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WEDNESDAY
11 July 2018

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Well Done Not So Well Done

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SCHOOL NEWS

The 'Branxton Greta Memorial Cycleway' shortlisted by Cessnock City Council for next round of 'Resources for Regions' grant funding

After receiving an invitation from the NSW State Government to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for funding in its latest round of 'Resources for Regions' grant program (R4R) Cessnock City Council, at its last meeting, has elected to put forward two projects for their consideration. The two projects are the

Kurri Kurri CBD Upgrade - Stage 1 & the Branxton to Greta Memorial Cycleway. Established under the NSW Government's Restart NSW Fund, the R4R program aims to deliver improved local infrastructure and services by funding local infrastructure projects in mining affected communities.

Up to \$50 million is available in the 2018-2019 R4R (Round 6) program & is open to all regional local government areas that can demonstrate that they are mining affected. Cessnock City Council in assessing the suitability of each of the outstanding projects within the LGA decided that the criteria for the current R4R program

put both the Kurri Kurri CBD Upgrade - Stage 1 & the Branxton to Greta Memorial Cycleway as suitable for EOI submissions. The EOI funding for the cycleway/walkway being offered requires a minimum of 25% of the total project cost as a co-contribution. An application to reduce the 25% co-contribution to 12.5% co-contribution on the grounds of disadvantage will also be submitted. The estimated project cost

is \$2.6M, excluding the memorial aspect of \$1.2million, & the maximum Cessnock Council co-contribution (25%) is \$650,000. Council officers are proposing to prepare a business case to show the Cessnock LGA is significantly disadvantaged. Should this business case be successful, co-contributions by Council may become fully exempt and/or reduced. Brett Wild, chairman of the

Branxton Greta Memorial Cycleway Limited, its fundraising arm, said that the memorial cycleway is not only a vital link between the two main towns of Branxton and Greta, a distance of 4.5kms, but is also a living memorial to the sacrifice of those local veterans that enlisted to serve overseas. "The cycleway will be from Rotunda to Rotunda, and will have a number of reflection points to all conflicts and peace keeping

missions to which Australian service men and women have served. "An important part of the memorials will be for animals such as the Waler horse and service dogs that have also faithfully served our troops," said Brett. Stephen Glen, General Manager of Cessnock City Council said that it is with great pleasure that the Cessnock City Council support the Branxton to Greta Memorial Cycleway and the endeavours of Branxton Greta Cycleway Memorial Limited to raise monies to bring this project to life. "In support of the project, Cessnock City Council has committed to undertake a detailed investigation and design to have the memorial cycleway "shovel ready" by Armistice Day Centenary on 11 November," said Stephen.



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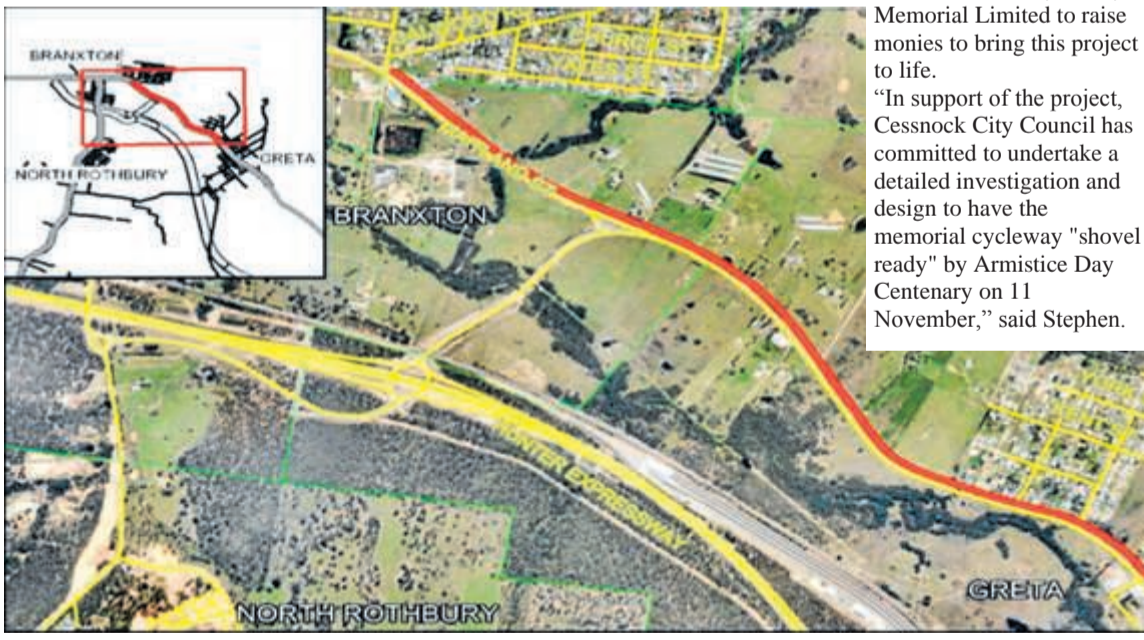
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The proposed Branxton to Greta Memorial cycleway/walkway route

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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



Wildlife legend Tim Faulkner pays a visit to our bushland



Cessnock City Council launched a campaign to raise awareness about the significance of our local bushland and just last week Tim Faulkner came out to discover the unique wildlife within. Tim Faulkner is the General Manager and Head of Conservation at the Australian Reptile Park in Somersby and the Devil Ark at Barrington Tops. He also has his own show on National Geographic, 'The Wild Life of Tim Faulkner'. Wrestling crocodiles, wrangling Taipans and milking Funnel-web spiders is all in a day's work for Tim, yet this passionate conservationist took time out of his busy schedule to explore and capture footage of our local bushland. Tim teamed up with Mick Roderick from BirdLife Australia to produce two short films, one to highlight the significance of the area to potential visitors and the other to show the impact of illegal dumping and logging. On the day of filming, there was a small flock of endangered Swift Parrots happily feeding in the trees, making the experience all the more special. "Spending the morning exploring the bushland and finding a flock of endangered Swift Parrots was a great experience and the people of Cessnock are fortunate to have this on their doorstep," said Tim. "The bushland around Cessnock is unique because it is a remnant of what once covered the floor of the Hunter Valley. There is so much crucial habitat for rare and endangered wildlife and it is fantastic that Council is getting behind the awareness-raising through the 'Our Bushland' project," added Tim. The films will be released later this month on Council's Facebook page and website. Visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/OurBushland for more information. This campaign seeks to educate residents about our local bushland and has been made possible by funding from the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust. Council would also like to acknowledge BirdLife Australia, Office of Environment & Heritage, Hunter Local Land Services, Saving our Species, National Parks & Wildlife Service and Hunter Bird Observers Club.

■ Photo above: Tim Faulkner who helped launch a campaign raise awareness about the significance of our local bushland



**BRANXTON GRETA
MEMORIAL CYCLEWAY
COMMUNITY MEETING
@ GRETA WORKERS CLUB
Wed 18th July @ 5.30pm**

Cycle Safe



The Branxton Greta Business Chamber in conjunction with the Branxton & Greta RSL Sub branches, will be hosting a Community Meeting, to inform on the latest information.

Contact:- Brian Furner 0429 438 460

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 June 2018 to 30 June 2018.

Locality	Reference	Decision Date	Property Address	Application Description
EAST BRANXTON	008/2018/00000299/001	4-June-2018	48 Church ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
EAST BRANXTON	008/2018/00000312/001	5-June-2018	23 McMullins RD	Shed
EAST BRANXTON	008/2018/00000313/001	21-June-2018	7 Wyndham ST	Shed
EAST BRANXTON	008/2018/00000289/001	27-June-2018	1 George ST	Demolish Existing Garage. Construct Garage/Carport & Storage Shed
GRETA	008/2018/00000271/001	4-June-2018	3 The Barracks CL	Garage
GRETA	008/2018/00000290/001	4-June-2018	10 Price ST	Garage
GRETA	008/2018/00000315/001	8-June-2018	14 Price ST	Shed
GRETA	008/2018/00000330/001	18-June-2018	32 Filey ST	Shed
GRETA	008/2018/00000269/001	19-June-2018	57 Wyndham ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
GRETA	008/2018/00000332/001	29-June-2018	100 Reginald ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
LOVEDALE	008/2018/00000246/001	6-June-2018	370 Talga RD	Construct New Secondary Dwelling & Alterations to Existing Pergola
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000285/001	3-June-2018	17 Tooze CCT	New Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000210/001	5-June-2018	22 McGann DR	Dwelling and Attached Two Storey Secondary Dwelling
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000316/001	15-June-2018	21 Newsham ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000323/001	19-June-2018	31 Welthered CR	Two (2) Storey Dwelling & Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000339/001	19-June-2018	85 Tooze CCT	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000325/001	20-June-2018	23 Kinnavane RD	Dwelling & Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000343/001	28-June-2018	19 Tooze CCT	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000320/001	29-June-2018	70 Keslerton RISE	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000288/001	7-June-2018	336 Oakey Creek RD	Temporary Event (Including Market Stalls, Live Music and Food Trucks) Held Twice a Year for Three Years
POKOLBIN	008/2017/00000295/001	20-June-2018	294 O'Connors RD	Change of Use of Part of Existing Wine Storage Shed to Ancillary Office
POKOLBIN	008/2017/00000711/001	25-June-2018	2198 Broke RD	Two (2) Cellar Doors, One (1) Agriculture Produce Industry & Alterations to the Operational Conditions of Existing Restaurant
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000258/001	26-June-2018	107 Vinlage DR	Temporary Event - Running Event
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000346/001	27-June-2018	50 Peppertree DR	Extension of Existing Alfresco & Skillion Roof
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000212/001	28-June-2018	119 McDonalds RD	Development carried out in Three (3) Phases -1 - Continued use of the Two (2) Shops 2 - Relocation of Existing Dwelling within Existing Lot and 3 - Boundary Adjustment
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000356/001	29-June-2018	12 Spotted Gum Drive PRIV	Swimming Pool

Out & About

with Mike Lowing

Classic Car/Motorbike Display held at the Tatts Hotel Sunday 1st July. Some wonderfully restored vehicles on show.



After dark author event at Cessnock Library

Cessnock City Library is proud to present a free after dark author event, *Monsters who Murder* with Amanda Howard from 6 to 7.30pm on Friday 27 July.



Amanda Howard is an acclaimed true crime author, fiction writer and violent crimes consultant who has written 25 books over the past 14 years including 15 books on a wide range of true crime cases.

Dubbed the 'Serial Killer Whisperer', Amanda has also interviewed some of the world's most heinous serial killers over more than two decades and has collected a vast pool of information on various types of killers, their motives and rituals.

Library Services Co-ordinator, Rose-marie Walters said that true crime was one of the most popular genres at the Library and encourages all who are interested to come along!

"Truth is stranger than fiction and true crime is also about the mystery, psychology, history, and sociology of crimes and trials that have shocked the nation and the world." This event is only suitable for those who are over the age of 18 and there will be refreshments available thanks to Kelman Vineyard. There will also be books available for purchase on the night. Make sure you don't miss this fascinating event! Book your spot today by calling the team at Cessnock Library on 4993 4399.



4,647 pest animals removed from the Upper Hunter in three week 'control program'

Hunter Local Land Services biosecurity officers have assisted drought affected Upper Hunter landholders by culling 4,647 pigs, deer, goats, foxes and wild dogs during an aerial shooting program in the Upper Hunter during June.



The three-week long program targeted pest species impacting local properties from Merriwa to Cassilis, and then from Murrurundi to the edge of the Barrington Tops, where water and feed resources are already critically low because of the ongoing drought conditions in the area.

In total 2,285 pigs, 2,297 deer, 38 goats, 20 foxes, and seven wild dogs were controlled during the program. Biosecurity Team Leader Luke Booth said this Feral Animal Aerial Shooting Team (FAAST) program will benefit local farms and native species, struggling with the unrelenting drought.

"Feral pigs pose the most significant biosecurity risk to agriculture in New South Wales," said Mr Booth.

"Not only do they carry endemic parasites and diseases that can affect both humans and other livestock, they cause significant damage to pastures, crops and native vegetation.

"The lack of water and feed means many pest species are coming closer to farms, searching for available resources, which is adding to the pressure already being felt by local landholders."

The shoot was organised to supplement already high level of baiting and trapping in this area.

"Assisting landholders to control pest species is a crucial part of our role, especially when landholders are being impacted by the current drought," said Mr Booth.

"We encourage any landholders not already participating in our group baiting or control programs to get in touch with your local biosecurity officer.

"More intensive control programs are planned for later this year, in areas deemed at risk of pest species population booms."

Please report all wild dog sightings or pest animal problems to your nearest Hunter Local Land Services Biosecurity Officer: Paterson: Luke Booth 0408 681 576, Maitland: Kyra O'Brien 0427 492958 & Singleton: Matt Kennedy 0428 686 178

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STEVE'S RANT

Why Australia should pull out of the so called Paris Climate Agreement (*Coitus Interruptus*); it might feel good but will end in an unwanted outcome. Firstly; the Paris Climate Agreement can do nothing to slow down or stop the alleged Global Warming trend. If all the Carbon emission reduction targets, as set out in the agreements were met, it would only reduce the warming trend by 0.02 to the year 2100. Yet we know global average temperatures week by week or season by season can vary as much as 2 or 3 deg Celsius. It is the same as the Federal Government reducing the excise on fuel by 2c per litre when the price of fuel fluctuates week by week and petrol station by as much as 10 to 15 c per litre. The EU Nations who so enthusiastically embrace this agreement all have nuclear power base-load facilities available to them which we do not. Their population is not increasing such as ours and so future demand will be static and, if not, most certainly well within their capability to meet the targets of carbon emission reductions by 2050. In the case of Australia our targets were set from 2000 when our population was

barely twenty million. By 2050 our population will have grown by up to 10% and we are expected to reduce our emissions to the level that existed in 2000. To do this we will all have to have pedal cars, eat no meat, kill our pets and involuntarily euthanize all unproductive old farts who require more than their fair share of energy to remain alive. OK, this sounds extreme but the idiot doomsayers of the left, greens and socialists, will demand this kind of sacrifice for the common good. Too bad if you are an individualist and like to eat red meat and drive big SUV's all over the place. Just suck it up Sunshine! Secondly; the targets set by this agreement do not apply to the biggest polluters. That is, China and the third world nations who have aspirations of increasing their energy usage to match what we expect as our entitlement. They will achieve this by burning fossil fuels, so negating any effort we make to reduce our emission. Thirdly; The assumptions

on which the whole climate debate rests are far from proven. The debate is more to do with ideological feelings than with truly debated scientific facts. The wonder of all this is that people like Malcolm Turnbull, who we all assume to be highly intelligent, swallow the spin and in so doing are prepared to jeopardise Australia's prosperity in order to satisfy a quasi religious enthusiasm for emissions reductions. He also influences other people ~ is there not sufficient collective wisdom in the Liberal Party to kick this crap out? We live in hope. Surely the answer lies with the State Governments who should ignore the stupid international agreements the Federal Government make that are detrimental to our collective wealth, way of life and the common law. Let's give the finger to the United Nations which has not served Australia well for the last 20 years. The

penalty rates and they have voted against protecting them every time. Turnbull's position is a slap in the face for low paid workers, who last Sunday had their penalty rates cut again. This time the cuts will be even deeper. Labor is completely opposed to any cuts to penalty rates for Australian workers. *Joel Fitzgibbon MP Member for Hunter Black Dog Ride to the Top End 2018* From the 9th to the 18th August I am taking part in the Black Dog Ride to the Top End 2018 mental awareness campaign. I am joining hundreds of riders on the road to Darwin, and raising awareness of and for grassroots community mental health projects in Australian regions. This is a cause that is close to my heart, I lost a very dear

States are going it alone on the business of treaties with our indigenous people, so why not on their own energy guarantee, population policies and taxation within the limits of the Constitution? Somebody please take the lead and set this Nation on a viable course for the future. And bet your backsides it won't be Bill Shorten and his union backers. *Cheers, Steve*

What's Happening & other matters

with **Mike Lowing** Supermarket brand ALDI is now the most trusted brand in Australia with improvements in ALDI's Net Trust Score lifting the supermarket retailer from

friend10 years ago. 8 Australians die by suicide every day, and there is a suicide attempt every 10 minutes in Australia. By raising awareness of this issue on my journey with Black Dog Ride, and by raising funds to support mental health support services at the coalface, we will empower communities with knowledge around mental health, encourage people to seek support, and help prevent the tragedy of suicide. No I am not riding a big Harley, with my brother Brian we are driving the support vehicle for the NSW Black Dog Ride team on the road to Darwin. If you can help a donation can be made at Team Branxton. You can donate on : <https://blackdogride.giveeasy.org/campaigns/black-dog-ride-2018-branxton/> *Neil Thomas, Branxton*

third to first in the latest Roy Morgan Net Trust Score survey. Not really earth shattering news I must admit. The reason it did take my fancy was because I have been one of Roy Morgan's 'surveyists' for more than 10 years & I have only just discovered Aldi which I do confess to be one of their biggest supporter. I just love going down the middle isle looking for something I don't really need! I have also been successful in having my wife shop there when needed. Prior to Aldi entering the Australian supermarket business Coles & Woolies had an oligarchy which was detrimental to good competitive business practice & we paid the price. I hope they go from strength to strength & extend their middle isle range. Also in the same survey results reveals ALDI has

JUST THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW

* Boring, Oregon and Dull, Scotland have been sister cities since 2012. In 2017, they added Bland Shire, Australia to their "League of Extraordinary Communities." * In 1974, the *Journal of Applied Behaviour Analysis* published a paper titled "The Unsuccessful Self-Treatment of a Case of 'Writer's Block.'" It



come in just ahead of insurer NRMA with contained a total of zero words. * Dogs are capable of understanding up to 250 words and gestures. The average dog is as intelligent as a two-year-old child.

