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WEDNESDAY 13 June 2018


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Cessnock City Council NOTICES


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Matt off to Russia



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Well Done Not So Well Done



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SCHOOL NEWS




123 years combined service to the community
See page 11 for Lions News

Duke and Duchess of Sussex yet to respond to invitation



THE Duke and Duchess of Sussex have, as yet, not responded to an invitation to visit Branxton & Greta while in Australia for the Invictus Games in late October. "We were first cab off the rank, extending an invitation to the Duke and Duchess of Sussex to perform a sod-turning ceremony to commemorate the commencement of the proposed Branxton-Greta Memorial Cycleway project," said Brett Wild, President of the local Business Chamber. "The cycleway project – which will pay tribute to the twin towns' World War I servicemen – is strongly aligned with the games' values, and would be a meaningful event for the Duke and Duchess to attend," said Brett. "It ticks many boxes. And there's nothing to be lost by sending an invitation. "It would be an amazing boost for our small country town – it would be huge for the entire Hunter Valley," said Brett. The invitations have been sent to Buckingham Palace via the offices of Governor of NSW David Hurley (who is a patron for the project), Minister for Veterans Affairs David Elliott, and the Invictus Games. *Photo above: Duke and Duchess of Sussex*

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DOGS

2018 Pricing schedule as of 1st February (daily price from)

Small dogs	\$20.00
Small dog deluxe	\$27.00
Medium dog	\$23.00
Large dogs	\$27.00
Extra Large	\$30.00

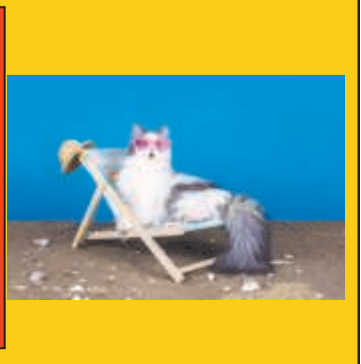


CATS

2018 Pricing schedule as of 1st February (daily price)

\$16.00

Purr cat, purr day





With love comes responsibility

Cessnock City Council has launched a hard-hitting responsible pet ownership campaign to educate locals about the key responsibilities that go hand in hand with owning a pet.

While the idea of owing a cute kitten or puppy appeals to most, there is a long list of things that need to be considered before taking the plunge.

The campaign will involve the installation of large posters at local bus shelters, along with a social media campaign on Council's Facebook and Twitter pages. The posters and social posts will cover five key areas of responsible pet



ownership including desexing.

microchipping, picking up after your pet, ensuring your dog is walked on a lead and reminding people that owning a pet is a life-long commitment.

Each poster and social post hopes to evoke an emotional response from those who see them, with each one being signed off with the key message, 'With love comes responsibility'.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said pet ownership is not a decision that should be taken lightly as a kitten or puppy is a responsibility for life.

"All too often we see animals neglected, abandoned and put in the pound and then they have to wait for someone to come along who is willing to give them a loving home. It is truly heartbreaking."

"There are so many aspects to being a responsible pet owner which are highlighted in the campaign and I hope locals stand up and take notice."

To find out more, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/responsiblepetowner.



COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP & FEE WAIVING POLICY

At its meeting of 6 June 2018, Council resolved to place the Draft Community Sponsorship and Fee Waiving Policy on Public Exhibition for a period of 28 days.

The Public Exhibition period will be from Wednesday, 13 June 2018 to Tuesday, 10 July 2018. The document can be viewed at Council's Administration Building (Customer Service Section); Cessnock Public Library; Branxton Post Office; Kurri Kurri Public Library; Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au.

Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up **until 4pm Tuesday, 10 July 2018** via email recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or post.

Any enquiries should be directed to Nicole Benson on telephone 4993 4252.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR WASTE DISPOSAL POLICY

At its meeting of 6 June 2018, Council resolved to place the Draft Financial Assistance for Disposal of Waste (charitable and not for profit organisations) Policy on Public Exhibition for a period of 28 days.

The Public Exhibition period will be from Wednesday, 13 June 2018 to Tuesday, 10 July 2018. The document can be viewed at Council's Administration Building (Customer Service Section); Cessnock Public Library; Branxton Post Office; Kurri Kurri Public Library; Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au.

Written submissions should be addressed to The General Manager and will be accepted up **until 4pm Tuesday, 10 July 2018** via email environment@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or post.

Any enquiries should be directed to Mr Michael Alexander on telephone 4993 4253.

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au 62-75 Vincent St. Cessnock 02 4993 4100

ABERMAIN DISTRICT LANDCARE

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RSVP by 16 June 2018
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<https://www.facebook.com/Abermain-District-Landcare-362430814268324/>



SECTION 101 NOTICE, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT, 1979, APPROVED DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES

The public are hereby notified pursuant to Section 101 of the Environmental Planning Assessment Act, 1979 (as amended) that the following applications have been granted consent during the period from 1 May 2018 to 31 May 2018.

Locality	Reference	Decision Date	Property Address	Application Description
BRANXTON	008/2017/00000503/001	3-May-2018	LOT 1 DP 1047580 Station ST	Boundary Adjustment & Child Care Facility (104 Children) & Drainage Easement
BRANXTON	008/2018/00000189/001	10-May-2018	3 Wentworth CL	Workshop including bathroom used in association with Home Occupation
BRANXTON	008/2018/00000249/001	22-May-2018	23 Cessnock RD	Deck and Carport
EAST BRANXTON	008/2018/00000229/001	14-May-2018	12 Yates ST	Garage and associated Retaining Walls
EAST BRANXTON	008/2017/00000724/001	18-May-2018	18 William ST	Two (2) Storey Dwelling
EAST BRANXTON	008/2018/00000259/001	22-May-2018	29 Spring ST	Installation of Interallotment Drainage
GRETA	008/2018/00000227/001	2-May-2018	52 York ST	Patio Cover
LOVEDALE	008/2018/00000198/001	31-May-2018	84 Wilderness RD	Alterations & Additions to Existing Restaurant
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000126/001	8-May-2018	12 Haverty AV	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000231/001	16-May-2018	23 Rampling AV	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000265/001	16-May-2018	43 Toozie CCT	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000228/001	22-May-2018	11 Ainsworth CR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000266/001	29-May-2018	26 Thomas ST	Shed
POKOLBIN	008/2017/00000674/001	2-May-2018	266 De Beyers RD	Commercial Premises - Additions to Existing Restaurant & Day Spa
POKOLBIN	008/2017/00000690/001	2-May-2018	LOT 224 DP 604969 Marrowbone RD	Construct New Tourist Accommodation (Eight (8) Units) with Ancillary Managers Residence, Pool, Car Parking & Landscaping
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000226/001	2-May-2018	422 Deasys RD	Farm Building - Wine Storage Shed & Cool Room
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000061/001	7-May-2018	276 O'Connors RD	New Single Storey Dwelling
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000278/001	16-May-2018	85 Deasys RD	Swimming Pool
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000217/001	21-May-2018	338 Oakley Creek RD	Solar Power Generating Works 975kW Solar Farm
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000267/001	23-May-2018	1 Fig Tree CR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000242/001	30-May-2018	45 Paperbark DR	Two (2) Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage & Swimming Pool
ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000280/001	16-May-2018	727 Old North RD	Swimming Pool

Copies of development consents are available at Council's Customer Service Centre for public inspection, free of charge, during the Council's ordinary office hours

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au 62-75 Vincent St. Cessnock 02 4993 4100

Acting General Manager Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr

Matthew Brandt National Wordskills 'Gold Medalist' & now off to Russia in 2019

Six medals have been brought home by TAFE NSW students from across the Hunter region at the WorldSkills Australia 2018 National Championships.

Matthew Brandt from Rothbury received either gold, silver or bronze awards. **Matthew Brandt from Rothbury** was awarded the only Gold medal in Autobody Repair in front

technology in cars and learn new welding techniques." "I remember my childhood was spent watching my father work on cars. When I reached high school years I decided to



Q National 'Gold' WorldSkills Medalist Matthew Brandt during the WorldSkills competition



Q National 'Gold' WorldSkills Medalist Matthew Brandt holding up his medal.

Worldskills Australia National Championship Fast Facts

- 500+ number of competitors
- 60 trades and skills represented
- 300 judges
- 120 dedicated volunteers
- 16-20 hours spent competing
- 3 days spent competing
- 159 medals awarded
- \$10 million materials and equipment used
- 21,000 visitors to the event
- \$20 million economic benefit created for host State

undertake work experience as a panel beater & I instantly fell in love with the trade." After doing work experience in Year 9 and enjoying working on cars, I asked my host employer if he was happy for me to come back each school holidays to get some more experience," Matthew said. "I did this for a while and they eventually offered me an apprenticeship." "I like working on people's cars and seeing their face when they see the end results," said Matthew Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC said that TAFE NSW students are in high demand because of the quality of their education and ability to hit the ground running with relevant and practical skills. "The NSW Liberal National Government is delivering on its vision for a strong and publicly owned VET provider through its One TAFE NSW reforms. TAFE NSW students winning these awards demonstrate what is on offer for students if they choose at VET based education." "Congratulations to Matthew and the other five medalists and I look forward to seeing even more TAFE NSW students recognised for their achievements in the future." Matthew Brandt's gold medal win has secured him

of hundreds of his peers from across the country. "I love a challenge and pushing myself in a competitive environment," Matthew said. "My goal this year was to improve my speed and quality of my work and finishes from when I received a Bronze medal at the WorldSkills Australia 2016 National Competition and I did just that. "My passion has always been cars from an early age and I've really benefited from my studies at TAFE NSW. It's helped me improve my knowledge around all the new

and regions. One of the legacies of WorldSkills Competitions is the increased visibility of skilled professional education, as one of the tools of social and economic transformation. The Competition also provides leaders in industry, government, and education with the opportunity to exchange information and best practices regarding industry and professional education. New ideas and processes inspire school-aged youth

a place on the Australian Skillaroos team who will compete with the world's best at the 45th WorldSkills International Competition finals to be held in Russia in 2019. Every two years WorldSkills hosts the world championships of skills which attracts more than 1,300 Competitors from more than 70 countries. At this event, young people from all corners of the globe gather together for the chance to win a prestigious medal in their chosen skill. There are competitions in over fifty skills across a wide range of industries — from joinery to floristry; hairdressing to electronics; and autobody repair to bakery. The Competitors represent the best of their peers and are selected from skills competitions that are held in WorldSkills Member countries

to dedicate themselves to technical and technological careers and build a better future. The full list of medallists from the Hunter are:-

- Autobody Repair: Matthew Brandt- Rothbury (GOLD)
- Bricklaying: Carn Turbull – Stockton (SILVER)
- Painting & Decorating: Rhys Duggan- Mayfield (BRONZE)
- Retail Baking- Pastry: Hayley Waterhouse- Meadowie (SILVER)
- Signage: Madeline Flatman- Charlestown (BRONZE)
- Plastering 2: Connor Linz-Fingal Bay (SILVER)



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STEVE'S RANT

The propensity for human conceit is one of the draw backs to being human. Our assumed superior intellect amongst all other living creatures gives us this undesirable trait. Sure we have an ability to reason abstract ideas, and to solve complex problems and to comprehend an awareness of a future and our own mortality and to make a record of this either orally or in recent time in written or diagrammatical form. No other creature does this but no other creature deludes itself so completely as we humans. It is this trait of the complex human brain which allows politicians, religious leaders and other smart-arse comen to create unreal and unrealisable expectations in our minds in order to manipulate and rob us.

Whilst being self aware is a natural part of being alive for humans we must balance this with a strong sense of scepticism. There are no *absolutes* when it comes to human nature. Only fanatics and extremists from the 'Ultra Right' and 'Looney Left' accept *absolutes* and this gives them this dangerous zeal in prosecuting their loony ideas. It is the duty of every individual to educate themselves against *absolutes*. Unless of course we are talking of self evident and provable scientific laws such as Newtons Laws of Motion or Ohm's Law of Electricity. So my tilt at politicians and religious leaders is not *absolute*. There are politicians at all levels of government who are worthy and honest and for whom we should be proud. But we must equip ourselves for the means of making judgement about other people. You start from the premise that you can trust another person. As you become more aware of their values, ideas and abilities to make good judgements, so you can adjust your rating of that person against your own values and ideas. When they let you down, again, you recalibrate your opinion but do not *absolutely* condemn. Always moderate your judgments, take a deep breath and perhaps sleep on it before you take

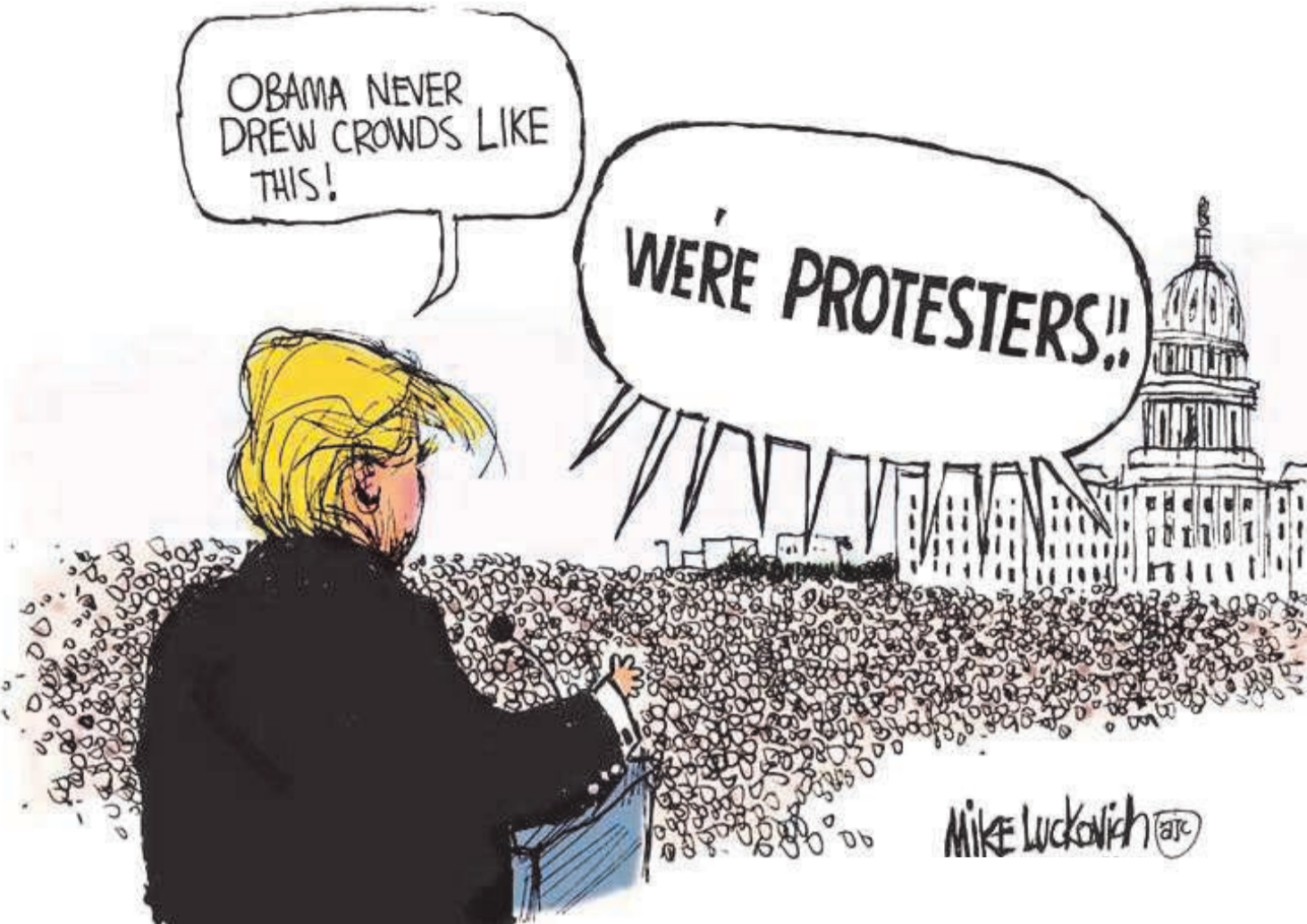
LETTERS
(The letter below was sent to me by a third person not the author)
Is it time to reclaim free speech?

