operations since, and the planting of Lone Pine seedlings along its length. "I'd personally like to thank Brian Furner, Brett Wild, the Branxton and Greta RSL Sub-Branches and the Branxton-Greta Business Chamber. Their support, drive and dedication has been instrumental in us getting this far and I don't doubt their fortitude in fighting for the cycleway's completion," said Cllr Dagg.




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 PO Box 152, Cessnock 2325 NSW

OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL CARNIVALS

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

BRANXTON SWIMMING POOL

Date	Time
Tuesday 5 December 2017	9.00am – 3.00pm
Thursday 7 December 2017	9.00am – 2.00pm
Thursday 14 December 2017	12.00pm – 3.00pm
Friday 2 February 2018	9.00am – 2.00pm
Monday 5 February 2018	9.30am – 2.30pm
Friday 9 February 2018	9.00am – 2.00pm
Saturday 17 February 2018	1.00pm – 5.00pm

For further information please call Branxton Swimming Pool on telephone 4938 1450.

Nominate a local legend for the 2018 Australia Day Awards

Nominations are still 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 Monday 9 October 2017 and closed on Friday 1 December 2017 & Maitland City Council nominations opened in September 2017 and closed on 10 November 2017



CESSNOCK COMMUNITY
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James Reyne
 6 April 2018

A Crawl To Now
 Showcasing a broad selection of Australian Crawl tracks plus his solo hits and songs from his time with Company Of Strangers.

TENDER T1718/-03 WINE COUNTRY PRECINCT SIGNS

Council invites any person willing to fulfil the requirements of the following contract to submit a tender by the deadline.

Obtain tender documents at: www.tenderlink.com/cessnock

Tender: T1718-03 Wine Country Precinct Signs.

Deadline to submit: 2pm Tuesday 09 January 2018.

Purpose of contract: Prefabrication & Installation of Precinct Signs.

From date: 9am Tuesday 05 December 2017.

Purchase price: No cost.

Requests for information: Projects Engineer, Mr Peter Davis via Tenderlink on-line forum.

Mandatory pre-tender meeting: Not required.

PO BOX 152
 CESSNOCK 2325

STEPHEN GLEN
 GENERAL MANAGER

Work begins on construction of new Maitland Hospital



An artists impression of the finished product

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC today unveiled the concept design for the new Maitland Hospital while confirming enabling works have begun onsite. Mr MacDonald toured the site with representatives from Health Infrastructure and Hunter New England Local Health District and inspected the preliminary work that will prepare the Metford site for the hospital’s construction.

“The Maitland and lower Hunter community will be excited to see construction begin on their new \$450 million Hospital” Mr MacDonald said. “By partnering with one of the world class not-for-profit health providers, we will bring together the expertise and the resources of the public and non-government sectors to deliver high quality care to patients, carers and their families now and into the future. This includes full public patient access as they currently receive”.

Fencing and signage have been erected to establish the site and a new main entry point will be built. A new roundabout on Metford Road will be constructed as part of the enabling works.

Services to the site will be upgraded, including a new water main and the relocation of above and below ground services such as gas mains, power and communications cables.

Enabling works are being carried out by Donnelley Constructions Pty Ltd and expected to be completed before the end of 2018.

The Request for Proposal process is on track with a shortlist to be released shortly.



The not-for-profit health providers will then be invited to provide proposals to partner with the NSW Government to operate the state-of-the-art new Maitland Hospital. The artist impression will be supplied to the not-for-profit health providers as a reference for design.

Photo above: Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC at the Metford site with Gavin Thompson, Project Director, Health Infrastructure and Eddie Pirillo, Executive Lead - New Maitland Hospital, Hunter New England Local Health District.



© Ah Moi Tharmarajah in yellow vest whose organised the fundraiser for the RFS & gave her property over on Bimbadeen Road Cranky Corner for the evening. \$3000 was raised.

A wonderful evening, last Saturday, was had by all who attended a Fundraiser for the local RFS at Ah Moi Tharmarajah's property at Cranky Corner. The long awaited rain did not dampen the evening although some did take a drenching. The fundraiser that was organised by Ah Moi showed her amazing organisational skills. Over \$3000 was raised on the night through raffles,

auctions & donations. Ah Moi said that she was delighted at the number of people who attended despite the heavy rain. "Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening and those that made comment said the entertainment was terrific," said Ah Moi. "I would like to thank all those volunteers who gave their time freely & worked so hard to make the night a success." "I would also like to thank

those generous people & wonderful businesses who gave for the raffle as without them the night would not have been anywhere near as successful," said Ah Moi. Below is a list of raffle prizes donations. A big thank you to all:-
 1) Thrifty Link Hardware - Branxton. (Kate)- \$50 gift voucher
 2) Branxton Newsagency- \$50 gift voucher- donated by David Smith

- 3) Two magnum bottles of red wine - donated by Ice Box Branxton
- Two bottles Moscato- donated by Ginny McDougal
- Two bottles Cabernet - donated by Ah Moi
- 4) white crochet baby cot / pram cover/blanket- made & donated by Ah Moi
- 5) IGA- (Sue/ Lyn) - gift voucher \$100
- 6) Branxton Quality Meats - donated by Michael Robinson - \$100 gift voucher
- 7) Branxton Pet World- gift voucher \$50 - owners John, Suzanne and Trevor Stafa-
- 8) Branxton Post Office- (Margaret/ John) - Moki - children headphone
- 9) Peter Stanhope Handyman services- (Peter Truscott)- donating 4 hrs of his services
- 10) Rego & safety inspection at Fordys Mechanical- donated by Phil Ford
- 11) Herbal & Nutritional Medicine Consultation - donated by Belinda Doe
- 12) Le's Bakery- Mary Nguyen - donated \$50
- 13) Branxton Pharmacy- Lee Grundy - gift hampers
- 14) Les Russell & Son- donated \$200.00
- 15) Haircuts @ Lochivar- two ladies haircut, two men's haircut
- 16) little girl ponchos - donated by Ah Moi's friend Eng Hong from Sydney
- 17) Hunter Hair Art at Branxton -donated voucher \$30- hair service only
- 18)12 bottles of wine- donated by Andy MacDougal & Jane Woodward's Lamb Valley Wines
- Company
- 19) JSM All Occasions paper florist - \$500.00 gift vouchers donated by Jenn Marshal
- 20) Original Collograph, hand painted with water colour by Linda E Baranov and donated by artist.
- 21) Branxton Fish & Chippery- Sam donated \$75 food vouchers
- 22) Arolyn Grove- Ross & Lyn Williams donated a Vittoria Coffee Capsule Machine with two boxes of coffee capsules
- 23) trolley , two pairs safety gloves, two safety hats donated by MEDALIST
- 24) Jam & preserved pickles - donated by Susan & Roland Johnson
- 25) Lindsey & Helen Russell donated \$50.00
- 26) Joan Ingram donated- \$25.00
- 27) Ross & Des Monaghan - donated \$500.00
- 28) Fiona Brown- \$200.00
- 29) Ian Hayes from All Solutions insured the event
- 30) Coates Hire helped with cost of the portable toilets x2

A spokesperson for the Rural Fire Service said that they were so thankful for the effort that went into making the evening such a success. "The RFS cannot thank Ah Moi & a bevy of volunteers enough. The work that went into organising it was extraordinary." "Ah Moi had everything & everybody organised & it went off so well." "The money raised was terrific & so was the rain which was badly needed."

Singleton supports Resources for Regions review as Regional Livestock Market project continues

Criticism of the State Government's Resources for Regions program by a group of Labor MPs has reinforced Singleton Council's support for a review of the allocation of funds under the program. Singleton Council has received a total of \$31.5 million from the Resources for Regions program since it was introduced in 2012 to 2015/2016, including \$8.12 million for the Hermitage Road cycleway and upgrade; \$9 million for the revitalisation of the Singleton Town Centre; and \$6 million for the Singleton Regional Livestock Market upgrade. That figure accounts for just 7.6% of the value of royalties derived from the Singleton LGA in the 2016/17 financial year lone. The Newcastle Herald reported that the marginal seat of Barwon had received \$57.45 million from Resources for Regions, "despite its three mining areas of Cobar, Narrabri and Broken Hill generating only a fraction of the royalties contributed by the Upper Hunter". Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore, said Singleton was participating in a NSW Audit Office review of Regional Assistance Programs currently underway and the Newcastle Herald report reinforced the need for the review. "The Singleton LGA is the biggest contributor to mining royalties in NSW, amounting to \$541.9 million in 2015/2016," she said. "If the Resources for Regions program exists to support mining-affected communities in NSW, then how the funds are allocated should reflect the contributions that come from mining-affected communities. "Singleton Council is committed to working with the State Government to

secure funds under the range of programs available to benefit our community, and to ensure our LGA is adequately recognised and compensated for the contribution it makes to the NSW budget. "Having said that, the focus of the Resources for Regions program should not be to pit councils against councils - we all exist for the same reason, and that is to get the best outcomes for our communities." Cr Moore said the \$7.76 million Singleton Regional Livestock Market upgrade, slated for completion in February, was an important infrastructure project to support a diverse and vibrant local economy that was not dependent on coal. The project was funded with a \$6 million Resources for Regions grant and an additional \$1.76 million from Council. "Council is absolutely committed to the continued operation of the saleyards and ensuring a viable livestock market exists in Singleton for the benefit of the local economy," she said. "However, a staff-led service delivery review of the Singleton Regional Livestock Market was conducted independently of the major upgrade, and found the current operation of the facility was unsustainable. "In the previous financial year, the operation of the saleyards facility resulted in a deficit in excess of \$250,000. "That's why we have embarked on an Expression of Interest process to gauge the interest from the private sector in the operation and management of the facility, so that Council can make an informed decision on how it would best serve stakeholders - including buyers and sellers - and the broader community into the future."



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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

The cost of energy

The much heralded 'Energy Guarantee' which is said to reduce household power bills by about \$170 per year starting in about 2 years time.



This is a bit like John Howard's 2c reduction in the petrol tax to ease the pump price of fuel. When John Howard introduced that reduction in the fuel excise, prices at the pump varied up to 15 cents per litre depending on the day of the week and the particular service station one used. Of course there was no notable change in petrol prices but it cost the Government billions in lost revenue over time. All of this shows that Governments can do very little to control prices, nor should they even try. This is not Communist Russia or Venezuela. Yet, here we are headed toward that kind of stupidity.

The Command Economy; an oxymoron if ever there was one. Unless we can achieve a Government which understands basic economics and the proper role of the Federal Government we will continue to have politicians who believe they can fix everything and react to every stupid whinge in the hope of being popular and re-elected.

They insult the electorate and their puny interference in the economy is only a distraction from good Government. The best they could do is reduce the taxation burden on businesses and the wage earner and balance this by removing all the so called income redistribution measures such as the ridiculous non-taxable income threshold and nil tax on old farts. They have a bad habit of flattering the optimistic will of the populace while abusing their intellect.

Sorry, I digress; the purpose of my rant is to give advice on reducing your power bill. Most people are aware of energy saving devices such as LED lighting, solar hot water systems and the sensible policing of wastage. The cost of these systems is reducing over-time but the initial investment is still a burden.

I believe the best approach, without neglecting all the usual power saving measures, is to approach your provider to install a smart meter for your home. This should not cost you anything and will then give you 3 different tariffs for power depending on the time of day. There is a vast difference in tariffs for off-peak, 10pm to 6am and the peak power period from about midday to 10pm. The time in the middle 6am to midday is called 'the rump', I think.

Once you have this facility you can then adjust your daily routine to take advantage of the cheapest tariffs. For instance, run the washing machine only after 10pm

just before retiring. If you go to bed earlier you can engage the time delay on the machine. This may involve reading the instructions!

The same goes for the dishwasher and particularly the dryer if you have one. Time delays are wonderful. Wake to the smell of a roast dinner cooking, have cold cuts for lunch and nibbles and drinks at teatime. Perhaps make a habit of getting up early in the morning to do any cooking. In the tropics my wife made bread before breakfast ... in the tropic also people have siestas in the hottest part of the day. Shops close for 2 hours. So early to rise and work until about 11am. Then lunch and siesta until about 4pm. Depending on your circumstance, after 4 pm, you play tennis or whatever sport interests you or you get ready for evening activities.

We don't do this as a matter of course in Australia but it worth considering for days which are forecast to be extreme temperatures. We allow rug rats and old farts the luxury of a nap, why not everybody. Rethinking your lifestyle can save you power.

As a follow-up on the Politicians fiasco; if dual citizenship disqualifies individuals from nominating for election to parliament, why should not dual citizenship disqualify voters. That would disqualify about 50% of the population ... interesting thought.

What I have done in the last paragraph is extend the argument. This is another tactic used by politicians to win an argument. It may work if the premise it stems from is valid but as we have discussed before, the ruling by the High Court is anything but valid.

Take care over the festive season. Don't get hurt or hurt anyone else.

Steve Lind

PS. Last/Extra/Final tip; If your hot water service is "off peak" electric then have your electrician or plumber adjust the thermostat down to 40 degrees Celsius. This will save power and avoid scalding. Simples.

have been installed – a far cry from the promise of 800 machines across 500 collection points the Government said they would deliver.

Under questioning in the Parliament by me this week, Minister Upton was unable to provide details of other planned locations.

The Minister promised that 85% of more than 500

collection sites would up and running by 1 December – but this has since been downgraded to suggest that only

'a majority' of collection points may be in place by the start date.

Now it looks like the Government won't deliver on anywhere near that amount, with the Minister refusing to provide anyone with a confirmed list of collection points.

The Container Deposit Scheme in NSW is called 'Return and Earn' and aims to help reduce litter in NSW by 40 per cent by 2020. The EPA estimates that around 300 million containers a month will be recovered by the scheme which entitles consumers to a 10 cent

refund on every returned can or bottle. Containers make up 44 per cent of all litter in NSW. With less than a week remaining until the start of the scheme, the people of the Cessnock Electorate are still in the dark about where they will be able to take their empty containers for a 10c refund.

Minister Upton has managed to turn a positive idea into a complete farce. People are knocking down my door asking for information about returning their containers because they can't get anything out of this clueless government. With Christmas around the

corner, this uncertainty is unacceptable. My community just wants to know – where can I take my cans and bottles for a refund?

Clayton Barr MP, State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock



MINISTER, WHERE'S OUR COLLECTION POINT?

I have called on the Minister for the Environment, Gabrielle Upton to inform the community of where their collection points will be located for the Return and Earn container deposit scheme.

The Berejiklian-Barilaro

Government has botched the rollout of the scheme.

As part of the scheme the price of cans and bottles will rise by approximately 10 cents. Consumers then return the cans for a 10 cent refund.

Two weeks out only 18 reverse vending machines

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
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Police
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Lochinvar..... 4930 7209
Ambulance..... 131 233
NSW Fire Brigade
Branxton..... 4938 3396
Rural Fire Brigades
Belford..... 6574 7149
Broke..... 6579 1491
Greta..... 4015 0000
Bishops Bdg 4015 0000
Nth R'bury... 4015 0000
Rothbury.... 4015 0000
Pokolbin.... 4015 0000
Rothbury.... 4991 1733
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Rothbury.... 4015 0000
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Rothbury.... 4991 1733
Scotts..... 6575 1200
Flat.....
Central (Cessnock).... 4015 0000

Electricity
Energy Australia..... 131 388
Hospitals
Maitland.... 4939 2000
Cessnock... 4991 0555
Singleton... 6572 2799
SES.....132 500
Crime Stoppers
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Poisons Info 131 126
Hunter Water
1300 657 000
Ausgrid 131 388
Gas Emergencies . 131 909
Lifeline.....131 114
Mental Health Line
1800 011 511
Domestic Violence Support
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Centrelink Self Service
136 240
Medicare 132 011
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**

What's Happening & other matters

with **Mike Lowing**

I received a press release last week that came as a little shock to the system; it was headlined 'Moves to address post-production mining in the Hunter' and was interesting reading. It stated that Cessnock and Singleton councils had met with NSW Mining Minerals Council's CEO Stephen Galilee to discuss the role of mining companies in the long term rehabilitation of open cut mines. That's when I realized that the past has still been ignored. Have a look at the old Ayrfield Colliery & the numerous left-overs around Greta. Mayor Pynsent said that there needs to be research not only into the environmental impacts but into the economic potential of post-mining lands and in particular final voids. I could not agree more but it needs more than talk; do something. *Mike*

Post mining problems
For decades & decades the problems left littered behind by countless mining operations in this state has been continually ignored by successive state governments because to address the problem properly it would open a bottomless pit of costs for the government ~ doing just one would set a precedent so just do nothing & ignoring the problem has been the answer, unfortunately. Thankfully these days all mining operations in this state include all rehabilitation work as part of their approval to mine.