Bendigo Bank, Qantas and Bunnings also performing well. It also revealed that Qantas has fallen from its number-one spot as Australia's most trusted brand to fourth position. *Cheers, Mike*

Emergency Phone Numbers

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FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE		Branxton..... 4938 1244	Energy Australia..... 131 388
It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected.		Lochvar..... 4930 7209	Hospitals
When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct.		Ambulance 131 233	Maitland..... 4939 2000
ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED		NSW Fire Brigade	Cessnock..... 4991 0555
For non-life threatening calls.....		Branxton..... 4938 3396	Singleton..... 6572 2799
Police Assistance Line (PAL)..... 131 444		Rural Fire Brigades	SES132 500
		Belford..... 6574 7149	Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000
		Broke..... 6579 1491	Poisons Info 131 126
		Greta..... 4015 0000	Hunter Water 1300 657 000
		Bishops Bdg 4015 0000	Ausgrid 131 388
		Nth R'bury... 4015 0000	Gas Emergencies . 131 909
		Rothbury.... 4015 0000	Lifeline.....131 114
		Pokolbin.... 4015 0000	Mental Health Line 1800 011 511
		Rothbury.... 4015 0000	Domestic Violence Support 4990 9609
		Pokolbin.... 4015 0000	Centrelink Self Service 136 240
		Rothbury.... 4991 1733	Medicare 132 011
		Scotts	Native Animal Rescue 0418 628 483
		Flat..... 6575 1200	
		Central	
		(Cessnock)... 4015 0000	



Penalty rate cuts Last Sunday, July 1, workers in retail and hospitality in the Hunter will see even bigger cuts to their penalty rates. Labor introduced legislation last week that if passed, would stop cuts to penalty rates, which will affect 11,394 people in the Hunter electorate. Labor's bill will restore penalty rates in awards and ensure they can never be cut again. Stopping the cuts to penalty rates would be easy if only Malcolm Turnbull, the Liberals and Nationals dropped their disregard for workers, joined Labor and supported this bill. But they won't, because they want Australian workers to get a pay cut. These workers

stand to lose up to \$77 per week from cuts to penalty rates. 1 in 5 workers, in the Hunter work in the retail, food and accommodation industries affected by the cuts. The cuts will continue on 1 July 2019 and 1 July 2020. Penalty rates are not a luxury, they are what pay the bills and put food on the table. It's staggering that at a time when wages growth has hit record lows, and in the week this government is trying to give big business an \$80 billion tax cut, Malcolm Turnbull is doing nothing to stop a pay cut for workers. The Turnbull Government has had eight opportunities in the Parliament to protect

Free Native Plant Giveaway at Cessnock Library



To celebrate NAIDOC Week, Cessnock City Library is once again holding a Native Plant Giveaway today Wednesday 11 July 2018 during normal library opening hours. Library members can present their library card to receive one free native plant per household. For those who don't have a library

card, it's a great time to join! The NAIDOC Week native plant giveaway was extremely popular last year and this year's plants are the shrub sized Heath Banksia (*Banksia Ericifolia*) and *Carpobrotus Glaucescens* (Pig Face Daisy). Both plant varieties that are being given away were used as traditional Bush Tucker plants. Banksia flowers were soaked in water to produce a sweet, high-energy drink and the fruit of the Pig Face daisy has a flavour described by some as like salty strawberry and the juice from the leaves

as used to soothe stings or burns. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent is encouraging locals to join the library and take home one of these wonderful plants. "The native plant giveaway is a sustainable way to celebrate NAIDOC Week. It greens our city as well as encouraging existing and new members to visit the library." Make sure you don't miss out on these amazing plants as it's only while stocks last!

Mayor calls library cuts low blow

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent is disappointed by the NSW Government's decision to slash library funding.

The NSW Government recently announced it will be cutting library funding by 18% which will impact 368 libraries across the state.

Mayor Pynsent said this is a major blow for every community and their residents including the Cessnock Library and Kurri Kurri Library. "Our libraries are vibrant community hubs and have a very special role in our community. They are not just a service that has great resources, but provide a space where people connect, learn and are entertained."

"I know in the Cessnock Local Government Area

our libraries are thriving. The events, activities and initiatives our libraries offer to residents is diverse. There is something for our youngest residents and oldest residents. This is what makes them such a unique service. They are not focused on one demographic but everyone. Whether it's NAIDOC Week, Youth Week or Seniors Week, the libraries are involved." "As our communities grow the need for improved library services increases. The importance of libraries needs to be recognised and we need to be investing in these spaces that provide an overwhelming positive benefit to the entire community."

Council is encouraging staff to keep up the good work despite the cuts.



Estate in April and have been working hard ever since to create something different for the valley that honours our past, but also carries our business into the future," he said. "Hunter Galleries gives locals exposure to some prolific Australian artists and gives tourists an added reason to visit our stunning property. Wine and art really goes hand in hand." The exhibition displays a mixture of modern and traditional art with visitors able to experience the pieces both inside a traditional gallery space and outdoors with life-size sculptures while meandering throughout the property grounds. The interactive art walk was the brainchild of curator Adrian Black and offers a real point of difference among the Hunter's many cellar door experiences, he said. Adrian has been

presenting exhibitions by outstanding Australian artists for more than a decade and revelled in the chance to turn his artistic eye to the historic property. "There is no other cellar door experience like it," Adrian said. "An internal gallery is housed in a grand sandstone cellar door and the grounds sport stunning views of the valley and lush vines. It is a real escape and will appeal to city art lovers as much as locals." Displaying both traditional and modern works, Hunter Galleries provides an excellent opportunity to discover both decorative and investment art, he said. "This Collection brings together an amazing selection fine art and sculpture from some of Australia's top artists including Ian Hansen, Dana Dion, Simon Barlow, Pamela Honey and the Hunter's own James Hough to name but a few."



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Jim Comerford by Paul

Maguire JIM Comerford was more than a national treasure within the coal industry. He was a gentleman in the true sense, an idealist and philosopher with deep ecological concerns. Much has been said about the Richmond Main pit boy who had his destiny shaped as a 16-year-old at the Rothbury Riot and rise to become a "tough but fair" working class leader, Coalfields historian and author.



I knew him for more than 20 years and most of our conversations and correspondence covered aspects of social justice, ethics and the environment.

I was among an estimated 50,000 people at a climate action protest in Sydney's Botanical Gardens last Saturday (Nov 4 2006) and was pleased to hear one of the speakers acknowledge the Hunter Valley's coalmining heritage, the workers' militant struggles and "legendary" trade union chief Jim Comerford who had died 24 hours earlier.

On many occasions Jim spoke to me about coal industry workers and environmentalists having to find a common ground and work together to create a just transition from coal-fired electricity generation to sustainable solar power.

While humanitarian issues were at the forefront of his thinking, he was also pained by the degraded state of the Hunter River, believed technology existed to stop coal-fired electricity generators polluting our air and he encouraged the formation of community groups to lobby business heads and government representatives at all levels to take climate change seriously.

I visited Jim several times in Kurri Kurri Hospital before he died and although he continued to shake his head at mankind's follies he never lost his ability to ultimately view proceedings with positive vision. Despite his life ebbing as he lay in bed, or sat wrapped in blankets on a chair, Jim always offered a warm, strong handshake, looked me straight in the eye and spoke with a clear mind that belied his physical circumstance.

During one of our last conversations he said that while he accepted his fate, he did not want to leave those whom he cherished, as they had shown him the meaning of life.

He gasped for words and his eyes went misty as he searched to explain his gratitude and how much he would miss Mable, his love and wife of more than 70 years.



Husband Creche

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

Ladies we have the answer

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

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

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

Art in the vines proves master stroke for historic estate

Award-winning wine and lush vines create the perfect backdrop for the Hunter's newest art gallery showcasing pieces from top local and internationally-renowned artists.

The unofficial birthplace of Hunter Valley wine, Dalwood Estate has brought a vibrant offering of art to wine country thanks to a unique collaboration with a Sydney curator.

Hunter Galleries was recently launched at Dalwood Estate and features more than 100 works from both emerging and established artists. Life imitates art throughout the exhibition with a common theme of country landscapes and native fauna on display. Dalwood General Manager, Craig Hibbard, said the partnership with prolific Sydney curator Adrian Black has seen Dalwood Estate further established as a destination in its own right with popular weekend picnics and cellar door, destination weddings and regular artisan markets on offer. "Formerly Wyndham Wines, we relaunched as Dalwood



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Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

It was saddening to hear about the passing of former Councillor and Mayor of Cessnock City, Merv Pyne. Merv was a long serving Councillor, served as Cessnock City Mayor from 1995 to 1999 and remained an active member of our community for many years. He was an outstanding individual and community-minded man who will be missed by many. My thoughts go out to Merv's wife Daphne and his family during this sad time. I was extremely disappointed by the NSW Government's decision to slash library funding by 18% which will impact 368 libraries across the state, including Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Library. Our libraries are vibrant community hubs and play a very special role for residents, both young and old. They are not just a service with great resources, but provide a space where people connect, learn and are entertained. It was decided at last Wednesday's Council meeting that we will write to the NSW Premier and Treasurer condemning the cutting to library funding in the recent State budget. While on the topic of our wonderful libraries, school holidays have started and if you're looking for something to keep the kids entertained, Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries have an action-packed program of events! There are workshops, basket weaving, a Lego competition and the extremely popular Harry Potter Escape Room is back! Pick up a program from the library or download it via the library website. It is changeover time for our service clubs and I'd like to congratulate the outgoing Presidents for doing a magnificent job in supporting our community. Cessnock Lions Club has been working hard for 81 years and Cessnock Rotary club for 65 years and the support these clubs and other service clubs give, particularly to our local young people, is invaluable. Congratulations to the Central Hunter Business Chamber in assisting small business across our LGA through the information presentation from the Hunter Business Centre. The success of small business is critical to the economic development in our community. Good luck to the Wollombi Road Providore in the next stage of the 2018 Sydney Markets Fresh Awards after being named a finalist.

NAIDOC celebrations are in full swing and it was great to see so many people at Kiray Putjung Aboriginal Corporation's Family Fun Day on Saturday morning and Barkuma's Family Fun Day yesterday. Both were wonderful community days filled with food, fun and entertainment! There's still plenty left on the NAIDOC program including the FREE native plant giveaway at Cessnock Library today and Bush Tukka Cooking for young people at the Cessnock Youth Centre tomorrow from 11am-2pm. Tallen Howson is the youth member for Cessnock in the YMCA NSW Youth Parliament and has started a petition to get more support services for young people in Cessnock. The closest support services for young people currently are in Maitland. This initiative is just fantastic and I encourage anyone who agrees to jump online and sign the petition. The link has been posted on Council's Facebook page. We recently launched a campaign to raise awareness about the significance of our local bushland and just last week Tim Faulkner came out to discover the unique wildlife within. Tim is the General Manager and Head of Conservation at the Australian Reptile Park in Somersby and the Devil Ark at Barrington Tops. Tim teamed up with Mick Roderick from BirdLife Australia to produce two educational short films which will be released later this month on Council's website Facebook page. *Cheers, Bob*



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR

POWER PRICES – AND AN UNAFFORDABLE NEW COAL FIRED POWER STATION Every household knows that their electricity bills are going up and up. Some homes that have invested in solar on their roof might be experiencing some relief from this increase in prices, but by and large, families and industries have been hit hard. Over the past 7 years, electricity prices have risen by 60%. In just the past 18 months, the prices have risen by 20%. There can be absolutely no doubt that because NSW has sold off its electricity networks, the Government has handed over any control or influence in power prices. In fact, just before the sale, the NSW Government went to court to make sure that power price rises were at their maximum, not their minimum. In addition, the NSW Government

introduced new laws to get rid of the price cap, the ceiling price, the maximum charge, on power. As our coal fired power stations get older, they are being turned off. Liddell will be next in 2022. Over the past 10 years or more our old coal fired power stations have been the cheapest source of electricity at approximately \$40MWh (per Mega-Watt hour). Don't worry too much about the MWh terminology – just think of our old coal fired power stations producing at \$40. This is possible because the cost of the old coal fired power station being built has already been repaid many times over, so it's a bit like owning an old car that has already lost all of its value. Going forward, as we look to replace the electricity lost when our old coal fired power stations shut down, and as our population increases and we need more electricity than ever before, we need to consider the electricity producing options and how much each will cost. Solar and wind, if they are built brand new today, will produce electricity at approximately \$60-\$70MWh. A brand new coal fired power station, if built today, will produce electricity at approximately \$80-\$100MWh. Sure we can have a debate around reliability and base load, but that is an ever-changing space as new technologies are invented and improved. But one thing is certain, people looking for a new coal fired power station to be built are actually asking for the price of electricity to, at least, double. **THE SECRECY IS REAL** In my previous column I made some comments about the secrecy of every single report prepared by the NSW Government. This includes every contract of sale for every single asset that used to belong to all of us as residents of this state. I have had some feedback that people seem to think that I was joking; that I was perhaps exaggerating or playing it up. I wasn't – and I am glad that you are alarmed. The only reports or recommendations that we have ever seen have been those "leaked" by concerned parties. And every time we see one of these leaked documents, we are shocked by what we read. Think about the Cabinet document that confirmed that moving the light rail in Newcastle onto Hunter Street, instead of the existing heavy rail line, would cost an extra \$120M. Think about the Port of Newcastle sale document that shows that shipping containers coming into Newcastle will pay incredibly high penalty prices, condemning our port to only ever being coal and depriving our Hunter economy of change and diversity. These are examples of the documents we have seen. Imagine what's in the others?