Surely there are people out there with an opinion(?) With political correctness being the way it is, who is really game to put pen-to-paper without fear of being taken to task, censured, reprimanded, publicly humiliated, censored or otherwise? No longer are people free to give an opinion that describes or tell things as they are, for what they are. Even though it is in your face, white is no longer white, and black is not black. What you see is a matter of politically correct edicts. What we are allowed to say must be neutral, but it's vague and non-specific - irrelevant at the best of times. Inept and nonsensical opinions and descriptions of people, places, things, and events. It's crazy. Everything we want to say has to be dumbed-down, fit within, and conform to the new socio-political norms of the day. No longer can people say precisely what is on their minds and express their opinions as accurately and vehemently as they would like. What you can say, and how you say it, has to be politically correct rather than clear-cut and direct. For instance: Years ago, when

a crime was committed by an individual, news purveyors would provide an actual, useful, and relevant description of the individual being sought that would invariably result in the soonest apprehension of the person concerned. Today, we hear descriptions like "a person is wanted for questioning by police in relation to a home break-in in Toowoomba". With all due respect, what the hell does that tell us about, or of anything? Nothing. Freedom of speech was once the inherent right of every individual to speak their mind, to make a statement or to express an opinion without fear or favour. Today it is shoved down our throats that our language, and its expression must be more inclusive and gender neutral. Neutral, in the days of old (like a few years back) meant negative, or opposite. Language, we are now told, cannot promote discrimination; what we say, write, and convey is supposed to promote equality of the sexes, fairness and equality. No more Mister, Misses, boy or girl; it is pronouns for all - him, her, person, or citizen. Phrases denoting the masculinity, femininity, or otherwise of an individual are now considered homophobic: man, woman, heterosexual,

any action or start raving and complaining. Be suspicious of people who present in *absolutes* on any matter. They will have ulterior motives for the view they hold and you must be able to identify when ideas or beliefs are crook. If intuitively the idea/belief seems either too good to be true or too trite, then it probably is. If the idea or belief is popularly held for no good or evident reason other than because it appeals to our conceit then it is probably wrong and whatever you do think about what politicians would have you believe stay sceptical. And stay sceptical about all advertising. Classical examples of what to be sceptical about are:-
* Anything the 'Greens' say
* Anything Clive Palmer says
* Anything the ABC takes the high moral ground on such as climate change and the correctness of awarding themselves bonuses from public monies.
* Anything the CFMEU might have you believe.

homosexual, gay. Now it is same-sex, other sex, gender neutral, whatever. No more can you refer to a person as blind or deaf, even though some quite literally can't see or hear. You have to refer to the blind and deaf as visually, or hearing challenged. As a deaf person I am not hearing challenged - I can't bloody hear and that is a fact! Really, if a person is fat, they're fat. If you tell a person they have the breath of dog they might be encouraged to wash their teeth; maybe for the first time in their life. If you tell a person they are fat they might be encouraged to start a diet, or dress appropriately. We have to rebel against political correctness and stop telling people falsehoods, that they look good when they really look like shite! It is time to reclaim free speech and tell it as it is! **GEORGE W. HELON, Kearneys Spring**



Have a nice day.
OXYMORON for the week: as seen on TV 'Gamble Responsibly'
Cheers, Steve

What's Happening & other matters

with **Mike Lowing**
I have an apology to 2 local residents who were awarded OAM's in the 2018 Australia Day list. I have been meaning to do an article on their respective well earned honour but time & memory have taken its toll. I was again reminded today (last Sunday) with the release of the 2018 Queen's Birthday list with local wine industry legend & Branxton resident Iain Riggs receiving an AM. The earlier Australia Day awards went to Branxton's Pam MacDonald OAM & North Rothbury resident Peter Vizzard OAM. Their individual citations were:-
Mrs Pamela Jean MacDONALD, Branxton NSW 2335
For service to the community of the Hunter. Service includes: Volunteer, Branxton Meals on Wheels, since 1977. Member, Singleton View

The Editor, The BGV News, 12 Cliff Street, Branxton NSW 2335 or emailed to thenews@hotkey.net.au P: 4938 1773

Club, 1985-2014. Former Volunteer, Mercy Rest Nursing Home. Member, City of Maitland Retirement Village Association, since 1990. Member, Parish Council, St John's Anglican Church Branxton, current and Past Member, Anglican Ladies Guild, and Volunteer, Op Shop, since 1998. Volunteer, Singleton Driver Reviver, current. Awards and recognition include: Senior Citizen of the Year, Cessnock City Council, 2011.
Mr Peter Damien VIZZARD, North Rothbury NSW 2335
For service to hot air ballooning, and to the tourism sector. Service includes: Founder and Owner, Balloon Aloft Australia, 1980-2007. Assisted with organisation of hot air balloon events around Australia including: The Canberra Balloon Festival. Marti's Hot Air Balloon Festival, Canowindra, 1998-2006 (forerunner to the *Canowindra International Balloon Challenge*). Hot Air Balloon Pilot, since mid-1960s. World Hot Air Balloon Champion, Federation Internationale Aeronautique (World Air Sports Federation), 1983. Australian Ballooning Federation: Safety Officer, 1990. Australian Hot Air Ballooning Champion, 1982, and 1986. Assisted in establishment of ABF, 1974. Hall of Fame Inductee. President, Aerostat Society (forerunner to the Australian Ballooning Federation), 1968. Civil Aviation Safety Authority: Co-Author, Hot Air

JUST THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Queen Elizabeth II is a trained mechanic.
Volvo gave away the 1962 patent for their revolutionary three-point seat belt for free, in order to save lives.
The Russians showed up 12 days late to the 1908 Olympics in London because they were using the Julian calendar instead of the Gregorian calendar.
During World War I, a Canadian soldier made a black bear his pet and named her **Winnipeg**. "Winnie" was later a resident of the London Zoological Gardens where she was an adored attraction, especially to a boy named Christopher Robin, son of author A.A. Milne. The boy even named his teddy bear after her.
Before settling on **the Seven Dwarfs** we know today, Disney considered Chesty, Tubby, Burpy, Deafy, Hickey, Wheezy, and Awful.
In 1999, the U.S. government paid the Zapruder family \$US16 million for the film of **JFK's assassination**.
Salvador Dali avoided paying restaurant tabs by using cheques. He would draw on the back as the waiter watched, knowing no one would ever cash the art.
Balloon Safety Regulations, 1988. Assisted in the establishment of the first training school for hot air balloon pilots.
Mr Iain Leslie RIGGS, Branxton NSW 2335
For significant service to oenology as a winemaker, to the development of the Australian wine industry, and to the promotion of the Hunter region. Service includes: Managing Director and Chief Winemaker, Brokenwood Wines, since 1982. Chairman of Trustees, Len Evans Foundation, current. Chairman, Shanghai International Wine Challenge, current. Chairman, Wine Show of Western Australia, current. Chairman, the Hunter Valley Wine Show, 2002-2011. Chairman, Macquarie Group Royal Wine Show, 2008-2014. Judge, Sydney Royal Wine Show, 1990-2007.
Board Member, Winemakers Federation of Australia, 1989-1995. Chairman, Hunter Valley Legends and Wine Awards, 2006-2016. Former President, Australian Winemakers Forum. Awards and recognition includes: Named Workplace Champion of Change, Australian Women in Wine, 2016. Recipient, Contributors Award for services to the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales, 2014. Recipient, The Len Evans Award for Industry Contribution, Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine, 2013. Recipient, Graham Gregory trophy 'for outstanding service to the NSW wine industry', NSW Department of Primary Industries, 2003.
Congratulations to all three with your so much well deserved honour. Cheers, Mike

Report: first 6-months of 'Return & Earn' scheme in the Hunter & looking good



raised in donations from people using reverse vending machines.”
 “New donation partners on the reverse vending machines from this week include: Red Cross, WIRES Animal Rescue, Take 3 for the Sea and Clean Up Australia as well as 12 local Hunter groups across 24 machines.”
 “Any Hunter groups wanting to fundraise through the scheme can collect donations of eligible containers through their networks, or can apply to

be listed as a donation partner on a reverse vending machine if one is nearby and they meet the eligibility criteria.”
 NSW Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton said that in addition to collection points, over 380 million containers have been collected and claimed through the kerbside recycling system for the period December 2017 to March 2018.
 “Figures from the Scheme Coordinator Exchange for Change show that during the first quarter of this year, 61 per cent of all eligible containers supplied in NSW were refunded through the scheme across the network of collection points and

through household kerbside recycling collections.”
 “Their figures also show that this is a significant increase on the 33 per cent of containers recovered through household kerbside recycling prior to scheme commencement on 1 December last year, representing an additional 196 million containers that may have ended up as litter.
 “This is an outstanding result for the environment and we expect this number to grow as more collection points are rolled out. More information about Return and Earn, including: container eligibility,

donation partner criteria, and a collection point locator map can be found at:
www.returnandearn.org.au

Local Return Points

- **North Rothbury**
1825 Wine Country Drive
- **Rutherford**
Cnr Mustang Drive & Anambah Road
- **Cessnock**
Cnr Cooper & Keene Streets
- **Kurri Kurri**
147 Mitchell Avenue & Kurri Kurri Bowling Club

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC has thanked the Hunter community for their participation in the Return and Earn scheme which has recovered more than 367 million containers across NSW collection points in the first six months of operation.
 “The Hunter has embraced the container deposit scheme and returned more

than 41 million containers to our local reverse vending machines which is a great result for the community and the environment,” Mr MacDonald said.
 “Communities across NSW have also embraced Return and Earn as a fundraising opportunity for local groups and schools, and even for the Tathra Bushfire Appeal where more than \$8,000 was



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and Treasurer Kurri Kurri Retired Mineworkers Association. In particular we acknowledge the support Merv demonstrated to the Mayoral Academic Scholarships through the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Retired Mineworkers Associations. Merv recognised our local youth need support in their education. His valuable contribution to our community will be sorely missed.
Cheers, Bob

Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

Behind the Mayors Desk

Congratulations to the Council crews working on the intersection of Maitland Road and Duffie Drive, Cessnock. Council staff were engaged by the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) to complete the project to provide better traffic flow for one of the key access roads to the centre of Cessnock. The construction of the roundabout was very efficient and there was limited impact on road users. This was due to much of the works happening of a night. It is pleasing to see the traffic flow already improving along this busy access road and the overall safety of roads users has significantly improved. Additional works include drainage improvements, kerb and guttering, footpaths, cycleways and the installation of street lighting. Council has released a jam packed program for NAIDOC Week 2018. The week is on from Tuesday 12 June and runs through until Wednesday 25 of July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

We are encouraging everyone in the community to check out our program of events which include art workshops, family history workshops, 'Stolen' by Jane Harrison at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre and the Barkuma's NAIDOC Family Fun Day at Kurri Kurri. To find out what else we have planned visit

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/naidoc.

Following the passing of Merv Mahon, on behalf of the people of the Cessnock Local Government Area, Council acknowledges Merv's contributions through the Retired Mineworkers Association, as the former State President of the Retired Mineworkers Association



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR

THE UPCOMING STATE BUDGET – THINGS I HOPE TO SEE AND NOT SEE

On June 19, the NSW Government will hand down its final Budget before the 2019 State Election. Across the Cessnock Electorate there are a range of things that I would like to see funded in the Budget.

I would like to see a dedicated fund for education and aspiration across the Electorate. As regular readers of my column will recall, the Cessnock Electorate has the lowest levels of education in the entire State when you measure the stage at which our people left school, the qualifications that people have achieved after leaving school, the ongoing education of our people after leaving school and the number of people that have gone on to do University studies.

Our low levels of education have been shown in 3 sets of Census data now – 2006, 2011 and 2016. So it's not a secret or a surprise. The question is when will it be acknowledged and acted upon. Education and aspiration goes hand in hand. Having our people dream of doing big things and having confidence in ourselves to tackle every hurdle is in a large part based on our education and the stress in our daily lives. The best gift we can give our next generation is to give them the confidence that they can be anything. One thing that I am certainly hoping that we don't see is funding towards this ridiculous stadiums commitment. The NSW Budget is made up of the taxes, fees, levies, duties and charges made against the people of NSW from right across the State. Building stadiums will be paid for by everyone, regardless of whether you go to events at the big stadiums or not and regardless of whether you support the cause or not. If I were to take a guess at what the people across the Cessnock Electorate would prefer to see their money spent on, instead of stadiums, then I would guess at roads, police, hospitals, education and a myriad of other things.
* * * * *

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



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

It's been almost two weeks since we learned Singleton was unsuccessful in our application for Resources for Regions funding, and the disappointment is still raw.

Yes, as the Deputy Premier has pointed out, our community has benefited from \$35 million from the NSW Government program in the past, and every project we've undertaken was delivered either on or ahead of time and budget. That figure comes into sharp focus, however, in comparison to the \$415million per year that makes its way down the M1 to Macquarie Street as a direct result of coal mining in the Singleton LGA. It's a fair assessment, then, that most of that money is spent in areas outside our LGA where communities don't contend with the infrastructure and social pressures that come with mining. We in Singleton are acutely aware of the contribution our LGA makes to the people of NSW. We don't begrudge any spending of that money that helps to make NSW great. But, as I've said before and as I've said directly to Deputy Premier John Barilaro, what we do expect is a fair go and a fair return on our contribution to help offset impacts we live with daily.

As we wait for the 2018/2019 State budget to be handed down - a proportion of which is directly derived from the coal mines of Singleton - and in the lead up to next year's State election, I would expect funding announcements from other avenues in recognition of Singleton's status as the economic beating heart of NSW.

The continuation of the Town Centre revitalisation, the subject of our latest unsuccessful application, remains on our wish list. But there are also plenty of other priorities for our

community that require State Government support, such as the realisation of the Singleton bypass and solutions to traffic congestion; more public transport options; education opportunities; and a greater police presence.

I could go on, and I will be raising our community's priorities with Member for Upper Hunter Michael Johnsen and in Macquarie Street every chance I get. I also invite Mr Barilaro, the Premier and her Ministers to return to Singleton as a reminder of where the State's wealth comes from and that it's the people of Singleton who pay the biggest price for our prosperity.
Cheers, Sue



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

TIME TO PUT DROUGHT POLICY BACK ON TRACK

The Prime Minister begins a drought tour this week and the Hunter should be on his itinerary. On May 3, 2013, the Commonwealth and the states and territories entered into a new COAG agreement on drought policy. The Intergovernmental Agreement on National Drought Reform enjoyed the unanimous support of the nine governments as well as the National Farmers' Federation. It was, in part, driven by a 2009 Productivity Commission (PC) inquiry into drought policy. It found that in 2007-08, 23 per cent of Australia's 143,000 farms received drought assistance of more than \$1 billion. The PC argued that former Exceptional Circumstance (EC) declarations and related drought assistance programs did "not help farmers improve their self-reliance, preparedness and climate change management". It concluded: "the EC declaration process is inequitable and unnecessary". State and territory governments agreed a new approach was needed. Five objectives were agreed:

1. Assist farm families and primary producers adapt to and prepare for the impacts of increased climate variability;
2. Encourage farm families and primary producers to adopt self-reliant approaches to manage business risks;
3. Ensure families in hardship have access to a support payment that recognises the special circumstances

4. Ensure that social support services are accessible to farm families; and,
5. Provide a framework for jurisdictions' responses during periods of drought.