Greta Museum's Old Style New Wares & Sweet Shop

Has a new range of Bulk Sweets -

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Carols in the Park a hit with the locals

More than 3,000 people gathered at Cessnock Sportsground last Friday evening to sing in the festive season at the annual Carols in the Park event. Cessnock City Council has been hosting this event for more than a decade and it continues to get bigger and better each and every year. This year saw Christmas markets, food stalls,

fantastic live entertainment, a visit from Santa who arrived in a helicopter and it was all topped off with a fantastic fireworks display! Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it was wonderful to see so many people in our community enjoying the event. "This is one of my favourite annual events and

this year was up there with the best Carols in the Park we've had." "Everything was simply outstanding – we had great weather, Tara NaySmith did a fantastic job as MC, the performers and band were top-notch and the fireworks display was unreal." "I would like to thank everyone who was involved in making this event such a

success including the team at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre and other Council staff, the wonderful volunteers and our event sponsors," added Cr Pynsent. Carols in the Park is proudly sponsored by Newcastle Permanent Building Society, Rover Motors and Cessnock City Council.



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Skate, scoot or ride your way to victory

Cessnock City Council is gearing up for the annual Scooter, Bike and Skate Competition and is calling on local young people to get involved.



This action-packed event, hosted by CYCOS, will kick off at the Cessnock Skate Park on Saturday 9 December at 9am and it will run through to 3pm.

It's free to come along and enter the competition and there are fantastic prizes to be won!

For those who are not so keen on entering the competition, there will be other activities on the day including free laser-tag and delicious BBQ food for you to enjoy as you watch the action.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this is yet another fabulous event for young people in our region.

"It is always so great to see young people enjoying our local skate parks and this event always attracts over 300 people, which is just incredible."

Entry forms will be available on the day or you can download one from Council's website at

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/youth/events.

Young people who are under 18 years old will need their parent or guardian to sign the form. Everyone who competes will also need to wear a helmet.

For more information please contact Will on 0401 107 413 or 4991 5372 or visit the Cessnock Youth Centre Facebook page.

The Scooter, Bike and Skate Competition is proudly supported by Cessnock City Council, CYCOS, Cessnock Community and Youth Development Project, Samaritans and the Cessnock Youth Entertainment Committee.

A huge thank you also goes to the event sponsors including Thread and Ink, Bombora and Morgan's Bikes.

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Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

December is here and it is already beginning to feel a lot like Christmas! As I am sure many of you would have noticed, the new Christmas banners have gone up in both Kurri Kurri and Cessnock which have certainly brightened up the streetscape.

Christmas is always a wonderful time of year to spend time with family and friends and exchange gifts, but we should also spare a thought for those who might be doing it tough this festive season. On that note, our Cessnock City Council Christmas Gift and Food Appeal kicked off on Monday and we're calling on locals to give generously. This year, all donations will go to the Kurri Kurri Community Centre and Samaritans Information and Neighbourhood Centre Cessnock. The donation drop-off points are under the Christmas tree in our council admin building and over the counter at Kurri Kurri and Cessnock Libraries. For health and safety reasons, please ensure all donations are new and not wrapped. We officially opened the redeveloped Cessnock Waste Management Centre on 13 November which will provide our community with a modernised, convenient and safe waste service. This new facility will allow residents to lessen their impact on our local environment by increasing resource recovery opportunities.

Congratulations to everyone involved in making this project come to fruition, it is an excellent facility for our community. If you would like to find out more, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/wastecentre. I would like to congratulate Kurri Kurri High School for winning the Waste Ops film making competition. The competition called on students to shift the way our community thinks about waste and encourage people to change their behaviour. Kurri Kurri High's winning entry focussed on the importance of reusable shopping bags and they went back to school with \$1000 to spend on a project of their choice.

White Ribbon Day took place on 25 November and as a White Ribbon Ambassador, I have to say how proud I am to see more and more people in our community standing up and speaking out against domestic violence. In particular, our local schools are leading the way as students from Mount View high and St Philip's Christian College spoke at the annual White Ribbon breakfast this year. Cessnock High School also held a White Ribbon Awareness Walk on Monday, followed by a breakfast and pledge ceremony, which I was honoured to be part of.

Tomorrow is International Day of People with Disability which aims to promote the rights of and increase awareness of people with disability in our society. To celebrate, Cessnock Includes You will host a 'Come and Try Day' from 10.30am at PCYC Cessnock. It is sure to be a fun day of activities for all levels of skill and ability, so come along and enjoy a great day out!

The current works happening across the region include the installation of a tourist information bay at Kearsley, kerb, gutter, road reconstruction and drainage works on Wollombi Road, Millfield, traffic facility works along James Street, Cessnock and works on a Whitburn culvert crossing on the New England Highway, Greta.

Cheers, Bob



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR

CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME BUNGLE NOW MIGHT BE A LITTLE BIT DODGY

I have previously expressed my concern about the way that the Container Deposit Scheme is being rolled out. It's not that Labor don't support the Scheme, we do, but it is worrying that people will be charged a recycle fee up front and then won't be able to get the refund. That part of the Scheme is not fair and not supported. You see there were supposed to be 500 recycle centres across the State, about 3 or 4 in every LGA, but at the moment the Government is desperately scratching around to create 5-10 across the entire Hunter.

But here is the thing that makes you wonder - just where are these recycle centres going to be placed? Fact: more than 70% (at last count) will be connected to one of the supermarket giants. The unfairness of this is obvious - if you go there to get the refund, you are more than likely going to stay there to shop. So I checked the diary of the Minister to see if she had met with a range of people to consider her options for recycle centres. Turns out she hadn't met with anyone for this purpose!!!! How odd. So how is the decision made one wonders?

Almost 4 years ago when take away alcohol sales were banned from 10.00pm I made the point that this would be a cruel twist to our local pubs who would sell to shift-workers on their way home, and coincidentally it would bring everyone into line with the supermarket giant owned bottle shops. Of course, the alcohol in these giant centres is cheaper, so given the choice, the consumer goes to the cheaper centre and the local pub misses out on a little bit of extra later-in-the-night trade. There are more examples where we are "nudged" over to the supermarket giants, by Government policy and regulation, that I won't go into here.

In addition, there was the well publicised fact that Barry O'Farrell's former Chief-of-Staff was employed by one of the supermarket giants in a senior executive role, the same supermarket that is now home to 70% of the recycle stations, that the Minister never met with to discuss.

Now sure, I am joining a few dots here, but these are the subtle and otherwise undetectable pieces of information that you gather up when your actual job is to deal with all of this stuff day in and day out. To use some wisdom from Sherlock Holmes: when all other logic fails, the logic that you are left with, no matter how outrageous and unlikely, must lead you to your answer.

* * * * *
 For enquiries regarding the State Government or its departments, or to put you in contact with someone who can, please contact my office. My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325.

You also follow me on my Facebook page "www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au

Cheers Clayton



Clr Melanie Dagg - Cessnock City Councillor - Ward C

Compliance Policy

A number of weeks ago I wrote about some issues around parking and it was not long after, that Council adopted its revised Compliance and Enforcement Policy. If you don't mind a bit of light reading, it's worth running your eyes over as the Policy covers guidelines on best practice enforcement procedures in response to allegations of unlawful activity. The Policy covers matters including food poisoning, dog attacks, swimming pool fencing, illegal dumping, parking, non-compliance of development consents, amongst many others. If you've received a fine or compliance order and have some questions, your first port of call should always be Council officers (49934100) however I'm happy to assist following those initial enquiries.

Push to Return Greyhounds to Cessnock

I was proud to move a successful motion at our meeting on 15 November which called on Council to reiterate its support for the return of greyhound racing to Cessnock Showground. While campaigning in the lead up to our election, the number one issue people wanted to talk to me about, surprisingly, was that of greyhounds. Mike Baird's industry ban was clearly a state issue, not local, but our area has such strong links to the industry that people felt compelled to show their anger. Whilst the ban has subsequently been overturned, I felt it necessary to channel that community angst in to a show of strength. The motion specifically speaks to the development of the 'Centre of Excellence' proposed by the Cessnock Greyhound Club and most importantly clearly states the need for the absolute application of animal welfare principles. Like so many other things that councils try to deliver, it is dependent on state government support and funding, but we have at least started the conversation so watch this space.

Minerals Council NSW Meeting

Last week I attended with the Mayor, General Manager and our counterparts from Singleton Council upon NSW Minerals Council CEO, Stephen Galilee. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss future cooperation between local government and the mining industry in terms of voluntary planning agreement negotiations and post-production land rehabilitation. Discussions with Mr Galilee were productive, with potential future opportunities to work with him and NSWMC lobbying the NSW Government for increased funding of their Resources for Regions program and a fairer deal for mining-affected communities.

Speaking of Resources for Regions, Council recently received confirmation it had been successful in three of its nominated projects passing the first round of EOI for funding - unfortunately, the Branxton-Greta Memorial Cycleway was not one of the successful projects. Whilst it is incredibly disappointing, this is not the end.

If nothing else, this has only strengthened my resolve to continue fighting, and I don't doubt the passionate advocates of this project like Brian Furner and Brett Wild will be equally determined.

Cheers, Melanie



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

There's been a lot of consolidating happening over the past couple of weeks with the adoption of Council's Financial Statements and Auditors' Reports at our November meeting, and the lodgement last week of the 2016/2017 Annual Report.

It's also a pretty accurate way to sum up the financial year that was in 2016/2017: we saw a lot of major projects come to fruition, such as the completion of the Singleton Gym & Swim expansion and upgrade and the Hermitage Road cycleway and upgrade; we had a lot of conversations with you about what you wanted for Singleton for the next 10 years and consequently adopted the Singleton Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2017-2027; and we continued our commitment to the financial sustainability of our organisation with the implementation of service delivery reviews.

The General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2017 show a net operating result for the year (before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes) a deficit of \$1.118 million. This result is an improvement on Council's Original Budget forecast of a deficit of \$2.719 million. A major contributing factor was the advance payment of \$1.7 million for the Financial Assistance Grant for the 2017/18 financial year from the Federal Government.

While the word "deficit" might usually sound off alarm bells, Council is in a comfortable overall position: our financial situation has improved over the previous financial years, and we have a very clear path forward that will see a surplus in the next two years. The Government's own auditor gave a very positive review and we met all bar one of the fit for the future ratios.

Part of that involves service delivery reviews, a staff-led investigation of the services Council provides looking at why we provide them, who we provide them for, how we provide them and how it can be done better. Every single one of Council's more than 80 business units will go through this process: eight have been completed to date, and 12 are currently underway. This process will ensure we are providing what you want the best way possible and within our means.

One of those completed was the Singleton Regional Livestock Markets. The review found the current operating model was unsustainable and recommended investigating options for the future operation of the facility, which is why Council has embarked on an Expressions of Interest process for the lease or purchase of the site. Our ultimate aim is for the Singleton Regional Livestock Market to be an ongoing, viable commercial concern in Singleton that maximises opportunities and potential for all stakeholders and it's prudent that we look at the best way to make that happen. For more information, visit www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/saleyards

Cheers, Sue



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

Food on the table is often taken for granted, yet 3.6 million Australians have experienced food insecurity in the last year, including many in the Hunter. In response to this issue, I and my team are supporting OzHarvest's Christmas Appeal.

OzHarvest is Australia's leading food rescue organisation, collecting from commercial outlets and delivering it directly to more than 1000 charities across the country.

I met the OzHarvest team in Cessnock during the van's regular delivery to Cessnock Samaritans to speak with OzHarvest Newcastle Manager Monique Maguire about the incredible service they provide the Hunter community. The OzHarvest van visits Cessnock and the Hunter Valley twice a week to rescue quality, excess food from local supermarkets and restaurants and then delivers to local charities supporting people in need. In a perfect cycle, the big yellow van departs the Newcastle depot empty and returns empty. The Hunter OzHarvest van collects on average 600 kilograms of food a week, ultimately rescuing it from land fill. While most of us see Christmas as a happy and joyous time, sadly too many in our community do it tough over the Christmas break.

My team and I support a Christmas charity every year and in 2017 we're supporting OzHarvest. The innovative organisation does wonderful work recovering food waste and delivering the quality product to people who need it most.

This year's Christmas Appeal means for every \$1 donation, OzHarvest can deliver two meals to people in need this Christmas. A \$25 donation will provide 50 meals and \$50 provides a week's worth of meals for a family.

Donations can be made by buying an OzHarvest donation token at Woolworths or via the www.ozharvest.org website. Businesses can also coordinate a Christmas food drive and organise for them to collect donations in time for Christmas.

Samaritans Cessnock is one of the organisations that has received food from OzHarvest and has done for the past five years. Samaritans repacks the food and makes sure it gets to the people most in need. Each month the local office assists between 180-200 people.

Samaritans is also running a 'Give the Gift of Joy' campaign this Christmas to raise awareness of the vulnerable people across the Hunter region who may otherwise may not be able to celebrate the festive season.

Another of OzHarvest's core areas of focus is reducing food waste, something that becomes particularly relevant around Christmas time.

More than a third of household bin waste is food waste yet 60 per cent is avoidable. In Australia it's estimated food waste costs more than \$20 billion each year.

One in five shopping bags becomes food waste. We really want people this Christmas to think about food waste and how they can reduce it in their own homes. The easiest way to do that is to plan what you are going to eat, write a list and stick to the list.

Cheers, Joel

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Here are some tips to help you reduce your risk of food poisoning at home. (Food poisoning is often diagnosed based on a detailed history, including how long you've been sick, your symptoms and specific foods you've eaten. Your doctor will also perform a physical exam, looking for signs of dehydration. Depending on your symptoms and health history, your doctor may conduct diagnostic tests, such as a blood test, stool culture or examination for parasites, to identify the cause and confirm the diagnosis. For a stool culture, your doctor will send a sample of your stool to a laboratory, where a technician will try to identify the infectious organism. If an organism is found, your doctor likely will notify your local health department to determine if the food poisoning is linked to an outbreak. In some cases, the cause of food poisoning can't be identified.

Treatment
Treatment for food poisoning typically depends on the source of the illness, if known, and the severity of your symptoms. For most people, the illness resolves without treatment within a few days, though some types of food poisoning may last longer. Treatment of food poisoning may include:

- **Replacement of lost fluids.** Fluids and electrolytes — minerals such as sodium, potassium and calcium that maintain the balance of fluids in your body — lost to persistent diarrhoea need to be replaced. Some children and adults with persistent diarrhoea or vomiting

may need hospitalization, where they can receive salts and fluids through a vein (intravenously), to prevent or treat dehydration.

- **Antibiotics.** Your doctor may prescribe antibiotics if you have certain kinds of bacterial food poisoning and your symptoms are severe. Food poisoning caused by listeria needs to be treated with intravenous antibiotics during hospitalization. The sooner treatment begins, the better. During pregnancy, prompt antibiotic treatment may help keep the infection from affecting the baby.
- Antibiotics will not help food poisoning caused by viruses. Antibiotics may actually worsen symptoms in certain kinds of viral or bacterial food poisoning. Talk to your doctor about your options.

- Adults with diarrhoea that isn't bloody and who have no fever may get relief from taking the medication loperamide (Imodium A-D) or bismuth subsalicylate (Pepto-Bismol).



Wash your hands

Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water (warm or cold) and dry them before handling food, after handling raw food — including meat, fish, eggs and vegetables — and after touching the bin, going to the toilet, blowing your nose or touching animals (including pets).

Wash worktops

Wash worktops before and after preparing food, particularly after they've been touched by raw meat (including poultry), raw eggs, fish and vegetables. You don't need to use antibacterial sprays: hot, soapy water is fine.

Wash dishcloths

Wash dishcloths and tea towels regularly, and let them dry before you use them again. Dirty, damp cloths are the perfect place for germs to spread.

Use separate chopping boards

Use a separate chopping board to prepare raw food, such as meat and fish. This is to avoid contaminating ready-to-eat foods with harmful bacteria that can be present in raw food before it has been cooked.

Keep raw meat separate

It's especially important to keep raw meat away from ready-to-eat foods, such as salad, fruit and bread. This is because these foods won't be cooked before you eat them, so any bacteria that get onto the foods from the raw meat won't be killed.

Store raw meat on the bottom shelf

Always cover raw meat and store it on the bottom shelf of the fridge, where it can't touch or drip onto other foods.

Cook food thoroughly

Make sure poultry, pork, burgers, sausages and kebabs are cooked until steaming hot, with no pink meat inside.

Don't wash raw meat (including chicken and turkey) before cooking, as this can spread bacteria around your kitchen.

Freezing raw chicken reduces the levels of campylobacter bacteria but doesn't eliminate them completely. The safest way to kill all traces of campylobacter is by cooking chicken thoroughly.

Keep your fridge below 5C

Keep your fridge temperature below 5C and use a fridge thermometer to check it. This prevents harmful germs from growing and multiplying.

Avoid overfilling your fridge — if it's too full, air can't circulate properly, which can affect the overall temperature.

Cool leftovers quickly

If you have cooked food that you're not going to eat straight away, cool it as quickly as possible (within 90 minutes) and store it in the fridge or freezer. Use any leftovers from the fridge within 2 days.

Respect 'use-by' dates

Don't eat food that's past its use-by date, even if it looks and smells okay. Use-by dates are based on scientific tests that show how quickly harmful bugs can develop in the packaged food.

Cheers, Lee

Branxton Community BBQ well attended

A community BBQ promoted by the New Vine Vineyards Church was held in Branxton on Saturday 14th October at the park on the corner of Dalwood Road & McMullins Road, East Branxton.