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

There's never a dull moment in local government, but the past few weeks have been a whirlwind after travelling to Canberra for the 2018 National General Assembly of Local Government, back to Sydney for a day of meetings and attending the first Hunter Joint Organisation meeting following the Local Government NSW Summit in Maitland. It's been a great opportunity to meet and talk with people from councils from across Australia and, unsurprisingly, a common theme was having to do more with less – reinforcing the ever-growing importance of funding opportunities from other sources to deliver the range of services and infrastructure to support vibrant and prosperous communities. Residents of the Singleton LGA tell us they want a diverse local economy and all the modern services they need without having to sacrifice the country lifestyle they covet. But we also know our community expects sensible financial management from their local Council. That means making difficult decisions and putting some projects on hold until we can find other sources of funding. Singleton's 2018/2019 Operational Plan sets out an \$86.9million operational budget, including \$31.45million in capital works. Actions include the development of a future plan for Singleton in the areas of the arts, culture and recreation; condition assessments on all critical road, drainage, building, open space and transportation assets; commission of a new animal shelter; and the ongoing commitment to reviewing the efficiency of our services. The document also reaffirms Council's commitment to continue to advocate for the needs of the Singleton Local Government Area to other levels of government in order to deliver more.

And that isn't just limited to multi-million dollar projects. We saw last month the launch of our LABrary, where a library collection of a different kind was unveiled with virtual reality, 3D printers and "droids", delivered thanks to a State Library of NSW, Public Infrastructure Grant. And of course, we will soon see work commence on the next stages of the Rose Point Park all-abilities playground and expansion of the SES headquarters courtesy of the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund. Thanks must go to Member for Upper Hunter Michael Johnsen for his involvement in these outcomes. With reports the "bigger-than-expected" \$3.9billion NSW Budget surplus announced last month was partly the result of mining royalties derived here and with a State election looming, I'll be continuing conversations with both the NSW Government and the Opposition to see more of that money being spent in Singleton. *Cheers, Sue*



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

There was time when our food was largely grown in our backyards. The extent to which that is true depends on where one lived. But certainly, most of us drew our sustenance from a farm nearby. Interestingly, we also produced our electricity close to the point of consumption. In other words, on the edge of our capital cities. Then came the industrial and technological revolutions which changed just about everything. Urban expansion pushed the production of our food well beyond where the majority of us eat. Electricity transmission technology allowed us to build power generators hundreds of miles from where the bulk of household energy consumption occurs. While sometimes we lament the passing of the "good old days", change has been unequivocally been a good thing. But in this 21st Century, two further revolutions are emerging. Electricity generation is making its way back to the point of consumption. In other words, new technologies are allowing us to generate power on the roofs of our homes. It won't be long before every home or nearby open space will be generating power which in turn will be stored in a local battery. Our food production is also coming home. In our capital cities residents are growing vegetables, herbs and spices on the roof tops of office

blocks and apartment buildings alike. Furthermore, scientists and town planners are now realising (many always did) that in a rush to house ourselves in the most attractive spots, we've locked up or built upon our best food producing land. I predict that more and more people will come to conclude that we must be more thoughtful about preserving our prime agricultural land for food and fibre production purposes. I also predict growing acceptance that drought is "the new normal" and a changing climate will further focus our minds. Soil and water security was once a concept confined to Mad Max type movie productions. But it could become more of a reality if we don't start giving it more thought and attention. Worse - if not taken more seriously - as we move towards a global population of 9 billion, food security could be the source of strategic tensions and even war between nation states. Sadly, our food needs appear to have fallen off the political agenda of late. But if the current and protracted drought and its effect on our farmers doesn't bring us back to reality, I don't know what will? It's time for a rethink. *Cheers, Joel*



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

State Matters TIME TO NOMINATE CARERS IN ELECTORATE

I encourage anyone who knows of an exceptional local carer or organisation supporting carers to nominate them for this year's 2018 NSW Carers Awards. Carers are everyday people in our community. They are family members, friends, neighbours and work colleagues. It is important that we send a strong message to carers within our local community that we appreciate all they do. The NSW Carers Awards recognises the remarkable contribution of unpaid carers, organisations, employers and carer groups from across the state. There are close to one million carers across NSW who provide ongoing unpaid support to people who need it because of their disability, chronic illness, mental illness or frail age. Nominations for the NSW Carers Awards close on **Friday 10 August 2018**. For information about the Awards and how to nominate, please go to www.careforacarer.nsw.gov.au

REMINDER OF GRANTS THAT ARE CURRENTLY OPEN TO UPPER HUNTER ELECTORATE GROUPS

The NSW Government's Infrastructure Grants program for organisation looking to build new or upgrade current facilities to apply for funding. Applications are currently open and could be submitted for sport and recreation, arts and culture, and emergency preparedness projects. The funding is provided through the Clubgrants Category 3 program, which receives a contribution from registered clubs' gaming machine profits to benefit local communities. Funding ranges are \$50,000 to \$200,000 for arts and culture, \$10,000 to \$200,000 for emergency preparedness and \$100,000 to \$300,000 for sport and recreation. Applications for the next round of Infrastructure Grants close on the **23 July**. For more information including details on how to apply for grants, visit <https://www.responsiblegambling.nsw.gov.au/infrastructure-grants/infrastructure-grants> **NSW Government's Local Sport Grant Program** for our local sports organisations in our Upper Hunter electorate to apply for the latest round of funding. \$4.6 million is now available across the state for upgrading or creating new sports facilities, new sport programs, community events and projects that improve sports participation. Local clubs can apply for up to \$25,000 to fund individual initiatives, with up to \$50,000 set aside for every state electorate. The Local Sports Grant Program is currently open and will accept applications until 24 August 2018. For more information visit sport.nsw.gov.au/clubs/grants/localsport or phone 13 13 02. *Cheers, Michael*

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Funding boost to help local business



Cessnock City Council has been allocated \$15,000 towards a \$30,000 Business Capability Study under the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) Community Investment Stream.

This funding boost was the result of a successful application to the BBRF and Council will now be able to expand the program to ensure more businesses are engaged.

The Business Capability

Study will determine how many businesses operate within our region, their size, employment capacity, export and import status, ICT take up, and also identify opportunities and barriers to doing business or driving investment within the region.

The data provided in the Study will be extensive and will enable the economic development team to contact businesses with ongoing opportunities and industry capacity building

under the Advance Cessnock City partnership. Council will be able to use this data to develop targeted business programs in the attraction of major capital investment and also to inform strategic projects. The Business Capability Study will nicely complement the \$30,000 Skills Audit and Business Jobs Portal which is currently being implemented. This was also made possible with successful funding under the BBRF Community Investment Stream in 2017. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent welcomed the funding announcement and is looking forward to seeing the results of the study. "For successful economic development to occur, it is absolutely critical that there is a comprehensive understanding of industry and businesses, along with

their capacity and needs, which this study will provide," said Cr Pynsent. "By taking a strategic leadership role, we will be able to facilitate outcomes that will stimulate enterprise, investment, job creation, resilience and an environment conducive to business. It is a credit to the economic development team who continue to excel in these initiatives." added Cr Pynsent.

The project is expected to kick off in October 2018 and be completed by June 2019.

For more information on about the Business Capability Study, Skills Audit or Advance Cessnock City, visit

www.advancecessnockcity.com.au or call Jane Holdsworth on 4993 4257

Photo above (L-R): Gerald Morillo proprietor of Mr O Cafe in Cessnock, Jane Holdsworth & Rhiannon Stevens from CCC.

PHARMACY ADVISOR



Lee Grundy Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

Gastroenteritis

4-minute read

Gastroenteritis, also known as 'gastro', is a common illness that can cause vomiting and diarrhoea. Many types of gastro are easily spread. Gastro is not usually serious but it can make you very dehydrated. Milder forms can be managed at home by drinking fluids.

What is gastroenteritis?

Gastroenteritis is an illness that affects your gut (stomach and intestines).

Gastro may be caused by:

- * viruses (such as rotavirus or norovirus infections)
- * bacteria (including salmonella)
- * toxins produced by bacteria
- * parasites (such as giardia)
- * chemicals (such as toxins in poisonous mushrooms).

Gastro should only last for a few days. It doesn't usually require medication.

It is very important to drink plenty of fluids. Older people, young children and those with a weakened immune system are at risk of developing more serious illnesses. See a doctor immediately if your child cannot keep down a sip of liquid or has dehydration (dry mouth, no urine for 6 hours or more, or lethargy).

Gastroenteritis symptoms

Someone with gastroenteritis may have: vomiting, diarrhoea

nausea (feeling sick in the stomach), stomach pains, fever, headaches, no appetite.

Gastroenteritis diagnosis

If you are unwell with diarrhoea or vomiting, you could have gastro. A doctor can diagnose gastro after talking to and examining you. If you're not getting better, the doctor may want to do stool (poo) tests to find out what's making you ill.

Gastroenteritis treatment

The most important treatment for gastroenteritis is to drink fluids. Frequent sips are easier for young children than a large amount all at once. Keep drinking regularly even if you are vomiting.

If you have a baby or young child with gastro, it's a good idea to have them checked by a doctor for dehydration. You can get rehydration fluids from a pharmacy. These are the best fluids to use in cases of gastro, especially for children.

If you can't get any, or your child refuses to drink it, giving diluted fruit juice (one part juice to four parts of water) is reasonable. You could try a cube of ice or an iceblock if your child won't drink. Avoid milk and other dairy products and do not give juice, sodas, sports drinks or other soft drinks as the sugar may make the diarrhoea worse. It is fine to eat once you feel like it. Babies can continue milk feeds throughout the illness, with rehydration fluid between feeds. Medication for nausea or diarrhea can be useful for adults, but may not be safe for kids. Antibiotics are rarely helpful.

If you are very sick with gastro, you may need to go to hospital where you may be put on a drip.

How is gastroenteritis spread?

Infectious gastro can be

spread very easily. You might get it from having contact with an infected person (or their vomit or poo). It can also spread via contaminated food or water.

Gastroenteritis prevention

To reduce your risk of catching or spreading gastro, wash your hands well after using the bathroom or changing nappies, and before preparing or eating food. If you have gastro, it's important to stay home (away from work, school or childcare) until the symptoms have been gone for at least 24 hours. If your work involves handling food or looking after children, the elderly, or patients, do not return to work until 48 hours after the symptoms have stopped. You can find more information on gastro in kids on the GESA (Gastroenterological Society of Australia) website.

Children and vaccination for rotavirus

Rotavirus is a virus that causes severe gastroenteritis in babies and young children. All young children should receive the rotavirus vaccine at about 2 months and 4 months of age. A third dose at 6 months may be needed depending on the brand of vaccine used. This vaccine is effective in preventing the rotavirus infection in about 7 out of every 10 children vaccinated. It is also effective in preventing severe gastroenteritis in about 9 out of every 10 infants vaccinated. The vaccine provides protection for up to 5 years.



Cheers, Lee

A great school holiday treat



Head to Maitland Gaol these July school holidays to cure your kid's boredom with a host of fun activities and programs for them to enjoy. One of the highlights of the holiday program is the Beanbag Cinema and during the winter school holidays we will be screening two films with popcorn and Maltesers available to purchase. First up will be the screening of OddBall on Friday 13 July at 11.00am. Then on Friday 20 July at 11.00am, you can cosy into your beanbag to watch Flushed Away. Tickets for

the Beanbag Cinema are \$5.00 per child and feel free to BYO beanbag as there is only limited numbers at the Gaol. Throughout July there are also a number of dates locked in for guided tours, including the 150 Years Under Lock and Key tour, Ex-Warder tour and the very popular Escapes tour. Tours run for around 90 minutes and they are a great opportunity to hear incredible stories from when the Gaol housed some of the country's most notorious criminals. Maitland Gaol Coordinator

Gordon Sauber says 'We have a really exciting program lined up for the July school holidays that offers kids a real insight into life behind bars. The Beanbag Cinema will

be a whole lot of fun, but I think the tours are our most popular experience. 'We've also just updated the Self Guided Audio Tour app, which you can download for free from your app or play store now to your own device. It's incredibly easy to use and means that if you are short on time you still have the information available to you when you get home.' Visit maitlandgaol.com.au and search 'School Holidays' to find the full list of activities and events planned for this July.



For supreme-flavoured bites, you can't beat crispy fried chicken marinated in soy and ginger.

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon sushi seasoning
- 1 tablespoon finely grated fresh ginger
- 500g chicken thigh fillets, cut into 3cm pieces
- Vegetable oil, to deep-fry
- 130g (1 cup) cornflour
- 2 tablespoons plain flour

Method

Step 1

•Combine the soy sauce, sushi seasoning and ginger in a glass or ceramic dish. Add the chicken and toss to coat. Cover with plastic wrap and place in the fridge for 1 hour to marinate.

Step 2

•Drain the chicken from the marinade and pat dry. Add oil to a large saucepan to reach a depth of 5cm. Heat to 170°C over medium-high

Karaage chicken (Fried chicken)



heat (when the oil is ready, a cube of bread turns golden in 20 seconds). Place combined flour on a plate. Add one-third of the chicken and toss to coat. Shake off any excess. Cook, turning halfway through cooking, for 4-5 minutes or until cooked through. Use tongs to transfer to a plate lined with paper towel. Repeat, in 2 more batches, with the remaining chicken and flour mixture, reheating the oil between batches. Transfer to a serving platter.





Report

Police remind community of NSW Firearms Amnesty



The NSW Police Force is reminding the community a state-wide Firearms Amnesty has begun. Anyone with an unregistered firearm or firearm-related item in their possession will have the chance to legally dispose, or register it without penalty between up to 30 September 2018. It follows the success of last year's national campaign which netted more than 25,000 firearms and firearm-related parts for destruction, sale and registration across NSW. Firearms and firearm-related items can be surrendered under amnesty arrangements at approved drop-off points, which include licensed firearm dealers, mobile stations, and police stations. Under no circumstances should loaded firearms be taken into public places – including police stations. For more information visit www.police.nsw.gov.au/online_services/firearms/amnesty or call the Firearms Registry Hotline on



1800 803 041. Police are also reminding firearm licence holders of their legal responsibility and encouraging owners to keep firearms at their primary residence, opposed to

locations infrequently habited. Anyone with information about firearms crime should call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or use the Crime Stoppers online reporting page: nsw.crimestoppers.com.au. Information you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence. People should not report crime information via our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Strike Force Parrabell makes recommendations for a better policing future with LGBTIQ community

The NSW Police Force has made recommendations for a better future after releasing the findings of their review of investigations into historical deaths, potentially motivated by gay-hate bias. Strike Force Parrabell was established in 2015 to review 88 deaths that occurred between 1976 and 2000, which were highlighted by researchers as having potential gay-hate bias motivation, or connection with the Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, Bisexual, Intersex, and Queer (LGBTIQ) community. The strike force consisted of nine specialist investigators, including

Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers (GLLOs), operated under the command of the Corporate Sponsor for Sexuality, Gender Diversity, and Intersex, Assistant Commissioner Tony Crandell. Following three-years of extensive reviews, the findings of Strike Force Parrabell and the independent academic review was released today (Wednesday 27 June 2018). Assistant Commissioner Crandell said the review sought to clarify whether there was evidence the deaths were motivated by gay-hate bias. "While not perfectly documented, violence against the LGBTIQ community is a well-known blight on human history, not just in NSW – or even Australia – it is a not-so-secret shame for the entire world," Assistant Commissioner Crandell said. "We undertook this review knowing we can't change the past, but we can shape our future, and this needed to be done to acknowledge what has happened and make sure it can't happen again. "Our work was scrutinised by academic experts, and the results show, we didn't always agree, but what is clear is that there were certainly people murdered because of their sexuality during this time. "It's an ugly part of our history – it needs to be acknowledged – and we need to do everything we can to make sure no one is ever again fearful for their life because of who they are." The findings of Strike Force Parrabell were further scrutinised with an independent academic review by a team from Flinders University. The review team categorised the cases into five groups: insufficient information to make a determination, no evidence of bias, and three different categories of bias or animus. Further, the academics sought not to conflate homosexuality with

paedophilia (the two are not synonymous). Nevertheless, they differentiated cases where the offender(s) core motivation was an animus towards paedophiles. Flinders University's Professor Willem de Lint said discovering bias in criminal acts is not an exact science and reflects changing cultural values and institutional conditions. "While it is important to document bias, it is our view that the over-reporting and recording of bias can produce unfortunate consequences," Prof de Lint said. "Over-reporting and recording is fuelled by a confirmation bias, where there is a tendency to search for evidence in accordance with a perception that the phenomenon is more widespread than records would indicate. This can lead to more inclusive categorisation and a 'confirmation' that the phenomenon is indeed widespread. "In addition to over-recording, mis-recording may occur where different kinds of bias motivation are collected under one categorisation. If the motive is complex, over-recording may occur where the subtlety of that motivation cannot be registered," Prof de Lint said. As part of the work of Strike Force Parrabell, Assistant Commissioner Crandell also developed a series of recommendations for the NSW Police Force, which strive for best practice, and aim to continually strengthen its relationship with the LGBTIQ community. "Historically, police and the LGBTIQ community had quite a tumultuous relationship, as demonstrated in 1978, but in recent times, we have progressed in leaps and bounds," Assistant Commissioner Crandell said. "We now enjoy a strong and inclusive relationship, but we know it can always

be stronger and more inclusive, and I made many of the recommendations with that in mind." There are 12 recommendations listed in the final report, which include investigative open-mindedness to motive, revised bias crime indicator assessment tools supported by appropriate training packages; ongoing internal ethical and cultural training to specifically include LGBTIQ experiences; expansion of the GLLO program and prominent identification for GLLOs, enhanced cross-jurisdictional police and emergency services activities to promote inclusion, and ongoing improvements to ensure electronic case file archiving. The recommendations have been reviewed by NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller, and will be implemented. The Homicide Squad's Unsolved Homicide Unit also provided support to the Strike Force Parrabell team, and with 23 of the cases remaining unsolved, will consider the findings in any future re-investigations. Finally, while neither Strike Force Parrabell or the academic team uncovered evidence of institutional anti-gay police bias in their reviews, a small minority of investigations raised concerns by being less than thorough, however, it was not possible to differentiate

between available technology, professional misfeasance, circumstance, or bias. Assistant Commissioner Crandell said it only takes one poorly-investigated case to unravel the great work conducted in hundreds of other investigations "All investigators strive to do the best they can for a victim but, especially in this context, if we've let one victim down, we've let them all down," Assistant Commissioner Crandell said. "Based on societal values and attitudes at the time, I acknowledge the likelihood of historical bias, whether in small groups or more widespread across the organisation. "This however is absolutely not acceptable in the culture of a modern-day NSW Police Force and I can assure the community there are policies, procedures, and systematic checkpoints in place today that negate inaction due to bias. "Most importantly, on behalf of the NSW Police Force – I acknowledge an absolute requirement to never let history repeat," Assistant Commissioner Crandell said. **CCTV vision released following attempted**

armed robbery – Cessnock
CCTV vision available via Hightail link: <https://spaces.hightail.com/recv/92MrBQ9FZO/bWVkaW-FACG9saWNILm5zdy5nb3YuYXU=>
Police have released CCTV vision following an attempted armed robbery in Cessnock in May. About 2.20am on Thursday 17 May 2018, a man entered a newsagency on Wollombi Road and threatened a staff member with a firearm, demanding cash. Officers from Hunter Valley Police District attended and launched an investigation into the incident. CCTV from inside the store has now been released and officers are keen to speak with a man seen in the vision who they believed may be able to assist with their inquiries. He is depicted in the vision as being about 168cm tall, with a thin build. The man in the vision is wearing a black long-sleeved shirt, brown pants, black running shoes with a white Nike symbol and has his face covered. Police have been told the man spoke with an Australian accent. Officers from Hunter Valley Police District would like to speak with anyone who may be able to assist with their inquiries.

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Mobile Phone Detection Cameras from 1 July 2018

From 1 July 2018, the *Road Transport Legislation Amendment (Road Safety) Act 2018 No 15* provides the power for speed camera style technology to detect illegal mobile phone use. The changes allow evidence of mobile phone use from devices approved for detection of mobile phone use, in addition to the existing network of traffic offence cameras, such as bus zone cameras, toll offence cameras, speed cameras, red light cameras, and all be admitted into evidence. NSW is the first jurisdiction in Australia to introduce this legislation. Once the camera detects that a person has been found to be using a phone whilst driving, the footage will be reviewed manually prior to an infringement notice being issued. For drivers caught using a mobile phone whilst driving, they will receive a



\$330 fine and lose 4 demerit points. If in a school zone, the fine increases to \$439. Melinda Pavey, the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, highlighted that the changes come about due to increasing community concern surrounding mobile phone use by drivers. She reported that from 2012 to 2017, there had been 184 crashes involving illegal mobile phone use and those crashes had resulted in 7 deaths and 105 injuries. It has been reported that an initial test of Sydney's Harbour Bridge, the new system detected 750 drivers in six hours. Notwithstanding this report however, the NSW Police have issued less than 100 infringements per week

since the laws have been introduced. The revenue raised from the camera detection technology will be paid into the Community Road Safety Fund, which allows community organisations to develop road safety projects in their local areas. Such projects include things such as driver mentoring programs, an awareness campaign targeting driveway safety and road safety seminar serious targeting culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Drivers are still permitted to make and receive phone calls using Bluetooth or similar connectivity technology, however, learners and provisional licence holders are not permitted any type of mobile phone use. *Cheers, Gemma*



Welcome to July 11, 2018 for this week's fresh produce report.

Winter is well and truly upon us and the best winter warmer is vegetable soup packed full of fresh seasonal ingredients. A vegetable soup is a great way to boast you and your families' vegetable intake while having a healthy meal full of vitamins. You can customise the soup to suit your tastes and use up what all the leftover produce. My classic mix begins with potato, onion, celery, carrot, turnip, parsnip, leek

and pumpkin add in some garlic, rosemary sprig, bay leaves. Add some vegetable stock add to a pot or slow cooker and cook for 2-3 hours on a low to medium heat. Other vegetables can be added example zucchini, beans, broccoli etc... Serve with crusty damper or a slice of sourdough and enjoy. Celeriac is a great winter versatile winter vegetable. Also known as rooted celery, celery root and turnip. Celeriac is high in potassium and vitamin K which helps with bone metabolism and the prevention

of osteoporosis. A simple way to cook is to peel/cut in to small to medium pieces and boil in the saucepan for 15-20 mins. At this point you can serve with butter and parsley or drain the water and return to the pan, add butter and mash until smooth. This makes a terrific addition to your normal mash potato. Celeriac can also be roasted in the oven/add some salt and pepper and good quality olive oil to serve. Blood red oranges have begun being picked. We managed to get a head start to the season by sourcing some juicy fruit direct from Greg in Pokolbin. It is a varietal of orange, with crimson almost blood coloured flesh. The red colour is a form of antioxidant, they are rich in Vitamin C and nutritious, low in calories and a reliable source of fibre and potassium. Come and enjoy; in store for a short season. *Cheers Michael*



Celeriac

MEMORABLE QUOTES

"Well, Art is Art, isn't it? Still, on the other hand, water is water. And east is east and west is west and if you take cranberries and stew them like applesauce they taste much more like prunes than rhubarb does. Now you tell me what you know!" - **Groucho Marx**

"I am not young enough to know everything" - **Oscar Wilde**

"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music" - **Aldous Huxley**

"Actual happiness always looks pretty squalid in comparison with the overcompensations for misery. And, of course, stability isn't nearly so spectacular as instability. And being contented has none of the glamour of a good fight against misfortune, none of the picturesqueness of a struggle with temptation, or a fatal overthrow by passion or doubt. Happiness is never grand" - **Aldous Huxley**

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart." - **Helen Keller**

RBA will next meet on Tuesday, 1 August 2017.

Good news from NCAT, but will it last?

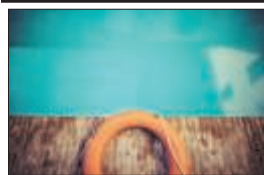


In late June 2018, NCAT announced its Members will resume hearing all matters where one or more parties resides interstate. Issues arose for NCAT's Consumer and Commercial Division in February 2017 when the NSW Court of Appeal declared NCAT had no jurisdiction if one or more parties lived in another state. At the time, REINSW President, Leanne Pilkington, stated the decision would prevent parties having their dispute resolved by NCAT and exposed tenants and landlords to additional issues and costs. REINSW has strongly lobbied the government to find a resolution for over a year.

"We are pleased the problem is being resolved," says Tim McKibbin, REINSW CEO. "But it's disappointing that the Government and the Attorney General didn't prioritise a resolution sooner.

"Since an appeal against NCAT hearing these matters was considered by the NSW Court of Appeal in April, with the Court's decision reserved, we will continue to lobby the Government to ensure NCAT's decision is not overturned." In other news, NCAT announced its updated fees and charges schedule, effective from 1 July 2018. It also announced a revised policy regarding access to and publication of information from Tribunal proceedings.

Pools Regulation



REINSW has lodged a submission in response to the Draft Swimming Pools Regulation 2018 (NSW) and Regulatory Impact Statement. REINSW works to promote the interests of its members and the property sector, and plays a critical role in the formation of regulatory policy in New South Wales. The Swimming Pools Regulation 2008 is scheduled for automatic repeal on 1 September 2018. It proposes that the Swimming Pools Regulation 2018 (proposed)

retains many of the existing provisions, while making updates to improve safety.

- REINSW is concerned the date of commencement of the Draft Regulation leaves little scope for the effective consideration of submissions. It also raises key safety issues regarding display of warning notices (CPR information), the definition of the term "spa pool" and the enforcement mechanisms of non-compliance. The proposed changes relevant to the real estate industry include:
 - Imposing a new obligation on occupiers to display a warning notice while a swimming pool is being constructed, and making it an offence to fail to comply with that obligation
 - Changes to warning notices that are already required to be displayed under the Act
 - Requiring certificates of non-compliance to be entered into the Swimming Pools Register
 - Introducing greater flexibility for the way in which spa pools can be secured
 - Clarifying compliance

with applicable standards as well as the Building Code of Australia Performance Requirements. REINSW supports the Government's initiatives and reasons behind the Draft Regulation and is working with Government to improve safety and establish standards.

Do you have a fit rental property?

Winter is the perfect season to assess your property and ensure it is fit for rental according to Smoke Alarm Solutions, the largest provider of smoke alarm compliance and maintenance services to the Australian real estate industry. Currently 25 per cent of properties in New South Wales wouldn't pass a basic fitness test. Research conducted by Fire and Rescue New South Wales and obtained by Smoke Alarm Solutions reveals a quarter of the state's properties do not have working smoke alarms. **A quarter of NSW homes do not have working smoke alarms** When compared to other states and territories, New South Wales is the worst performing state, with 25 per cent of

homes without a working smoke alarm. Fire and Rescue New South Wales investigations discovered 56 per cent of home fire deaths in New South Wales were in homes without a working smoke alarm. The research also revealed the state's firefighters attended more than 3,500 home fires in 2017, with the fatality rate of home fires double that of bushfires. Smoke Alarm Solutions CEO Cameron Davis said he's stunned 25 per cent of properties in New South Wales would currently fail a simple health assessment. "Nobody thinks it'll happen to them, but home fires will claim two lives in New South Wales this month. "Families and landlords have a responsibility to ensure their properties are safe." Smoke alarms mitigating dangers of fire New South Wales legislation requires all residents to have at least one working smoke alarm installed on each level of the premises. This includes owner-occupied homes, rental properties, relocatable homes, caravans, moveable dwellings or any other residential building where people sleep. The four most common causes of home fires in Australia are unattended or abandoned cooking, electrical failure, overheating and mechanical failure.



RBA keeps neutral interest rate position

The Reserve Bank of Australia has kept interest rates on hold at 1.50 per cent at its July 2017 board meeting. REINSW President John Cunningham said the decision came largely as expected. He said: "It comes as little surprise that the RBA has decided to keep a neutral position for the 10th meeting in a row. "We believe that this will continue into the second half of the year, but we may see

interest rates rise as early as October. "It is important that those seeking to enter the property market and those already servicing a mortgage think carefully about the effects that several interest rate rises will have on their ability to service a mortgage." The RBA cut interest rates by 25 basis points in August and May 2016. The



from the responsible institution, and a monetary payment. Minister for Social Services Dan Tehan said the bill was the product of extensive consultation with stakeholders, including survivors, support groups and advocates. "We stand united in support of the estimated 60,000 people who were abused by trusted organisations that should have protected them," Mr Tehan said. NSW is leading the nation by providing survivors of child abuse in NSW institutions access to unlimited counselling and

psychological support. NSW was the first state to pass legislation required to enter the scheme, followed by Victoria while other states and territories are in the process of preparing the necessary laws. These laws enable non-government institutions in our State, including churches, charities, independent schools and other organisations to be able to participate. "Because NSW has opted in, applications from survivors of abuse in NSW Government institutions can now be considered," Mr Speakman said. "I commend the non-government institutions that

have come on board and urge others to make a commitment so all survivors have access to the scheme." Non-government institutions that have announced they will participate include the Catholic Church, Scouts Australia, the Salvation Army, YMCA Australia, the Uniting Church and the Anglican Church. Applications from survivors of abuse in non-government institutions will be considered when those institutions officially sign on to the scheme. "Survivors have suffered enough and while it's not

possible to undo the damage caused by institutional child sexual abuse, this is an opportunity to provide practical and compassionate assistance," Mr Speakman said. Redress will be for child sexual abuse that occurred before the scheme's commencement, which is in line with the recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

For more information about the scheme, visit: www.nationalredress.gov.au

NSW survivors of institutional child sexual abuse will be among the first in Australia to be able to seek redress under a new national scheme that began on the 1st July. "The wait is finally over for thousands of survivors who can now seek redress that acknowledges their suffering and helps them in their journey towards recovery," Attorney General Mark Speakman

said. The National Redress Scheme will be administered by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services and will run for 10 years. Survivors can apply for redress by completing an application available in paper or online. It offers a payment of up to \$150,000, access to psychological counselling, a direct personal response

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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

Branxton

Beautiful old home with many special features of a by gone era. Features include polished Floors, high ceilings, 2 large bedrooms with builtins, separate dining, modern kitchen with dishwasher, spacious lounge room with split air con, large entertainment area at rear & free standing double garage. All this on a low maintenance fully fenced block.

PRICE: \$370,000



East Branxton

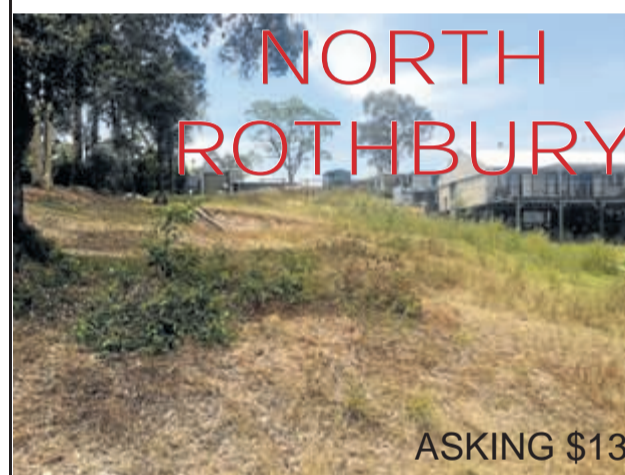


Three bedroom Duplex with large backyard.

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'.

ASKING \$350,000

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Vacant Building Block
Fantastic visage

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East Branxton



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Features include:-

15Acres approx divided into 2 paddocks. Double frontage to Webbers Creek (permanent water supply). 90% flat country. Bitumen to front gate. Weekly rubbish service. 20 min to Singleton & Branxton & 15 min to Gresford. 800mm annual rainfall. Fully fenced 2 paddocks + barn area. 20% Kikuyu & 80% native grasses (paspalum, rye, couch etc.). 13.5m x 10.5m 'American Barn' with 3 equal 3.5m bays & a 3m x10.5m workshop. 3xphase 100amp/phase underground power from front gate to barn. Barn has ample 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

The beginning of a new era for local government in the Hunter



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

Nevertheless the first meeting of the Hunter Joint Organisation was a very significant step for our region and brings with it enormous opportunities," said Acting Chairperson, Cessnock Mayor Cr Bob Pynsent.