Clause 17 of the agreement states: parties will report against their roles and responsibilities in this agreement and their implementation plans annually during the operation of the agreement. Reports are to be provided for Primary Industries Standing Committee (PISC) and Standing Council on Primary Industries (SCoPI) meetings.

The Coalition won office four months later. One of its first acts was to abolish SCoPI and the PISC, two key COAG commitments. The Intergovernmental Agreement will expire on July 1, 2018. Next to no work has been done on a new agreement. Farmers on Farm Household Support (unemployment benefit for farmers) are near the end of a three-year period of assistance. What will drought-affected farmers do now? The Turnbull government says they should apply for a concessional loan. But more debt is simply not an option for most.

To be fair, the government has improved a tax scheme which encourages farmers to put money away for tough times. It enhanced accelerated depreciation arrangements for farmers investing in water infrastructure. But neither scheme helps farmers who have no money to invest or save.

The COAG process must be restored. Its abolition was a terrible mistake. Only then can we put drought policy back on track. Drought can no longer be viewed as an "abnormal event". The focus for policy makers and farm leadership groups must be helping farmers build resilience. Tax concessions for drought proofing will no doubt remain part of the plan. So too will income support. The foundation for any drought policy must be adaptation and the embrace of better natural resource management practices. More market-based programs are needed to incentivise a focus on soil health, water efficiency and carbon abatement. Of course, you can't expect a government to act on a changing climate if it doesn't believe the climate is changing. Drought-affected Hunter farmers would welcome that recognition as an important first step.

FIVE YEARS OF ENERGY POLICY INACTION THREATENS HUNTER REGION JOBS

AGL's announcement that it will be forced to curtail Tomago Aluminium's electricity supply because of generator outages is very bad news for the Hunter region's economy and threatens local jobs.

The decision to restrict Tomago's electricity supply follows engineering problems at the Liddell, Bayswater and Vales Point power stations. Tomago Aluminium and its workforce are paying the price for five years of energy policy inaction under the Abbott and Turnbull Governments. The fact is that investment in new power generation capacity has dried up as a result of the uncertainty created by the Coalition Government. If jobs are lost at Tomago it will be on Malcolm Turnbull's head. While the mistakes of the past can't be changed, the Turnbull Government must now stop the nonsense about extending the life of Liddell and allow AGL to quickly proceed with its investment plans in the Hunter.

AGL plans to heavily invest in a Bayswater upgrade, new gas peaking station, pumped hydro, and large-scale solar and battery storage right here in the Hunter region.

The only impediment is the behaviour of the Turnbull Government. Tomago is a reminder of how urgent that investment has become.
Cheers, Joel



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

LOCAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR NSW GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Our local youth organisations in the Hunter are encouraged to apply for a share of \$1.5 million Youth Opportunities grant funding. One-off grants between \$10,000 and \$50,000 are available to not-for-profit organisations and local councils for youth-led and youth-driven community projects.

Grants provided to local organisations will help young people to participate, engage and be included in our community. Giving young people an opportunity to be part of youth-driven projects will not only help them develop individually, but it will help strengthen the community as a whole.

This year's funding round there will be an additional \$400,000 available to benefit more young people.
Cheers, Michael

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PHARMACY ADVISOR



Lee Grundy
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Vitamin D supplements
Some groups of the population are at greater risk of not getting enough vitamin D, and the Department of Health recommends these people take daily vitamin D supplements.

These groups are:

- all babies from birth to 1 year of age

enough vitamin D from sunlight in the summer, so you might choose not to take a vitamin D supplement during these months.

Supplements containing vitamins A, C and D
All children aged 6 months to 5 years should take a supplement containing vitamins A, C and D. This is a precaution because

4 Factors That May Make Vitamin Supplements Necessary

1. Alcoholism
2. Diseases & Genetic Disorders
3. Medications
4. Pregnancy

Most people don't need to take vitamin supplements and are able to get all the vitamins and minerals they need by eating a healthy, balanced diet. Vitamins and minerals are essential nutrients, such as iron, calcium and vitamin C, that your body needs in small amounts to work properly. Many people choose to take supplements, but taking too much or taking them for too long could be harmful. The Department of Health recommends certain supplements for some groups of people who are at risk of deficiency. These are described below.

Folic acid supplements in pregnancy

All women thinking of having a baby should have a folic acid supplement, as should any pregnant woman up to week 12 of her pregnancy. Folic acid can help to prevent neural tube defects such as spina bifida.

(including breastfed babies, and formula-fed babies who have less than 500ml a day of infant formula)

- all children aged 1 to 4 years old
- people who are not often exposed to the sun – for example, people who are frail or housebound, are in an institution such as a care home, or usually wear clothes that cover up most of their skin when outdoors

For the rest of the population, everyone over the age of 5 years (including pregnant and breastfeeding women) is advised to consider taking a daily supplement containing 10 micrograms of vitamin D. But most people aged 5 years and above will probably get

growing children may not get enough of these vitamins, especially those not eating a varied diet – for example, fussy eaters. Your GP may also recommend supplements if you need them for a medical condition. For example, you may be prescribed iron supplements to treat iron deficiency anaemia. **Fizzy (effervescent) tablets: salt advice**
Effervescent vitamin supplements or effervescent painkillers can contain up to 1g of salt per tablet. Consider changing to a non-effervescent tablet, particularly if you have been advised to watch or reduce your salt intake.

Cheers, Lee



Blacksmith Repair Day to foster a culture of reuse

The ancient art of blacksmithing will be on show at the first ever Blacksmith Repair Day to be held on the 16th of June 2018 at Branxton. Hosted by local blacksmith artist and sculptor, Will Maguire, and supported by the University of Newcastle's Centre for 21st Century Humanities, the community is invited to bring in their old metal items and have them repaired. Mr Maguire will work at the forge on the day alongside his colleagues from the Artist Blacksmiths Association of Australia. Items to be repaired will be limited to steel and other metal items such as hand tools, household items, minor mechanical repairs, gardening or farming equipment and decorative objects. The processes available will be forging, electric welding (MIG/TIG/stick), brazing, riveting, fabrication, bending, straightening, cutting, sharpening/redressing edges. Mr Maguire says the day will be not only about fixing damaged items but also about bringing the community together through a celebration of practical skills that are often overlooked into today's modern world. "Through this event we can combat some of the

excesses of consumer culture by reducing waste and breathing life back into items of worth. I'm also keen to build a sense of community by helping out our neighbours in the process," Mr Maguire said. People can email Mr Maguire in advance of the day to discuss the suitability of an item in need of repair, however jobs will be taken on as they arrive by the volunteers available on the day. People can drop off their repairs or enjoy a bite to eat from the Slow Food Hunter Valley while they wait for their item to be fixed. "We'd love it if those bringing in items can make a donation. All proceeds raised will go to the Slow Food Hunter Valley who use the funds to educate local kids on the value of food and it's production," Mr Maguire said. Mr Maguire first pitched the idea for the repair day at the Centre for 21st Century Humanities Start Up Workshop held in June last year. Director of the Centre for 21st Century Humanities, Professor Hugh Craig said the judges at the workshop were impressed with Mr Maguire's desire to foster a sense of community and create a culture of reuse and he was awarded seed funding for the



project. "We're proud to support this inaugural event and can see it being very useful to the wider Hunter community. This event puts value on the traditional skills of blacksmithing, an ancient art that is worth preserving, all while fostering a culture that encourages the salvaging of old items," Professor Craig said. **Location:** The workshop of Will Maguire Artist Blacksmith, 664 Elderslie Rd, Elderslie (just outside Branxton) NSW 2335 **Date:** 16 June 2018. 9am – 4pm **Cost:** small donation for repairs **RSVP:** Register your interest in the event by emailing blacksmithnow@outlook.com **Contact:** Will Maguire 0423 289 648 or visit www.willblacksmith.com.au for more information. **What will be repaired:** Generally, iron or steel

objects of some inherent value such as:
Hand tools such as garden tools, shovels, forks, mattocks, hammers, axes or adzes, pry bars, spud bars etc. these can have their working edge/face forged out and dressed and heat treated, bars can be straightened and re-pointed, items can be welded etc.
Household items: re-attach saucepan handles, or repair utensils, weld or straighten frames, brackets or handles, brazing of cast iron may be possible but will depend on item.
Small mechanical repairs, welding, riveting, bolting together etc. (not car or engine repairs)
Farming equipment, straighten bent parts etc. see hand tools (above).
Decorative objects. Quality ornamental ironwork such as candle holders, recipe holders, plate racks etc.

HEARD IT THROUGH
the
GRAPEVINE



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

HUNTER VALLEY WINES REPRESENTED AT NEWCASTLE AIRPORT

The Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association (HVWTA) was approached by Catercare at Newcastle Airport recently to introduce local wine and food producers in an endeavour to support local by stocking 100% Hunter Valley wines across all its licenced food and beverage outlets. Audrey Wilkinson, Margan Wines, Peter Drayton Wines and Tyrrell's Wines were hand selected by the airport and will now be available at Broughton & Bay, Epicure Kitchen Café and Hunter & King Coffee Co in the Departures Lounge and Cibo Café in Arrivals. Other Hunter Valley producers include Iron Bark Hill brewhouse, Hunter Belle Cheese, Pukara Estate and Hunter Valley Cookies. This is a very exciting opportunity for Hunter Valley producers, showcasing their premium products to 1.28 million domestic and international passengers and supports the HVWTA's strategic approach to ensure visitors to our region are experiencing and purchasing our local products. The Hunter Valley's wine and tourism industries celebrate the commitment by Newcastle Airport for continuing to support local businesses and promote Australia's premier wine and food destination.



Try our lemon and herb lamb racks with greek-style potatoes! A winter warmer the whole family will love!

- Ingredients**
- 800g mayan gold or kipfler potatoes, cut lengthways into wedges
 - 1 large red onion, cut into wedges
 - 1/2 cup (125ml) chicken stock
 - 1 Zesting Lemon, zested, juiced
 - 2 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
 - 1 garlic clove, crushed
 - 2 (about 550g each) Australian Lamb Rack Roasts
 - 250g vine-ripened cherry tomatoes
 - Lemon wedges, to serve
- Gremolata**
- 1/4 cup finely chopped flat-leaf parsley
 - 1 Zesting Lemon, zested
 - 1 tablespoon chopped oregano
 - 1 garlic clove, crushed

Method

- Step 1**
Preheat oven to 200°C. Combine potato, onion, stock, 1/4 cup (60ml) lemon juice and 1 tablespoon of the oil in a roasting pan. Season. Combine lemon zest, garlic and remaining oil in a bowl. Rub over lamb. Place on potato mixture. Roast for 45 mins or until

Lemon and herb lamb racks with Greek-style potatoes



cooked to your liking. Transfer lamb to a plate. Cover and set aside for 15 mins to rest.

Step 2

Add tomatoes to the potato mixture and roast for 15 mins or until potato is golden.

Step 3

To make gremolata, combine parsley, lemon zest, oregano and garlic in a bowl.

Step 4

Sprinkle lamb with gremolata. Serve with potato mixture and lemon wedges.



Report

categories, including sexual assault. This trend can be attributed to a number of factors, such as the reporting of sexual assaults, where statistics are based on the date the offences were reported,

step forward in modern policing, making the NSW Police Force more agile, and capable of accommodating the demand for officers in the areas they are most needed.

Where can you ride?

	No Licence or No Rego	Licence & Rego
Sealed and unsealed roads	N	Y
Formed/defined tracks and trails on public land	N	Y
Public land off existing roads, tracks or trails	N	N
Public reserves, sports fields, footpaths etc	N	N
Private property	Y	Y
Commercial tracks/circuits	Y	Y

Woman charged after travelling 158km/h whilst disqualified from driving

Friday, 01 June 2018
A woman has been charged after allegedly being detected speeding at almost 60km/h over the speed limit in the Hunter Valley.

About 9.15pm (Thursday 31 May 2018), a Mazda 3 was detected travelling at 158km/h in a 100km/h zone on the New England, Belford.

The 22-year-old woman driving the car was spoken to, and checks on her licence found it to be disqualified.

She received an infringement for exceed speed over 45km/h and was charged with drive whilst disqualified 2nd offence.

She is to appear at Singleton Local Court on Thursday 28 June 2018.

Motor Bikes; unregistered, unlicensed rider/minor & no helmets

A weekend of noisy motorbikes is the last thing any community wants but for many years now certain areas of the local area have been a mecca for unregistered, unlicensed, un-

helmeted & noisy off road bikes using public roads. North Rothbury has had a spate of 'bike terror' for a long time & for those employees who are shift workers it must be a nightmare;

probably not the correct term as you need to sleep to have a nightmare! Speaking with the NSW Police highway patrol they tell me that it is not confined to here but is a problem all over the state & that it is very hard to police;

not enough police cars on the road basically. What are the rules

concerning unregistered motorbikes? Commonsense would tell you that they cannot be used on public roads & footpaths.

I went looking for information on the RMS & NSW Police web sites but both sites do not address what I call 'the trifecta'; unlicensed, unregistered & under age riders.

The fines are substantial and NSW Police can confiscate offending bikes. (Apart from blatant disregard for the law in some cases they are putting lives at risk)

The Trifecta
Many riders who are caught riding illegally on public land or roads, particularly kids too young to be licensed, get the trifecta of fines - Unlicensed, Unregistered and Uninsured.

Unlicensed \$422
[Sec 25\(1\) Road Transport \(Driver Licensing\) Act 1998 No 99](#)
Driver must be licensed

Unregistered \$422
[Sec 18\(1\) Road Transport \(Vehicle Registration\) Act 1997 No 119](#)
Prohibition on using unregistered registrable vehicles

Uninsured - No CTP (greenslip) \$1055
[Sec 8\(1\) Motor](#)

Accidents Compensation Act 1999 No 41

Offence of using uninsured motor vehicle on road.

Legal Liability

Problems arise when somebody gets injured. It may cost a lot of money for their medical treatment and compensation for loss.

On Road

"Greenslip", i.e. Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance protects the owner/rider against the cost of injuries to others caused by the motorcycle.

- First Party = owner or rider
- Second Party = insurance company
- Third Party = injured person

Greenslip does not cover injuries to the rider, unless the rider is catastrophically injured and needs lifetime care, but only if they were injured on a public road.

If an accident occurs involving a vehicle without CTP insurance, the driver and/or owner may be financially liable for the cost of compensation paid to the injured person.

While the Nominal Defendant may initially pay the compensation claim, the Nominal Defendant will then seek to recover these costs from the vehicle owner.

Sec 39 Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999

No 41 Recovery from owner or driver

A child cannot be sued for damages, but the owner of the motorcycle, or the adult person who purchased the motorcycle or is responsible for storing it can be sued for damages.

The costs can be frightening and more expensive than your house. The fine for being Uninsured is the most expensive fine in the Trifecta.

Off Road

Liability for injury compensation is placed on the owner or keeper of the motorcycle.

For instance: a rider on a walking track collides with and injures a bush walker or bicycle rider; or a

motorcycle spooks a horse and the rider gets thrown and injured; or a motorcycle rider being stupid collides with another rider. At law, "a road" is a very broad definition.

Rule 13 Road Rules 2008

What is a road related area e.g. what appears to be a track on private property may actually be "a road" at law.

Private Property

If you have invited people onto your property, it is unlikely that ordinary "home and contents" insurance will protect you financially if someone is injured by a motorcycle or ATV.