The organiser, Pastor Amanda Francis, said she was pleased with the number of residents who attended.

"Those that did come said they had an enjoyable day & hoped it would become a regular event," said Amanda.

Activities on the day included Face Painting, Kids Games, Creative Arts, Prizes & the good sound of The Rusty Harper Band pictured at right.

"We had a BBQ and heaps of games with the kids such as the old fashioned three legged race, egg and spoon race and sack races which the kids and adults LOVED. We also had face painting and guessing competitions as well as good old fashioned conversation and laughter by the BBQ," said Amanda.

The New Vine Vineyards is a Baptist church planted in the Hunter Valley nearly three years ago.

"We are a small church that is slowly and steadily growing, dreaming of building a church together that inspires people in our local community to love God and one another. When Jesus was on earth he constantly spoke to people about the things that mattered in life: caring for one another, looking after the venerable, respecting each other regardless of sex, race, religion. In the New Testament Jesus gave us a new command to "Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence." This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: "Love others as well as you love yourself." (Matthew 22:37)," said Amanda.

"We are running 'Youth Kru' (Youth group) on a Friday night at the local Branxton Community hall. This a youth movement & is for youth in years 5,6 and 7. We will look at recommencing this in the New Year. All welcome," said Amanda.



© The Rusty Harper Band



© The Egg & Spoon race



10 Bad Cooking Habits You Should Break

big pile of mush at the end. If you want to sauté, filling your pan too full will cause your food to steam and not give you the crispy results you are looking for. The same goes for cooking

- 1. Heating Oil Until It Smokes**
Most recipes start with heating oil in a pan. It usually takes a little time for the stove to warm up, so we pour the oil and then turn our backs on the pan to do something else while it heats. Before you know it, you see wisps of smoke, which means the pan is hot and ready for cooking, right? Wrong! Not only do many oils taste bad once they have been heated to or past their smoke point, but when oils are heated to their smoke point or reheated repeatedly, they start to break down, destroying the oil's beneficial antioxidants and forming harmful compounds. However, an oil's smoke point is really a temperature range (olive oil's is between 365° and 420°F), not an absolute number, because many factors affect the chemical properties of oil. You can safely and healthfully cook with any oil by not -heating it until it's smoking — to get your oil hot enough to cook with, just heat it until it shimmers.
- 2. Stirring Your Food Too Much**
It's tempting to stir your food constantly to prevent burning, but stirring too much can be a bad thing. It prevents browning—a flavour booster you get by letting your food sit on a hot surface—and it breaks food apart, making your meal mushy. Resist the urge to stir constantly unless the recipe specifically tells you to do so.
- 3. Overfilling Your Pan**
Sometimes cooking requires a little patience. It may be faster to fill your pan to the brim with ingredients, but doing that can actually slow cooking and give you a

meat. Shoving too much meat in the pan lowers the temperature of the pan too quickly, which can cause sticking and a whole host of other problems. Your best bet is to cook in batches. The extra time you put into it will make your meal much better.

4. You Don't Let Your Meat Rest
You're hungry and you want to dig into that steak you just pulled off the grill. Wait! Let your meat rest before you cut into it. By resting, the juices redistribute through the meat and you'll get juicier results. Cut it too soon, and all the juice runs out on your cutting board and doesn't end up in your meat. Rest smaller cuts of meat for shorter times (say 5 to 10 minutes or so) and rest larger roasts for longer (up to 20 minutes for a whole turkey, for example).

5. You Rinse Meat Before Cooking
Rinsing meat off in your sink may get rid of the slime factor, but it contaminates your sink with bacteria that could potentially cause foodborne illness. Pat your meat with a paper towel instead to remove any unwanted residue.

6. Using Nonstick Pans on High Heat
Turn down the heat when using nonstick pans. High temperatures can cause the nonstick lining to release PFCs (perfluorocarbons) in the form of fumes. PFCs are linked to liver damage and developmental problems. Check with your pan manufacturer to see what temperatures they recommend.

7. Using Metal Utensils on Nonstick Pans

Using metal utensils in a nonstick pan is not a good idea. You can inadvertently scratch the surface of the pan, which could lead you to ingest the PFCs in the nonstick lining. Use wooden or heat-safe rubber utensils when using nonstick pans.

8. Blending Hot Liquids (Without Removing the Stopper)

You only have to blend hot liquids and have them explode all over you and your kitchen once, because the aftermath is fairly memorable. Most blenders come with a removable stopper on the top. If you've ever been assaulted by hot liquids from your blender, it's probably because you didn't remove the stopper before you blended. Steam from the hot liquid creates pressure that literally blasts off the lid if the stopper is in place. To ease the pressure, remove the stopper and cover the hole with a folded towel to prevent a mess before blending.

9. Put Pyrex Dishes Under the Broiler
Pyrex pans are great for making casseroles, but use a metal pan if your recipe requires broiling—even for a short amount of time. Pyrex pans are not designed to withstand the heat from a broiler. If they get too hot, they shatter, and you'll have to start the recipe from scratch and have a big mess to clean up in your oven.

10. Overmixing Batter
When you're making batter for baking (or anything with large amounts of flour) you want everything to be well combined. And to combine, you mix. But too much mixing isn't good. The mechanical action of the mixing causes gluten to form in the flour, making baked goods tough. So gently mix until the batter is uniform, then put down your mixer.

Report

After making the delivery, the man drove his white Ford Territory into Kendall Street where he was approached by a man who was armed with a knife.

Armed robbery of pizza delivery driver – Bellbird Sunday, 26 November 2017 12:49:27 AM

Police are investigating the armed robbery of a pizza delivery driver at Bellbird, in the state's Hunter region, overnight.

Just before 9.30pm (Saturday 25 November 2017), a 22-year-old man delivered a pizza to a home on Atkinson Street.

The armed man threatened him and demanded cash, before fleeing with his takings.

Police were alerted and officers from Central Hunter Local Area Command attended and canvassed the area.

An investigation is underway and police are urging anyone with information to come forward.

Police are urging anyone with information in relation to this incident to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or use the Crime Stoppers online reporting page: <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au/> Information you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence. We remind people they should not report crime information via our social media pages

Discussions drill to the core of a solution to address post-production mining voids in the Hunter

The role of mining companies in the long-term rehabilitation of open cut land came under discussion at a meeting between Singleton and Cessnock councils and Mining NSW last week.

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore, Cr Danny Thompson and Singleton Council General Manager Jason Linnane joined their Cessnock City Council counterparts, Mayor of Cessnock, Cr Bob Pynsent, Cr Melanie Dagg and General Manager Stephen Glenn at the meeting with NSW Mining CEO Stephen Galilee and Policy Director Claire Doherty in Sydney. They called for industry support for a fund to facilitate the best use of post-production open cut mined land and the need for research into the economic potential and environmental impacts, particularly of final voids.

Cr Thompson said the solution could be that money paid by open cut mining companies to mine subsidence be redirected to the rehabilitation of open cut mining land.

"The NSW Government is changing the funding requirements for the Mine Subsidence Board to relieve open cut mining of subsidising the surface damage caused by underground mining," he said.

"It's our view that the monies that will potentially be returned to open cut mining companies be redirected to a fund to support and oversee the 'best practice' use of mining land post production.

"This is a unique opportunity for NSW to look at the best possible use of these post mining landforms, at no additional costs to

producers." Cr Moore said yesterday's meeting followed similar discussions with NSW Minister for Planning Anthony Roberts on 24 October 2017.

"This is an important conversation that needs to be had and I appreciate both Minister Roberts and Mining NSW opening their doors to us, and for their

support generally for the idea," she said.

"But what I most hope for is that all stakeholders, including the Government and the mining industry, take action on this issue sooner rather than later. "In the Hunter Valley, post-production mining land may result in numerous final voids that are several hundred metres

deep and may take up to a thousand years to fill.

There will be thousands of hectares of land that could play very important social, economic, environmental and cultural roles for the future.

"If a fund is established with sufficient resources, the economic and cultural potential of post mining land could become an asset for the people not only of Singleton and Cessnock, but NSW."

Launch of Mayoral Christmas Tree Appeal

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore, used a Mayoral Minute at last week's ordinary meeting to announce the launch of the 2017 Mayoral Christmas Tree Appeal.

The Mayoral Christmas Tree Appeal has become an annual tradition and an important opportunity for the community to band together to support those less fortunate at Christmastime.

Cr Moore said residents and local businesses can help make Christmas merry for everyone across the local government area by donating unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items under trees at:

- Council's Customer Service Centre;
- Singleton Visitor Information and Enterprise Centre;
- Colleen Gale Children's Centre;
- Singleton Out of School Hours Care (OOSH); and
- Singleton Library.

Donations have been accepted since Monday 27 November 2017 and will end on Friday 15 December 2017 and then distributed to local support groups and charities to assist them in providing support to local families.

"Christmas is a special time of year to celebrate with all the people we love and indulge in food and gifts," Cr Moore said.

"But unfortunately the festive season can be a tough time for some of those among us.

"The Mayoral Christmas Appeal has become a tradition for Council and the community to join together to make sure everyone in our local government area has a joyous holiday season, and has been well supported in previous years.

"I encourage residents and businesses to be generous – every gesture of goodwill, large or small, adds a little cheer to what may be a difficult time for some people in our community."




Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

DALE DROPLET SAYS...

Look after your AWTS!

WATER - REUSE - RECYCLE



What is an AWTS?

An Aerated Wastewater Treatment System (AWTS) is an onsite sewage treatment plant. The wastewater produced is put through a series of treatment and disinfectant processes and then distributed on lawns and gardens.

How to maintain your AWTS


The effective operation of your AWTS depends on:

- quarterly service and maintenance by a qualified service technician
- ensuring that treated effluent is not running or being sprayed onto neighbouring properties
- power to the system not being turned off.

Owner's responsibilities

The owner of the AWTS is responsible for:

- fixing the system when problems are detected
- ensuring the system is inspected quarterly by a qualified service technician and the service report is sent to Council within 7 days
- desludging the system when solid levels become high (usually every 3-5 years)
- complying with Council's request for inspections or maintenance
- ensuring compliance with your Approval to Operate (licence) issued by Council annually
- displaying a sign stating "Recycled water, avoid contact, do not drink" is clearly visible around the disposal area.



Following these simple points will extend the life of your AWTS, reduce water consumption and save you money.

Further information can be found at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au or contact our Environmental Health team on (02) 4993 4100.



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Maybury Peace Park: A permanent reminder of a community minded man

To honour the outstanding dedication of the late Jeff Maybury, a lovely ceremony was held on Wednesday 22nd November to officially rename Peace Park to Maybury Peace Park.

Jeff's family, friends and those who knew and valued him in the community gathered as Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent and Jeff's wife, Pat unveiled the new 'Maybury Peace Park' sign.

Affectionately known as the Mayor of Weston, Jeff Maybury lived in Weston for 71 years and was such a fantastic community minded person. He was the longest serving Cessnock City Councillor with an incredible 35 years of loyal service and just last week, posthumously received Local Government NSW Outstanding Service Award.

In addition to his



commitment to Council, Jeff was also very active with the St Vincent de Paul Society, he was President of the Weston RSL Sub Branch and played an integral role in the Tidy Town movement. He was also named a Freeman of the City last year, which is the highest acclamation Cessnock City can bestow

on its citizens. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this tribute to Jeff is very deserving. "Jeff dedicated much of his life to making our community a better place to live and was instrumental in the establishment and development of Peace Park, so this is truly fitting."

Jeff's wife Pat said Jeff would be humbled and proud Peace Park has been renamed Maybury Peace Park. "For more than 25 years, Jeff worked hard to make Peace Park what it is

today and I would like to thank all those who supported the renaming of the park. "It would always give Jeff so much joy when he drove past and saw people using the park and I can only hope this continues," added Pat.

Photo above Left: Mayor Bob Pynsent & Pat Maybury cut a ribbon to officially rename the park The 'Maybury Peace Park'



Photo above: Karen Jurd (Jeff's daughter), far right, thanking council for recognising her fathers work over many years at Peace Park.



CATHOLIC PARISH BRANXTON & SINGLETON

The Branxton and Singleton Catholic Parishes wish everyone a very happy and Holy Christmas

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

6.30pm St Brigid's Church, Station St, Branxton
6.30pm St Patrick's Church, Queen St, Singleton

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

12.00am St Patrick's Church, Queen St, Singleton

Christmas Day Mass

8.00am St Catherine's Church, Branxton St, Greta
10.00am St Patrick's Church, Queen St, Singleton



REINSW lobbies NSW Opposition Leader



REINSW recently attended a special luncheon, hosted by the Associations Forum, with Luke Foley, the Leader of the Opposition in NSW. During the forum we raised a number of issues facing the property industry. REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin said: "REINSW always takes the opportunity to speak directly to those people in a position of influencing policy legislation, as it affects the

property industry. "There was a whole raft of different industry associations there and it was really interesting that many of them brought up housing affordability as a major issue for them. "For example, some said it affected them retaining staff because they were leaving the area because they could not afford houses.

Real estate reforms legislation announced

Minister for Better Regulation Matt Kean has announced legislation to help strengthen real estate industry standards. It's the first major review of the Property, Stock and Business Agents Act since it became law in 2002. REINSW been campaigning for the training standards of CPD and entry level education to be improved for over 10 years. The legislation is in-line with the Institute's application for the real estate industry to be formally recognised as a profession. Minister Kean said the proposed amendments would bolster training standards as well increasing transparency and accountability.

"I raised the issue of affordability, property taxation and the problems with planning with Mr Foley. The current planning system is cumbersome and there is ample opportunity for people to look at improvements in this area. "Councils need to provide certainty when it comes to development applications. Currently planning in NSW is not yes, not no, but maybe, which is expensive and the costs get passed down to the consumer."

"Buying or selling a home is one of the biggest investments most of us will make in our lifetime – consumers have every right to expect that agents are doing the right thing," he said. He added that the bill came about after close consultation with key stakeholders, including REINSW. REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin said: "The Institute has been campaigning for over 10 years for training standards to be improved. We had substantial input to the reforms through direct lobbying and via the Real Estate Reference Group.

"The Institute is firmly of the view that the overwhelming majority of the issues that attract the attention of the regulator and aggravate consumers can be resolved by substantially improving the education of property professionals." **What are some of the key reforms?**

- Strengthening training standards in the property services industry, including for real estate agents
- Creating a new licensee-in-charge who will supervise agents, oversee trust accounts, and ensure compliance. Applicants will need more practical experience and

additional qualifications

- Banning gifts or benefits that could cause conflicts of interest
- Greater transparency around fees, charges and commissions received by agents
- Introducing separate trust accounts for rent and sales money
- Requiring all trust account audits to be submitted to NSW Fair Trading
- New fraud prevention measures that will require agents to transfer rental income out of trust accounts at the end of each month.

5 must dos for any renovation

by Naomi Findlay

Before you start swinging a hammer at your walls there are some things to consider, whether you're renovating to sell or renovating your dream house. It's important to remember renovation is a long term investment; your decisions will

have important consequences down the line. If you don't plan on selling you property straight away you are making a lifestyle investment rather than an investment for a profit. This means that instead of buying the cheapest bathroom taps or painting in neutral colours that potential buyers like, you are able to splurge on what you really love and what you know you will continue to love in 20 or 40 years! Your decisions will have important consequences down the line. Here are five things you should always remember whether you're renovating for profit or love. **Have a clear strategy** Plan ahead and set yourself targets. A timeline that you review at least every few days is a great way to stay on track.

Don't forget about the Council

Getting council approval can take some time so it's best to get a start on it early. Requirements differ from council to council but you will have to complete a formal development application for the property and you will also have to put forward proposals and building plans. After you've presented this to the council you have to wait for approval, so don't spend too much money and get ahead of yourself before being sure you can proceed as planned. **Be realistic about your budget**

Overspending is a real concern for renovators and I'm not going to lie, it's easy to do, that's why a budget is vital in your renovation planning. Make a list of all your needs & wants this should include everything from your door knobs to how much you are going to pay for your trades. It's always a good idea to have a buffer in your budget and it should be at least 10% of the total budget from my experience. **Take the lead and save** If you want to save a little bit of money you can be your own project manager, or have a go at completing some of the tasks yourself. Project managing means you will be organising and co-ordinate all the tradies and make sure everything goes as planned. However, it's essential to be realistic about your skill level and the time you will be able to dedicate to the project, otherwise those savings will go out the unfinished window.

Compare Whether you're just giving the lounge room a face lift with some paint, or kicking off a grand scale renovation, you should always compare quotes. Shop around and make sure you get the best and fairest deal. Don't forget you are the boss so if you want to make sure you are hiring the best people for the job you can ask for referrals from previous clients or to have a look through the contractor's portfolio.