In discussing the first meeting of the Hunter Joint Organisation Mayor Cr Bob Pynsent, said, "In the Hunter we have a long record of councils working together on strategies and projects and we are proud of the fact that the State Government has chosen to apply our approach to the rest of the State.

"Our 28 June inaugural meeting was, however, the start of a new era of regional cooperation where our councils have a seat at the table of regional and state planning and resource allocation. With a representative of the Department of Premier and Cabinet a permanent member of our Joint Organisation Board and the Joint Organisation having a permanent seat on the State Agencies Regional Leadership Executive we have direct communication channels with the State Government and a legislated role in ensuring that the aspirations of our regional communities are addressed," said Cessnock Mayor & Acting Chairperson Bob Pynsent.

He added, "An important first step was the adoption of a strategic plan to guide the work of the Joint Organisation and the initiation of a series of consultation processes with our member councils. This is an exciting moment for the Hunter and we are looking forward to reaching new levels of achievement."

The meeting followed a Regional Summit hosted by Local Government NSW (LGNSW). That Summit will began at 10 am also at

the Maitland Town Hall. Cr Linda Scott, President of LGNSW attended the first Joint Organisation Meeting as well as representatives of the Office of Local

Government. **The member Councils of the Hunter Joint Organisation comprise:**

- Cessnock City Council
- Dungog Shire Council
- Lake Macquarie City Council
- Maitland City Council
- MidCoast Council
- Muswellbrook Shire Council
- Newcastle City Council
- Port Stephens Council
- Singleton Council
- Upper Hunter Shire Council

At 2 pm on Thursday 28 June 2018 the Hunter Joint Organisation met for the first time.

Joint Organisations are statutory organisations within the NSW Local Government Act whose job is regional strategic planning and priority setting, intergovernmental collaboration and shared leadership and advocacy. They replace more informal structures such as regional organisations of councils and will take local government cooperation to a new level through close links with State Agencies, a high degree of transparency of operation and mandated requirements in regard to consultation with member councils and the community. According to the NSW State Government Joint Organisations will "transform the way the way the NSW Government and local councils collaborate, plan, set priorities and deliver important projects on a regional scale."

"In the Hunter we are familiar with what can be achieved by councils working together and the Joint Organisation model is essentially based on the past achievements of the Hunter's councils as they have worked together on common goals and services.

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education opportunities through the Learning for Life program. Thank you to Helen Rix for compiling a DVD of previous Branxton VIEW Club entertainment over the past years and to host Denise Hungerford - a most enjoyable friendship day. Katie Miller, a local fitness instructor for all ages, will be the guest speaker on Thursday 12th July. Some of our members have recently attended Kate's Seniors

Give people in need another choice this winter

WHEN you're facing a huge energy bill, do you turn down the heating or do you go without meals?

When you can't pay the rent, do you fall deeper into debt, or do you confront the frightening risks of homelessness?

Every day in our local area, people face impossible choices like these. Poverty means making tough decisions every day and every night. Right now in Australia, more than 116,427 women, children and men are experiencing homelessness. Sometimes sleeping rough is the only option they have.

The St Vincent de Paul Society remains steadfast in its commitment to helping people in need.

From 2016 to 2017, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW provided support to one in every 15 Australians.

Our services are more and more in demand as the costs of essential goods and services, including health, education and utilities, are increasing faster than wages for many low-income earners.

Others are forced by unbearable circumstances to make life-changing decisions.

A single mother called Jenny is one of those people who turned to Vinnies for help. She experienced eight years of domestic violence before facing the impossible choice of continuing to live in fear at home or leaving home with nothing.

Fortunately for Jenny and her young children, we were able to step in after she'd made her brave choice.

The family moved into one of our supported accommodations for people experiencing domestic violence, and now they are back on their feet.

Over 116,000 women, children and men are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness on any given night in Australia, a

statistic Vinnies knows all too well. It's easy to forget that people struggling to make ends meet are people just like you and me. They face choices no-one should have to make. A job loss, physical or mental health issues, toxic relationships - can all threaten someone's security. Winter is a very difficult time of year if you are homeless or you can't pay for your heating or other essentials. We rely on generous donations from the community to support our Winter Appeal. This winter, please help Australians like Jenny find safety and security for their family.

With the generous contributions of the community, when people take that leap of faith, the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW can provide them food, shelter and emotional support.

Please donate to the Vinnies NSW 2018 Winter Appeal, and help turn the impossible choices people experiencing disadvantage face into hope for a brighter future.

To make a tax deductible donation and help people like Jenny visit <https://winterappeal.vinnies.org.au/>.



Branxton VIEW Club were fortunate to have local solicitors, Gemma Bunner and Kerri Shaw as our guest speakers in June. Gemma told us about the three main services available at their practice conveyancing, Wills and Estate Planning and Personal Injury & Compensation. Gemma handed out a fact sheet on Estate Planning which covered simple explanations such as "What is a Will?, What is a Power of Attorney?, What is an Enduring Guardian?" Special interest to our members and guests was Gemma's advice re: Enduring Guardianship re: health care ~ if one loses capacity to make decisions & a reminder to update our wills with changes in our life. Questions were invited from the attentive audience and answered well by Gemma. I'm

sure we could have listened to Gemma's advice for another hour. Well done, Gemma and Kerri and many thanks for your informative presentation. Your business will thrive, especially with the future growth of Huntlee and other local developments. Shirley Green joined our club and we wish her many happy times with Branxton VIEW club. Congratulations Shirley on also winning the raffle! Denise presented Pam McDonald with her membership badge. VIEW membership supports the non-denominational Smith Family by fundraising, ensuring disadvantaged Australian schoolchildren have

class held in Branxton. Our meetings are held at Greta Workers Club on the second Thursday of the month. All welcome-enquiries 0419 429 364. Get well wishes to Bethany.

Preparation is well underway for our 30th Birthday celebration on 9th August - come along and have some fun and friendship - RSVP Monday, 30th July. A little thought on a quote from Mark Twain - "Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see". *Peace and love to everyone Judy Spillard*

Photo above: Gemma & Kerri being made very welcome at our last meeting.



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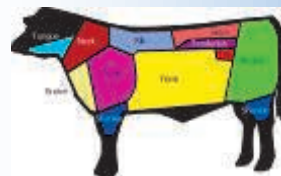


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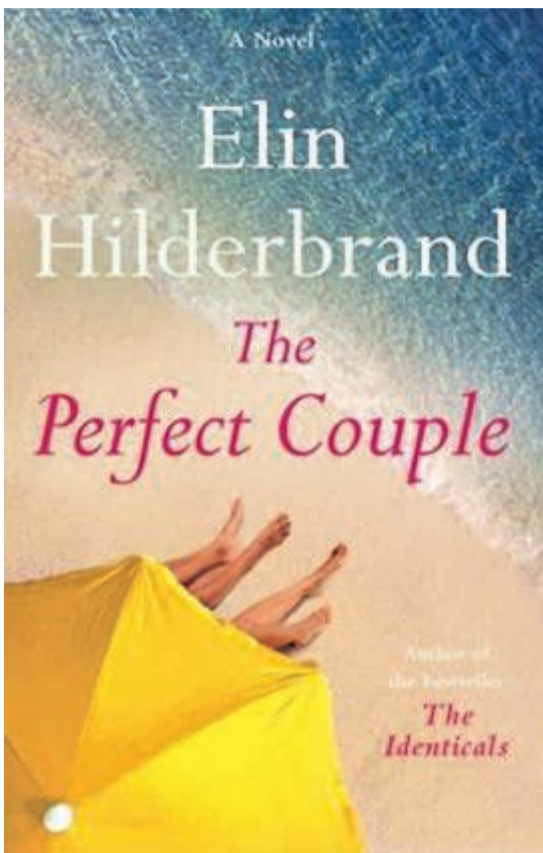
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THE PERFECT COUPLE
 by Elin Hilderbrand



From *New York Times* bestselling author Elin Hilderbrand, comes a novel about the many ways family can fill our lives with love...if they don't kill us first.

Friends and family can fill our lives with love . . . if they don't kill us first

Every couple has their secrets . . .

It's wedding season, and tensions are brewing.

When one lavish wedding ends in disaster before it can even begin - with the maid of honour discovered dead in Nantucket Harbor just hours before the ceremony - everyone in the wedding party is suddenly a suspect.

As Chief of Police Ed Kapenash digs into the best man, the bride, the groom's famous mystery novelist mother, and even a member of his own family, the chief discovers that every wedding is a minefield - and that no couple is perfect.

Praise for *The Perfect Couple*

'Sink into this book like a hot, scented bath . . . a delicious, relaxing pleasure. And a clever whodunit at the same time' - *Kirkus*

'Hilderbrand throws enough curveballs to keep readers guessing, but not too many, maintaining the breezy pace her novels are known for' - *Booklist*

Reviewed by:

D. R. Meredith

A suspicious death, two families from the opposite ends of the economic spectrum, each with secrets to keep, and a love story entice the reader to keep turning the pages no matter how late it gets, because *The Perfect Couple* by Elin Hilderbrand is not a book to put aside to finish tomorrow.

The Wedding of the Century on Nantucket to the Murdered Maid of Honor is a story that keeps the residents of the island gossiping in the diners, ladies' coffee klatches, supermarkets, florists' shops, on the wharfs, or anywhere else two or more people gather.

The wedding of wealthy Benjamin Winbury and Celeste Otis, daughter of working class parents, is a classic Cinderella story. Benji ignores the girls and women of his class to wed an administrator at the Bronx Zoo who lives in a sixth floor walk-up furnished with the best Ikea and Good Will has to offer, is a story no one can resist.

It is a tragedy when the maid of honor, Merritt Monaco, is found floating in the ocean just behind the Winburys's fabulous Nantucket estate, Summerland. It is an irritant and inconvenience to Greer Garrison Winbury, mother of Benji, British mystery writer, and the woman in complete charge of the wedding.

"It's customary for the bride's parents to host and pay for their daughter's nuptials, but if that were the case with Benji and Celeste, the wedding would be taking place in a church at the mall with a reception following at TGI Friday's."

Greer's husband, Tag Winbury, tells her she is a terrific

snob, and "Greer fears this is true." However, in the case of Benji's wedding she intends to avoid the horror of her elder son Thomas' Texas wedding that began with a welcome party for 300 guests held at the Salt Lick BBQ and went downhill from there.

Besides, Greer is performing an unselfish act in taking over the wedding planning from Karen Otis, Celeste's mother. Karen has stage four breast cancer and has only a few weeks to live. Not only is Karen unable to physically help with the wedding, but she and her husband, Bruce, are so overwhelmed with medical bills that they are too far in debt to pay for any kind of wedding.

Now the wedding will have to be postponed because the maid of honor got drunk, fell into the ocean, and drowned. She should have been more circumspect in her behavior the night before the wedding. Greer suspects Merritt may have been into drugs despite the fact that none are found in the guesthouse, and only a strong sedative showed up during the autopsy.

Something else is found during the autopsy: Merritt Monaco is pregnant. A pregnant girlfriend can be both an inconvenience and a motive for murder. But which of the male wedding guests is the father?

Another interesting question is why does Best Man Shooter Uxley try to flee Nantucket rather than talk to the police? And why was the bride, sweet Celeste, leaving Summerland with a packed bag before six o'clock on the morning of her wedding? Just in time to discover her dearest friend and maid of honor floating facedown in the water?

Who is the fortyish woman with the bad dye job from London who sells antiques and other valuable accessories to wealthy clients? Featherleigh Dale is not a welcome guest, but a long-time provider of expensive items to Greer, who felt it necessary to invite her to the wedding.

It was also an opportunity to watch Featherleigh and Tag. Greer suspects her husband is having an affair with the antiques dealer.

Chief Ed Kapenash of the Nantucket PD, and his partner in the investigation, State Police Detective, Nicholas Diamantopoulos, otherwise known as "The Greek," separate the suspects or "persons of interest," into two groups by gender. The Chief questions the men, and Nick takes the women. Nick is "so good-looking that people joke he should quite the job and just play a cop on TV . . ."

Both the chief and Nick agree that everyone is lying, whether or not they are lying about the murder or something else is the question. Even the bride when she recovers in the hospital after her hysterics finding the body, is holding something back, although her revelations about the secrets of the Winburys's open "lines of inquiries."

Even Karen Otis has secrets to keep. She keeps three suicide pills with her painkillers. When the pain becomes too much, Karen plans to kill herself. But her most horrible secret is not her own; it belongs to her husband Bruce, and is one that betrays everything Karen believes of her husband.

Hilderbrand skillfully alternates narratives of characters with flashbacks of events leading up to the wedding. Chapter by chapter she provides vignettes of each character's behavior as his or her secrets are revealed and motives for murder become clearer. No family or person is perfect; they only appear that way to observers.

In addition to a compelling whodunit, Hilderbrand also provides a compare and contrast study of the extremely wealthy who buy \$700 candles for engagement party gifts, and the barely hanging on who make their own candles of melted crayons.

But rich doesn't buy happiness as illustrated by the Winbury marriage in which Tag is a serial adulterer. In contrast, Karen and Bruce are still in love after more than 30 years of marriage.

There is subtle humor, social commentary, brilliant characterization, and a suspenseful story. The novel's ending is a bit abrupt, but when all secrets are revealed and lives are laid bare, the solution needs no further explanation. The puzzle is complete; what is, is.

D. R. Meredith is the author of fifteen mystery novels, two historical sagas, a TV novelization, several short stories, and innumerable book reviews

ABOUT ~

Elin Hilderbrand

Elin Hilderbrand grew up in Pennsylvania and is a graduate of the University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop, where she was a teaching/writing fellow. She now lives with her husband and their three children on Nantucket, Massachusetts, where her novels are set.

You can follow Elin on Twitter @elinhilderbrand or find out more on her Facebook page www.facebook.com/ElinHilderbrand.



The New York Times Best Sellers ~ Fiction

1. ~ 4 weeks on the list **THE PRESIDENT IS MISSING** by Bill Clinton and James Patterson
President Jonathan Duncan, a Gulf War veteran and widower, takes on adversaries at home and abroad.
2. ~ New this week **ALL WE EVER WANTED** by Emily Giffin
A scandal sends members of two Nashville families into chaos.
3. ~ 16 weeks on the list **THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW** by A.J. Finn
A recluse who drinks heavily and takes prescription drugs may have witnessed a crime across from her Harlem townhouse.
4. ~ 2 weeks on the list **THE PERFECT COUPLE** by Elin Hilderbrand
A body is found in Nantucket Harbor hours before a picture-perfect wedding.
5. ~ 16 weeks on the list **THE ROOSTER BAR** by John Grisham
Three students at a sleazy for-profit law school hope to expose the student-loan banker who runs it.
6. ~ 6 weeks on the list **THE OUTSIDER** by Stephen King
A detective investigates a seemingly wholesome member of the community when an 11-year-old boy's body is found.
7. ~ 10 weeks on the list **THE FALLEN** by David Baldacci
Amos Decker, known as the Memory Man, puts his talents toward solving a string of murders in a Rust Belt town.
8. ~ New this week **TRUTH OR DARE** by Fern Michaels
The fourth book in the Men of the Sisterhood series. Joe Espinosa discovers children are in danger.
9. ~ New this week **IRON AND MAGIC** by Ilona Andrews
Hugh d'Ambray and Elara Harper join forces to take on their enemies.
10. ~ 5 weeks on the list **SHARP OBJECTS** by Gillian Flynn
After a stay at a psychiatric hospital, a reporter returns (reluctantly) to her hometown to cover the murders of two girls.