This is significant if there is some "hidden danger" on your place. You may know all about it, but a visitor may not. You may know how to avoid "a danger" and have the skills to do so, while a visitor may not.

As a property owner or lessee, it is worth checking out your insurance cover. "it was the ultimate bad news waiting to happen"

"it was the ultimate bad news waiting to happen"



A 'Trifecta' in North Rothbury a couple of Sundays ago - well done constable

Proactive policing continues to drive down crime

Wednesday, 06 June 2018

Proactive policing continues to have a positive impact on reducing crime across the state according to the latest quarterly crime data released by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR)

NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller APM, said the figures are a testament to the ongoing commitment of frontline police state-wide, with three of the major crime categories falling and 12 remaining stable.

"It is encouraging to see the continuing efforts of police having a significant impact reducing crime in our communities across the state.

"Our ongoing priority is to continue to enhance the capabilities of our officers as they proactively focus on preventing and disrupting crime," said Commissioner Fuller.

"Our focus is community safety and we won't tolerate behaviour that risks the wellbeing of others."

As part of the re-engineering process, the NSW Police Force has announced several new specialist units, including the Fixated Persons Investigations Unit and five new Region Enforcement Squads (RES).

These RES units are comprised of specially-trained police tasked to disrupt drug supply and target gun crime, as part NSW Police Force's commitment to providing specialist resources to regional areas. Commissioner Fuller said the restructure is a unique

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not the date they were committed. In addition, police have been actively encouraging the community to report historic assaults, which also leads to a significant increase in the number of reports received.

A large proportion of the reports also stemmed from referrals from the Royal Commission.

Across the state, arrests for drug offences, such as possession and use of cocaine, have notably increased by 46 per cent in the last two years.

Commissioner Fuller said police will continue to target organised crime networks responsible for the distribution of illicit substances through regular drug operations, including the use of drug dogs.

"Our focus is community safety and we won't tolerate behaviour that risks the wellbeing of others."

As part of the re-engineering process, the NSW Police Force has announced several new specialist units, including the Fixated Persons Investigations Unit and five new Region Enforcement Squads (RES).

These RES units are comprised of specially-trained police tasked to disrupt drug supply and target gun crime, as part NSW Police Force's commitment to providing specialist resources to regional areas. Commissioner Fuller said the restructure is a unique

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by claimants in a class action in Australia is \$494 million which was recovered by way of settlement in proceedings against three defendants arising from the "Black Saturday" bushfires near Kilmore East Kinglake in Victoria in 2009. The settlement was reached following a trial that had lasted 208 days and was approved in December 2014.



or dress your cauli up with herbs, nuts, or serve in a salad after lightly cooking. On a cool winters day call in for a 'dinner winner' with our delicious 'Cauliflower Soup' or 'Pumpkin Soup'. **Pumpkins;** Queensland Blue or Wollombi Blue as we call it at Wollombi Road Providore are a traditional dry pumpkin. A heavy ribbed pumpkin with deep orange flesh;

Class Action Lawsuits
Class action lawsuits are something often reported on but what is a 'class action' and what kinds of claims can be bought by way of a class action lawsuit. A 'class action' is a lawsuit in which either one person, or a number of people, sues a company or institution on behalf of a larger 'class' which can be defined by a list of names or by a set of criteria. In order to commence a class action there must be seven or more persons with claims against the same defendant, the claims must arise out of the same or similar circumstances, and the claims must give rise to at least one substantial common issue of law or fact. The types of class action proceedings bought in Australia vary greatly and include: Shareholder class actions involving disclosure obligations, misleading and deceptive conduct by companies in takeovers, in prospectuses and in releases to the

ASX. Consumer actions such as unfair bank fees cases, or the current class actions against AMP relating to charging customers for financial advice that was never given. Negligence claims such as the Queensland floods and Black Saturday bushfire actions. Defective product cases for things like breast, knee and hip implants. Employment law cases such as when employees are subject to the same workplace discrimination or other employment law violation. The main benefit of group proceedings is that they enable a dispute involving potentially large numbers of people to be resolved by way of a single case, this can increase access to justice by reducing the expense and responsibility that each member takes on. Generally class actions are funded through third party litigation funding where the

litigation funders enter into an agreement, to pay the legal costs of the representative party and to accept liability to pay the respondent's costs if the class action is unsuccessful. In return, if the claim is successful, the funder receives its money back together with a share of the amount awarded which depends on the size of the case, the timing of the settlement and the costs incurred. If a class action settles the Court must approve the settlement, the Court will consider whether the proposed settlement is a fair and reasonable compromise of the claims of the class members. Courts have demonstrated a willingness to disallow or amend proposed settlements, for example where the proposed settlement fails to adequately differentiate between group members' claims, or where the proposed settlement provides for commissions to a litigation funder greater than the funder is contractually entitled to. The largest sum recovered

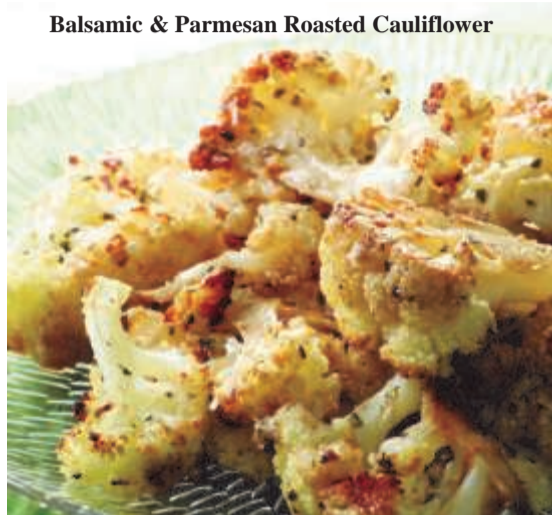
The Providore



Queensland Blue Pumpkin

Welcome to this fortnight's column on local fresh produce. I have returned from my annual week away on the NSW Variety Bash where we travel throughout regional NSW. Variety raises money to support children and their families who are facing challenges where it is through sickness, disadvantaged children or living with a disability. This year 105 cars set off on the 7day adventure with a record number of 30 plus year old cars. This year the 300

competitors raised over a million dollars for the children's charity. It was a week that I am proud to participate in this year we had lots of fun, car breakdowns and records. To say the country towns we visited are in drought is an understatement; most of their stock levels have been reduced to a minimum to survive the drought. Farmers are having to buy in feed and with no sign of significant rain in sight & it won't be long before meat prices raise as a result of the drought.



Balsamic & Parmesan Roasted Cauliflower

Cauliflower is in full supply now with the cooler temperatures. It belongs to the Brassica family and others plant families. Cauliflower can be served in many ways: simply boiled or steamed, baked, lightly roasted or raw. Remove the outer leaves, break the florets into small heads, serve slightly crispy and firm rather than soft and mushy. Serve with cream and cheese in a bake

simply the best baking pumpkin available. This variety can also be used in sweet or savoury dishes. Try it is a curry, or soup either roasted or boiled soup. Charge it up with herbs and spices giving you soup a Thai flavour or simply add cream.

Remember to always eat fresh. Michael



interest rates prematurely could jeopardise this soft landing, therefore we expect no changes to interest rates until at least April 2019 where we could see an upward movement," Ms Pilkington said. The RBA board will next meet on Tuesday, 3 July 2018.

Apartment energy ratings on the way



By Tim McKibbin - REINSW CEO
A new assessment tool is being launched this month which will enable the common areas of apartment buildings to be rated for energy and water efficiency. The National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) has launched the Apartment Buildings tool to rate buildings on a simple six-star scale where three is average and six is market leading. This information will help apartment owners, investors, and residents understand the performance of their building and discuss potential improvements.

NABERS currently only rates commercial buildings and has helped save more than \$350 million in energy bills since 2010. This move to rate apartment buildings is the next logical step to help raise awareness of energy efficiency as people become more conscious of the costs.

Should you buy off the plan?



By Tim McKibbin - REINSW CEO
Many property buyers choose to buy a home 'off the plan', which is when you sign a contract for a property that is yet to be built. This method brings benefits, but has some risks. The benefits are that you're buying a brand-new property. The risk is that you're paying a deposit to buy a property that only exists in architectural drawings, and you cannot physically inspect it until it's built. It is therefore critical that you do your homework before you buy. As part of your research locate a list of properties that the same developer has completed so you can assess the workmanship. It is also important to fully

understand the "Schedule of Finishes" document attached to the contract. This document sets out and describes the fixtures and fittings that will come with your dwelling.

Harsh restrictions for NSW homeowners under new Airbnb crackdown

People renting out their empty Sydney properties through online home-sharing services will soon be subject to harsher restrictions under new laws that will also empower strata corporations to ban the practice in their buildings. The proposal, announced by the NSW government today, specifically targets vacant and investment properties using services such as Airbnb. Owners that don't live in their property will only be able to use it for short-term letting for a maximum of 180 days a year within greater Sydney. **Properties in the rest of NSW will be left uncapped.** The laws will also impose a "two strike" policy, meaning home-share users will be banned for five years from any platform for committing two serious

breaches within two years. Under the new restrictions, described as some of the toughest in the world by NSW's Minister for Better Regulation Matt Kean, an apartment complex can also block a host from leasing on Airbnb if they do not live in the unit. It requires 75 percent of strata owners vote against the owner using Airbnb. Despite the harsh crackdown on a NSW industry that was relatively unregulated, Airbnb's Chris Lehane welcomed the restrictions. "It's a policy that is innovative, it's a policy that is fair and balanced," the company's US-based global head of policy told reporters in Sydney. Mr Lehane believes the NSW approach could be used as a model across the world. The government plans to implement a new mandatory code of conduct for homesharing services to abide by, with tough financial penalties for any breach. It will require home-sharing companies to provide data to the NSW government, something Mr Lehane said Airbnb was happy to do. "We certainly look

forward to working cooperatively and constructively with the NSW government." He said the company had already engaged in about 500 government partnerships across the world. NSW Greens MP Justin Field said the reforms did not go far enough. "The one-size-fits-all approach ignores the unique challenges of short term holiday letting presents to certain communities," he said in a statement.

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Historical interest rates continue after housing market peak

As expected interest rates have been kept on hold at the Reserve Bank of Australia's June board meeting as the property market corrects itself. REINSW President Leanne Pilkington said she expects to see the RBA leave interest rates in a holding pattern for the next 12 months. "The housing market, from a number of key indicator perspectives, has peaked," Ms

Pilkington said. "Prices are easing, clearance rates have dropped, and residential building approvals for April 2018 showed a 5 per cent decline, which is more pronounced than most expected. "We're seeing the market correct at the moment, but in a sustainable, soft-landing way. Raising



ⓐ Long service award members (l-r), Alan Becker, Ron Hungerford & Tony Ernst - 123 years combined service!

Hungerford. Bob Rhodes. Alan Becker. Melanie Dagg. Lion Tamer John Mc Goldrick. Tail twister John Mc Goldrick. Membership Alan Humphreys. Dinner Chairman Brian Thomas. Event chairman Ken Meany. Publicity Ken Meany. Coordinator for Lions International Brian Thomas. Long service Awards were presented by the Governor Geoff Kilmurray to Alan Becker 30 years, Ron Hungerford 51 years & Tony Ernst 42 years. 123 years combined service; congratulations. Any inquiry's please contact Brian 65747186 and Ken on 65747027. Cheers, Ken Meany for Branxton Lions



ⓑ Members of Branxton Lions with Governor Geoff Kilmurray.

Branxton Lions News

On the 24th May 18 Branxton Lions club had its Annual change over dinner at the Greta Workers Club. Guest for the evening was District Governor Geoff Kilmurray who inducted the new Board members for the 2018—2019 year also two new members Enri Winter and Rod Williams.

Members of Singleton and Kurri Kurri Lions Club were in attendance. The new Executive and Board members are: President, Brian Thomas. Secretary: Alan Bechley. Treasurer; Tony Ernst. Vice President, Ken Meany. First and second year Directors, Ron



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THE ROTARY CLUB OF CESSNOCK
COMMUNITY MEETING
YOU ARE INVITED

14TH JUNE, 2018 @ 6PM
CESSNOCK REGIONAL ART GALLERY
16 Vincent Street Cessnock

The Rotary Club of Cessnock would like to invite you to attend a social gathering on Thursday 14th June 2018 starting at 6.00pm at the Cessnock Regional Art Gallery, 16 Vincent Street Cessnock. At this event you can meet the members of the Rotary Club of Cessnock and learn how local Rotarians support our community and contribute to helping people throughout the world. Every year our Rotarians run events to support those in need in our community, provide scholarships and leadership training support to local students. There is also an active international component of our local Rotary Club supporting overseas exchange programs and emergency and disaster aid in affected countries.

Please plan to drop in and enjoy meeting the members of our Club. Your presence will encourage them to continue in their efforts to make Cessnock a friendly and enjoyable community.

R.S.V.P. Thursday 7th June 2018 to help with catering please
Phone: Graham Lidbury 0419 682573
Email: glidbury@vintagewealth.com.au



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East Branxton



OPEN HOUSE Sat 16th June at 11am
78 Yates Street, EAST BRANXTON

4-bedroom modern family home on 780 square metres; presented as new

A beautiful magnificently maintained family home situated at the end of cul-de-sac. This spacious home boasts separate light filled living zones catering for all family members. Main bedroom has ensuite and all bedrooms have built-ins. A modern kitchen with dishwasher, pantry & plenty of cupboard space. A large Queenslander entertainment area looks out to well manicured garden & lawn.

ASKING: \$550,000

Branxton

One for the Handyman

The bones are good ~ just needs to be tidied up.

Three good sized bedrooms, sep lounge, eat-in kitchen opening onto back decking. Good sized block.



ASKING \$299,000 Neg

East Branxton

Three bedroom Duplex with large backyard.

Immaculate Duplex with 3 large bedrooms all with built-ins. Other features include large open plan living area opening onto undercover entertainment area, large double lock-up garage, in quite area.

This family home presents 'as new'.



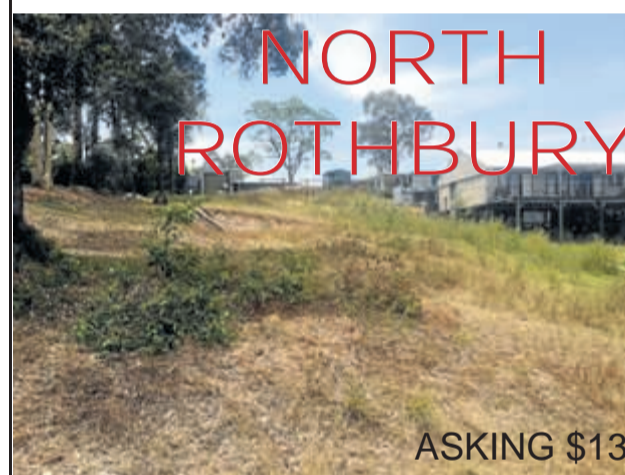
OPEN HOUSE Sat 16th June at 10:30am
74 Yates Street, EAST BRANXTON

ASKING \$350,000

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Vacant Land 809m²

Vacant Building Block
Fantastic visage



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NORTH ROTHBURY



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4ha (10 acres) very private bush blocks.
Fully Fenced & within minutes to Hunter Wine Country

ASKING: \$420,000 each

Glendon Brook

(Lot 61 DP 1100235)
6.217HA

Features include:-

15Acres approx divided into 2 paddocks. Double frontage to Webbers Creek (permanent water supply). 90% flat country. Bitumen to front gate. Weekly rubbish service. 20 min to Singleton & Branxton & 15 min to Gresford. 800mm annual rainfall. Fully fenced 2 paddocks + barn area. 20% Kikuyu & 80% native grasses (paspalum, rye, couch etc.). 13.5m x 10.5m 'American Barn' with 3 equal 3.5m bays & a 3m x 10.5m workshop. 3xphase 100amp/phase underground power from front gate to barn. Barn has ample fluro 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 \$680,000



it happen, make it matter". The motions below were passed unanimously at the Conference: That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for the NSW Government to:

*Improve the process for identifying and classifying drought areas as with other natural disasters.