**HEARD IT THROUGH
the
GRAPEVINE**

On Tuesday this week, Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association (HVWTA) along

with four passionate tourism operators presented to the teams at Tourism Australia about our destination, Hunter Valley. Joined by Ebony Tinkler, Troy Rhoades-Brown, Phil Hele and Sharon Friere, the HVWTA covered the four hero experiences that make up the Hunter Valley; Wine, Food, Activities and Accommodation offerings. The HVWTA had never presented to Tourism Australia, so this was an important step in increasing



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

HUNTER VALLEY PRESENTS FOR FIRST TIME TO TOURISM AUSTRALIA



Troy Rhoades-Brown giving his presentation to Tourism Australia

international visitation, as part of our strategic marketing plan. The presentation was well received and applauded by

many who attended, in the regard that the operators weren't just pitching their product or business, but rather presenting as

advocates for each hero experience in the region. The HVWTA hope to continue to strengthen ties with Tourism Australia, as international visitation makes up a significant portion of visitation to the Hunter Valley.

A CALL TO ACTION! MAJOR DESTINATION MARKETING CAMPAIGN

A recent survey of the Tourism Industry undertaken by Cessnock City Council critically highlighted the urgent need to undertake a marketing campaign that would support not only direct tourism operators but all the indirect tourism businesses across the Cessnock and Singleton Local Government Areas (LGA's). The Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Alliance (Alliance) therefore invites all tourism operators and businesses in the Cessnock and Singleton LGA's to pledge a nominal amount towards a major and aggressive destination marketing campaign in partnership with Destination NSW to promote the Hunter Valley Wine Country and critically increase visitation to the region. The campaign would

take place in the first 6 months of 2018. Delivered under the Regional Cooperative Tourism funding program, our state peak body Destination NSW will

ensure the significant investment will be able deliver meaningful, measurable results. Destination NSW will develop a strategic approach and KPIs associated with the campaign to drive optimal exposure, awareness and conversions, increasing visitor expenditure in Hunter Valley Wine Country.

Based on an initial industry contribution of \$200,000 provided by businesses in Hunter Valley Wine Country, it is envisaged a major marketing campaign of up to \$600,000 value could be sought for our region through the Destination NSW Regional Cooperative Tourism funding program.

The total scale and value of the cooperative marketing campaign would be subject to confirmed industry commitment, with which the Alliance can pursue state and local government contributions of appropriate amounts.

FUNDING

N.B. Every \$1 pledged from industry and Alliance partners will be doubled by Destination NSW – none of the funding raised will be used for administration or any other costs.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Alliance Partners,
- Tourism Operators and Business Owners across the Cessnock and Singleton LGA's,
- Destination NSW and Sydney North & Surrounds Destination Network.
- Sydney North & Surrounds Destination Network.

**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**

Congratulations to Robyn & Ian Talbot of Frederick Street, North Rothbury. The large rambling yard has got it all; wonderful vegies, beautiful gardens & potted plants, lots of trees & the occasional kangaroo. A credit to you both.



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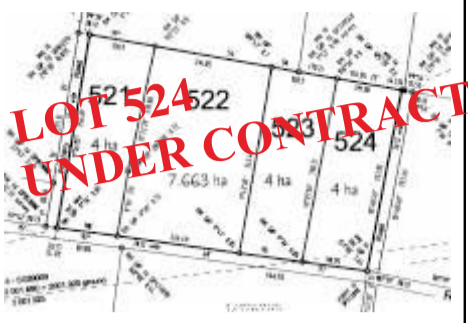
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For Sale

NORTH ROTHBURY

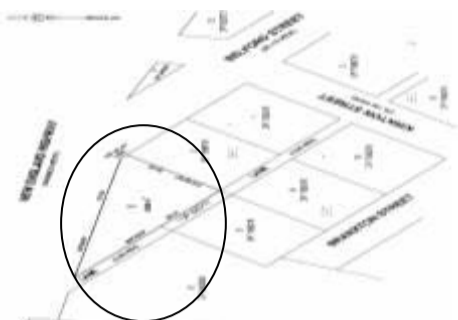


Lots 521, 523 & 524
Littlewood Road,

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 main-
tained & is on 1011square metres; a quar-
ter acre block.

ASKING \$365,000

NORTH ROTHBURY



Not the actual view

Vacant
Land
809m²

Vacant Building Block
Fantastic visage
\$130,000 ONO

GLENDON BROOK RETREAT!

GLENDONBROOK ROAD, GLENDON BROOK
(Lot 61 DP 1100235)

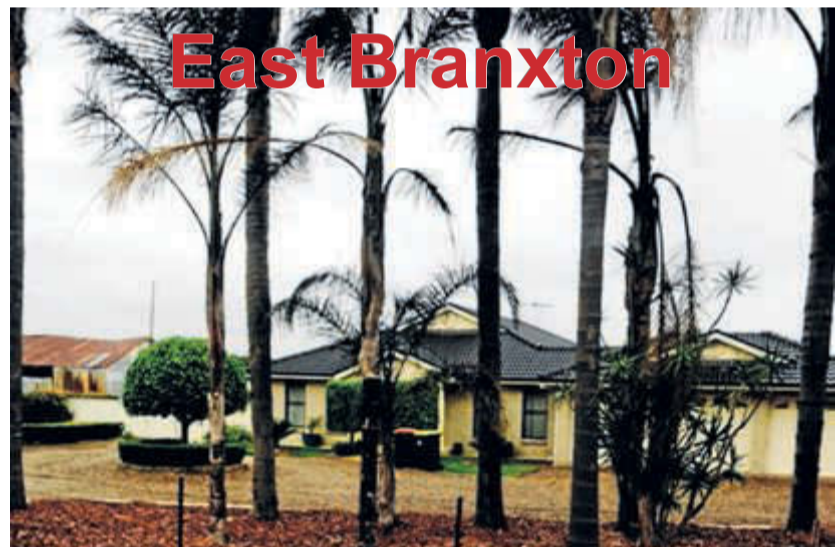
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Features include:-

- 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 ONO



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

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

If you can help please call Helen on 4938 3300



Out & About

with Mike Lowing

North Rothbury Tidy Town inaugural Twilight Market

North Rothbury Tidy Town's inaugural Twilight Markets, held last Saturday evening, has been hailed as a wonderful evening & a financially rewarding event for the small communities Tidy Town committee. An estimated 500 (approx. 400 people fed) residents & visitors enjoyed the variety of stalls, the wonderful venue & the superb food on offer. To all those in the community & visitors who attended ~ thank you for your support.



RFS Fundraising Concert at Ah Moi Tharmarajah's property Bimbadeen Road Cranky Corner

A wonderful evening, last Saturday, was had by all who attended & not dampened by the much needed rain. The fundraiser for the local RFS was held at Ah Moi Tharmarajah's property, Cranky Corner & it was a credit to her organisational skills. Over \$3000 was raised on the night.



Thankfully a marquee was in-situ!



Tom & Barbara Randall enjoying the night



Future 'Stars' Sisters Gia & Payton Gunther



'Outback Duo' had the crowd mesmerised



North Rothbury Tidy Towns Christmas meeting & BBQ held at Ayrfield Memorial Park last Sunday.



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

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE
P: 4938 3300



"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living, Branxton
Recent sales



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

The New 'Container deposit scheme'

All you need to know



From last Friday Hunter residents will be able to return eligible containers to collection points in the Hunter for a 10-cent refund as part of the state's container deposit scheme, *Return and Earn*.

The following collection points have been installed in the Hunter;

- Woolworths Mayfield, Maitland Road & Valencia Street, Mayfield – Reverse vending machine
- Woolworths Medowie, 39-47 Ferodale Road, Medowie – Reverse vending machine
- Woolworths Salamander Bay, 2 Town Centre Circuit, Salamander Bay – Reverse vending machine
- Woolworths Mount Hutton, 46 Wilsons Road, Mount Hutton – Reverse vending machine

The reverse vending machines give people the option for an electronic transfer using PayPal, a cash refund and an in-store credit at Woolworths or the option to donate it to selected charities.

49 per cent of litter by volume is made up of beverage containers – and 43 per cent of the total volume is containers that will be caught by the scheme.

Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton said the rollout was a massive logistical exercise.

"There are plenty more to be installed across the state in the coming weeks as the rollout continues," Ms Upton said.

Drink containers eligible for the 10-cent refund include most containers between 150ml and three litres.

geolocator map will be made available in coming weeks to help you identify where your nearest collection point is located.

How many collection points will there be across NSW?

There will be more than 500 Return and Earn collection points across NSW including more than 800 reverse vending machines. The Network Operator, TOMRA-Cleanaway, will be finalising these locations over the coming months. Broadly speaking though there will be a Collection Point for each remote town with more than 500 people, each regional town with more than 1000 people, as well as an additional point for regional towns with 20,000 people, and in more than 270 sites across the Greater Sydney Region. A Collection Point can be automated (made up of one or more reverse vending machines) or a manual depot.

What will the operating hours for collection points be?
Major urban area
 35 ordinary hours each week, including at least 8 weekend hours.
Regional area
 24 ordinary hours each week,

Containers should not be crushed or broken and have the original label attached to be eligible for the refund. The state-wide network of collection points will include reverse vending machines, over-the-counter collection points such as selected cafes, service stations, small grocers and newsagencies, and automated depots for large volumes of drink containers.

Beverage suppliers, which includes manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers who supply eligible containers into NSW will be responsible for funding the scheme and its associated costs.

Did you know?
 Sydney City Council has tried using recycling bins in public areas, but levels of contamination made it impossible to recycle the materials collected.
 The beauty of these machines is that they accept only items that can be recycled and reject anything else. No more burger wrappers!
 The machine also identifies the type of recyclable container by barcode, so if your plastic bottle is rejected, check that the label is intact.

NSW is the third Australian jurisdiction to adopt this scheme, with Queensland and the ACT to follow suit in 2018. South Australia has the longest-running CDS in the country and sees a 76.5% return rate for their beverage containers. They also have a very high landfill diversion rate of 80% across the board.

Where is my nearest collection point?

The Network Operator, TOMRA-Cleanaway, are currently in negotiations to establish collection points across the State. A

including at least 8 weekend hours.

Remote area
 16 ordinary hours each 2-week period, including at least 8 weekend hours.

Who do I call if my collection point is not open or my RVM is broken?

The Network Operator, TOMRA-Cleanaway has a hotline number for people to call with any complaints, queries or feedback about collection points. Please call 1800 917 395 or email enquiries@tcnsw.com.au.

Can I still use my yellow bin for recycling?

Kerbside recycling remains very important to our

community, and Return and Earn will compliment this system, not compete with it. Eligible containers can continue to be placed in the kerbside system, and kerbside recycling will continue to be important for containers that are typically consumed at home, some of which aren't eligible for a refund within Return and Earn. You will not personally receive the refund if you put containers in kerbside recycling. Instead your Council has the opportunity to enter into an agreement with its recycling facility to allocate a refund sharing arrangement from those containers. This may result in reduced waste charges to you, or improved waste facilities in your area.

Can I start collecting containers now?

Return and Earn rolls out across the state from 1 December 2017. The EPA discourages people from collecting containers before then.

What is a Reverse Vending Machine (RVM)?

- A reverse vending machine (RVM) is the opposite of a drink dispensing machine.

- A person places their empty eligible drink container into the machine, the container is scanned to verify it is eligible and the person receives a voucher they can redeem for cash in a store nearby.

These machines are designed to not to hold cash for security reasons.

How do we get reverse vending machines?

The location of reverse vending machines and collection points will be determined by the Network Operator, TOMRA-Cleanaway, in the coming weeks.

RVMs will be placed where people are already visiting in large numbers, to maximise consumer convenience and accessibility. If you have suggestions for where a RVM should be located or interest in hosting one, please register your interest via the form on the EPA website at <http://epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/cds-collection-point-operator.htm> or contact enquiries@tcnsw.com.au.

How do I get paid my refund?

Consumers that use an RVM to return their containers will have at least two options to receive a refund payment:

1. they can receive a

voucher which can be spent or redeemed for cash in a participating retailer, or they can register to receive a direct payment to an account. Consumers can also choose to donate their refunds to charities, schools or community groups linked to the RVMs.

How often will the RVM be emptied and cleaned?

RVMs are required to be regularly emptied and cleaned at the same time.

What happens to containers that are not eligible?

Won't they get dumped at RVMs and cause litter?

Collection point operators are required to keep sites clean and are responsible for maintaining the amenity of sites, including removing litter.

Won't RVMs be vandalised and cause my suburb to look dirty?

RVMs do not hold cash. Studies in Europe have found that they are rarely vandalised as they provide money via vouchers to customers, but do not hold money themselves.

Why are wine bottles and spirits excluded?

Return and Earn is designed to reduce litter. Wine and spirits in glass bottles are predominantly consumed at home and are not found in the litter stream according to the National Litter Index. The scope of containers covered in NSW is also broadly similar to the exceptions in the South Australian and Northern Territory container deposit schemes, to aid consistency.

Can I crush my cans and bottles?

No. Do not crush containers prior to redeeming your refund. The container must be readily identifiable as an eligible container to receive a refund, by barcode or other information on the container. Crushing may render such identification difficult or impossible and collection points may reject crushed containers.

Do I need to remove the lid from my container?
 No. Bottles with lids can go through RVMs without difficulty.

What happens if my container does not have a label?

As the scheme matures consumers will note a specific mark on beverage containers showing that they are eligible for a refund. This mark on the label will be required for a refund to be paid. Early on, however, to assist with litter collection and while manufacturers take time to add the required marks, there will be a transition period to allow businesses to make these changes to their products.

As the scheme matures consumers will note a specific mark on beverage containers showing that they are eligible for a refund. This mark on the label will be required for a refund to be paid. Early on, however, to assist with litter collection and while manufacturers take time to add the required marks, there will be a transition period to allow businesses to make these changes to their products.

How do I become a collection point?

To register your interest to run a collection point visit the website of the Network Operator, TOMRA-Cleanaway and fill out their online form:

www.tcnsw.com.au
 Alternatively register your interest with the EPA at <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/cds-collection-point-operator.htm>

How can my school or community group use Return and Earn to fund raise?

- Charities, schools, community or sporting groups can establish temporary donation points for fundraising activities where people

can donate empty eligible containers for the charity or community group to then redeem. It is important that the charity or community groups refers to the donation point as a donation point and not a collection point, as no refund will be handed out at donation points.

Charities, community groups and social enterprises can also work with the Network Operator to set up and run collection points in exchange for a service fee.

Who will pay the fees associated with running the Scheme?

All first suppliers of eligible beverage containers in NSW will be required to fund the costs of the scheme. 'First supply' in to NSW is defined as the first time a recipient receives a container in NSW – whether it is delivered to them or they collect it, within the State boundaries.



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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Kirkton Public School

Assembly Awards 22nd November

The recipients of awards are:
 K/1/2: Lucette * *Enthusiastic participant at Swimming*
 Andre * *His "Have a Go" attitude*
 Riley * *Improvement in Handwriting*
 Sophie * *Beautiful manners*
 Rhys * *Trying hard in Mathematics*
 Jaxson * *Improvement in Fine Motor Skills*
 Wyatt * *Excellent work in Indonesian*
 Gracie * *Excellent work in Indonesian*
 3/4/5/6: Alyssa * *Outstanding Community Service*

Felina * *Outstanding Community Service*
 Millie * *Outstanding Community Service*
 Taylor * *Settling in well to our school*
 Sabastien * *Settling in well to our school*
 John * *Settling in well to our school*
 Isaac * *Problem solving when making an electrical circuit*

PBL Awards

Silver Awards
 The recipients of awards are:
 Zara Taymin Willow Jayden

Bronze Award
 The recipients of award are:
 Wyatt Ethan St.