NY Times Best Seller list ~ FICTION

Australian Government
Department of Defence

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NEW PEST PLAN = LOCAL PEOPLE DRIVING PEST ANIMAL CONTROL IN THE HUNTER

Hunter Local Land Services is helping deliver pest control based on local priorities and local solutions. That's the aim of the Hunter Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan that is now in-force.

The plan identifies key threats to agricultural production and native wildlife in our region, and the best strategic control plans to get on top of these problem species.

The plan is one of 11 developed around the state, in response to the Natural Resource Commissions review of pest management in New South Wales that identified the need for improved biosecurity outcomes.

Chair of the Hunter Regional Pest Committee Art Brown said the new plan will see local people delivering key pest control solutions to local communities.

"Our plan identifies wild dogs, foxes, pigs, rabbits and deer as priority pest animals, based on community feedback and identified risks to farms and natural resources in our region," said Mr Brown.

"The plan will guide resourcing and investment for organisations like Hunter Local Land Services, but also outlines key responsibilities for landholders to manage pest animals on their land."

The impact of pest animals on primary production, communities and our natural environment can be severe, creating biosecurity risks through spreading weeds and disease, preying on native animals and livestock, land erosion and waterway degradation.

From 1 July 2018, existing pest control orders under the *Local Land Services Act 2013* have been repealed and are now subject to the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and Regulation.

"The New South Wales government is moving away from rigid, statewide, prescriptive pest management to allow local people to deliver local solutions – which will be a great thing for the Hunter, because everyone can actively participate," said Mr Brown.

"Just because pest control orders will no longer exist, it doesn't mean there is weakening of the regulatory approach - education, compliance and enforcement action can still be used if necessary."

The plan can be accessed via <https://hunter.lis.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/pestplan> or for more information contact your nearest Hunter Local Land Services Office on 1300 795 299.

Racing review

Slipper on Australian racing was as strong as ever.

"The Longines Golden Slipper is what every owner, trainer and breeder dreams of and wants to win from the moment a horse takes its first steps," Mr Heddo said.

"These record nominations fully support the ATC's determination to continue to put the Longines Golden Slipper on the pedestal it deserves.

"More than ever, the Longines Golden Slipper continues to shape the Australian racing and breeding industry like no other."

David Hayes bids for a seventh Blue Diamond Stakes

Ben Dorries

David Hayes has won the Blue Diamond Stakes on a record six occasions and at this early stage he has 143 hopefuls trying to make a claim for February's Group I sprint at Caulfield.

A record 1688 yearlings were this week nominated for the \$1.5million two-year-old event, an increase on the previous record mark of 1472 yearlings taken at this time last year.

Lindsay Park top the nominations with 143 as Hayes and son Ben and co-trainer Tom Dabernig try to win the race they last

won with Catchy in 2017. David Hayes' other Blue Diamond winners have been Reann (2008), Sleek Chassis (2007), Nadeem (2006), Principality (1995) and Canonise (1991).

The number of Lindsay Park nominations emphasises what a remarkable force the organisation is with two-year-olds, having trained more than 60 individual two-year-old winners already this season.

Other leading Blue Diamond Stakes nominators included Gai Waterhouse and Adrian Bott (106), Godolphin (100), Tony McEvoy (89) and two-time Blue Diamond Stakes-winning trainer Mick Price (79).

Among McEvoy's nominations is his \$600,000 Solar Charged filly by Zoustar, a sister to this year's Gold Coast Magic Millions winner Sunlight. I Am Invincible is the highest represented stallion with 82 of his progeny nominated, just ahead of champion sire Snitzel (81).

Hugh Bowman heading back to defend his Japan Cup win

Reigning world's best jockey award winner Hugh Bowman will return to Japan later this year to chase back-to-back wins aboard Cheval Grand in the Japan Cup.

Graham Pavey, known to many on Twitter as @LongBallToNoOne, is the 'go to' person for English speaking news on Japanese racing, and he revealed



Detailed saleyard report



Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton report date 4 Jul 2018

Consignments declined, with the bulk entering the younger categories, while the cows were well supplied. Quality was mixed, with pens of well-bred cattle spread throughout the market. The majority were suitable for the restocker and feeder orders, while the butchers secured numbers of the prime conditioned younger cattle. The younger cattle remained firm to a little cheaper, as the cows improved in price considerably. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock eased 3c, making from 222c to 304c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers sold close to firm from 186c to 278c/kg. The better bred end of the yearling steers sold dearer, as the plainer pens trended at cheaper levels. The medium weights averaged 284c, with the tops reaching 312c/kg. There were too few yearling heifers in the penning to quote. The prime conditioned, high yielding younger cattle to the butchers sold well to top at 336c/kg, however the lower yielding drafts struggled to maintain firm prices. Cows gained 20c to 30c, with the plainer pens from 136c to 201c, as the better finished heavy weights made from 198c to 242c/kg.

Scone report date 3 July 2018

The start of the new financial year produced a larger yarding, as numbers doubled and the quality overall remained fair to good. The bulk were younger cattle, with the majority suitable for the lot feeder and restocker orders, as good percentages were in prime condition and purchased by the butchers. There were around 150 cows in the penning. The younger cattle remained firm to cheaper, while the cows sold considerably dearer. Calves were well supplied, with the heavier pens making from 150c to 278c/kg. The lighter end of the vealer steers trended dearer, however the over 200kg drafts to the restockers struggled to maintain firm prices and declined by 8c, making from 162c to 278c/kg, depending on breed. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers lost 12c to range from 200c to 264c/kg. The medium weight yearling steers and heifers to the lot feeders remained firm, with the steer portion topping at 306c before averaging 297c, the heifers reached 262c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers topped at 337c/kg, this was for the high yielding yearling heifers. Heavy weight grown steers to slaughter made from 230c to 240c/kg. Cows on average improved from 20c to 30c, with the plainer drafts to the restockers and processor orders ranging from 100c to 197c/kg. The better finished heavy weights made from 190c to 223c, with the best heavy weight bulls reaching 249c/kg.

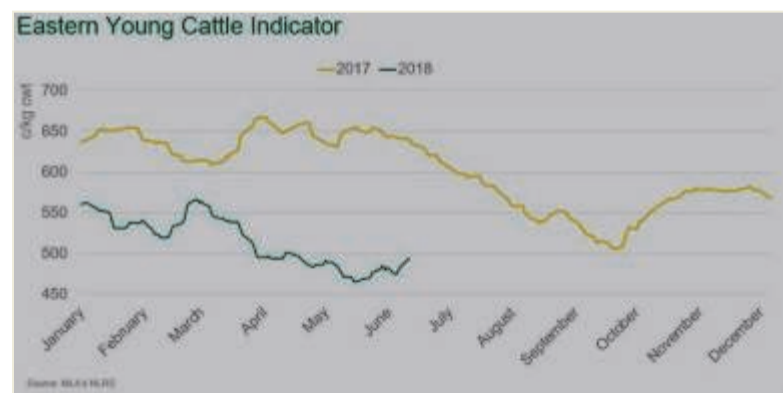
TRLX Tamworth report date 2 July 2018

There was a small reduction in numbers with young cattle mostly yarded and a fair selection of cows. The quality and condition of the offering reflected seasonal conditions with a few supplementary fed cattle standing out for condition. Most of the usual buyers operated with demand for well finished cattle and feeders strong. Market trends for young cattle were mostly dearer with local restockers boosted by the increased chance of a rain event. Feedlotters were once again active on both domestic and export feeder weights. Vealer steers purchased by restocker interests sold on a firm to slightly dearer market trend with some quality related price change. The heifer portion to restockers saw a dearer trend of as much as 14c/kg. Plain quality heifers were discounted. Yearling steers to restock and feed saw a firm to slightly dearer market trend with increased supplies of heavy feeders. Market trends for medium weights were firm to 5c/kg dearer. Yearling heifers were once again well supported from domestic feedlotters with the market trend for those over 330kg as much as 16c/kg dearer. A small number of well finished heavy grown steers averaged dearer for quality, however the top price was unchanged. With the limited supply of well finished cattle, the better 3 and 4 score grown heifers sold to a dearer trend. The plainer condition cows saw little change in market trends. Well finished cows saw a dearer trend with heavyweights upwards of 20c/kg dearer.

EYCI finds support in June

The Eastern Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI) has shown signs of stabilising following a steady decline since mid-March. On Tuesday 26 June, the EYCI was 494.75¢/kg carcass weight (cwt), a climb of 29¢/kg since the beginning of June, representing the most growth in three months.

Although the indicator remains 142.5¢, or 29%, below this time last year, it is 15.5¢ higher than the five-year June average. This rise comes as the supply of young cattle starts to tighten and some useful rain



Bowman will return to ride last year's winner in the ¥476 million (about \$AUD 7.86 million) feature at Tokyo on November 25 and the Grade I Arima Kinen (2500m) at Nakayama on December 23.

Bowman recently returned from his latest Japan stint, having finished second aboard Cheval Grand in the Grade I Tenno Sho – Spring behind Rainbow Lion in April.

Bowman told Racenet earlier this year winning the Japan Cup was, aside from his relationship with Winx, his greatest achievement in the saddle.

"Winning the Japan Cup last year was obviously one of the biggest wins in my career," Bowman said. "Excluding Winx it's probably the biggest and most memorable moment in the saddle. It was special." Nominations for the Japan Cup close in October and this news indicates, Winx is no chance to run in the race even if she is nominated as was the case last year.

falling in parts of the south-east - with the June average daily yarding for EYCI eligible cattle in 2018 14,598 head, down 18% from the same period in 2017 and 14% lower than the daily consignments in May.

Most of the EYCI eligible cattle sold to feeder and restocker buyers last week, accounting for 45% and 39% respectively, although there was a small rise in young cattle going to processors over the past week, from 13% to 16%. While not taking the largest percentage, processors are paying a premium for their cattle, underpinning the lift in consignments, paying on average 4¢/kg more than feeder buyers and 55¢/kg more than restockers. Last week, nearly all sales recorded an increase in price for EYCI eligible cattle: Scone was up 83¢ on last week, to be the biggest improver, averaging 497.57¢/kg cwt Gunnedah lifted 50¢, to 503.65¢/kg cwt, Roma store sale increased 22.27¢ to 487.21¢/kg cwt, CTLX Carcoar was up 12¢ to 559.12¢/kg cwt & NVLX Barnawatha up 23.58¢ to 522.72¢/kg cwt. Rain across parts of Victoria and southern NSW over the last week has helped to give the market a boost, and more rain, albeit not substantial amounts, is forecast for a large portion of the eastern seaboard over the coming week. While the Bureau of Meteorology's most recent three month rainfall outlook is not a positive one for eastern Australia, the prospect of rain looks to have encouraged some producers to hold stock back from sale, rather than offloading at the high rates seen in May and April, especially with the EYCI currently improving. Although the EYCI has started to recover in June, whether this continues will depend largely on the extent of follow-up rain. The price rallies seen in October 2017 and again in March this year, following widespread rain demonstrates the market's ability to respond quickly should the season improve.



History of Computers: A brief timeline

By Kim Ann Zimmermann

The computer was born not for entertainment or email but out of a need to solve a serious number-crunching crisis. By 1880, the U.S. population had grown so large that it took more than seven years to tabulate the U.S. Census results. The government sought a faster way to get the job done, giving rise to punch-card based computers that took up entire rooms.

Today, we carry more computing power on our smartphones than was available in these early models. The following brief history of computing is a timeline of how computers evolved from their humble beginnings to the machines of today that surf the Internet, play games and stream multimedia in addition to crunching numbers.

1801: In France, Joseph Marie Jacquard invents a loom that uses punched wooden cards to automatically weave fabric designs. Early computers would use similar punch cards. **1822:** English mathematician Charles Babbage conceives of a steam-driven calculating machine that would be able to compute tables of numbers. The project, funded by the English government, is a failure. More than a century later, however, the world's first computer was actually built. **1890:** Herman Hollerith designs a punch card system to calculate the 1880 census, accomplishing the task in just three years and saving the government \$5 million. He establishes a company that would ultimately become IBM.

1936: Alan Turing presents the notion of a universal machine, later called the Turing machine, capable of computing anything that is computable. The central concept of the modern computer was based on his ideas. **1937:** J.V. Atanasoff, a professor of physics and mathematics at Iowa State University, attempts to build the first computer without gears, cams, belts or shafts. **1939:** Hewlett-Packard is founded by David Packard and Bill Hewlett in a Palo Alto, California, garage, according to the Computer History Museum.

1941: Atanasoff and his graduate student, Clifford Berry, design a computer that can solve 29 equations simultaneously. This marks the first time a computer is able to store information on its main memory.

1943-1944: Two University of Pennsylvania professors, John Mauchly and J. Presper Eckert, build the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator (ENIAC). Considered the grandfather of digital computers, it fills a 20-foot by 40-foot room and has 18,000 vacuum tubes. **1946:** Mauchly and Presper leave the University of Pennsylvania and receive funding from the Census Bureau to build the UNIVAC, the first commercial computer for business and government applications.

1947: William Shockley, John Bardeen and Walter Brattain of Bell Laboratories invent the transistor. They discovered how to make an electric switch with solid materials and no need for a vacuum. **1953:** Grace Hopper develops the first computer language, which eventually becomes known as COBOL. Thomas Johnson Watson Jr., son of IBM CEO Thomas Johnson Watson Sr., conceives the IBM 701 EDPM to help the United Nations keep tabs on Korea during the war.

1954: The FORTRAN programming language, an acronym for FORMula TRANslation, is developed by a team of programmers at IBM led by John Backus, according to the University of Michigan. **1958:** Jack Kilby and Robert Noyce unveil the integrated circuit, known as the computer chip. Kilby was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2000 for his work.

1964: Douglas Engelbart shows a prototype of the modern computer, with a mouse and a graphical user interface (GUI). This marks the evolution of the computer from a specialized machine for scientists and mathematicians to technology that is more accessible to the general public. **1969:** A group of developers at Bell Labs produce UNIX, an operating system that addressed compatibility issues. Written in the C programming language, UNIX was portable across multiple platforms and became the operating system of choice among mainframes at large companies and government entities. Due to the slow nature of the system, it never quite gained traction among home PC users.

1970: The newly formed Intel unveils the Intel 1103, the first Dynamic Access Memory (DRAM) chip. **1971:** Alan Shugart leads a team of IBM engineers who invent the "floppy disk," allowing data to be shared among computers. **1973:** Robert Metcalfe, a member of the research staff for Xerox, develops Ethernet for connecting multiple computers and other hardware.

1974-1977: A number of personal computers hit the market, including Scelbi & Mark-8 Altair, IBM 5100, Radio Shack's TRS-80 — affectionately known as the "Trash 80" — and the Commodore PET. **1975:** The January issue of Popular Electronics magazine features the Altair 8080, described as the "world's first minicomputer kit to rival commercial models." Two "computer geeks," Paul Allen and Bill Gates, offer to write software for the Altair, using the new BASIC language. On April 4, after the success of this first endeavour, the two childhood friends form their own software company, Microsoft.

1976: Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak start Apple Computers on April Fool's Day and roll out the Apple I, the first computer with a single-circuit board, according to Stanford University.

The TRS-80, introduced in 1977, was one of the first machines whose documentation was intended for

non-geeks

1977: Radio Shack's initial production run of the TRS-80 was just 3,000. It sold like crazy. For the first time, non-geeks could write programs and make a computer do what they wished.

1977: Jobs and Wozniak incorporate Apple and show the Apple II at the first West Coast Computer Faire. It offers color graphics and incorporates an audio cassette drive for storage. **1978:** Accountants rejoice at the introduction of VisiCalc, the first computerized spreadsheet program.

1979: Word processing becomes a reality as MicroPro International releases WordStar. "The defining change was to add margins and word wrap," said creator Rob Barnaby in email to Mike Petrie in 2000. "Additional changes included getting rid of command mode and adding a print function. I was the technical brains — I figured out how to do it, and did it, and documented it." The first IBM personal computer, introduced on Aug. 12, 1981, used the MS-DOS operating system.