*Introduce a broader set of drought support measures and review current application requirements.

*Restructure and significantly increase drought funding to reflect and provision for the above.

Next year the State Conference will be held at Albury. In 2020 it will be held in Newcastle (venue yet to be confirmed).

So, anyone wanting to attend as an observer just let us know and you would be very welcome. Also if you have an issue you feel needs

supporting let us know that also and we may be able to help there also. We need to know well in advance of the State Conference as any resolutions have to go to the Group Conference before that.

Contact your local CWA Branch for any information.

It is with great pleasure that, on behalf of the Branch, I congratulate Noeleen Bendeich on receiving a 2nd place for her Gluten Free Lamington Fingers at State level. Congratulations Noeleen. With all that you do and with all the competition, 2nd is a great achievement. You continue to inspire us all.

The All-in-One Day on Tuesday, 3rd July at the Branxton Community Hall is fast approaching. The day encompasses our Birthday, Handicraft, Cultural, International (Poland) and Agriculture. It will be a hot lunch - \$15.00, which will start off with the usual homemade soup on arrival and

tea or coffee if you prefer. Raffle/Lucky Door prizes. Guest Speaker. Very good value. We would happily welcome anyone interested in helping to raise money to help others in need, or assist in any other ways, and also making new friends. Should anyone be interested in joining Branxton/Greta CWA, or like any information, or attending any of our functions, please contact our Secretary, Marie Shearer on 0402015850 or email branxtongre-tacwa@hotmail.com Denise McGoldrick Publicity Officer.

Photo at right: Noeleen Bendeich who was awarded 2nd place for her Gluten Free Lamington Fingers at State level.



Your support will help save local lives ~ Please support the Westpac Rescue Helicopter End of Financial Year Appeal.

Last year 449 people were assisted by the Community's Own Westpac Rescue Helicopter, during the months of June, July and August and CEO Richard Jones says the Service is predicting another busy winter. "Traditionally this is a busy time of year for the Service, last June we were called to 132 missions across our three bases in Newcastle, Tamworth and Lismore. That is an average of 4 missions per day," he said.

Missions included motor vehicle, motorbike and quad bike accidents, search and rescues, urgent inter-hospital transfers, farming accidents and neonatal transfers. People were assisted from a diverse range of locations, spanning from north of the Hawkesbury River, right up to the Queensland border. With the winter months ahead of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, CEO Richard Jones is calling for the community to support the Service's End of Financial Year Appeal and donate before the 30th of June. "Since 1975 the Westpac Rescue Helicopter has relied on community support. And in 2018 our End of Financial Year Appeal is an important part of our annual fundraising program. Small or large, every amount donated will stay locally and will help to ensure that the Rescue Helicopter can continue to fly 24-7 as a free service," Mr Jones said.

By the end of the year the Service is expected to assist close to 2,000 people, and not one of those people assisted will have to pay to use this vital service.

"Whilst the Rescue Helicopter crew are on the front line of the Service, their job is only made possible because of the generous people and businesses throughout Northern NSW. We are ever so grateful for the continued support we receive and cannot thank our community enough for helping us to continue our life saving work," Mr Jones said.

You can help save lives in your local community and reduce your tax bill by making a tax deductible donation before June 30. Visit

www.rescuehelicopter.com.au/eofy-appeal or call the Service on 1800 155 155



Pets and Patrols with Ranger Kurt

While the idea of owning a cute kitten or puppy appeals to most, there is a long list of things that need to be considered before taking the plunge.

On this note, we are proud to have launched a hard-hitting responsible pet ownership campaign to educate locals about the key responsibilities that go hand in hand with owning a pet. It really is true that, with love, comes responsibility. As part of the campaign, we installed large posters at local bus shelters and have launched a social media campaign on Council's Facebook and Twitter pages. The posters and social posts cover five key areas of responsible pet ownership including desexing, microchipping, picking up after your pet, ensuring your dog is walked on a lead and reminding people that owning a pet is a life-long commitment.

Each poster has been designed to get a reaction and evoke an emotional response from those who see them. With this, the key message 'With love comes responsibility' has been used as the sign-off for every poster.

The aim of the campaign is to remind people that pet ownership is not a decision that should be taken lightly and a kitten or puppy is a responsibility for life.

All too often we see animals neglected, abandoned and put in the pound and then they have to wait for someone to come along who is willing to give them a loving home. It is truly heartbreaking.

There are so many aspects to being a responsible pet owner which are highlighted in the campaign and we hope locals stand up, take notice and be part of the conversation

To find out more about the campaign and responsible pet ownership, please visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/responsiblepetowner.

We'd also like to let people know that the Office of Local Government is increasing animal registration fees from 1 July 2018 and the new fees can be found here www.olg.nsw.gov.au/content/registration-fees.

Registering your pet is simple and can even be done online at www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au.



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



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.

FREE ANXIETY DISORDERS SUPPORT GROUPS

<p>Branxton 3rd THURSDAY of the month Branxton Community Hall, 35 Bowen Street 10am</p>	<p>Cessnock LAST MONDAY of the month Cessnock PCYC, 1 B Short Street 10am</p>
<p>Rutherford 1st FRIDAY of the month Maitland City Corps Church, Burning Avenue 10am</p>	<p>Singleton 3rd TUESDAY of the month Generate Church, 3 Campbell Street 10am</p>

4 free Support Group meetings are held in the Hunter region for people living with an anxiety disorder and their family and friends.

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A 'fair go' for all car owners



Federal Member for Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon supports a drive for a better deal to put more money back into the pockets of car owners and give 23,000 independent repairers a boost. Federal Labor plans to make car manufacturers share their technical information so that vehicles can be serviced by any mechanic.

It's a strategy the former auto electrician is confident will benefit dozens of independent small and medium business in

the Hunter.

"New cars are computers on wheels. Real-time access to digital files and codes, which vary from car to car, is needed to complete many aspects of a repair or service. Car manufacturers generally own and control this technical information and in many cases are the only sources," Federal Member for Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon said.

Whether a person owns a Toyota Corolla or a Ford

Ranger, Labor believes everyone should be able to choose where they get their car serviced. But limited access to this vital information pushes up prices for car services, and limits the ability of independent mechanics to grow their business and generate more jobs. "That's why a Labor Government will require car manufacturers to share technical information with independent mechanics on commercially fair and

reasonable terms, with safeguards that enable environmental, safety and security-related technical information to be shared with the independent sector," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

"This reform will not only deliver savings to drivers, who will have better choice and easier access to repairs, but also create a level playing field for independent mechanics who will be able to stay in business as a result.

"We will stick up for small businesses, Aussie tradies and keeping the cost of living down for families."

Labor has been calling for independent mechanics to get access to the same technical information which car manufacturers make available to their authorised dealers and preferred repairer networks. Five months ago the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission backed Labor's recommendations to ensure Australia's new car retailing industry isn't shutting out independent mechanics and forcing up prices for motorists. "Independent mechanics have been going to the wall while the Turnbull Government sat on its hands – there's no reason that this reform shouldn't happen straight away," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

"Labor understands it's your car and it should be your choice where it gets repaired – our plan will deliver money to the household budget and give local mechanics a boost to their business."

Photo: Federal Member for Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon with local Graeme Rankin from Graeme Rankin Auto Service.

Seniors warned about scams

Seniors from the local area were recently briefed with the best tips and tricks to avoid common scams.

Minister for Better Regulation Matt Kean and Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC joined specialist NSW Fair Trading staff at Fresh Hope Care Green Hills yesterday to raise awareness with seniors about dodgy tradies and cunning con artists. Mr MacDonald said those aged over 65 were more likely than younger people to become victims of scams. "Last year, across Australia, there were about 6,700 reports of scams against 18 to 24-year-olds who lost a total of about \$2.4 million," Mr MacDonald said.

"By comparison, there were more than 25,000 reports of scams against people aged 65 and over for a total loss of around \$17.5 million – that's eight times as much as their younger counterparts.

"There are many theories as to

why older people are more susceptible to scams, ranging from a lack of internet savvy to being more trusting, but one thing's certain, getting fleeced by a scammer can have a devastating impact."

At the Fair Trading seminar, residents learned about the many different types of scams, including investment "opportunities"; romance scams; non-existent government rebates; and fake lotteries. Mr Kean said he was proud to see Fair Trading staff sharing their expert knowledge on how to avoid scammers.

"It's important that we spread awareness of scams and educate vulnerable members of the community so they can identify and protect themselves from dodgy businesses," Mr Kean



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Sunday 6.00pm

MEAT TRAYS

ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY 15th JUNE

KARAOKE

FRIDAY 22nd JUNE

THE TWANGSTERS

MEMBER'S BADGE DRAW

WEDNESDAY

13th JUNE - \$2,400

SUNDAY

17th JUNE - \$1,300

Must be present to win

HAPPY HOUR

MILLER PARK WEDNESDAY

4.00 – 7.00pm

GRETA THURSDAY

4.00 – 6.00pm

\$3.60 a Schooner

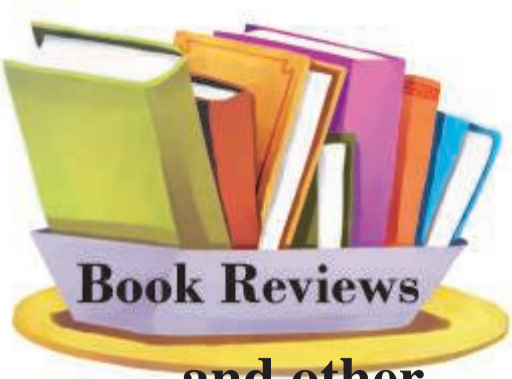
BLANCHIE'S KITCHEN

AT MILLER PARK

WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY

LUNCH & DINNER

WHY NOT TRY HIS MENU?



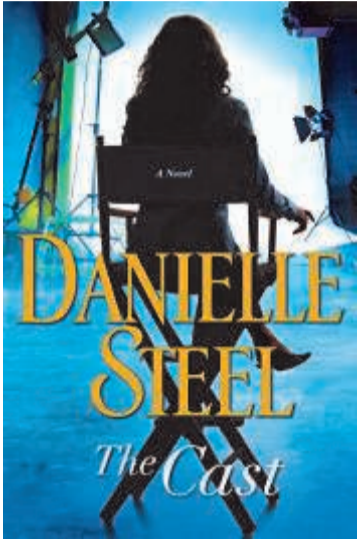
..... and other

The Cast

by Danielle Steel

SUMMARY

#1 New York Times bestselling author Danielle Steel follows a talented and creative woman as she launches her first television series, helping to recruit an unforgettable cast that will bring a dramatic family saga to the screen. Kait Whittier has built her magazine column into a hugely respected read followed by fans across the country. She loves her work and adores her grown children, treasuring the time they spend together. But after two marriages she prefers to avoid the complications and uncertainties of a new love. Then, after a chance meeting with Zack Winter, a television producer visiting Manhattan from Los Angeles, everything changes. Inspired by the true story of her own indomitable grandmother, Kait creates the storyline for a TV series. And when she shares her work with Zack, he is impressed and decides to make this his next big budget project. Within weeks, Kait is plunged into a colourful world of actors and industry pros who will bring her vision to life. A cool, competent director. An eccentric young screenwriter. A world-famous actress coping with private tragedy. A reclusive grand dame from Hollywood's Golden Age. A sizzling starlet whose ego outstrips her abilities. L.A.'s latest "bad boy" actor, whose affairs are setting L.A. on fire. An unknown ing nue with outsize talent. And a rugged, legendary leading man. As secrets are shared, the cast becomes a second family for Kait. But in the midst of a charmed year, she is suddenly forced to confront the greatest challenge a mother could ever know. The strength of women--between generations, and among friends, colleagues, and family--takes centre stage in this irresistible novel, as all-too-real people find the courage to persevere in life's drama of heartbreak and joy.



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ABOUT ...

Danielle Steel

Danielle Fernandes Dominique Schuelein-Steel (born August 14, 1947) is an American writer, best known for her romance novels. She is the best selling author alive and the fourth bestselling fiction author of all time, with over 800 million copies sold. She has written 165 books, including 141 novels. Based in California for most of her career, Steel has produced several books a year, often juggling up to five projects at once. Despite "a resounding lack of critical acclaim" (Publishers Weekly), all her novels have been bestsellers, including those issued in hardback. Her formula is fairly consistent, often involving rich families facing a crisis, threatened by dark elements such as prison, fraud, blackmail and suicide. Steel has also published children's fiction and poetry, as well as raising funds for the treatment of mental disorders. Her books have been translated into 43 languages, with 22 adapted for television, including two that have received Golden Globe nominations.

Steel was born Danielle Fernande Dominique Schuelein



-Steel in New York City to a German father and a Portuguese mother. Her father, John Schulein-Steel, was a German-Jewish immigrant and a descendant of owners of Löwenbräu beer. Her mother, Norma da Camera Stone dos Reis, was the daughter of a Portuguese diplomat. She spent much of her childhood in France, where from an early age she was included in her parents' dinner parties, giving her an opportunity to observe the habits and lives of the wealthy and famous. Her parents divorced when she was eight, and she was raised primarily by her father, rarely seeing her mother.

Steel started writing stories as a child, and by her late teens had begun writing poetry. Raised Catholic, she thought of becoming a nun during her early years. A 1963 graduate of the Lycée Français de New York, she studied literature design and fashion design, first at Parsons School of Design and then at New York University.

Writing Style

Steel's novels, often described as "formulaic," tend to involve the characters in a crisis of some sort which threatens their relationship. Many of her characters are considered over-the-top, making her books seem less realistic. The novels sometimes explore the world of the rich and famous and frequently deal with serious life issues, like illness, death, loss, family crises, and relationships. Also, there are claims that her popular story lines are based from the events of her life like having two ex-con ex-husbands and other events that she kept hidden from the public.


Despite a reputation among critics for writing "fluff", Steel often delves into the less savoury aspects of human nature, including incest, suicide, divorce, war, and even the Holocaust. As time has progressed, Steel's writing has evolved. Her later heroines tend to be stronger and more authoritative, who, if they do not receive the level of respect and attention they desire from a man, move on to a new life. In recent years Steel has also been willing to take more risks with her plots. *Ransom* focuses more on suspense than romance, and follows three sets of seemingly unconnected characters as their lives begin to intersect. *Toxic Bachelors* departs from her usual style by telling the story through the eyes of the three title characters, men who are relationship phobic and ultimately discover their true loves.

Steel has been criticized for making her books overly redundant and detailed, explicitly telling the story to readers instead of showing it to them. This sometimes has the effect of making the readers feel like they are on the outside looking in rather than living the story. To avoid comparisons to her previous novels, Steel does not write sequels. Although many of her earliest books were released with initial print runs of 1 million copies, by 2004 her publisher had decreased the number of books initially printed to 650,000 due to the decline in people buying books. However, her fan base was still extremely strong at that time, with Steel's books selling out atop charts worldwide.

Twenty-two of her books have been adapted for television, including two that have received Golden Globe nominations. One is *Jewels*, the story of the survival of a woman and her children in World War II Europe, and the family's eventual rebirth as one of the greatest jewelry houses in Europe. Columbia Pictures

was the first movie studio to offer for one of her novels, purchasing the rights to *The Ghost* in 1998. Steel also reached an agreement with New Line Home Entertainment in 2005 to sell the film rights to 30 of her novels for DVDs.