FLORA
 FRIENDSHIP LEARNING OPPORTUNITY RESPECT ACHIEVEMENT

GRETA WORKERS CLUB
2 WEST ST GRETA
4938 7325

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

FRIDAY 8th DECEMBER
DEFACED

FRIDAY 15th DECEMBER
OUTLAW AVENUE

SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER

TOY RAFFLE
HAMS, MEAT TRAYS
OVER \$1,500
IN PRIZES

MEAT & HAM
RAFFLES
FRIDAY & SUNDAY

HORN
Vs
HELLRAISER
Wednesday 13th December
World Title Fight

MILLER PARK

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW
THURSDAY 7th DECEMBER

\$3,000

SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER

\$5,000

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

HAPPY HOUR
MILLER PARK WEDNESDAY
4.00 – 7.00pm
GRETA THURSDAY
4.00 – 6.00pm
\$3.40 a Schooner

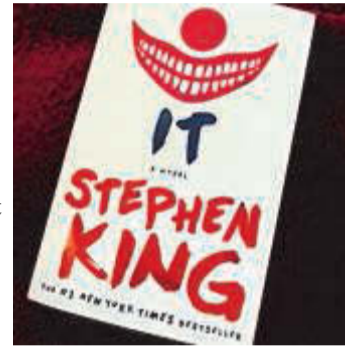
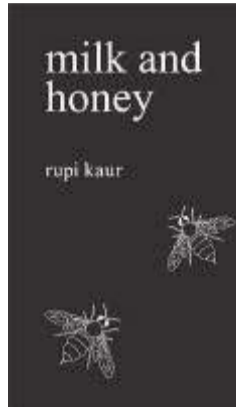
THE PARK RESTAURANT

WEDNESDAY — SUNDAY
LUNCH & DINNER
GREAT FOOD

RAFFLES
FRIDAY
MEAT TRAYS
& HAMS
SUNDAY
MEAT TRAYS
& HAMS

The New York Times Best Sellers ~ Fiction

- 7 weeks on the list
THE SUN AND HER FLOWERS ~ by Rupi Kaur
- 84 weeks on the list
MILK AND HONEY ~ by Rupi Kaur
- 14 weeks on the list
IT ~ by Stephen King
- New this week
COUNT TO TEN ~ by James Patterson and Ashwin Sanghi
- 41 weeks on the list
THE HANDMAID'S TALE ~ by Margaret Atwood
- 32 weeks on the list
THE WOMAN IN CABIN 10 ~ by Ruth Ware
- 33 weeks on the list
ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE ~ by Anthony Doerr
- 38 weeks on the list
LILAC GIRLS ~ by Martha Hall Kelly
- 4 weeks on the list
THE BLACK BOOK ~ by James Patterson and David Ellis
- 10 weeks on the list
BEHIND CLOSED DOORS ~ by B. A. Paris



a pleasure. Many of the chapters or sections have been published before, mostly in magazines, but unorthodox as that may be in publishing a novel, it works. On the matter of form, McGregor wrote in his memoir, *Left Hand Drive*:

It was through French filmmaking that I was won over to the idea that life is not a continuous linear narrative but a mix of the present and the past and the future, of flashbacks and flashforwards, of remembrances and relationships and bits and pieces of the conscious and unconscious mind and emotions felt and unfelt and half-recovered and revived, all experienced contemporaneously, so that the ever-present is never just the present and that life from instant to instant is almost indecipherable jangle of that which we have experienced, and are experiencing, and will experience. And that one's writing should strive to reflect that.

Hence says the author: 'this deconstructed novella'.

and when the narrator says rather lamely, 'Someone's gotta do it', Nathan retorts: 'You write it, I'm living it'. As we amble with the author through the coastal part of southern Queensland (I say 'amble' because of McGregor's skill in giving us a deceptively relaxed reading experience, whilst at the same time *Motel* teems with ideas and wordplays, as well as a palpable respect for women as well as for his surfing mates and indigenous Australians.) Always conscious of the unfolding love story in the background, we are seduced and sometimes challenged by McGregor's view of life, and increasingly we join him in enjoying his approach to it. Because of the way the book has been constructed, there is the occasional repetition and overlap. But overall this somewhat unconventional way of producing a novel has come together into a very satisfying whole. In *Motel*, McGregor has provided us with an enjoyable reading experience, and at the same time contributed significantly to our understanding of the human condition and to what it means to be Australian.

Motel by Craig McGregor is published by Arcadia Books

- *Profile of Australia* (1966)
- *The High Country* (1967)

ABOUT Craig McGregor (born 12 October 1933, in Jamberoo, New South Wales) is an Australian journalist, essayist, academic, cultural observer and critic.



Life and career
McGregor went to Cranbrook School, Sydney, leaving at 16 to work at the Sydney Morning Herald before studying arts at the University of Sydney. He has written books on Australian society, politics and popular culture, as well as two novels and a collection of short stories. He wrote the script for a section of the 1973 film *Libido* and co-wrote the 1976 rock opera *Hero*. He has won two Walkley Awards for Journalism: in 1977 for Best Newspaper Feature Story, and in 1986 for Best Feature in a Newspaper or Magazine.¹ He met and interviewed Bob Dylan during his 1966 tour of Australia, and later edited the book *Bob Dylan: A retrospective*. He has his own entry in *The Bob Dylan Encyclopedia*. He is Emeritus Professor of Visual Communication at the University of Technology, Sydney, where he taught between 1988 and 2000.

and when the narrator says rather lamely, 'Someone's gotta do it', Nathan retorts: 'You write it, I'm living it'. As we amble with the author through the coastal part of southern Queensland (I say 'amble' because of McGregor's skill in giving us a deceptively relaxed reading experience, whilst at the same time *Motel* teems with ideas and wordplays, as well as a palpable respect for women as well as for his surfing mates and indigenous Australians.) Always conscious of the unfolding love story in the background, we are seduced and sometimes challenged by McGregor's view of life, and increasingly we join him in enjoying his approach to it. Because of the way the book has been constructed, there is the occasional repetition and overlap. But overall this somewhat unconventional way of producing a novel has come together into a very satisfying whole. In *Motel*, McGregor has provided us with an enjoyable reading experience, and at the same time contributed significantly to our understanding of the human condition and to what it means to be Australian.

- *People, Politics and Pop* (1968)
- *To Sydney with Love* (1968)
- *Don't Talk to Me about Love* (a novel, 1973)
- *Bob Dylan: A retrospective* (editor) (1972)
- *Life in Australia* (editor) (1972)
- *Up Against the Wall, America* (1973)
- *The Great Barrier Reef* (1974)
- *The See-through Revolver* (a novel, 1977)
- *The History of Surfing* (1983)
- *Soundtrack for the Eighties* (1983)
- *Time of Testing: The Bob Hawke Victory* (1983)
- *Pop Goes the Culture* (1984)
- *Real Lies* (short stories, 1987)
- *Headliners* (1990)
- *Class in Australia* (1997)
- *Australian Son: Inside Mark Latham* (2004)
- *Left Hand Drive: A Social and Political Memoir* (2013)

Motel by Craig McGregor is published by Arcadia Books

- *Profile of Australia* (1966)
- *The High Country* (1967)

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REVIEW MOTEL by Craig McGregor & The Top 5 Fiction Bestseller List ~ NY Times

Motel – a novella of love, desire and marriage by Craig McGregor

By Robert Sessions
Craig McGregor is the Walkley-winning journalist and author of over 20 books, mostly social commentary, but also fiction, pop culture, music and surfing. Also a revealing memoir, entitled *Left Hand Drive*. All of this has stood him in good stead in approaching his latest book, *Motel*. Some reviewers might choose to call it a 'discontinuous narrative' or even a 'novella', but it reads like a novel and whatever its form, it is essentially an engrossing love story, told from both sides of an enduring relationship. Craig McGregor writes beautiful, evocative prose, sometimes interspersed with extracts of poetry or songs. Whether it is Kenneth Slessor, Les Murray, Dylan Thomas or Bob Dylan, these occasional short extracts are carefully chosen and add to the sense of cultural connection which makes reading McGregor such



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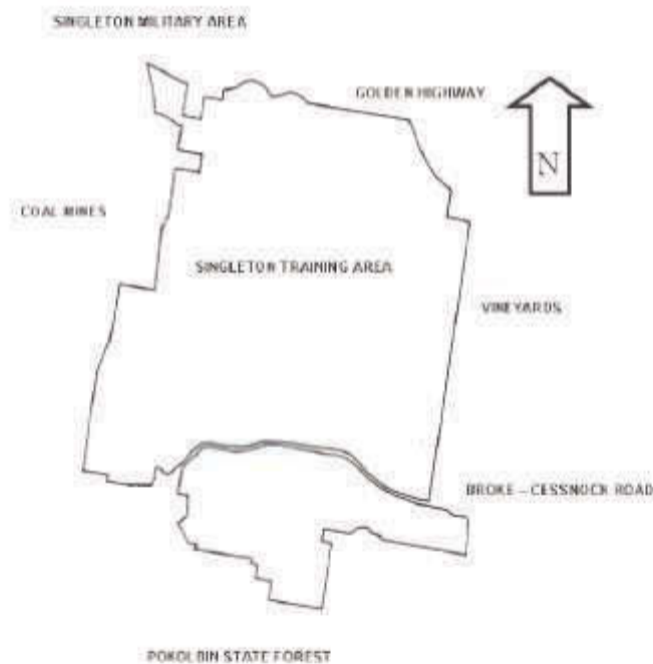
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Firing practices using live ammunition are conducted continuously on this training area. Low power laser range finders are also used.

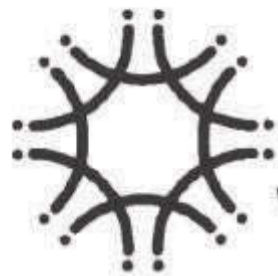
Death or serious injury may result from being struck by a projectile. Eye damage may occur when viewing laser beams from within the training area boundary.

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Persons found trespassing on Army Training Areas will be prosecuted.

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Directorate of Operations and Training Area Management
Range Road
Singleton Training Area
Singleton NSW 2331.



BRANXTON
view
 voice interests and
 education of women



Branxton VIEW club welcomed two valuable members of our community, Captain Paul and Michael from Branxton Fire and Rescue NSW, at our last meeting. Paul told us that Branxton

Station is unique being a primary rescue station - a first responder station. Time is of the essence in responding to accidents and medical calls thus with the closest ambulance stations to us being Singleton,

Cessnock and Rutherford, Branxton plays a vital role. Our "firies" are trained by the Ambulance service in medical skills and their fire trucks carry defibrillators and other equipment to deal

with such emergencies. 000 calls to Fire, Police and Ambulance can mean that initial response is directed to our local brigade within a 20 minute radius from the Branxton station. The program has been in operation for 6 years starting with 6 calls per month to 2017 on average 4 calls per day - so far 450 calls this year with the majority being 60% medical calls. The men wear Ambulance vests and carry Ambulance ID cards. An interesting point was made by Paul that even if children ring 911 for emergency calls due to overseas television programs these calls will be sent to 000.

Better building standards have seen the fire rate dropping but bushfires in rural areas are mainly looked after by our NSW Rural Fire Services and for information on bushfires ring 1800 674 737. Paul spoke about their Community Engagement Program which aims to help people, especially older people with smoke alarms. They have modern smoke alarms available which are fitted with a 10 year battery and will be happy to help anyone with advice re placement difficulties, etc. It seems that a lot of alarms were placed in kitchen areas where a fire blanket would be a better aid. The correct method of using a fire blanket was demonstrated by Paul. We learnt that smoke alarms should be placed in or near bedrooms or on the ceiling sleeping and living areas.



Paul and Michael responded to the many questions asked by our members. Fires in the kitchen can start with stove range hoods accumulating grease and dust. Laundry clothes dryers need their lint filters cleaned regularly and not to leave them on if leaving the house. Extension cords hidden under mats can be a fire hazard. Power boards need to have overload switches, and turned on their side so as not to accumulate dust in holes or use plastic covers when not in use. Double adaptors not advisable. So much valuable information including a Home Fire Safety checklist.

1. Have at least one working smoke alarm per level of home.
2. Test smoke alarms once a month by pushing the test button for 5 seconds.
3. Plan for an

emergency-know your exits.

4. Follow your buildings evacuation procedures and warning systems.
5. Leave keys for locks in or near the door.
6. KEEP LOOKING WHEN COOKING.
7. Never cook under the influence of alcohol or drugs
8. Keep BBQ's and portable stoves clean and only use in a suitable outdoor area.
9. To help you better identify your location in an emergency, download the "Emergency +" app for free at emergency.triplezero.gov.au. In a building fire, get out, stay out and call Triple Zero-000.

Thank you so much, Paul and Michael. I know that some of our members are buying fire blankets for

their kitchen, upgrading power boards and checking family members with their new information. When you hear the welcome sirens announcing the annual 'lolly run with Santa on the Fire engine' just think of how lucky we are in our Branxton community to have such a great service and such dedicated men. A very special thanks to Mike who also adds to this wonderful community with the fortnightly publication - Branxton Greta Vineyard NEWS. Our next function will be held at Old Maitland Inn, Rutherford-Christmas lunch -good friends, laughter and more fun-what more does one need? Peace and love to everyone
 Judy Spillard
 © Photo top left: Michael, President Bethany and Captain Paul



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Schnitzel

Saturday & Sunday Night

Conditions apply

Friday Raffles

Meat, Seafood, Fruit & Vegies trays

47 Schoolers to be won In the Schooner Draw

**Branxton Golf Club
 Community Christmas Spectacular
 Friday 8th Dec. 5.30pm**

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

Donnie's Childrens Disco

1st Sunday of the Month

Free



click



TAKE SOME GOOD ADVICE

Facebook Privacy Basics

What You Need to Know About Facebook Privacy Facebook privacy (or the lack of it) has been a part of the news more often than Facebook founders might like. But when you share information online – anywhere, not just on Facebook – some common sense coupled with appropriate privacy settings will help assure your privacy remains intact. It can be tempting to share all of your deepest, darkest secrets on Facebook. And while you might have shared these conversations with your true friends, if you don't know how to properly adjust your Facebook privacy settings or don't bother to find out, you might be sharing lots of information with people across the world you'd rather not share it with.

Facebook Privacy Fundamentals

There are two basic Facebook concepts you need to understand in order to achieve the level of privacy you want on Facebook.

1. Type of information Who it's shared with Facebook Privacy Information Types

When it comes to information you post on Facebook, it is categorized into the following groups:

- **Your status, photos, and posts** – These are items you post to Facebook that may talk about what you're doing, the photos of you or events you upload to Facebook and any items you post on your Facebook wall.

- **Bio and favorite quotations** – Information you provide as part of your profile that includes the bio you wrote about yourself and any favorite quotations you add.

- **Family and relationships** – Any information you've included in your Facebook profile in the Relationships section. This will include whether you're married or in a relationship, etc., may include your partner's name and photo and may include any family members and their photos that you've included within your profile.

- **Photos and videos I'm tagged in** – These can include photos and videos for which you've tagged yourself or that others have

tagged with your name – even photos and videos you weren't previously aware of and those where you're not even in the picture.

- **Religious and political views** – Whatever information you've put into your profile in the Basic Information area about your religious and political views.

- **Birthday** – Again, this information is what you specified as your birth date when you signed up for Facebook and is included in the Basic Information area of your Facebook profile. Facebook requires you to provide a date of birth when you sign up – but it doesn't have to be your actual date of birth. Your actual date of birth, in the wrong hands, can lead to undesirable circumstances, like identity theft. I'm sometimes amazed at the number of people I see listing their actual date of birth and allowing the world to see it.

- **Can comment on posts** – While this isn't an actual type of information on Facebook, it gives you control over who is allowed to comment on your Facebook Status/Wall posts. Those who are not allowed to comment won't see a Comment link below your post.

- **Places I check in to** – If you use the Here Now feature on Facebook, you basically tell people where you are at a given moment in time – like at the racetrack, at the bar, etc. If you customize your Facebook privacy settings for this feature to Include me in "People Here Now" after I check in your location will not only be shared with friends or whomever you specified, it will be shared with other people on Facebook who are near that location. If you've ever been the victim of a stalker, you can appreciate how dangerous this feature could be.

- **Contact information** – This includes any and all information in the Contact Information section of your Facebook profile, much of which may have been required when you signed up for Facebook and you haven't thought much about since. This includes your email addresses, your physical address and any phone numbers you provided.

- **Facebook Sharing Privacy Levels** There are only three levels of privacy in Facebook:

1. Everyone

2. **Friends of Friends** Friends Only While these are the basic Facebook Privacy groups, you can create custom Friend Lists that you specify may see certain types of information and in many areas, you can specify **Only me**, such as for your birthday, mobile phone number, etc.

- **Everyone** – Means your information is visible to anyone without limits, and could end up on other sites, shared with people around the world, and not necessarily limited to those on Facebook.

- **Friends Only** – Fairly self-explanatory. The information is available to anyone whose invitation you accepted to become Friends on Facebook and anyone who has accepted your invitation to become Friends on Facebook. These people probably include your actual friends, family members and people you know quite well. But in Facebook, "Friends" can also include people you don't know that well and, in many cases, people you don't know at all.

- **Friends of Friends** – This setting includes every one of your Facebook Friends as well as every one of their Facebook Friends. Think for a minute. How many Friends do you have on Facebook? How many Friends do each of those Friends have? You're dealing with exponential numbers of people, the vast majority of whom you've probably never heard of, and in many cases, people you wouldn't be friends with either on Facebook or in real life if you knew more about them. Even if you're careful about whom you invite to be your Facebook Friend, and whose Friend invitations you accept, your friends may not be so careful.

- **Achieving Privacy on Facebook Without Touching Your Settings** You can control your privacy without changing your Privacy settings in Facebook. You could:

- Reveal only information you're comfortable sharing with others.

- Use a different name and/or birth date than your actual.

- Use a different email address for your Facebook account that is not one of your primary email addresses. Not invite people or accept Friend invitations from people whom you don't know.

Beyond that, you'll want to adjust your Facebook Privacy settings.

Some interesting things about Facebook

1. Although a little bit old at the end of 2015, Facebook released some impressive statistics about how many people use the site. There were 1.59 billion monthly users of the site as of December 31, 2015. For those browsing through their friends on their phones, the company reported that there were 1.44 billion mobile monthly active users. On average, there were 1.04 billion daily active users on the site, according to the December 2015 statistics. The number of average mobile users was nearly as high, at 934 million a day. This wide reach is global. Approximately 83.6 percent of these daily active users are outside the United States and Canada.