1981: The first IBM personal computer, code-named "Acorn," is introduced. It uses Microsoft's MS-DOS operating system. It has an Intel chip, two floppy disks and an optional colour monitor. Sears & Roebuck and Computerland sell the machines, marking the first time a computer is available through outside distributors. It also popularizes the term PC.

1983: Apple's Lisa is the first personal computer with a GUI. It also features a drop-down menu and icons. It flops but eventually evolves into the Macintosh. The Gavilan SC is the first portable computer with the familiar flip form factor and the first to be marketed as a "laptop."

1985: Microsoft announces Windows, according to Encyclopedia Britannica. This was the company's response to Apple's GUI. Commodore unveils the Amiga 1000, which features advanced audio and video capabilities. **1985:** The first dot-com domain name is registered on March 15, years before the World Wide Web would mark the formal beginning of Internet history. The Symbolics Computer Company, a small Massachusetts computer manufacturer, registers Symbolics.com. More than two years later, only 100 dot-coms had been registered.

1986: Compaq brings the Deskpro 386 to market. Its 32-bit architecture provides as speed comparable to mainframes. **1990:** Tim Berners-Lee, a researcher at CERN, the high-energy physics laboratory in Geneva, develops HyperText Markup Language (HTML), giving rise to the World Wide Web.

1993: The Pentium microprocessor advances the use of graphics and music on PCs. **1994:** PCs become gaming machines as "Command & Conquer," "Alone in the Dark 2," "Theme Park," "Magic Carpet," "Descent" and "Little Big Adventure" are among the games to hit the market. **1996:** Sergey Brin and Larry Page develop the Google

search engine at Stanford University.

1997: Microsoft invests \$150 million in Apple, which was struggling at the time, ending Apple's court case against Microsoft in which it alleged that Microsoft copied the "look and feel" of its operating system.

1999: The term Wi-Fi becomes part of the computing language and users begin connecting to the Internet without wires.

2001: Apple unveils the Mac OS X operating system, which provides protected memory architecture and pre-emptive multi-tasking, among other benefits. Not to be outdone, Microsoft rolls out Windows XP, which has a significantly redesigned GUI.

2003: The first 64-bit processor, AMD's Athlon 64, becomes available to the consumer market.

2004: Mozilla's Firefox 1.0 challenges Microsoft's Internet Explorer, the dominant Web browser. Facebook, a social networking site, launches.

2005: YouTube, a video sharing service, is founded. Google acquires Android, a Linux-based mobile phone operating system.

2006: Apple introduces the MacBook Pro, its first Intel-based, dual-core mobile computer, as well as an Intel-based iMac. Nintendo's Wii game console hits the market.

2007: The iPhone brings many computer functions to the smartphone.

2009: Microsoft launches Windows 7, which offers the ability to pin applications to the taskbar and advances in touch and handwriting recognition, among other features.

2010: Apple unveils the iPad, changing the way consumers view media and jumpstarting the dormant tablet computer segment.

2011: Google releases the Chromebook, a laptop that runs the Google Chrome OS.

2012: Facebook gains 1 billion users on October 4.

2015: Apple releases the Apple Watch. Microsoft releases Windows 10.

2016: The first reprogrammable quantum computer was created. "Until now, there hasn't been any quantum-computing platform that had the capability to program new algorithms into their system. They're usually each tailored to attack a particular algorithm," said study lead author Shantanu Deb Nath, a quantum physicist and optical engineer at the University of Maryland, College Park. **2017:** The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is developing a new "Molecular Informatics" program that uses molecules as computers. "Chemistry offers a rich set of properties that we may be able to harness for rapid, scalable information storage and processing," Anne Fischer, program manager in DARPA's Defense Sciences Office, said in a statement. "Millions of molecules exist, and each molecule has a unique three-dimensional atomic structure as well as variables such as shape, size, or even colour. This richness provides a vast design space for exploring novel and multi-value ways to encode and process data beyond the 0s and 1s of current logic-based, digital architectures."

Computers of the Future May Be Minuscule Molecular Machines.

MOVIE REVIEW

OCEAN'S 8

Upon her release from prison, Debbie, the estranged sister of legendary conman Danny Ocean, puts together a team of unstoppable crooks to pull off the heist of the century. Their goal is New York City's annual Met Gala, and a necklace worth in excess of 150 million dollars.

- Rating: M
- Genre: Action & Adventure, Comedy

Directed By: Gary Ross

Written By: Olivia Milch, Gary Ross

Runtime: 110 minutes

Studio: Warner Bros. Pictures



The Modestly Diverting Gender Swap of *Ocean's 8*

The director Gary Ross's all-female twist on the heist franchise coasts on the star power of its cast, led by Sandra Bullock.

"You are not doing this for me. You are not doing this for you. Somewhere out there is an 8-year-old girl dreaming of becoming a criminal. Do this for her." Thus does the master thief Debbie Ocean exhort her female partners in crime on the eve of their big jewelry heist in the director Gary Ross's *Ocean's 8*. It's a cunning bit of narrative revisionism. Because Debbie—played by Sandra Bullock—is of course *really* speaking to all the "girls" in the audience, whatever their ages might be. Because while few presumably dream of being actual criminals, who doesn't dream of being effortlessly prepossessing, movie-star glamorous, and utterly in control? Not necessarily someone who *would* stage a daring robbery at the Met Gala; but someone who, if she so chose, *could*. This is unfortunately about as close as Ross comes to integrating any meaningful gender insights into his film. (I'll note one exception in a moment.) *Ocean's 8* is essentially a sex-swapped reboot of *Ocean's Eleven*, and if the result is only a modestly diverting star-power delivery device—well, the Soderbergh-Clooney version wasn't much more than that itself. Like the prior movie, this one begins with its protagonist—Bullock's Debbie is the sister of Clooney's Danny Ocean—getting paroled from prison. ("If I were to be released," she humbly tells the parole board, "I would just want the simple life." Later, watching her don a designer gown and prepare to strut out the prison gates, a guard asks ironically, "The simple life?" She replies coyly: "I had five years to rehearse.") Next—after a clever bout of high-

end shoplifting and a luxury-hotel grift—comes the hooking up with an old partner, Lou (Cate Blanchett, in what is essentially the Brad Pitt role); then, the assembly of a team; and finally, the heist itself. Also, as before, there is an unnecessary and moderately tedious subplot involving an old flame (Richard Armitage) who works in the art world. This time, the team consists of a bankrupt fashion designer (Helena Bonham Carter), a jewelry-maker (Mindy Kaling), a hacker (Rihanna), a fence (Sarah Paulson), and a pickpocket (Awkwafina). Rounding out the team—though she does not know it—is a celebrity patsy named Daphne Kluger (Anne Hathaway). Though the Met is hosting a display of royal jewelry from around the world, the actual target of the heist is not part of the exhibit. Rather, it is a unique Cartier necklace called the Toussaint: a \$150 million, six-pound throat-chandelier that Debbie et al. will persuade Kluger to wear when she attends the Gala—which the film describes, accurately enough, as the "most exclusive party in America." As heists go, it's a moderately ingenious idea, and for the most part, the movie floats along amiably on the tide of its stars' charisma and the capable if uninspired direction of Ross, who also co-wrote the script with Olivia Milch. (One can't help but wonder what Soderbergh would have done with this material.) Bullock carries off the central role with aplomb, although—like Clooney with Pitt—she's somewhat upstaged by a winning turn from Blanchett. The rest of the cast is given less to do, but they generally

make the most of their moments. (Asked how she explains to her suburban husband the garage full of boosted mountain bikes and washing machines, Paulson's fence explains, "eBay.") Alas, one of the few ways the movie fails to ape *Ocean's Eleven* is the absence of an old-school crook like those played by Elliott Gould and Carl Reiner—the latter of whom supplied several of that film's best scenes. But at least as consolation we get James Corden as an insurance investigator who tries to unravel the crime in the final act.

The greatest pleasure of *Ocean's 8*, however, is Hathaway's Kluger. Although the precise origin of the character's global fame is left to the imagination—actress? model? heiress?—Hathaway delivers a sharp, witty dissection of female celebrity, at once impenetrably vain and entitled, yet also riven with self-doubt. It is both the most pointed and most amusing way in which the movie toys with gender expectations. The movie does lose some steam post-heist. This is particularly true when it is revealed that there was a secret heist-within-the-heist, which has the perverse effect of undermining the entire premise of the plot. Ross should have quit while he was ahead. Instead, he couldn't resist gilding the Toussaint.

Christopher Orr is a senior editor and the principal film critic at The Atlantic. He has written on movies for the New Republic, LA Weekly, Salon, and The New York Sun, and has worked as an editor for numerous publications.



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

An aversion to dolls and dresses is no proof you're a man

Hadley Freeman

Pink v blue gender definitions are hardening, and it's doing everyone a disservice

As an adolescent, I was terrified of becoming a woman. In part this was because I believed the gender stereotypes. Being a woman, I thought, meant wearing makeup and high heels; men expecting things from me that I in no way wanted to give them. Being a woman seemed limiting and terrifying, and definitely not me. So as soon as I started to go through puberty, I starved myself until I looked safely asexual and boyish again. That was my solution, in 1992, to avoiding being a woman. I thought about that period of my life this week when I read an interview in the Daily Mirror with a transgender teenager who was born female. At the age of six, he told his mother he wanted to climb trees with boys. "Don't do that, it's not what girls do," his mother replied. According to the report, the six-year-old replied, "Well, I'll have a sex-change then." "I never fitted in with the girls at school. I didn't like makeup, or dresses, and I never wanted to shave my legs or armpits, like everyone else. I really wanted to do all the things boys did, and wear masculine clothes. I think even that young, deep down, I knew I wanted to be a man," he told the Mirror. Whether somebody really decided to change sex because of climbing trees and makeup or, as is far more likely, this was

oversimplified reporting on the Mirror's part, nowhere in the article is there any suggestion that an aversion to feminine clothing doesn't prove you're a man. This interview was strikingly reminiscent of an interview on BBC Radio 4's iPM programme, aired in 2016, in which a mother said she realised her three-year-old daughter wasn't really a girl because she played with Wolverine toys instead of baby dolls. The interviewer did not challenge her. CBBC screened a documentary in the same year, I Am Leo, about a trans boy, in which transgenderism was explained with the help of pink brains for girls and blue brains for boys. What kind of message is this sending to girls: that if they don't like dolls, or pink, they are literally in the wrong body? It's hard to see how it helps anyone – least of all transgender people – for the media to reduce transgenderism to feelings about makeup, and the female experience to femininity. I once thought that definitions of gender would keep expanding until the idea of gender itself was rendered irrelevant; but, to my astonishment, they have shrunk and hardened, and this has had an effect on how men and women see each other and themselves. In Nanette, her excellent new standup show on Netflix, the comedian Hannah Gadsby talks about her weariness with being told by members of the public that she must be a trans man in denial, because she is a lesbian who wears trousers. Because that's where some of the current gender debates have led us: to women being told that they're not really women if they don't enjoy wearing pretty dresses. Far from gender being "on a spectrum", as the current lingo has it, too many well-meaning articles about it are more binary than ever: girls are like this, boys are like that. This is what feminists like me object to

because gender is restrictive and femininity in particular was conceived to be limiting. News that 40 British schools have banned skirts in favour of trousers, in a hamfisted attempt at gender neutrality, is merely a different side to the same coin, because the message being sent to children is, "Skirts are too dangerously feminine to be worn by boys." For me, not eating was at least in part an expression of anxiety about femininity and sexuality, represented by my changing body. This is extremely common among teenage girls, who then find ways to punish the bodies that are taking them into womanhood, whether they like it or not, and it is getting even more so. On top of the much-reported rise in eating disorders, a report from the US this week found that as many as 30% of American teenage girls self-harm – twice as many as boys. In Britain, at the Gender Identity Clinic in London, the UK's main child gender service, 70% of all referred cases are teenage girls. One can support people with gender dysphoria getting the treatment they need while at the same time suggesting that the wildly disproportionate numbers of teen girls at gender clinics points to other problems here. There is no single cure for unhappy girls, but as adults it is up to us to teach our children that one does not need to change one's body to reject socially imposed gender stereotypes. Girls can swing from the trees like monkeys and plait their own leg hair; they can play with tea sets and measure their life in lipsticks; or they can do all of the above simultaneously, if they so please, and none of this has anything to do with their bodies, biology or brain colour. Biological sex goes deeper than leg hair.

• Hadley Freeman is a Guardian columnist

There are more than two sides of politics. Let's shake things up

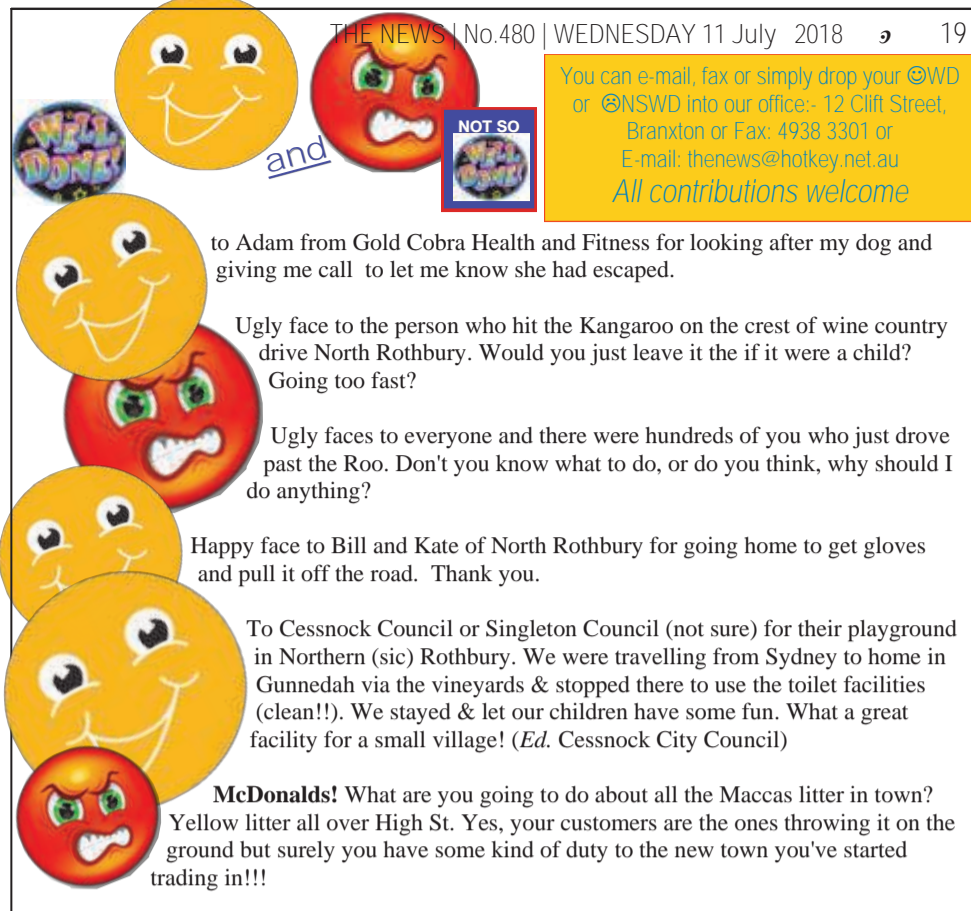
Scott Ludlam

It's a myth that voting for a progressive minor party is a waste of time. Byelections are a chance to overturn some furniture

Byelections are strange beasts, and having five at a time makes for quite a menagerie. Given the unusual citizenship back stories behind four of them, and the volatile nature of Australian politics in general, it is worth tuning in even if you don't live in one of the electorates where campaigns are afoot. Byelections are sometimes the place where voters can overturn some furniture without fear of overturning the government; you can "send the government a message" even if the message is just one of formless discontent. That trope doesn't really apply here – none of the seats in contention are held by government MPs. Fremantle, Perth, Braddon and Longman are held by first time Labor MPs, and Mayo is held by the former Nick Xenophon Team's Rebekha Sharkie. There's no real downside in this scenario for the Turnbull government. It hasn't even bothered to field candidates in Perth and Fremantle, and given that the last time a government won a seat off an opposition in a byelection was in 1920, ceding the remaining seats to Labor or Sharkie will hardly be a political earthquake. So if it's an earthquake we're looking for, we'll have to shake things up some other way. A clue as to how we do this can be found in the long-run trend of voter abandonment of the major parties, and the steady post-war rise in voting for minor parties and independents. In the 2016 general election, nearly a quarter of voters chose a non-major party for their first preference in the House of Representatives, the highest in the

history of the commonwealth. The full preferential, single-member system in the House of Reps guarantees that nearly all of these votes end up accruing to one of the major parties whether you like it or not, meaning that nowhere near a quarter of the seats in the House are held by MPs from outside the major parties. It is possible to win and hold a House seat from outside the majors, as Adam Bandt, Cathy McGowan and others have shown with a combination of charisma, purpose and a big volunteer effort. But until we get proportional voting in the House, the gap between voter intention and parliamentary seats will likely remain a chasm – presently the 23% minor party and independent vote translates into only 6% of the seats. The major parties have exploited this to numbing effect for as long as I can remember, but it has reached a dangerously cynical degree in the last few turns of the electoral wheel. The LNP, to give them their due, play a more direct hand. When outflanked by a loose insurgency like One Nation, for the most part they smoothly absorb the tone and policies of these strident interlopers, stealing their political oxygen while crab-walking steadily in the direction of hard-line racist authoritarianism. Labor play a quite different game, deploying candidates of genuinely good heart to spread a progressive message on coal and gas extraction, refugee rights and the surveillance state, while their parliamentary wing routinely votes with the government to overwhelm the Greens and other crossbench members on these issues and many others. It's a form of political gaslighting that depends on the electorate never quite having the energy to call out a party that sends finely honed and entirely contradictory messages to different constituencies. The excruciating spectacle of Labor walking both sides of the street on Adani's coal atrocity serves as a valuable case study.