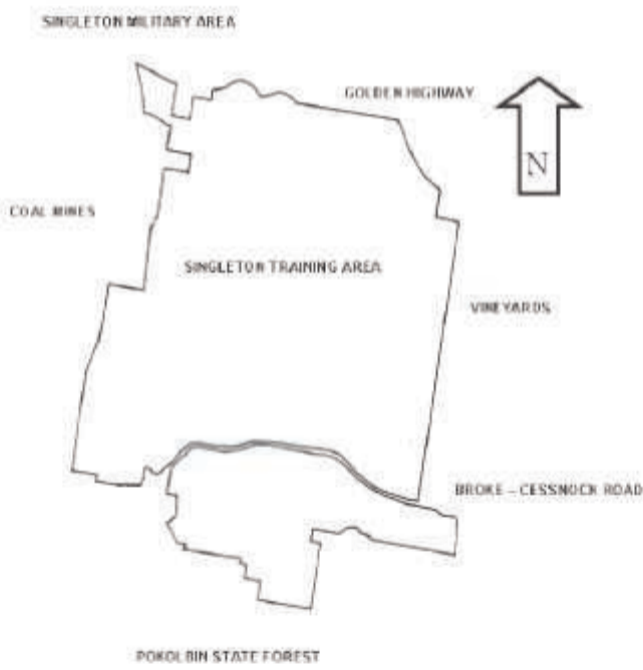
Photo above: [Danielle Steel](#)



Australian Government
Department of Defence

DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES

WARNING NOTICE



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

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

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

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

Persons found trespassing on Army Training Areas will be prosecuted.

Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

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

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P: 4938 3300 M: 0412 566 041
FREE PROPERTY MARKET APPRAISALS



NEW APP TO RECORD YOUR RUBBISH FINDS BEING LAUNCHED IN OUR REGION

With marine pollution strongly in local communities minds due to thousands of pieces of plastic currently washing up on Hunter beaches after more than 80 shipping containers fell from a ship off the coast of Newcastle recently, Hunter Local Land Services is urging people to lodge their finds with the Australian Marine Debris Initiative.

Hunter Local Land Services is proud to support the Tangaroa Blue Foundation who is this month launching a new app for the community to record rubbish they find in local waterways, on our beaches and out to sea – so we can all work together to address this major global environmental threat.

The app is linked to the Australian Marine Debris Initiative, which is a national database of rubbish collected during beach and river clean-ups.

Tangaroa Blue is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the removal and prevention of marine debris.

Heidi Taylor from Tangaroa Blue says the app will make real-time monitoring of pollution easier for the dedicated volunteers working to remove rubbish from our coasts.

“The app is going to make our data collection so much easier as volunteers can automatically record GPS data, add photos and even scan the barcode on rubbish so we can track it back to its source,” says Ms Taylor.

“The AMDI database helps identify the types and amounts of marine debris impacting specific sites.

“We work with community, government and industry groups to identify sources to find practical solutions to stop marine debris entering our waterways.”

The app will be launched Tuesday 19 June at Black Head Surf Life Saving Club. The launch will be supported by three short training events for interested volunteers at Speers Point, Stockton and Forster also during June.

Anyone keen to register to attend the launch or one of the training sessions is invited to sign up via the Hunter Local Land Services events page: <https://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/events>

“Hunter Local Land Services acknowledges the many volunteers along our coastline, who work tirelessly to improve habitats for native species and make our beaches better for everyone,” says Community Engagement Officer Reegan Walker.

“We are encouraging community groups, industry bodies and just the wider marine users to come along to these training sessions, to ensure the app is used to its full potential.”

Tangaroa Blue is urging anyone currently finding rubbish from the damaged shipping containers to take photos and lodge the barcodes with the AMDI – so the rubbish can be tracked as it moves along the coastline.

For more information please contact Reegan Walker on 6551 8994 ext 221.

ANOTHER TERROR DOG TAKEN DOWN BY PROFESSIONAL CONTROLLERS

A wild dog that has terrorised Upper Hunter farms for eight years has finally been controlled, thanks to the work of professional wild dog controllers. The dog frequented farms between Wallabadah and Murrurundi, killing and wounding countless sheep.

Landholder Peter Forsythe runs a sheep property at Chilcotts Creek, he said he was astounded to learn the dog had been removed by professional controller Ben Johnsen.

“I just fell to bits, I couldn’t believe our luck when I heard they got him – I had that dog trapped once seven years ago, and he got away, he’s probably killed hundreds of my sheep since then maybe thousands,” said Mr Forsythe. “I have lost 300 sheep to wild dogs in the last three weeks alone and you just can’t believe the impact it will have removing an old dog like this.

“He was clever, he knew where all my traps were, he walked right past all the baits, so I can’t thank the professional controllers enough for this.”

The Professional Wild Dog Controller Program is a partnership with the Hunter Valley Combined Wild Dog Association, Australian Wool Innovation, Hunter Local Land Services and local industry partners including Glencore, Bengalla, Yancoal, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Corporation. The \$1million program over four years helps landholders access professional controllers for specific reactive and strategic control programs. Currently three controllers have removed more than 50 problem wild dogs from known hotspots in the Upper Hunter.

For landholder Peter Forsythe, the important thing now is to stay on top of the wild dog population.

“That one dog we tracked on a motion camera travelling more than two kilometres on the day we caught him, they can do a lot of damage in that time,” said Mr Forsythe.

“With the drought conditions in our region we have all been backed into a corner, we have nowhere to go for lambing season with our stock, so we have to work together to remove these wild dogs to give our livestock the best chance.

“I have been trapping on my place for 10 years trying to get rid of these dogs, but we all need to work together – we can’t relax, we need to keep at them and it’s programs like the Professional Wild Dog Controller Program that are really helping make an impact.”

Remember to report all wild dog sightings and incidents to your nearest Hunter Local Land Services Biosecurity Officer. Sheep and Cattle producers in the Upper Hunter who would like to take part in the Professional Wild Dog Controller Program need to be a member of their local wild dog association to apply.

Landholders can contact Biosecurity Officers Richard Ali 0429 722 944 or Jonathan Randle 0429 342 995 for more information on the Professional Wild Dog Controller Program, or to join in local baiting programs for wild dogs.



Detailed saleyard report



Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton report date 6 June 2018

Marginal rainfall recorded around the supply area reduced numbers and quality was fair to excellent, with the younger cattle well supplied. The feature of the market were the high yielding, grain assisted and prime conditioned younger cattle suitable for the butchers and these sold to very strong competition. Cows more than halved in number, week-on-week. The market trend for the younger cattle was dearer, the cows sold to a cheaper trend. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock averaged 2c dearer, however the top pen reached 312c/kg, which was substantially dearer compared to recent markets. The same weight heifer portion to the restockers and backgrounders gained 8c, making from 152c to 240c/kg. The limited supply of yearlings suitable for the restockers sold at similar prices compared to the last market. The high yielding prime younger cattle gained as much as 30c to 40c, with quality and yield contributing in places, as good percentages carrying plenty of weight sold from 300c to 366c/kg. There were too few grown steers and heifers to quote. The plainer 1 and 2 score cows remained close to firm to 5c cheaper, making from 56c to 158c/kg. The better covered heavy weights eased 5c and made from 160c to 205c/kg. The best heavy weight bull topped at 230c/kg.

Score report date 5 June 2018

Consignments declined substantially and the quality remained mixed, with the younger cattle well supplied. There was a good penning of cows with 250 in the market, with the plainer poorer pens along with the better covered heavier weights offered. The prime conditioned younger cattle suitable for the butchers were limited in supply. The market trend was firm to cheaper. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers eased 5c, making from 196c to 272c/kg. The same weight vealer heifers returning to the paddock remained close to firm, making from 110c to 240c/kg. Yearling steers were limited in number, as the better end to the restockers and lot feeders made from 136c to 260c/kg. The yearling heifers suitable for the restockers sold from 138c to 240c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers topped at 296c/kg. There were too few grown steers and heifers to quote. The plainer 1 and 2 score cows to the processors eased 15c and made from 46c to 160c/kg. The better finished heavy weights eased 13c and sold from 152c to 184c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 210c/kg.

TRLX Tamworth report date 4 June 2018

In a reduced penning, cows made up 30%. Young cattle well supplied with limited numbers of grown steers and heifers. The quality was fair to good albeit very mixed. Overall the condition of the offering was down with the cool, dry weather and lack of feed showing effects. The usual buyers were in attendance with most participating. Market trends varied through the young cattle, the well-bred, better quality steer vealers to restock and feed sold to dearer trends and substantially so in places where quality showed an improvement. Heifer vealers and weaners sold to cheaper trends, 12c/kg and more in places. Medium and heavy weight yearling steers suitable to feed saw a firm to dearer trend, with most of the price improvement in the medium weights where there were some very good quality lots. Yearling heifers to restock and feed sold to cheaper trends with reduced demand. Secondary quality young cattle were heavily discounted with both restockers and feedlotters showing limited interest. The limited supply of well finished heavy grown steers sold to a cheaper trend of 6c/kg. In another large penning of cows market trends were cheaper. The plainest condition cows were heavily discounted, while the well finished heavy weight cows were down by 6c/kg on the better lots and more on those with less yield potential.

EYCI hits three-year low

Cattle in poor condition have reportedly been fetching just 30 cents per kilogram at some sale yards across NSW. The Eastern States Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI) is sitting at 466 cents per kg — its lowest level in three years, while prices at some sales have declined drastically in comparison to last year.

Mr MacCallum said prices at the Hunter Valley Angus Sale had dropped significantly. "Last year was the best we've ever seen so we weren't expecting it to be that good anyway [and] the results this year were around half of last year."

In Darwin, the live export price has dropped significantly in the last few months.

Feeder steers going to Indonesia were earning \$3.20 per kg in February and that has dropped nearly 20 per cent to \$2.60 per kg, well down on the 2016 price, which reached \$3.95 per kg.

Racing review

Signs of Greatness

By Tara Madgwick

In finding the champion sires of tomorrow, it's always a good lesson to look back at the past. When Pierro clocked over \$8million in seasonal earnings last Saturday with a new two year-old stakes-winner in Commander it put the icing on the cake of an exceptional season for Lonhro's Golden Slipper winning son that was ironically bred and sold by Darley as a weanling, but now stands at Coolmore.

As you can see in the table at right, Pierro has a lap on his rivals, which then gets us thinking about how he compares to his peers of the past, those stallions who were Champion Second Season Sire and by a good margin.

Looking back through the Arion Sire Tables which go back to 2006, no Champion Second Season Sire has finished with a higher prizemoney total than Pierro, although to be fair, our high prizemoney levels at present make that parameter of judgment slightly skewed in his favour. The stallions that have come

closest to Pierro from 2006 forward in terms of stakes-winners and earnings are as follows:

- 2013/2014 Sebring** \$6.6million and nine stakes-winners headed by Criterion, narrowly from Northern Meteor \$5.9 million and eight stakes-winners headed by Cosmic Endeavour
 - 2009/2010 Fastnet Rock** \$5.7 million and nine stakes-winners headed by Wanted
 - 2008/2009 Exceed and Excel** \$3.3 million and eight stakes-winners headed by Reward for Effort
- As good as those stallions have gone on to become, if we look a bit further back there is one even better. In 2004/2005, Redoute's Choice had a phenomenal second season to finish with \$8.3 million in earnings thanks to a stellar group of two year-olds that included Stratum (Golden Slipper), Undoubtedly (Blue Diamond), Fashions Afield (AJC Sires Produce) and Bradbury's Luck

(Magic Millions 2YO Classic). Not to mention a Group I winning three year-old filly in Lotteria, who would finish second in a Cox Plate the following spring and a handy Group III winning 2YO called Snitzel, who would win the Group I MRC Oakleigh Plate at three and is now our reigning champion sire. Redoute's Choice sired

15 stakes-winners that season and earned a fee hike from \$40,000 to \$220,000!!!

Pierro may or may not ultimately reach those lofty heights, but he is a genuinely top class sire and if you have a mare in foal to him conceived off his lowest ever fee last year of \$49,500, then you're entitled to be feeling well justified in your faith.

Sire	Runners	Winners	Mile	Pers/Win	Total Earnings
1. Reno (by Lonhro)	115	52 (45)	80 (12)	45.2%	\$8,810,181
2. All Too Fast (by Casino Prince)	137	62 (21)	91 (3)	45.3%	\$3,831,408
3. Your Song (by Fastnet Rock)	90	40	40	47.8%	\$1,895,878
4. Ocean Park (by Team Rank)	42	20 (1)	37 (1)	50.3%	\$1,425,673
5. Annual Kingdom (by Lancelotto)	40	18 (1)	28 (2)	36.7%	\$1,241,401
6. Frost Giant (by Giant's Causeway)	40	18 (1)	23 (2)	40%	\$1,015,437
7. Reliable Man (by Dalakhani)	58	11 (1)	14 (1)	33.3%	\$994,377
8. Delago Deluge (by Enosta de Lago)	37	21	26	36.8%	\$793,351
9. Excelsior (by Daxos and Exot)	40	19	23	47.5%	\$741,367
10. American (by Dynastar)	67	17	21	25.4%	\$641,142

Upcoming Group 1 Races

Sat 23 Tattersalls Tiara (QLD) QLD \$500,000 1350m Doomben

August 2018

Sat 18 Wux Warwick Stakes (NSW) NSW \$500,000 1400m Randwick

November 2018

Tue 06 Melbourne Cup (VIC) VIC \$6,200,000 3200m Flemington



TAKE SOME GOOD ADVICE

Bad PC Repair Advice: The Worst Advice We've Heard

When it comes to PC repair, there is fantastic advice and then there is bad advice. This is one topic on which everyone loves giving advice. Unfortunately, most of the advice is baseless or not going to help you. You shouldn't be taking this advice or you will only end up making matters worse for yourself. Here are a few things that you may hear often which are actually bad for your PC:

Mistake 1: Believing that all repairs are related to your OS

Irrespective of whether your computer has slowed down or is suffering from glitches constantly, it isn't right for you to blame Microsoft Windows for this. In fact, there might not be anything wrong with your OS at all. Experts will tell you that your OS can be in excellent shape and you may still have to deal with a slowdown.

In fact, most of the reasons for PC slowdowns, crashes or freezes have nothing at all to do with your operating system. The first thing which you need to do here is to find out what's wrong with your computer. Go online and find software that will scan the health of your computer. This will help you figure out the root cause of the issue and help you solve it once and forever.

Mistake 2: Manual or scheduled maintenance can prevent system problems

When things start going wrong, the first thing that is affected in your computer is its performance. Registry setting may have become obsolete or have errors. Memory may get trapped by some greedy programs. Program files may get scattered around your hard drive. Unwanted programs may sneak into the start menu. Junk files will build up over time. These things are unavoidable, but this isn't something that you will be able to fix with weekly or even daily maintenance.

Unless you can spend 24x7 optimizing your system, this is not the way to go. Optimization has to be about much more than just fixing these errors over and over again. You need to find solutions that will help

speed up your PC while preventing the requirement of system repairs. This just isn't possible. So while regular maintenance is paramount, it isn't going to keep you safe.

Mistake 3: System repair to fix slow running programs

Even though there may be a number of reasons why programs can run slow, most people believe that it has something to do with your system. The fact of the matter is that when a system is running slow, it is simply because the program isn't getting sufficient system resources to run the way it is supposed to. You need to understand that this is because your system lacks the necessary resources to run these programs and not because something is wrong with it. No matter how much repair you undertake, this is not going to help you resolve the issue.