2. Again a little bit old info but the most popular person on Facebook ~ Cristiano Ronaldo surpassed Shakira as the most popular person on Facebook in 2015. If Facebook is viewed as high school in the digital world, then who reigns supreme at the cool kids' table? Well, for awhile it was Colombian singer Shakira. The "Hips Don't Lie" hit-maker crossed the threshold with the most "liked" Facebook page in 2014.

But Shakira was unseated from her Facebook throne a little less than a year later, when Real Madrid soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo surpassed her with more likes. Both celebrities have over 100 million likes and counting. As of publication, Ronaldo has 109,243,536 likes versus Shakira's 104,415,432

3. Most-liked photo ~ Posted to President Barack Obama's public Facebook account after being re-elected for a second term, this image of the first couple stands as the most-liked photograph on the social site. Facebook Everyone has those happy moments when you post a selfie with a friend and suddenly you are inundated with "likes." President Barack Obama experienced that, too, just magnified by the millions. After winning re-election in 2012, a photo of Obama and the First Lady embracing with the caption "Four more years" generated the most likes of any photo in Facebook history.

As of now, the image has garnered 4,410,548 likes.

Only The Brave

All men are created equal... then, a few become firefighters. Only the Brave, based on the true story of the Granite Mountain Hotshots, is the heroic story of one unit of local firefighters that through hope, determination, sacrifice, and the drive to protect families, communities, and our country become one of the most elite firefighting teams in the country. As most of us run from danger, they run toward it--they watch over our lives, our homes, everything we hold dear, as they forge a unique brotherhood that comes into focus with one fateful fire ...

Stars: Josh Brolin, Miles Teller, Taylor Kitsch, James Badge Dale, Geoff Stults, Thad Luckenbill, Jennifer Connelly, Jeff Bridges, Andie MacDowell and Natalie Hall
Director: Joseph Kosinski
Scriptwriters: Ken Nolan and Eric Warren Singer from the GQ article "No Exit" by Sean Flynn
Composer: Joseph Trapanese
Cinematographer: Claudio Miranda
Running Length: 134 minutes

There are many films made about groups of men and women who go into dangerous situations on land, sea, air and bravery plus courage is in the forefront. They are the people who run into an area when everyone else is leaving. This particular film concerns firefighters who go after forest fires, as though that fire is alive and devouring. Fire can "breathe" and when exhaling, you never know which direction it aims for. Hot Shot Firefighters are the best of the best in controlling forest fires, but even then, the fire can strike back. Such is the story of a particular group of Hot Shots, in fact, they were newly Hot Shots at the time of the story, which is June 2013 in Yarnell, Arizona. You may remember the headlines from that time in which 19 firefighters lost their lives. One survived and this film is their story. Josh Brolin plays Eric Marsh, who is the leader of a firefighting group in Arizona. Jennifer Connelly is his wife, Amanda, who takes care of abused horses. Their friend is Duane Steinbrink (Jeff Bridges) and Eric and Jeff are trying to better the fire team and go into the Hot Shot category. There are vignettes of many of the men in the group of 20. Their ages, with the exception of Eric, are in their twenties. This is dangerous work, and they live on the edge. Miles Teller is Brendan (Donut) a troubled youth with a girlfriend, new baby and trying to stay away from drugs. Many of the group have families and some go from girlfriend to girlfriend. This is western



country, and the dryness of the climate and sagebrush, not to mention lightning strikes in higher elevations, add to the possibility of fire. Not only is there that to watch for, but on the ground are rattlesnakes, too. We see the men train to keep in shape, and how they keep track of the latest weather conditions and wind velocity. During the real tragedy, it was noted there was a lack of communication which led to the men being stranded. This is the major problem at Yarnell and it is harrowing to be with the men and flames "high as the sky." As far as acting, Josh Brolin does a very good job as the conflicted Eric, who lives for his job and doesn't seem to notice much else, even his wife. Brolin does a great deal of acting with body language. On the opposite side is Miles Teller, whose character is trying to leave a past behind and finds new life with this group of men and his own growing family. He does notice things. It takes a moment to recognize Jeff Bridges under his cowboy hat and accent, and though Andie MacDowell's name is in the credits, she isn't in the film much at all.

Cinematography is first-rate and what special effects there are, blend in well. You are there, on the ground or in the air, and this is what it is like to fight a forest fire. Joseph Trapanese music score gives a western flavour without being obtrusive. My experience with a forest fire was from 600 miles away, and I got hourly reports from my late aunt as the fire in her state was approaching her farmhouse which was on a highway. If the fire crossed a highway, it was time to evacuate either by road or by boat. Eventually, the wind shifted, there was rain, and her property was safe. Close call. As shown in this film, living in dry brush country, where would you evacuate? The fire could toss sparks anywhere near you. There are no lakes or rivers for shelter. "Only The Brave" gives you quite a viewpoint of fighting forest fires, and by fighting one large fire, what can be saved, such as a several hundred year old Joshua Tree. It takes brave men to fight forest fires and 19 of them were the bravest.

3.5/5

Offensive language

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

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

..... enjoying the Hunter Wine lifestyle with Andrew Marsh



I met a chap in Italy last year, in a café just off Via dei Condotti, in Rome. He was busy tapping away at a laptop computer, pausing only to sip on a cold cappuccino or to gaze solemnly out of a small oval window onto the busy shopping strip. He was perhaps seventy to seventy-five years old and assumed one of those very well-rounded and well-modulated speaking voices. I've always found this phenomena in people slightly contrived ... you know ... the old 'plum in the mouth'. I was however impressed with his, if I may phrase the term, exquisite execution of this lingual facade and endeavoured to make small talk in an attempt to suck it for all it was worth. Oh, how I love the English but not nearly as much as I love the 'Queen's English'. No girls, David Beckham and Robbie Williams do not speak the 'Queen's English'. Nice try though! As always with a male stranger, I began the conversation by observing the undoubtable fact that Italian women are some of the most beautiful in the world. I do this to simply test the waters. I am not in the slightest bit homophobic, I suppose it is just an inquisitive policy to understand who's batting for which side. At this point I notice the lady making my coffee. I don't mean to sound rude but my comment regarding the beauty of Italian women evidently does not apply to all Italian women. My new friend laughs and offers.... 'all the beautiful women in Italy have ugly mothers'.

"So does that mean the pretty ones will turn into those large, round, toothless mammas with warts all over their faces and sporting a big moustache?" I enquire. He thinks for a second and responds. "It depends what time of the day it is!" he smiles. I like this guy. We sit and sip coffee and he smokes a pipe, chuffing out that sweet scent that only the highest quality pipe tobacco can muster. I turn the conversation to family and he smiles again ... "I have five children and fourteen grandchildren". He raises his eyebrows to assert that he is fortunate to retain so many family members in his life- or is it unfortunate?- I can't quite decipher his expression. The topic then turns to Italy and his love of everything Italian. Suddenly, the apparent owner of the café, an Italian chap only a touch older than me (eleven or twelve), walks in carrying some boxes and notices my new friend. He places the boxes down and embraces my friend and they yell and laugh and converse in fluent Italian. And I thought he sounded great in English! Sitting back down post this friendly tirade, I allude to the fact that he obviously spends a great deal of time here.

"Three months to the day," he answers. "In Italy?" I proceed. "In this café," he smiles. Before I continue with the obvious "why the hell have you spent the last three months in a café?" he states, "I am writing a book." Now I am intrigued. "What sort of book?" "As conceited as it may sound ... I am writing my autobiography." He lights his pipe once again. I do a double-take in case I have not acknowledged his contribution to our wonderful world but can't seem to recollect anything immediate. "How far are you into it?" I ask. "Up until a young Australian lad walks in and orders a coffee and interrupts my final day of finishing touches" he answers, again sporting a cheeky grin. "That's great" I offer, "When will it be published, I'd like to read it." He looks at me with a gratifying stare and replies in a comfortable tone "Never."

My puzzled face prompts him to smile once again and I can tell that he has had to previously explain the fact that he has spent three solid months in a Rome café writing memoirs in order to never have it published. I refuse to sound pushy and so I throw him a threatening look of a 'dissatisfied customer at an all-you-can-eat restaurant' when they run out of those twirly pasta things. Before I go any further, I do know a small handful of people who have written commercial autobiographies. The majority are sportsmen who have come to the end of their careers and their managers suggest that they spend six months putting pen to paper in order to simply 'give something back to the game' only to take twenty percent of that theory and put it in their own pocket. The others are either of a business or political nature but one thing is assured when promoting a biography of any kind - unless it starts out with a typical suburban kid in a normal environment who cracks the big time, with disappointments and missed opportunities along the way and the book finishes with mind-blowing, scandalous controversy, covered with betrayal and questionable truths-nobody wants to read it.

I can think of many people who, through just being a product of themselves, have not only succeeded to dizzy heights but whose input into our society is spell-binding. These people have enough information and credibility to write an autobiography that weighs a tonne but if it reeks of simple goodwill and achievement, it will lack the necessary spunk to entertain the reader. Put it this way, most people don't want to read about a gifted doctor who came from a small country town with no

running water or electricity and walked to school in bare feet only to become a great scholar and create a ground-breaking drug which can save the lives of millions of people. We want to read about a gifted doctor who came from a small country town with no running water or electricity and walked to school in bare feet only to become a great scholar and create a ground-breaking drug which can save the lives of millions of people.....only to be caught by his wife of twenty years banging his lab assistant on a bench, whilst hovering down piles of cocaine which is bought with money from the government and public appeal, being apparently used for research and upon further investigation he is heavily linked to Al Qaeda and then his satanic cult is discovered mutilating bodies but not before he kills his own family believing they are alien spies....and then he makes a nuclear bomb and threatens the UN and then his lab assistant catches him banging the new intern and schemes a plan to slowly torture him in the gas chamber!!

OK, that's a tad drastic. The going to school in bare feet part is a bit hard to swallow and the strict guidelines within the education department probably wouldn't allow for such behaviour anyway but you get my drift. The sad thing is that the first version would sell about fifteen copies while the second version would be on its fifth run through the presses. Awful isn't it! Exactly! That'll be \$59.95 please ... thank you ... come again!! My new friend explains that he is writing his book of memoirs so that he can read it on his deathbed. "I've read so many books in my life with all sorts of facts and figures, people and places and themes and fantasies. For once in my life I want to read about a person I've only just come to understand.....me!" He smiles, yet there is sadness in his eyes. My wife walks into the café with a handful of shopping bags and I joke that I will be writing a book soon about making money in the wine industry titled, 'You should have been here yesterday.' We again exchange pleasantries with my new friend and he asks me for my personal details so that one day, if a book ever arrives on my doorstep, I will know who it is from, but know that my new friend will be gone.

Last Friday week ago, a package arrived containing a beautifully made hardback book with a picture of my new friend at a younger age in an army uniform, standing under an apple tree with his hands outstretched, waiting for an apple to fall. There is no title, just his name in gold type on the top corner. There is a letter from one of his daughters explaining that her father had a list of people to which a copy of the book must go. I feel privileged. The book begins with the words ... 'Only now do I realise ...'

I have read a lot of books in my life about faraway places, different themes, people, facts, figures and fantasy. This is the most compelling and moving book I have ever had the privilege of reading. In the marketplace it would probably sell fifteen copies. It is not full of controversy, betrayal and half truths. It is a story of a man who lived a life and wanted to read about it from his own point of view. I suddenly realised what an autobiography should be about. It's about closure, in this case, death. It doesn't have to be a commercial best-seller; it just helps pay the bills when it is. For all the people whom I know who are busy writing their memoirs - keep going - apparently it is a healthy release. My new friend explains that he avoided months of agonising pain by spending three months in Italy finishing his book. He lay down when it was finished and read it twice over a period of a week. The following day he passed away.

The book ends with the words ... 'I wanted to make a movie but three limiting factors impeded my doing so; money, time and the fact that I couldn't find anyone good-looking, charming and dazzling enough to play the lead role.....' Now that's an autobiography!
Cheers
Andrew



Grumpy Old Bully In reference to the recent piece headed 'Chattering Class' in your last edition. Written by a Grumpy Old Bully imposing narcissistic paranoid 'beliefs' and prejudiced opinions as though they are handed down on stone tablets. Many households in this area are starting to blur these easy pigeonholes with under 40's mixing white and blue collars and hi vis. Many older households also mixing parents and adult children. People can debate and hopefully develop informed opinions from varied sources even including the ranting's of Mr Lind. By the way Steve many coffee drinkers these days including the chatters are switching to reusable containers. And a word of advice if you are served coffee that's too hot it hasn't been made correctly.

Thumbs Down to the underage, unlicensed & unregistered youth of North Rothbury's parents for allowing their children to ride motorcycles on residential roads. Not only is this illegal but to expect that our local emergency service personnel have to attend to one of our own, is cruel! I for one do not want to clean one of these kids off my bullbar & have to live with the thought of that incident for the rest of my life! Be a responsible parent & keep your kids OFF the road! The police have been informed & will be patrolling over the holiday period. Also, while I have the floor ...would the pretty young mum in the pretty pink car please slow down in North Rothbuey Village. I know the speed limit is 50 but that is too fast where there are no footpaths. Be a good girl and keep to 25 -40. What you do on the open road is your business. In my street **SLOW DOWN**

Smiley Face I received a non-smiley complaining about the non-appearance of the proposed new bus shelters at the new bus interchange at the traffic lights in Branxton. I contacted the Branxton Greta Business Chamber to find out what was happening & their President, Brett Wild, contacted Cessnock City Council who very quickly explained the problem Given that the proposed bus shelters for the interchange are bespoke items rather than our standard pre-fabricated units their procurement has been somewhat protracted. We anticipate that installation will occur prior to the commencement of school term 1 - 2018. We are also aware of some accidental damage to the handrail at the bus interchange sustained during the works and repair / replacement is programmed.

Smiley Face Congratulations to North Rothbury Tidy Towns for their wonderful Twilight Markets held on the 25th November. I hope they do it on a regular basis.

FREE Classifieds

Classified's

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

Classified's

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
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
For Sale: Free range eggs. \$4/doz Greta 0412 976 809
HUGE GARAGE SALE: SATURDAY the 9th of December from 9am till 4pm. No EARLY BIRDS. Moving sale, heaps of bargains. Plants, garden statues, carpet tiles, and lots of odds and ends. 31 RUSTY LANE, Branxton. Come and bags bargain.
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
Riding Lessons: agjstment, horses trained. www.byalee.net 0407 453 494
Share accommodation: Close to transport & shops, quiet street Branxton; off street parking. \$150/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

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



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.
Thur 7 Dec - Branxton Public School Stage 2 Market Day Stalls
Sat 9 Dec - Cessnock City Council annual Scooter, Bike and Skate Competition; This action-packed event, hosted by CYCOS, will kick off at the Cessnock Skate Park on Saturday 9 December at 9am and it will run through to 3pm. It's free to come along and enter the competition and there are fantastic prizes to be won! For those who are not so keen on entering the competition, there will be other activities on the day including free laser-tag and delicious BBQ food for you to enjoy as you watch the action.
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 Brigids School, Station St, Branxton
Thurs 14 Dec - Branxton Public School Sports Presentation
Fri 15 Dec - Branxton Public School; last day of school for students
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.

Helen Lowing, Proprietor & Licensed Real Estate Agent

BRANXTON & VINE-YARDS REAL ESTATE

12 Clift Street
BRANXTON NSW 2335
P: 4938 3300



Branxton Public School

Our annual Carols by Torchlight was a great success – a lovely, relaxed community event! It was a beautiful evening after a warm day and the students dazzled with their performances. Thank you to the parents and staff who manned the various stalls and to the various community members who supported with donations and equipment. Special thanks to Santa who made a special trip to see his friends at BPS.



© Some of Santa's helpers



© Kindergarten

Stage 2 will be holding their Market Day Stalls in Week 9. This is an exciting opportunity for the students to plan, shop for and then create businesses with product and experiences for sale on Market Day to the rest of the school. Students have been working hard in the planning and advertising stages and are looking forward to achieving success on the day. Year 2 and Year 3 students had the opportunity to do Intensive Swimming Lessons at Branxton Pool. The swimmers had fabulous weather and made excellent progress over the program. Thank you to Ms Magann for organising such a worthwhile activity. The end of the school year is approaching quickly and special events have been planned to celebrate our students' successes. Due to our school increasing in size we have had to make some changes to our presentation day. Presentation day assembly is on Tuesday 12th December 2017. We will be having a K-2 presentation day assembly starting at 9.30am and a 3-6 presentation day assembly starting at 10.30am. Both will take place in the Branxton community hall.



© Stage 1



© Performers



© Competitors with Mrs Maier

We will be holding our Sports Presentation on Thursday 14th December 2017. Age champions for all carnivals will be presented at this assembly as well as other sporting awards and the announcement of the House Captains for 2018. Next year we have a new and exciting opportunity for your child, Drumcorp! Drumcorp is a highly sought-after program that we are able to offer at Branxton Public School next year. It is run by Col



© Mos & Bows

Hatchman who was a very successful musician in the Screaming Jets. Mrs Wicks has offered to help run the program at school and there will be weekly lessons for those who are interested. It will come at a small cost. There will be a demonstration on Thursday 1st February at school. Our P&C will be running the Maitland Bunnings BBQ from 9am-4pm on Sunday 10th December. If you are able to help out please email the P&C or contact Kerrie O'Brien or Mel Nemeth (see newsletter). It will be a really busy day! All proceeds will go towards resources for the school including a new sports court. Mrs Maier and the students have decided that Josh has the best moustache at Branxton Public School! Mr Johanson, Mr Breard and Mr Foster were commended on doing their personal best in the challenge. Thank you to all those families who donated to Movember Foundation on their behalf.