So now that you know three of the most common mistakes that people make when it comes to PC repairs, you know exactly what not to do the next time your computer is showing signs of trouble. For one, do not panic! This is not the dark ages; there are viable solutions.

Sub-optimal computer advice

Small businesses are hit by ransomware. The popular PC media say they should increase their computer security. I say this misses the real problem: *backup, backup, backup*. Whenever a techie sets up a new computer network, they have to assume that files will unexpectedly disappear, and plan for it. Maybe files will be deleted by mistake. Maybe they will be corrupted by bad sectors on a hard drive. Maybe a hard drive will totally fail. Maybe a power surge will get them. Maybe an unhappy employee will wreak havoc on purpose. Maybe mother nature will get them with a fire, flood or sun spots. The list of ways that files can be lost is as long as your imagination. That said, when files are lost or corrupted to the point that it causes a *serious* business problem, it is a failure of planning. More specifically, it's a failure of the file backup system. A robust scheme for backing up important files offers protection no matter *what* made the files inaccessible. I say this to counter advice offered by many PC experts article; it usually

starts with the fact that some small businesses lost files due to ransomware, and then goes on and on about how and why companies should improve their computer security. Sound reasonable? Not to me. What's wrong here, is that small businesses that lose files due to ransomware do not suffer from bad computer security. They suffer from bad backups. Improving computer security is a *good* thing, of course, but improving a backup scheme is a great thing. Robust backups offer protection, not just from security failures, but also from the many *other* ways that files become inaccessible.

I fear that a small business, duped the advice, will waste time, effort and money on improved computer security, just to be ruined by something else.

Backup.
Backup.
Backup.

Actually, ransomware is among the better things that can go wrong, because it's relatively easy to recover from. The hardware still functions, the operating system works, its just data files that are effected. Delete the maliciously encrypted files, restore from the latest backup and get on with life.

I would much rather deal with a ransomware attack than a failed hard drive or a power surge from a lightning strike. With good backups, ransomware should be an inconvenience, not a disaster.

Australia Post warns employees of possible data breach after PageUp malware hit

Australia Post is warning employees that their personal information may have been compromised after a possible breach of data held by cloud-based human resources (HR) software provider PageUp. The Australian software-as-a-service vendor has revealed that its clients' data may have been compromised after the company detected "unusual activity" in May. The company's system was infected with malware, which has subsequently been removed, according to the software vendor.

PageUp's customers include Telstra, Michael Hill, Linfox Armguard Group and Australia Post.

On 5 June, the Australia Post advised that it was writing to all employees whose applications had come through the system since it began using PageUp to let them know how the potential breach may affect them. "We recommend that they and others who have used our online recruitment system from October 2016 check that there has been no unusual activity concerning their personal information," the Australia Post advised.

PageUp informed customers that details such as name and contact details of users could have been breached as well as usernames and passwords. However, passwords were encrypted, the company said. Australia Post revealed that the information that may have been breached is extended in the case of successful applicants, and would have included personal information such as bank details, tax file number and superannuation details, diversity information, emergency contact information, conditions of offer and employment and other details.

Telstra advised it has suspended the use of PageUp services while the investigations into the issue takes place. "This includes all current recruitment activity that has not been progressed past a written offer being placed on hold," the telco said in a blog post on 6 June.

At this stage, it is unsure how the malware had access to PageUp's system, as the software vendor is unable to give details while the investigation is ongoing. On its website, PageUp said that it had detected unusual activity on 23 May and immediately launched a forensic investigation. Five days later, the initial investigation indicated that client data may have been compromised. Investigations are still ongoing the company said.

PageUp said that there is currently no evidence of an active threat and the jobs website can continued to be used. The company also stressed that all passwords were encrypted, but encouraged users to change their current passwords. "We take cyber security very seriously and have been working together with international law enforcement, government authorities and independent security experts to fully investigate the matter," the company said. PageUp informed the Australian Cyber Security

MOVIE REVIEW

HEREDITARY

When Ellen, the matriarch of the Graham family, passes away, her daughter's family begins to unravel cryptic and increasingly terrifying secrets about their ancestry. The more they discover, the more they find themselves trying to outrun the sinister fate they seem to have inherited. Making his feature debut, writer-director Ari Aster unleashes a nightmare vision of a domestic breakdown that exhibits the craft and precision of a nascent auteur, transforming a familial tragedy into something ominous and deeply disquieting, and pushing the horror movie into chilling new terrain with its shattering portrait of heritage gone to hell.

Hereditary: Hope You Inherited a Change of Underwear

Would you like to watch Toni Collette have a nervous breakdown for two hours? *Hereditary* is many things — a haunting story about a disintegrating family, a masterfully directed nightmare by first-timer Ari Aster, a pants-besoiling horror film — but it's also Collette's highlight reel, full of intense emotions and

monologues that she performs with devastating perfection. This would be a very good movie with only a so-so actress in the lead, but



Collette tips it into masterpiece territory. OK, Collette and whatever hell spawned Ari Aster's imagination. She plays Annie Graham, an artist who lives in a sprawling, modern-rustic house with her husband, Steve (Gabriel Byrne), high-school son Peter (Alex Wolff), and 13-year-old daughter Charlie (Milly Shapiro). At the outset, Annie's secretive, controlling mother has just died, leaving behind no mourners ("Should I be sadder?" Annie wonders), except maybe for Charlie, who was Grandma's favourite. Charlie's an odd little girl, though whether this is the effect of her grandmother's doting or the cause of it is not immediately clear.

Annie finds a book on spiritualism among her mother's possessions, with a personal note (signed "Mommy") assuring her that "our sacrifice will pale next to the rewards," whatever that means. We are thus prepared for the story to take a supernatural turn, but on its way there, it takes a profoundly disturbing side trip through a more mundane kind of misery. A horrific event shatters the family (AND YOUR SOUL), and it's a breathless, gripping 25 minutes before the aftermath is resolved and the story can continue. (This, by the way, is why the movie is longer than the usual horror flick. The Horrific Event must be properly addressed.) Anything can happen after that. Many things do. True, it's a slow-burn kind of film, with no jerky camera movements or unwarranted jump-scares. Aster often frames the rooms of the house so they look like Annie's dioramas — which, by the way, are miniature depictions of scenes from her life, including ones you'd think she wouldn't be eager to

recreate, so there's a whole other layer of creepiness — subtly suggesting that the Grahams are playthings in a dollhouse being controlled by outside forces. (Which, as fictional characters in a movie, they are.) But don't let "slow-burn" make you think *Hereditary* is dull or languid. While the cavernous house (complete with disused attic) and the book on spiritualism give you some indication of where the story is going, what makes the film so alarming is that it's not just one kind of hell that's threatening to break loose. As we learn more about Annie's family history, and as the consequences of the Horrific Event unfold, we're bombarded with numerous eerie possibilities. Sleepwalking! Parental regret! Seances! Family secrets! The emotional tension between certain characters is sometimes as nerve-racking as the more traditional scary-movie elements.

It's not one specific thing we're afraid of, either, nor does the film limit itself to one sense of the word "horror." It has many good old-fashioned scares, sure (assisted by a crisp sound design and Colin Stetson's disorienting score), but it also has events, images, and ideas that are *horrifying* without being meant to cause "fright," per se. One kind of horror rattles your nerves for two hours, the other kind rattles them for days afterward. Collette's intensely committed performance is the anchor, but the others shine as well. Alex Wolff (*Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*), who's great at looking stricken, conveys complicated emotions wordlessly in several key moments.



Next meeting, 14th June, 12 noon at Greta Workers Club our guest speakers will be local solicitors, Gemma Bunner and Kerri Shaw.

Everyone most welcome to attend-for further details please phone our secretary Bethany on 0419 429 364.

Recently a group of our ladies attended a 'Friendship Day' at Hunter Valley Pet Motel, Elderslie.

Local identity, Brett Wild and his wife Charmaine entertained our group with a delightful morning tea and a comprehensive tour of the Pet Motel.

Brett also spoke about the history of the Motel and some interesting facts re the Branxton Greta Business Chamber project 'Branxton to Greta Cycle/Walkway'.

Brett has asked that our Branxton VIEW club ladies help with catering, along with the CWA when the expected visit of the Governor General is due in September.

Thank you for a most informative visit and we can assure you that no pets were pirated out with our members (very tempting!). The Smith Family Learning for Life program for our four sponsored school children will greatly benefit from our next endeavour and we trust we will see our loyal supporters and friends.

Yes, our 39th Birthday celebration will be held on 9th August is in planning stages and promises to be a superb 30th Birthday Party.

Jacqui Rockett initiated the formation of Branxton VIEW Club in August, 1988, the year of the Brisbane EXPO. Jacqui was our first President.

Today, Edith McRae and Jan Travis are our only two original members from that first meeting on the 21st July and the lunch held on 18th August at the Branxton Inn.

Sometimes in sad times one finds peace in simple words written by Mother Teresa. "Be happy in the moment-that's enough, each moment is all we need - not more."

Peace and love to everyone, Judy Spillard



VIEW members at a 'Friendship Day' at Hunter Valley Pet Motel, Elderslie.

Editors' Choice

Roseanne and the planet of the racists

By Kathleen Parker

Roseanne Barr's appeal has so long eluded me that her further fall from disgrace has failed to dislodge even the slightest pebble of pity, though pitiful she is.

It seems too facile to call her merely racist, which her tweet about former White House adviser Valerie Jarrett plainly establishes. Barr said that Jarrett was the result of the "muslim brotherhood & planet of the apes had a baby," amusing approximately no one.

No, Barr is more than an Ambien-enhanced racist; she's what happens when a struggling network (ABC) sells out in a bid to capture Donald Trump's base. If executives had but tuned into Barr's Twitter account sooner, they'd have known she was a Trumpster suffering conspiracy fever. Then again, maybe they did know and didn't care. Ratings, baby, ratings are all that matter.

Barr has apologized six ways from Sunday. In later tweets, she recalled begging ABC President Ben Sherwood not to cancel the recently resurrected show, saying that she thought Jarrett, who was a senior adviser to President Barack Obama, was actually white. She added that Jarrett "looks like my family!"

Sure. And did she also think that Jarrett was, what, a Presbyterian and not really a Muslim, as people on the fringe-right have long held? No, Barr was obviously tapping into the conspiracy theory that Jarrett, who was born to African-American parents living in Iran, is Muslim — and the racist's persistent belief that blacks are inferior and less evolved than whites.

This is such an enduring, dehumanizing trope of racists that it requires no further elucidation. That Barr, whose knuckles must be raw from strolling the sewers of her foul dreamscape, should select the ape and the terrorist Brotherhood to represent Jarrett's parentage is, in Sherwood's words, "egregious and unforgivable."

But, the Ambien made her do it! This was one of the explanations Barr offered, as she rifled through her primordial psyche in search of a credible excuse. Ambien may help you sleep, but it doesn't make you a mean, ugly person. Those conditions would be considered pre-existing — and the "Ambien haze" to which Barr referred, a release of the inherent being. As the drug's maker

tweeted: Racism is not a known side effect of Ambien. The overwhelming condemnation of Barr's remarks has proved at least one thing: Racism won't be tolerated in this country ever again. We can infer this because Barr made a similar racist remark in 2013 about then-national security adviser Susan Rice with little disapproval. With her familiar classiness, Barr tweeted that Rice, also African-American, was "a man with big swinging ape balls." Who thinks like this? Racists, that's who. Nevertheless, some have leapt to Barr's defense. Free speech, y'all, comes the chorus from quarters where the First Amendment is only selectively admired. Speech is free, all right, but it doesn't mean free from consequences — and free markets decide what sells. It didn't take guts for ABC to cancel "Roseanne." It took only a modicum of humanity — and, of course, the understanding that advertisers and audiences would no longer support the show.

No doubt, Barr's anguish over about the consequences shared by her cast and co-stars is sincere. But bottom line: There is no excuse. Inadvertently, the incident also highlighted who Valerie Jarrett is: a strong, intelligent, well-educated, service-driven, thoughtful, warm and charming woman of historic significance. One hopes that Jarrett, whom I count as a friend, is also impervious to the Barrs of the world. Regrettably, these include the current president, who rose to office on the racist "birther" myth about Obama's origins and was elected in spite of a long history of moral turpitude and alleged sexual abuse.

On a positive note, Trump and Barr are to be credited with shining a light on America's underbelly and uniting decent Americans in common cause.

In the meantime, Jarrett floats above the fray with grace and dignity, seeking ways to make this a teaching moment, and reminding us of what true leadership looks like.



Thanking you and your staff for the wonderful support that we receive from you all, it is very much appreciated. Because by us all working together we can make a difference. Kind Regards.

Barry and Rose Preston, Co Conveners- Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group.

To the young boys who like to come over to the south side of North Rothbury and ride your motor cycles ~ thank you for the lovely and horrendously loud noise your bikes make every weekend. There are a lot of people around here that do shift work & sleeping isn't an option when you strike! To the parents ~ if you can't stand the noise what makes you think that anyone else can? Take them away from built up areas to play if they must have these toys.

To the local highway patrolman who gave much needed attention to unlicensed riders, uninsured & unregistered 'off road' screaming noisy bikes in North Rothbury on the weekend of the 2/3 June. Thank you very much from the local community.

It is with great pleasure that, on behalf of the Branch, I congratulate Noeleen Bendeich on receiving a 2nd place for her Gluten Free Lamington Fingers at State level. Congratulations Noeleen. With all that you do and with all the competition, 2nd is a great achievement. You continue to inspire us all. Denise McGoldrick Publicity Officer Branxton CWA

Thank you to the person who found my wallet that I lost in East Branxton last Monday & put it in my mailbox. Whoever the honest & lovely person was Thank You. Allan Westwood, East Branxton

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& 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
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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

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

Dates for your diary >

FRI 15 June: Branxton Public School Primary Athletics Carnival
THUR 21 June: Next meeting The Free Branxton Anxiety Support Group at Branxton Community Hall. The support group is open to people with Anxiety Disorders and their friends and family. The group is for over 18s and is not suitable for people with Schizophrenia or PTSD. The groups do not meet in January and December. Information on groups at Cessnock, Singleton & Rutherford can be found on the WayAhead website, www.understandinganxiety.org.au. For more information call Rachel on 9339 6013 or email supportgroups@wayahead.org.au
THUR 28 June: Meeting: Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group at Cessnock Leagues Club 3pm. Guest speaker Dana Buzinec from Charlestown Cancer Council Topic: information about supportive care services for cancer patients and their family and carers ect. Cost- Free, everyone welcome. Contact Barry 0457073852 Rose 49904554.
FRI 29 June: Branxton Public School Primary Infants' Sports Day
TUES 03/07 Branxton Lions Club monthly meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club
TUES 03/07 ~ B/G CWA ALL-IN-ONE DAY (Birthday, Handicraft, International, Ag/Env). Further Details TBA in 2018.
TUES 07/08 ~ Branxton Lions Club monthly meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club
TUES 14/08 ~ B/G CWA Mtg. 9.30am, Old St Brigids School Staff Room, Station St, Branxton
TUES 04/09 ~ Branxton Lions Club monthly meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club
MON 10/09 ~ Visit by NSW Governor 9:15am ~ 3:30pm
TUES 11/09 ~ B/G CWA Mtg. 9.30am, Old St Brigids School

Dates for your diary >

Staff Room, Station St, Branxton
TUES 09/10 ~ B/G CWA Mtg. 9.30am, Old St Brigids School Staff Room, Station St, Branxton
SAT 3/11 ~ North Rothbury Tidy Town Twilight Markets
TUES 13/11 ~ B/G CWA Mtg. 9.30am, Old St Brigids School Staff Room, Station St, Branxton
SUN 18/11 ~ The Branxton Uniting Church will be 100years old on the 18th November 2018 and a celebratory service will be held on that day in the church. Times TBA
TUES 11/12 ~ B/G CWA Mtg. 9.30am, Old St Brigid's School Staff Room, Station St, Branxton
New concert dates to add to your calendar
OPERA IN THE VINEYARDS at Hope Estate, 6th October 2018
JAZZ IN THE VINES at Hope Estate, 24th November 2018
SHANIA TWAIN 'Now Tour' at Hope Estate, 8th December 2018
Other dates to remember
 Saturday 26 May 6:30pm **OPERA BY THE LAKE** - A night of fine food, fine wine and world-class opera in the Hunter Valley. Location: Oaks Cypress Lakes Resort, Cnr McDonalds and Thompsons Road, Pokolbin, NSW 2320
 Sunday 9 September **BROKE VILLAGE FAIR:** The famous Vintage Car Display brings all sorts of vintage and classic cars, motorbikes, trucks and tractors and an amazing array of vintage farm machinery. The kids will love the amusement rides, laser tag and the petting zoo while mum and dad can enjoy the festival atmosphere. Over 60 market stalls. McNamara Park, Broke NSW 2330
 21st & 22nd Sept - **WOLLOMBI MUSIC FESTIVAL**
 6th Oct - **OPERA IN THE VINEYARDS**



Rosary Park



What's happening at Rosary Park Catholic School Branxton?

Calendar
 Fri 6th Last day term 2
 Tues 12th PUPIL-FREE DAY
 Wed 13th P & F meeting 6pm. All welcome
 Wed 20th Presentation of Athletics Carnival awards 2pm in the hall. All welcome
 Thur 21st All of Year 5 and 6 attending Diosounds at Civic Theatre
 Fri 27th Year 5 and 6 at Aussie Bush Camp
 Thur 5th P & F Family School Disco
 Mon 11th Queen's Birthday Public Holiday Fri 6th Last day Term 2
 Principal's Message

Early Learning

'If you want creative workers, give them enough time to play' John Cleese; Recently I attended a 'Creative Collaborations Symposium' evening at the University of Newcastle with our Kindergarten teachers. There were presentations from lecturers from the University of Reggio Emilia and Modena (Italy) as well as the University of Newcastle. The Reggio Emilia area of Italy has for many decades been ground-breaking in its approach to investigative play and creativity in early learning.

The symposium challenged educators to practice creative thinking in all areas of their students' learning. Children need to be given the opportunity to engage in self-directed discovery experiences, with educators encouraging them to make connections & see relationships between concepts. This is achieved using open ended questions, thinking routines and problem-solving activities. As educators we are focussed on assisting students to be imaginative with a purpose.

The debate as whether children should be taught to think (creatively and critically) or just learn to regurgitate fact and what constitutes intelligence is one that all educators and parents along with industry must have. Children are born inquisitive and creative! Why do we insist that we have them pass or fail in a school setting!

Grace bus change

As parents would be aware, there has been a change to the afternoon (early) Grace bus service. Hunter Valley bus has been engaged to cope with the overflow of students on this bus. Its route 179 service (a public service) will divert from Clift St via both schools. This bus will collect students who alight at the corner of Fleet Street & Cessnock Road, all of Huntlee Estate and corner of Thomas & Wine Country Drive. Any students travelling to these areas will need to board our 179 service. All other areas of North Rothbury & Hanwood Estate will continue to board Grace Coaches, please refer to attached map which is contained in the newsletter and was sent home last week.

I would urge you to express your concerns about our students boarding a public bus to Grace coaches via email to admin@gracecoaches.com.au and to Transport for NSW on 131500. I have certainly done so on behalf of the school. You are also encouraged to discuss your concerns with your local member of parliament.

Volunteers

Thank you to the many volunteers who have attended our volunteer induction sessions held at various times over the last 2 terms. We understand this is a time-consuming task, and very much appreciate that so many parents and grandparents have completed these Child Protection and WHS requirements for our school community.

If you have not attended an Induction and provided your Working With Children Check documentation, you are no longer permitted to volunteer at Rosary Park.

If you would like to be placed on a list for any future induction sessions, please contact the office. Any future induction sessions will be published in the newsletter and Skoolbag APP with plenty of notice.

Thank you

A big thank you to Elisha Ayton for her work in the canteen at the Athletics Carnival and for assisting staff at the Mother's Day breakfast. Elisha assisted staff to prepare the breakfast for mums, nans and carers and worked tirelessly at the Athletics Carnival canteen to help raise funds for us to purchase new netball uniforms for our school teams. Thank you too, to Kelly Payne for providing her coffee van at the Athletics Carnival and for donating a portion of her sales to the school. Thank you also to Leah Martin who purchased the fabulous gifts and coordinated the stall for Mother's Day. Thanks also to Leah's helpers who helped with the running of the stall. The children had great delight in choosing the colourful and varied items for their mums, grandmothers and carers. Events such as these help children with their confidence and self-esteem and the time that parents give to these events is very much appreciated.

Congratulations to staff, students and parents for a great Athletics Carnival. Thank you to Annika Rooke & Caitlyn Gow for the huge amount of work they put into preparing our Athletics Carnival. The many parent helpers made the day run smoothly. Special thanks to John and Tara Hamson, Barry Richards and Tim Kendall for assisting in the lead up to the day with running trials and organising equipment as well as helping on the actual day. It was a real community event.

Guided Christian Meditation

"When you pray, go to your inner room and pray to God, who is in that secret place." Matthew 6: 5-6
 This term, classroom teachers are beginning to take part in 5-10 minutes of guided Christian meditation. Meditation is in this sense building and strengthening our relationship with God who loves us all. For children and young people it is appropriate to talk about being present to God and in the stillness and silence experience God's presence within us.

Grade Masses for Term 2:

Grade Masses are held in the Church at 9:20am on a Thursday

* 14th June – Year 4 and Year 2 White

* 28th June – Year 4/5 and Year 1 White

P & F News

Thank you to Leah Martin and her helpers for their excellent work on the Mother's Day stall. The next P&F event will be one for the kids - the School Disco on 5th July 2018. Infants Disco will commence at 5.15pm and finish at 6.45pm. Parent supervision at infants is required and younger siblings are welcome to attend. Primary Disco will commence at 7.00pm and finish at 8.30pm. A note will come out closer to the night with further details and volunteer requests.

The P&F would like to thank all of our volunteers for everything they do.

Maths Problem Solving

To promote maths problem solving at school and home we are having a little competition. Each fortnight in the newsletter there will be a word problem that will need solving for Kinder, Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) and Primary (Years 3 to 6) and Parents who are interested. All you need to do to solve the problem but you must follow the problem-solving strategy and show all your steps and working out to solve the problem.

Your entry must have the following written on the top of your paper clearly

Name, Class and all your working out is shown clearly. Then place your entry into the box outside Year 2 Blue. For Parent entries there will be an entry box in the Front office area. Good Luck everyone.



Branxton Public School

The Senior Netball team progressed to the next

round of the PSSA Knockout after successfully defeating Lochinvar PS in their first match. Unfortunately, they lost against Halliday's Point at Maitland, despite playing well. Thank you to Mrs Magann for her expert coaching and the parents and caregivers for their support and transportation.

On Friday 1st June, 8 Branxton Public School students represented the Maitland Zone PSSA at the Regional carnival at Cessnock race track. All students achieved a great result including Ella K (11th), Ella Mc (26th), Jake C (25th), Max W (18th), Oliver W(31st), Connor M (47th), Aden M (43rd) & Jake G who qualified for state coming 2nd overall.

Both the Boys and Girls Soccer team have also progressed to the next round of the PSSA Knockout. The Girls team defeated Greta PS 7 - 0 to move to the next round. The Boys team also defeated Greta PS 2-0. More information to come regarding their next round games. Thanks to Mr Johanson, Mr Tattis and Mrs Guilbaud for all their hard work with both teams.

On Tuesday 29th May, Mr Breard took the Senior Rugby League squad away to participate in the Knight Knockout. Mr Breard was extremely proud of all their efforts on the day. The result were one win, two draws and two losses. Thank you to Mr Breard for his organisation and coaching.

Kaylem and Dylan attended the Multi Sports Day at Newcastle University recently with Mrs Wicks and Mrs Goodyer. A great time was had by all!

The P&C is currently collecting those pesky five cent pieces. Send them into school and they will be collected each Friday. The winning class will receive a prize from the canteen. So far 1-2N are the ones to beat.

The Kindergarten Friendship Garden is underway! Our Rutherford Technology High School friends are currently painting a mural to set the scene for a magical play area. Mr Cousins is preparing the surface for a fairy village and we are thinking about which flowers would suit the area best. We can't wait to start using it!

Kindergarten enrolments are currently being accepted. Please pop in to see the friendly Office Staff or phone the school on 49381214 for more information if you have a little person to enrol for 2019.

Dates for the Calendar

Friday 15th June – Primary Athletics Carnival, Tuesday 26th June – Aboriginal Performance, Friday 29th June – Infants' Sports Day & Tuesday 3rd July - Stage 1 Tocal Excursion



© Kaylem



© Dylan



© Boys Soccer



© Girls Soccer



© Knights Knockout



© Regional Cross Country

Out & About

with Mike Lowing



The Dalwood Estate Winery inaugural Market Day held last Sunday 10th June from 8am ~ 3pm. A very good attendance considering the inclement weather; lots of interesting stalls, ample seating under-cover, plenty of parking, wheelchair friendly, good food & some good Dalwood Estate Wine.



📍 Great fresh produce



📍 Pip & Peter McKenzie



📍 Maryanne & Neil Thomas



📍 Branxton Lions members on-the-job



📍 Branxton Lion Rod Williams, Sue Williams & Helen Lowing



📍 Inclement weather did not stop the day

FROM PAGE 18

Review: Hereditary

Milly Shapiro, a girl with a distinct look who got her start playing Roald Dahl's *Matilda* on Broadway, is perfectly cast as a misfit with sinister potential. Gabriel Byrne isn't given as much to do — he only married into this family, after all — but he quietly provides stability. There's also a noteworthy turn from Ann Dowd as a member of a grief support group who provides Annie with some solace. With just a few short films under his belt (some of them also highly alarming), 31-year-old writer-director Ari Aster delivers his first feature with astonishing confidence, as if he'd been making stylishly effective heart-pounders for decades. At *Sundance*, he introduced a screening of *Hereditary* by saying he'd had "a rough few years" with his family. Whatever has happened in this guy's life, he's working through it by traumatizing audiences. One moment elicited an audience-wide "Gahh!" that was followed by stunned, disbelieving silence. I wish there'd been a camera to capture us all with our eyes wide, our mouths agape, our armrests broken. (It wasn't just a shock-value moment, either, but a legitimate turn in the story.) There's another image later that makes me shudder — an involuntary physical reaction — every time I think of it. If there's a better horror movie this year, I'm going to need new pants!

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4938 1773

Branxton Golf Club Vets - Guy Cornwell Memorial Golf Day



© The Perpetual Trophy in memory of Guy Cornwell



© Group photo - Seated: Roger Yandle, Nikki Craig, John Vassar, Tom Young and Richard Chalmers. Standing: Ron Hebbe (Vice Captain) and John Atton (President)



© Ivan Harris - Winner of the Trophy for 2018 with Pro-Shop voucher for \$100

On Thursday 31 May, 43 Branxton Vets competed in a Stableford Event to commemorate the memory of Guy Cornwell who passed away suddenly on 28 May 2016.

For some time after he died his personally inscribed golf balls were still being found on the course by our esteemed ball finder Ron Hebbe.

This inspired the thought of running an event that would keep the memories we all had of Guy foremost in our minds, and so, a Perpetual Trophy was designed topped with a 'lefty's club' and one of the aforementioned balls.

Guy's wife Wendy, was approached for her blessing to run the event and was not only moved by the idea but she and their three adult children, Kristi, Toby and Nick generously donated \$200 of Pro-Shop Vouchers as prizes. As a result Ivan Harris was our inaugural Winner \$100, Barney Ward the Runner-up \$50 and Tony Seamer won the raffle draw \$50. His regular playing partners Tom Young (now residing in WA), Roger Yandle, Nikki Craig, John Vassar and Richard Chalmers all played as a group on this memorable occasion and a great day was

had by all who took part. Guy was an exceptionally likable character with a passion for his family, golf and horse racing. He would discuss matters relating to food, wine, politics, investments, books, golf, sports in general and of course the 'Gee Gees' with anyone who appeared in the slightest way interested.


He was a 'slightly' better than average golfer despite being a 'lefty', but found support with his main playing partner Tom Young (also a 'lefty').

Guy and Tom were born one day apart and in fact were married one day apart and, like twins, this made them almost inseparable and at times insufferable on the course, with incessant talking when others were trying to putt. On many occasions Guy was the recipient of Nikki Craig's 'death stare'!

He had an obsession for continuously trying out new clubs, new grips and varying stances in an attempt to always improve his game.

None seemed to work too well before he was onto the next trial which in his mind was going to be the 'secret to success'! That was just Guy being his ever optimistic, happy

self! Guy was a great friend and is sorely missed by his family and all at Branxton Golf Club and The Branxton Veteran Golfers.



Open 7 days
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(opposite ALDI)

JUNE

ENTERTAINMENT



 <p>FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTY</p>	<p>LIVE MUSIC 8.30pm</p>
<p>FRI 8TH Raiders vs Panthers 6pm Titans vs Rabbitohs 7.50pm</p>	<p>FRI 1ST OUTLAW AVE</p>
<p>FRI 15TH Cowboys vs Warriors 6pm Roosters vs Panthers 7.50pm</p>	<p>SAT 2ND JADE HOLLAND BAND</p>
<p>FRI 29TH Warriors vs Sharks 6pm Roosters vs Storm 7.50pm</p>	<p>SAT 9TH SUN HILL DRIVE</p>
	<p>SAT 16TH SOCCEROOS GAME ON THE BIG SCREEN</p>
	<p>SAT 23RD MISBEHAVE</p>
	<p>SAT 30TH SOUNDBABOUT</p>

www.royalfederal.com.au

Graphics - Patric Erice

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The News **SPORT**

Branxton Greta Amateur Swimming Club could fold if new executive board not found

THE Branxton Greta Amateur Swimming Club is in danger of folding if a new board is not found. All current board/executive members are standing down & the recently held AGM was aborted because of the lack of people attending. It was decided to reconvene the AGM which is re-scheduled for next Monday 18th June. The club is one of the oldest sporting clubs in the region boasting 93 members in the season just finished. Their season runs from October to March & they met every Friday evening. The Friday evening meetings are suspended over the school Christmas holidays. The club also takes part in the inter-town competition meeting six times each season.

The competing clubs are from Singleton, Muswellbrook, Scone, Denman & Merriwa. The Branxton Greta Club won the inter-town competition in the 2016/17 season. The last season saw an average of 85 club members take part in the Friday evening race nights & there are 65 of their members who train twice a week. The club needs a new President/Chairman, Vice-President/Chairman, Secretary, Registrar & Coaching Co-ordinator. They also require a race secretary, a fundraising coordinator, a communications officer & point scorer. "It will be very disappointing if we cannot entice members to form a new board as the club

cannot operate without one," said a spokesperson for the club. "With 93 members it means there are a lot of parents out there who could put their hands up." "If you join as a volunteer on the club committee, your goal is to continue to make our club a great place to be for our new swimmers and our renewing club families." "We are committed to creating an encouraging, rewarding and supportive culture within the club, which in turn will foster confidence and camaraderie." "The Swim Club is not about winning races, it's about achieving your own personal best and learning new skills, while getting fit and healthy," said their spokesperson.



■ Club members with the Inter Town Trophy shield won in the 2016/17 season

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