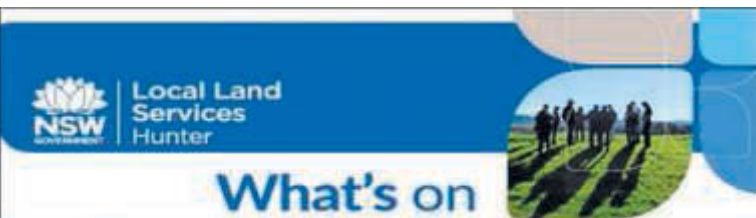
Dates for the Calendar

- Thursday 7th December – Stage 2 Market Day Stalls
- Sunday 10th December – P&C Maitland Bunnings BBQ fundraiser
- Tuesday 12th December – Presentation Day
- Thursday 14th December – Sports Presentation
- Friday 15th December – last day of school for students

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



© Stage 2



PESTICIDE TRAINING FOR FERAL ANIMAL CONTROL IN LAKE MACQUARIE AND Tocal

Hunter Local Land Services is offering pesticide training courses accrediting landholders to use 1080 and Pindone, to help local landholders meet their biosecurity responsibilities to control pest species on their property. The workshops will be held from 9 am – 12.30 pm on Monday 11 December in Lake Macquarie and

Wednesday 13 December from 9 am – 12.30 pm at Tocal.

Course participants will be trained and gain authorisation to use 1080, which can be used to control foxes and wild dogs, and Pindone which is used to control rabbits.

Hunter Local Land Services Biosecurity Officer Kyra O'Brien said undertaking the training will help landholders understand how to use the pesticides effectively to reduce the impacts of pest species on their land.



"There are important regulations surrounding the use of 1080, including meeting minimum distance restrictions, and providing extensive public notifications, before the pesticide can be issued to landholders," Ms O'Brien said.

"The accreditation landholders gain at our workshops, certifies them to use these pesticides for a period of five years."

Wild Dogs and foxes are a threat to livestock, native species and domestic pets causing hundreds of millions of dollars of losses every year across the country. Wild rabbits feed on pasture and compete with livestock and native animals, and their burrows damage the environment.

The training is coordinated by Hunter Local Land Services and funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, Catchment Action NSW and the Hunter Catchment Contributions levy.

Over the last 18 months, 132 landholders in the Lower Hunter have completed the course, to receive their accreditation.

"This course is a great opportunity to learn how to use them correctly and safely, because pesticides are under strict control," Ms O'Brien said.

"The training will also increase the level of knowledge and skills of landholders to minimise risks associated with the use of pesticides."

Places at the workshop are limited so RSVPs are essential and must be confirmed before Wednesday 6 December. This training is open to all landholders with property greater than 10 hectares.

Please RSVP to Kyra O'Brien, in our Tocal office on 4939 8967 or via email to kyra.o'brien@lls.nsw.gov.au



DETAILED SALEYARD REPORT



Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton Report date 29/11/17

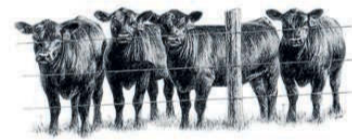
Consignments remained similar and the quality was very mixed, with greater percentages of the plainer mixed bred younger cattle this week. There were a number of prime conditioned cattle suitable for the butcher orders, however the bulk in the penning sold to restocker and lot feeder interest. The market trend sold close to firm throughout most categories, with the usual buyers competing. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock ranged from 310c to 384c, as the heifer portion sold from 290c to 338c/kg. Medium weight yearling steers to the restockers and lot feeders made from 290c to 328c, with the heifer portion topping at 300c, before averaging 292c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers reached 347c/kg. Heavy weight grown steers to slaughter sold at similar prices to make from 255c to 269c/kg. The heifer portion maintained firm prices and ranged from 238c to 255c/kg. Cows sold to solid competition, with the plainer pens lifting 8c, while the better finished heavy weights remained firm at 212c to 232c/kg. Young cow and calf units reached \$1,580/unit.

Scone report date 28/11/17

With the Hunter region remaining dry, numbers increased for a very mixed quality penning of mainly younger cattle. Calves lifted in number, with good runs of vealer from the same property also offered. Yearlings were well represented, with the heavy weight grown steers scarce in the pens. There were around 175 cows in the yarding, with the plainer light weights suitable for both processor and restocker orders. The market trend was firm to dearer, with breed and quality contributing to some price increases. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers traded dearer, however breed and the good runs from the same property contributed, as prices ranged from 308c to 410c/kg. Vealer heifers improved 7c, with the restockers paying from 308c to 350c/kg to secure their selections. Yearling steers and heifers to feed and the restocker orders sold at similar prices, week-on-week, as the medium weight steers ranged from 270c to 328c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers topped at 328c/kg. The limited supply of grown steers to slaughter reached 260c, with the heifer portion remaining firm at 250c to 264c/kg. The lighter plainer cows gained 5c, making from 170c to 218c/kg, with the restockers also entering the competition. The better covered heavy weight slipped 3c, ranging from 212c to 230c/kg. Light weight cow and calf units sold from \$1,080 to \$1,220/unit.

TRLX Tamworth report date 27/11/17

The lead in to a break in sales over the Christmas period saw numbers continue their upward trajectory. Producers wary of the heat of summer continue to offload and take the prices on offer. Young cattle made up the bulk of the offering with a fair selection of grown cattle available. The full field of regular buyers were in operation. Quality and condition were generally good, however there was a greater variation this week in comparison to recent sales. Demand was again strong for young cattle to restock and feed, however there was a small correction in some market trends. However, overall trends were firm to slightly cheaper with quality also contributing to lower average prices. Medium and heavy yearling steers to restock and feed saw averages decline by 3c to 8c/kg with the medium weights most affected. The heavy feeders sold on a mostly firm market trend with some breed, weight and quality related price changes. Yearling heifers to restock and feed sold to a cheaper trend of 6c to 9c/kg with odd single sales remaining firm. Well finished heifers to the trade were up to 2c/kg dearer. A reduction in the quality of the heavy grown steers resulted in cheaper trends of as much as 8c/kg for those to processors. Heavy feeders over 500kg sold to a slightly cheaper trend. Heavy cows sold to a cheaper trend of 2c to 6c/kg with the higher yielding lots least affected. There was little change in the market for the plainer condition cows with some extra restocker competition. Heavy bulls experienced little change.



Australian Thoroughbred

Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Service

engagements in the jumpouts that followed." Retained to race by his breeder John Camilleri of Fairway

Winx Half-Brother Euthanized

Thoroughbreds, El Divino dead heated with Astern in the Group III ATC



El Divino

A half-brother by Snitzel to Australian Horse of the Year Winx, Group III winning stallion El Divino has been euthanized after suffering a catastrophic injury at trackwork on Friday 24 November 2017.

Racing.com reported that "the Darren Weir stable confirmed the four-year-old fractured a cannonbone in the last 200 metres of an 800-metre gallop at Ararat, from which jockey John Allen emerged unscathed and was able to fulfil his

Kindergarten Stakes at two and Widden Stud subsequently bought into the colt. His best recent performance was a good half length second to Brave Smash in a Listed race at Moonee Valley in September.

A full brother El Divino topped the 2016 Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale in 2016 fetching \$2.3 million. Named Boulder City, he is yet to either trial or race

Winx owner invites the Queen to Australia

A decision on the future of Winx will be made "sooner rather than later", as part owner Peter Tighe flagged the prospect the wonder mare may stay in Australia rather than taking on the world next year.

Tighe told a racing function in Victoria last Monday that Winx fans shouldn't "go booking tickets just yet to go overseas", indicating a tilt at a record fourth Cox Plate win rather than Royal Ascot could be the primary 2018 agenda.

On Tuesday, Tighe moved to clarify his comments when he said racing fans shouldn't "be booking tickets for Moonee Valley" yet either as he insisted no decision had been made. However he told Sky Sports Radio that Winx's owners would "love to race her in Australia" and he even sent a light-hearted invitation to the Queen to watch the mighty mare race Down Under.

"People say it would be nice to go and meet the Queen (at Royal Ascot), well I think if she is a horse lover she might like to come to Australia and meet us," Tighe told Sky Sports Radio.

"We would love to race her in Australia, the three owners are of the same sort of mind, but it is a huge temptation to take the world on – we know she is good enough.

"We will have to make a call sooner rather than later as to what we are going to do.

"We can't confirm or deny whether we are going (overseas) or whether or not, because truly a decision has not been made anyway."

SPORTS RESULTS



with Mark Bercini

Cricket Report – Week 8

Not much joy in round eight of district cricket, with first and second grade suffering narrow defeats, third grade white going down comfortably, fourth grade winning comfortably, with third grade blue enjoying the week off with the bye.

First grade were in the box seat to seal victory, but eventually went down by one wicket against Bellbird at Miller 1. Batting first Greta/Branxton made what was only a modest 169 considering the very favourable batting conditions.

Cliff Newling continued his good season form with a well-made 51, with Josh Dagg (23), Andrew Bercini (22) and Mark Bercini (scratchy 41) all making use of the good conditions.

Bellbird were on the back foot from the very first over in reply, with skipper Brent Watson snaring two of their danger men for ducks, however, the Tigers clawed their way back into the contest. With an over to play Bellbird needed two runs with the final wicket in hand. They reached the target with 3 balls to spare, leaving Greta/Branxton puzzled at an opportunity gone begging. Watson finished with 4-23 off 10 very good overs, with Martin Shearer (2-53 off 10) and Rob "Big Bird" Delforce

(2-51 off 10) grabbing a brace of wickets each. Second grade suffered similar fate to Bellbird at Carmichael 1, going down by two wickets. Greta/Branxton made 153 batting first, with new-comer Brett Bridge coming in at number eight and blasting the ball to all parts of the arena before being caught out for an entertaining 95. Nathan Velt played a solid supporting role at the other end with 17 in an otherwise fairly disappointing batting card for the Blues. Bellbird reached the target in the 39th over with two wickets left in the sheds. Brett Bridge capped off an exceptional all-round game with 2-29 off 10, with Mark Peace (2-19 off 8.1) and Adam Kerry (2-18 off 8) also bowling tidily. Third grade White went down to Bellbird by 60

runs at Miller 2. Bellbird made 189 batting first, with Connor Thomson (3-19 off 7) and Aaron Stephenson (3-34 off 8) picking up a treble of wickets for the home side. Greta/Branxton were all out for 129 in reply, with Aaron Stephenson (22), Steve Daunt (17) and Neil Bird (14) amongst the runs, but special mention to opener Mitch Bird whose innings life member Jamie "Slug" Millard would have been proud of. Bird opened the batting and survived the whole 39 overs for an unbeaten 28, unfortunately running out of partners. Fourth grade tasted the only club's success of the round, disposing of Bellbird by six wickets at Carmichael 2. Bellbird were dismissed for 109 batting first, with Reece Fletcher (4-27 off 8), Anthony Lawrence (3-38 off 10) and Jason Varley (2-27 off 6.3) responsible for the damage. Greta/Branxton breezed to victory

inside 28 overs in reply, losing just the four wickets. Lawrence completed a fine all-round game with 53no, with Mal Hedger (24no) and Reece Fletcher (13) doing enough to ensure Greta/Branxton remained at the top of the ladder.

Cricket Report – Week 9

The first grade match against Mulbring at Mulbring appeared to be evenly poised before rain brought play to a halt during the Greta/Branxton run chase. Mulbring batted first and posted 5-211 from their forty overs. Skipper Brent Watson (2-41 off 10), Alex Walkling (2-58 off 10) and Nathan Holz (1-55 off 10) were the wicket takers. Greta/Branxton were 1-71 off 17 overs in reply before the match was abandoned. Josh Dagg (41no) and Barry Richards (25no) were looking very comfortable at the crease. Second grade's horror year continued as they went down to Chelmsford Hotel by 51 runs at Miller 1. Batting first Chelmsford

made 186. Dylan Lipscombe (3-42 off 8) and Jesse Minchin (3-22 off 5.5) took a treble of wickets each for Greta/Branxton, with James Shoulders snr (2-38 off 6), Mark Peace (1-42 off 7) and Adam Kerry (1-25 off 8) the other wicket takers. The home side were all out for 135 in reply, with Minchin (52) and Lipscombe (24) both completing fine all-round games. Shoulders snr was the other main contributor with 16.

The third grade White match at Laguna was also abandoned just 8 overs into the change of innings. Greta/Branxton batted first, complying 6-141. Back from a broken toe Daniel Minchin worked the ball nicely for 42 at the top of the order. A little bit of mid-week tuition from grandfather and life member Chris Charnock on the cut and pull shot saw Daniel McCann make 33, with Jamie McNamara (29) also among the runs. Laguna were 0-11 in reply

when the rain struck. Third grade Blue continued their good roll, making it five wins on the trot by defeating Wine Country by eight wickets at Miller 2. Wine Country were skittled for 79 batting first, with James Shoulders jnr the main striker for Greta/Branxton with 4-13 off 6.4. Paul Walkling (2-16 off 10) and Zac Watkins (2-16 off 5) also kept things tidy. Greta/Branxton reeled in the target inside 13 overs in reply, with Andrew Wright making 36 before retiring hurt. Ben Lahey (22) and Craig Gillings (19no) did enough to secure the win. Fourth grade went down to Mulbring by 7 wickets at Kearsley. Greta/Branxton made 94 batting first, with Anthony Lawrence continuing his great form out of retirement with 47 opening the batting. Jayden Shoulders was the only other batsman in double figures with 21. Mulbring reached the target in 19 overs in reply, with Jason Varley (2-19 off 4) and

Cooper Wilton (1-45 off 8) taking the wickets.

Points Tables

First Grade Mulbring 45, Supporters 45, Greta/Branxton 40, Bellbird 37, Wine Country 37, Peden's Hotel 32.

Second Grade Bellbird 51, Supporters 47, Chelmsford Hotel 46, Denman Hotel 40, Mulbring 39, Wine Country 36, Peden's Hotel 35, Greta/Branxton 34.

Third Grade Bellbird 54, Greta/Branxton Blue 53, Laguna 46, Greta/Branxton White 43, Supporters 37, Denman Hotel 32, Wine Country 32.

Fourth Grade Mulbring 47, Wine Country 44, Greta/Branxton 43, Supporters 36, Bellbird 32, Peden's Hotel 32.

Club Championship

Bellbird 394.53, Supporters 389.70, Greta/Branxton 360.93, Wine Country 324.93, Mulbring 317.90, Peden's Hotel 284.37.



DECEMBER

ENTERTAINMENT

FRI 01 BARRACUDA 8.30PM

SAT 02 EVERGREEN 8.30PM

FRI 08 SOUNDABOUT 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

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Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 23-11-17 Stableford

Div 1 Winner E Barrett 30 pts (c/b)
(SOD) R/u G Anderson 30 pts (c/b)
3rd K Anderson 30 pts
Div 2 Winner J Atton 30 pts (c/b) R/u
B Turner 30 pts 3rd I Harris 29 pts
Ladies Winner J Scobie 27 pts (c/b)
R/u T Martin 27 pts 3rd R McCarthy
24 pts
NTPS Ladies J Harris
Gents K Anderson
Members draw - Not won
Well! It was a great day, weather wise
and golf wise. Our merry band of
players who gathered for a round of
golf, would not have been aware of
the intense struggle, to sort out the
placings at the end of the round.
Congratulations to Eddie Barrett on
winning his division and achieving
the "Score of the Day". A well done
to all other winners and placegetters.

Branxton Golf Club

Results 30-11-17 Stableford

1st F Oakes (c/b) 23 pts
2nd G Musialk 23 pts
3rd R McCarthy 22 Pts
4th R Chalmers (c/b) 21 pts
5th N Craig 21 pts
NTPS Ladies N Craig
Gents A Hackett
Members draw - Won (R Friis)
Great weather for golf greeted our
merry band of players as they
gathered to play a round, as a prelude
to our "End of Year Luncheon".
Congratulations to Fran Oakes on
winning the event and a well done to
the placegetters. The Luncheon was
excellent and our thanks go to Paul,
our chef, for the quantity and quality
of the food served. After were in
the form of Fruit, small cakes, coffee
and tea. The committee wishes all
members a very happy Christmas and
a bright and safe new year.

LN Bootes, Hon Sec

Saturday 18th November 2017

Saturday Comp – Stableford

A Grade Winner Lee Hurston 40 pts
A Grade R/up Daniel Heuston 39 pts
A Grade 3rd Joshua Tracey 38 pts
B Grade Winner Robert Miller 38
pts c/b
B Grade R/up Trent McGee 38 pts
B Grade 3rd Chris O'Brien 37 pts
C Grade Winner John Martin 43 pts
C Grade R/up Mick Lutovac 38 pts
C Grade 3rd Richard Turnbull 37 pts
NTP 2nd D Muncaster 120 cm
4th B Bendeich 67 cm
9th D Turner 67 cm
13th T McCaw 270 cm
Ball comp – 33 pts
Lee Hurston continued his good form
from 2017 to win Saturday's A Grade
stableford competition with an
excellent 40 pts from his single figure
handicap. He finished one point in
front of the recently crowned B Grade
Club Champion, Daniel Turner, with
a fine 39 pts with the A Grade Club
Champion showing his class with a
fine 38 pts. Daniel's nearest the pin
on the last proved to be the shot of
the day finishing only 67 cms away
from the cup. Robert "Shirl" Miller
won B Grade with a very pleasing 38
pts, just ahead of Trent McGee with
the same score, with Chris O'Brien
playing very consistent golf finishing
third with 37 pts. John Martin's 43
pts was the outstanding stableford
score of the day, a score that John
can often deliver. Mick Lutovac
finished runner up with his 38 pts
with Richie Turnbull third with 37
pts. Richard was "in awe with
himself" on the second nine, having
a 40 off the stick

which included a birdie—this will
ensure he turns up next week! The
final of the club's pairs knockout
was played on Saturday with Trent
McGee and Troy McCaw prevailing
in an epic contest, which was only
decided on the 20th hole. David
Kinch and Kel Mather would
consider themselves very unlucky
with David missing a short putt to
win the contest on the last. On the
19th they thought they had it once
again, but Troy sank a 20 footer
(probably 30 feet by now), to square
the hole, before birdying the 20th
hole to win the final in dramatic
circumstances. 33 pts were needed
to figure in the ball competition.

Saturday 25th 2017

Saturday Comp – 2BBB Aggregate

Sponsor: VALLEY BRAKE & CLUTCH

2BBB Winners Hollis / John Martin 78 pts
2BBB Runners Up Daryl Cox / Trent
McGee 74 pts
2BBB Third Errol Munzenberger / Lee
Hunt 73 pts
2BBB Fourth Joseph Bereza / Douglas
Muncaster 70 pts c/b
2BBB Fifth Mark Moylan / Peter
Wilton 70 pts
2BBB Sixth Cameron Johanson /
Murray Johanson 69 pts
Single Winner Peter Wilton 41 pts
Single Runner Up John Martin 40 pts
Single Third Errol Munzenberger 39
pts
53 players competed in the annual
Valley Brake and Clutch Day, a Two
Ball event, combining each player's
stableford points, ensuring that both
players "pull their weight!". Dave
Hollis and John Martin combined
beautifully to win John's event with
an excellent 78 pts, with John
finishing runner up with a fine 40
pts in the individual event. Dave has
also done very well himself recording
38 pts. Daryl Cox and Trent McGee,
fresh from his pairs knockout win
last week, came second with 74 pts,
with the local Veteran Pairing of
Lee Hunt and Errol Munzenberger
third with 73 pts. Errol's 39 pts was
good enough for a podium finish in
the individual event. Joe Bereza and
Douglas Muncaster came 4th with
70 pts, just ahead of Mark Moylan
and Peter Wilton with the same score,
whilst the father and son pair of
Cameron and Murray Johanson
finished 6th with their 69 pts. Peter
Wilton had a wonderful round,
winning the individual event with 41
pts from his 5 handicap—a par round
which is something in which all
players aspire. The club's Annual
Presentation Night was held on
Saturday night, full of free food and
drink, in recognition of the many
achievements throughout the year.

Hunter Valley Golf Club

Sunday 19th November Ben Pickering
has produced his best round for some
time to claim the Weekly Challenge
with 45 points from Phillipe Byron
with 38 points. **Tuesday 21st
November** Great conditions led to
great scoring in the Tuesday
Stableford with a countback needed
for all placing's with Chris Taggart,
Rick Turnchini and Michael Watson
all returning 40 points with Chris
ending in front of Rick and Mick.
Ball winners were: Tom Hagan v39,
Garry Marsden 38, David Peel 38,
Dean Morison 37, Ray Hodson 37,
David Spruce 36, Drew Dewar 35,
Graeme Flynn 35 and Ken Scott-
MacKenzie 35 c/b. Nearest-the-
Pins went to David Peel (3rd) Rick
Turnchini (4th) Angello Wood (10th)
and Ray Hodson (17th) **Wednesday
22nd November** Five Ladies returned
+2 in Wednesday's Par competition
with Brenda Mannix winning the
countback from Kerrie -Anne
Skinner with Jill Ramsden 3rd. Ball
winners were: Dale Hamilton +2,
Melita Watson +2, Lorraine Clack
+1, Sue Williams +1, Di Atton -1,
Sharon Blackett -1 and Jenny
Chambers -2 c/b. Nearest-the-
Pins went to Brenda Mannix (3rd)
Jenny Chambers (4th) Jenelle Jurd
(8th) and Jill Slatter (17th). Next
week the Ladies will play Individual
Stableford. **Thursday 23rd
November** Great scoring featured
in the Vets again this week with
John Carmody leading the way with
44 points from Wayne Barber 43 on
countback to Michael Watson in 3rd.
Ball winners were: John Harrison 40,
Ken Harris 40, Steve Piggot 39,
Wayne Berry 38, David Peel 38, Ray

Newton 38, Ray Boyd 37, Keith Dunlop
37 and Bruce Chambers 35 c/b. Nearest-
the-Pins went to Geoff Sweetman
(3rd) David Peel (4th & 8th) and David
Blackburn (17th). Neat week the
Vets will play a Medley Stableford.
Saturday 25th November Sub Par
scores featured in the Medley
Stableford played on Saturday in all
grades with Graeme Flynn winning
A Grade with 43 points from Dale
Macklinshaw 40, B Grade to Clarke
Sturman with 42 from Wayne Barber
39 and C Grade to Garry Marsden
with 43 from David Gould with 38.
Ball winners were: Matt Delforce 39,
Nick Nancarrow 38, Chris Lawson
v38, Paul Davies 38, Scott Jones 38,
Colin Mills 38, Don Bradley 38,
Greg Ireland 37, David Peel 36, Ray
Hodson 36, Michael Meadows v35 and
Peter Puerta 35 c/b. Nearest-the-
Pins went to Dale Macklinshaw (3rd)
Scott Jones (4th) Julie Van Den Berg
(8th) Jesse Gaffney (10th) and
Dean Blair (17th). Next weeks event
will be the Monthly Medal Stroke
rounds **Sunday 26th November** The
presentation 1-2-3 golf held by the
club resulted in a win the team of
Dean & Tracy Morison, Peter Munro
and Geoff Sweetman with 93 points
from Sharon & Ken Blackett, Christine
Tancred & Ian King with 88 points.
Ball winners were: Wayne Barber,
Ken Harris, Stuart Robinson and
Darren Thompson 87, David & Sue
Peel, Greg & Pam Snaddon 84 and
Keith & Robin Dunlop, Lorraine Clack
& Jenelle Jurd 83 points. The
Committee wish to thank the
The Lovedale, Pro Shop for their
assistance with the day and all who
took part. The raffle was won by
Leesa Robinson, 2nd to Wayne
Barber. Grahame Mankelov has won
the Weekly Challenge with a solid 42
point return from a very much
inform Steve Piggot who shot 71
scratch with his 5 handicap to finish
on 41 points. **Tuesday 28th
November** Octogenarian Geoff
Sweetman has shown age is no
barrier when it comes to golf with
an outstanding 46 points to clearly
win the Tuesday Stableford from
Yamba GC visitor Tom McIntosh on
42 and Garry Marsden taking the
minor placing with 40 points on
countback. Ball winners were: Greg
Noble 40, Peter Wilson 39, Bob
Prentice 39, Heinz Kestermann 38,
Paul Smith 37, Gary Arnold 37,
Lindsay Self 36, Michael Watson 36
and Steve Piggot 36 c/b. Nearest-
the-Pins went to Paul Smith (3rd &
4th) Gerry McLaughlin (8th) Geoff
Sweetman (10th) and Ken Scott-
MacKenzie (17th) **Wednesday
29th November** Jeanette Irwin
produced her best round in some
time to claim the Ladies Stableford
event with 38 points from Kerry
Choromanski on 34 and Sue Peel
3rd with 33 on countback. Ball
winners were: Dale Hamilton 33,
Melita Watson 32, Jill Slatter 32,
Mary Fortey 32 and Kay Dunn 32
c/b. Next week the Ladies will play
a 4 Person Dropout Ambrose with
an 8:00 am Shotgun Start. **Thursday
30th November** Garry Hedges has
produced a great round to claim
the Vets Stableford with 45 points
from John Harrison 41 and David
Blackburn 3rd with 39 on countback.
Ball winners were: Kevin Smith 39,
Ken Springbett 39, Darrell Preston
37, Wayne Berry 36, Ray Boyd 36,
Robyn Dunlop 36, John Carmody 35,
Graeme Flynn 35, Wayne Barber 35
and Greg Ireland 35 c/b. Nearest-
the-Pins went to Robyn Dunlop (3rd)
Ken Harris (4th) Ray Hodson (8th)
and Kevin Smith (17th). Net week
the Vets will visit Cypress Lakes
and play a Medley Stableford. **Saturday
2nd December** The Monthly Stroke
round has been highlighted by a
Scott Jones 'Ace' on the difficult Par
3 8th Hole to provide Scott with
most memorable moment to go with
the Monthly Medal won with his 64
net. A Grade to Paul Davies with a
great 65 net from Angello Wood with
67, B Grade to Nick Nancarrow with
67 net from Garry Marsden who has
carried his recent form into B
Grade with 68 on countback and C
Grade runner up to Ian Newell with
69 net. Ball winners were: Troy
Wallis 68, Ken Springbett 68, Steve
Piggot 69, Tony Butler 69, Colin
Mills 70, Dale Macklinshaw 70,
Bruce Chambers 71, Ray Hodson 71,
Greg Ireland 72, Russell Lightfoot 72,
Kerrie-Anne Skinner 73, Peter Milas
73, Don Bradley 73, Nathan
McNamara v73 and David Peel 74
on countback. Nearest-the-Pins
went to Ray Hodson (3rd) Tracy
Morison (4th) Scott Jones (8th
Hole-in-One) Julie Van Den Berg
(10th) and Ken Springbett (17th).
Next weeks event will be a Medley
Stableford.

Mindfulness and Eating

"Mindfulness isn't difficult. We just need to remember to do it" – Sharon Salzberg
One thing we all sometimes get hung up on is food. Am I eating too much? Am I eating too much of



the wrong thing? Should I cut out sugar, or bread, or potato? And as Christmas and the holidays approach we often face an inevitable feast and all our good eating intentions go out the window. We eat until we feel like we are going to explode. Breakfast lunch and dinner are eaten as though we are never going to have a delicious meal again. But it doesn't have to be that way! One thing I do with all my Fit for Life clients is encourage them to have a healthy relationship with food. Food is not "bad" or "good", it is just food. Some food does good things for your body, some food does bad things. Food itself is neither bad or good.

And of course, like most things in life, some food is better for you when taken in moderation.

When do you Eat?

Do you eat when you are stressed? Do you eat your breakfast in the car on your way to work, or worse still do you skip breakfast? How about lunch? Do you take time to go to the lunch room and eat, or are you "too busy" at work so you stay at your desk during your lunch break? Maybe that is the culture in your workplace, and anyone who is seen to be doing otherwise is thought to be not pulling their weight? If you work from home do you take the time to sit down and eat your lunch each day or do you graze straight from the fridge?

Taking notice of when you eat is important as the time between meals can affect how much you eat and what you eat. Leave it too long and you are likely to overeat, or make poor decisions about what you eat.

How do you Eat?

Do you scoff your food as an afterthought, as if eating is a necessary evil that you just want to get over and done with? Or do you take time to sit down and enjoy the food that you have prepared, or which you are fortunate enough to have enough money to buy? Do you eat your take away food straight out of the plastic container, or do you put it on a plate and eat it sitting at the dinner table?

What is Mindfulness?

Mindfulness is the act of paying attention. It is about knowing where our attention is and being able to direct it back to the "here and now".

Mindfulness can help you reduce stress and anxiety, and take control of your thoughts and actions.

Over Christmas

Take some time out and try the following two exercises, taken from "Mindfulness - A Practical Guide to Finding Peace in a Frantic World" by Mark Williams and Danny Penman.

Preparing food: Any food preparation is an opportunity to practice mindfulness. Vision, hearing, taste, smell, touch. Focus on the feel of your knife as it slices through vegetables of different texture, or the smell released as each vegetable is cut,

Eating: Try having part of a meal in silence or without the distraction of a TV or the radio, or your phone! Really focus on the food. Colours, shapes, perhaps thinking about how this food came to you, the sensations of eating. See how easily you taste the first mouthful. How about the second? What does the fourth mouthful taste like?

The Chocolate Meditation:

Choose some chocolate - Either a type you've never tried before, or one that you have not eaten recently. It might be dark and flavoursome, organic or fair-trade or, perhaps, cheap and trashy. The important thing is to choose a type you wouldn't normally eat or that you consume only rarely. Here goes:

Open the packet. Inhale the aroma. Let it sweep over you.

Break off a piece and look at it. Really let your eyes drink in what it looks like, examining every nook and cranny.

Pop it in your mouth. See if it's possible to hold it on your tongue and let it melt, noticing any tendency to suck at it. Chocolate has over 300 different flavours. See if you can sense some of them.

If you notice your mind wandering while you do this, simply notice where it went, then gently escort it back to the present moment.

After the chocolate has completely melted, swallow it very slowly and deliberately. Let it trickle down your throat.

Repeat this with one other piece.

How do you feel? Is it different from normal? Did the chocolate taste better than if you'd just eaten it at a normal breakneck pace? Do you feel fuller than normal, more satisfied?

Initially the Chocolate Meditation sounds a little frivolous and self-indulgent. While it is certainly enjoyable, it also has a deeper value. It helps you reconnect with your senses, which is of vital importance in our fast-paced and frantic world. And you can do this practice with all of your snacks and meals - really taste them, be aware of what you have in your mouth, and focus on what you are doing. Reflect on where and when you are eating, and why.

What else is happening at Louise Cairns Fit for Life?

We are almost finished our final 6 week challenge for 2017. Classes are also continuing at Miller Park Branxton on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. We have also started "learn to run" classes on Tuesday evenings.

About Louise

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

(Disclaimer: I am not a dietician or a nutritionist. I am qualified to review Food Diaries and give feedback which is consistent with Australia's Healthy Eating Guidelines, www.eatforhealth.gov.au. If you think you need specialist advice regarding meal planning, diet or nutrition, I can refer you or please speak with your GP)

The NEWS SPORT

KNIGHTS V EELS MATCH TO LAUNCH MAITLAND NO. 1 SPORTS-GROUND

In a coup for the city of Maitland, some of the National Rugby League's finest will face off against each other at a pre-season match which will launch the use of Maitland No. 1 Sportsground on Saturday 24 February 2018.

The nib Newcastle Knights and Parramatta Eels will battle it out in front of local footy fans, thanks to a partnership between the Hunter based club, Parramatta Eels and Maitland City Council.

Maitland Mayor Loretta Baker says, 'We're excited to have both the Newcastle and Parramatta teams coming to Maitland in February. Obviously the Knights are the Hunter's very own team but we understand there are also a lot of Eels fans around the city, so we're hoping this match will draw a big local crowd'.

Following improved performances in 2017, the Knights will be looking to find some early form in 2018 and locals can expect to see some of the side's biggest stars take the field at No. 1. On the other side of the coin the Eels are coming off a successful 2017 where they finished the regular season in fourth, so they'll be keen to continue

that positive streak and come away with the win.

'This will be the Club's final trial match before the season proper kicks off and what a wonderful occasion it will be to play this trial at Maitland's No.1 Sportsground,' Knights CEO Philip Gardner said.

'With a host of new recruits joining the Club this season, this trial match will be a great opportunity for our fans to see those players in action for the very first time'.

'This match is going to be great for the people of Maitland. There will be a range of opportunities for juniors in the lead up and on the day, with different family friendly activities taking place from midday. This is an exciting opportunity to watch a game of such a calibre in Maitland and to highlight that Maitland now has the facilities to cater for high profile sporting events,' added Cr Baker.

There will be five games of footy played at Maitland No.1 Sportsground, including under 16, under 18, under 20 and reserve grade teams before the NRL match.

General sale tickets for the match will

go on sale at 10.00am on Monday 4 December and can be purchased online at maitlandevents.com.au or over the counter at the Maitland Visitor Information Centre. Tickets are \$20

for grandstand seating, \$10 for general admission and while children under 12 are free, a ticket will still need to be booked for each child along with the adult ticket.

Follow Maitland City Council on Facebook for more information leading up to the event.



Some of the National Rugby League's finest will face off against each other at a pre-season match which will launch the use of Maitland No. 1 Sportsground on Saturday 24 February 2018.

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