CONT PAGE 22



to Adam from Gold Cobra Health and Fitness for looking after my dog and giving me call to let me know she had escaped.

Ugly face to the person who hit the Kangaroo on the crest of wine country drive North Rothbury. Would you just leave it the if it were a child? Going too fast?

Ugly faces to everyone and there were hundreds of you who just drove past the Roo. Don't you know what to do, or do you think, why should I do anything?

Happy face to Bill and Kate of North Rothbury for going home to get gloves and pull it off the road. Thank you.

To Cessnock Council or Singleton Council (not sure) for their playground in Northern (sic) Rothbury. We were travelling from Sydney to home in Gunnedah via the vineyards & stopped there to use the toilet facilities (clean!!). We stayed & let our children have some fun. What a great facility for a small village! (Ed. Cessnock City Council)

McDonalds! What are you going to do about all the Maccas litter in town? Yellow litter all over High St. Yes, your customers are the ones throwing it on the ground but surely you have some kind of duty to the new town you've started trading in!!!

Classified's Classified's

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

Agistment wanted for 6 horses. Phone 0447 381989
Computer Tuition: From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908
Computer Services: Repairs, Sales & Service. Phone repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128
For Rent: Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460
Fitness Classes: 'Core & Strength'. Get fit. Classes are 6am and 10am Tuesday, 6am and 8am Thursday, at Miller Park Branxton \$12/class. Text/Phone Louise P: 0439 383 478
For Sale: Bathroom fittings: 1 toilet suite, 1 mirror, 1 vanity with basin, 1 shower recess, tap fittings all in good condition. Best Offer - call Carol 0400 526 049 anytime after 8am.
For Sale: Alpacas Ph 4930 6291
For Sale: Firewood. Well seasoned, mostly iron bark. 6x4 trailer \$90. Pick-up only Call Greg 0411 315 548
For Sale: Free range eggs. \$4/doz Greta 0412 976 809
Microchipping: Cats and Dogs, all sizes and breeds, will come to you. \$20 per animal, please call Angela on 0431649947.
Mobile Travel Agent: 20 yrs experience. Will come to you for expert holiday planning. Obligation free appointments. P: 1300 365 68 (ext 595) M: 0404 831 867
W: www.mlatravel.com.au/sfenton
E: sfenton@mlatravel.com.au
Moving Sale: two 6-seater patio settings; one 'as new'. Price negotiable P: 4938 3542
Riding Lessons: agistment, horses trained. www.byalee.net 0407 453 494
Share House: Fully furnished, double bedroom, Built-ins, ceiling fan, Air Con, very quiet. \$165/week. P: 0413 896 866
Wanted: high quality mechanical wrist watches & clocks. Keen collector. Willing to pay good prices. Prefer Rolex, Omega, Oris

& Tag. P: 0414 757 826
Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct170 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841
Work Wanted: HAVE UTE WILL CARRY. Need something moved? Phone Phil on 0447 381989
Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292
Work Wanted: Lawn Mowing: best rates - large or small area. P: 0459 123 397
Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601
Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701
Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567
Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081
Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.
Work Wanted: experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804
Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153
Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989
Work Wanted: Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards - rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538

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

Dates for your diary >

THUR 12 July - BRANXTON VIEW CLUB Meeting-Greta Workers Club. Guest Speaker Katie Miller-Local Fitness Instructor-All welcome
TUE 24 July - First day of School Term 3
THUR 26 July - Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group meeting at Cessnock Leagues Club. Guest speaker: Prostate cancer specialist from Calvary Mater Hospital. Will include information how to contact them when first diagnosed, during treatment and conclusion of treatment. All welcome. Cost free. Contact: Barry 49904554- Rose 0439404554.
FRI 3 AUG - Branxton Public School Kindergarten excursion to Hunter Valley Zoo
MON 6 AUG - Branxton Public School P&C Meeting - all welcome 6:00pm in the library.
TUES 07/08 - Branxton Lions Club monthly meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club
THUR 9 August - BRANXTON VIEW CLUB 30TH BIRTHDAY - Greta Workers Club-All welcome Cost \$30. Bookings/ information Bethany 0419 429 364
TUES 14/08 - B/G CWA Mtg. 9.30am, Old St Brigids School Staff Room, Station St, Branxton
THUR 23 to FRI 24 AUG - Branxton Public School Stage 2 excursion to Sydney
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 Staff Room, Station St, Branxton
THUR 20 SEPT - Branxton Public School School Concert "A journey through music and time"
TUES 25/09 - BRANXTON VIEW CLUB FASHION PARADE- Branxton Community Hall. All welcome \$15 includes light lunch

Dates for your diary >

Phone Bethany 0419 429 364
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

School News



Branxton Public School

Kindergarten enrolments are currently being accepted. Our first official event will take place in Term 3 with a Parent Information Evening. 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. The Infants' Sports Carnival was a great success with the focus of the day being participation and fun. It was great to see so many parents there to cheer on our students. Thank you to Mrs Baker and helpers for preparing a delicious lunch, yet again.

Stage 1 enjoyed their excursion to Tocal Homestead, learning about how things were done in the 'olden days'. Perhaps they gained a new appreciation for all our modern conveniences! The last few weeks have been very sporty at BPS! Well done to our girls touch football team who beat Greta PS 8-1. A big thank you to Mark Bercini for donating his refereeing fee to our purple day fundraiser. Well done also to the girls soccer team who played Thornton PS, losing 5-4 in overtime. Congratulations to our boys' soccer team who beat Patterson PS 3-0 with Charlie, Mathias & Jye scoring the goals. They now progress to the 5th round of the state knockout competition. A big thank you to Mr Tattis & Mrs Guilbaud who have been training the soccer teams at Miller Park on Friday afternoons. We appreciate your dedication.

Amazing efforts from our debate teams who represented Branxton Public School at Singleton recently. Both teams performed well in their debates, Branxton White winning 2 and Branxton Green put up a good debate for both rounds. We look forward to the next 2 rounds. Thank you to Mrs Nemeth and Mrs Morrow for their support and assistance with transporting these students to the event.

Term 3 will be another busy term with the School Concert in Week 9, Public Speaking events, more debating, excursions and so much more. The Premier's Sporting Challenge will get underway with the school being rewarded for encouraging physical activity at school and at home. We have "Jump Rope For Heart" visiting on the 31st July and a fundraising day to be organised from this visit. In Week 1 we have Riverside College entertaining us with a free concert. Education Week is in Week 3 and we will be celebrating with Open classrooms and a special Assembly showing off the many talents of our students. Book Week Celebrations will be in Week 6 with the theme this year being 'Find Your Treasure'. Plenty to look forward to so rest up over the holidays.

Dates for the Calendar

- Tuesday 24th July – First day of Term 3
- Friday 3rd August – Kindergarten excursion to Hunter Valley Zoo
- Monday 6th August - P&C Meeting – all welcome 6:00pm in the library.
- Thursday 23rd to Friday 24th August – Stage 2 excursion to Sydney
- Thursday 20th September – School Concert “A journey through music and time”

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



Boys Soccer Team



K-2 Sports Carnival



Stage 1 at Tocal



Girls Soccer Team



Girls Touch Football Team



The Debating Team

School News



☰ K-2 Races



☰ K-2 Races



☰ K-2 Sports Carnival

Kirkton Public School News

What an exciting end to term. Congratulations to our school soccer team who showed their big hearts, working together as a team to win 7-4 against Mulbring PS on Tuesday. Some great goals were scored by Brayden, Alyssa and Indigo, and all children shone with the commitment they showed to their peers. We now progress onto round 3 after our first round bye.



More schools to be opened during current school holidays

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC has welcomed the announcement by the Premier and Minister for Education of an expansion to the successful Share Our Space Program by the NSW Liberal National Government.

Originally trialed over the summer holidays, the Premier and Minister for Education have announced an expansion to include an additional 85 schools across NSW, and that the scheme will now become permanent.

19 Hunter schools were available during the autumn school holidays.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC said he was pleased to see the scheme expanding, and hoped the Hunter community would benefit over the coming fortnight. "Opening up further schools in the Hunter grants increased access to green spaces and sporting fields, helping children to remain active over the school holidays."

"I thank the Premier and Education Minister for their efforts in expanding and continuing to support this very worthwhile program that offers greater options for school holiday activities."

Participating schools will receive a \$5000 grant they can use to help upgrade their facilities for community and school use. Participating schools will be open during the upcoming school holidays from July 9 to 20, between 8am to 5pm.

A total of 32 Hunter schools will be open during the upcoming holidays;

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Arcadia Vale Public School | Awabakal Environmental Education Centre |
| Belmont High School | Broke Public School |
| Caves Beach Public School | Cessnock East Public School |
| Cessnock West Public School | Coal Point Public School |
| Congewai Public School | Dudley Public School |
| Ellalong Public School | Fassifern Public School |
| Garden Suburb Public School | Gillieston Public School |
| Glendore Public School | Greta Public School |
| Hunter River High School | Kitchener Public School |
| Lambton High School | Lambton Public School |
| Maitland Public School | New Lambton Heights Infants School |
| New Lambton South Public School | Newcastle East Public School |
| Northlakes High School | Speers Point Public School |
| Tarro Public School | Wangi Wangi Public School |
| Waratah West Public School | Warners Bay Public School |
| Wiripaang Public School | Wirreanda Public School |

Your libraries, your say!



Cessnock City Library would like to find out about your experience using our library services and has developed a short anonymous survey for residents to have their say. The survey can be completed online, or paper copies are available at both our Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Library branches.

Council's Library Services Co-ordinator, Rose-marie Walters is encouraging as many people as possible to share their thoughts by completing the survey.

"Your feedback is valuable and your suggestions will be considered for continuous improvement and future planning of our library service."

"The information you provide will allow us to identify what we are doing well, and highlight what we could do better. It will gauge your satisfaction with our service, facilities, collections, events and programs."

The survey opens today and will remain open until Tuesday 31 July. Visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/CessnockCityLibrary to complete the survey online or call into Cessnock or Kurri Kurri Libraries to complete a paper copy.



Helen Lowing, Proprietor & Licencee-in-Charge

BRANXTON & VINE-YARDS REAL ESTATE

**12 Clift Street
BRANXTON NSW 2335
P: 4938 3300**



The 'All-In-One Day' on 3rd July began very bleakish (weatherwise) but the homemade pumpkin and chicken and noodle soups (made by Marie and Noeleen) were a very good welcome to the approx. 50 guests and members attending. It is proving a very popular start to our Annual Day.

First for the day was Mrs Mary Bowman, HRG President, presenting Denise McGoldrick (me) with my 20 year service badge. Thanks to all for your congratulations.

Whilst Marie (ably assisted by Leanne) prepared for her cooking demonstration, Helen Scott spoke about her Polish heritage, which was interesting to all. Thank you Helen. Marie, with Leanne's assistance, showed everyone how to prepare

From Page 23
HVGC Report

David Peel 35, Wayne Barber 35, Peter Mathews 34, Peter Payne 33, Michael Watson 33, Rex Talbot 33, Ken Springbett 32 and Wayne Cowan 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Steve Rawlings (3rd) Graeme Flynn (4th & 10th) and Bruce Chambers (17th). **Saturday 7th July** Scott Jones has won the Monthly Medal round on countback with 66 Net in very cool and windy conditions. A Grade went to Shawn Parish with the other 66 net from Steve Applebee 67, B Grade to Adrian Kent with 69 from Ken Springbett 73 and C Grade to Chris Lodge 71 on countback to Robert King. Ball winners were: Graeme Muller v67, Steve Piggott 69, Steve Abel 71, David Peel 72, Ken Smith 72, John Barbour 72, Chris Connolly 73, Kevin Smith 74, Robert Flanagan v75, Jeff Morton 76, Wayne Barber 78 and Scott Muller 78 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Sue Peel (8th) Shawn Parish (10th) and Kerry Wyatt (17th).

FROM PAGE 19

There are more than two sides of politics. Let's shake things up

Scott Ludlam

Labor's strategy rests on the assumption that votes directed toward Green and other climate-friendly candidates will preferentially find their way back to the Labor party anyway, relieving them of the obligation to do more than express strategic ambiguity as to their real intentions. That this comatose attitude cost them the seat of Maiwar in the recent Queensland state election doesn't seem to have changed the basic pattern.

Under the unusual circumstance of a spray of byelections in which the government has absented itself, it is time to bring this dismal strategy properly unstuck. This starts with the recognition that there are more than two sides of politics, and this has been true for a long while. A quarter of the electorate is already voting for someone else, and although the trend has its zigzags, the direction is clear. Phrases like "both sides of politics" are as ripe for retirement as Tony Abbott, albeit just as unlikely to vanish gracefully.

As Senator David Leyonhjelm is managing to demonstrate every single day, the shift away from the majors can have offensive consequences. It's not enough to just put Labor and the LNP at the bottom of the ballot paper and hope for the best, especially if our aim is as urgent as getting innocent refugees out of camps that have been marked by reports of trauma, self-harm and deaths and that are imposed by "both sides of politics". But the myth that voting for a progressive minor party or independent candidate is a waste of time is self-fulfilling, and it evaporates as soon as a sufficient number of us let go of it. If you live in one of the lucky five electorates, here's your chance. Even if you don't, you can still signal-boost candidates from afar or get in the ear of your friends in the area.

It's time to overturn some furniture. Call it a practice run for the main event in a few months time.

• Scott Ludlam is a Guardian Australia columnist

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☉ Mrs Mary Bowman, HRG President, at left, presenting Denise McGoldrick with her 20 year service badge.

stuffed mini capsicums (grown by Marie) and also mini tomatoes, and these were put out later for everyone to try with the rest of the hot buffet lunch. Sarah Fenton, Mobile Travel Agent, attended to talk to us about Poland and with the help of pictures, gave us a great insight into the lives of the Polish people. Thank you Sarah for your time.

Whilst guests were waiting for lunch, they were able to enjoy the wonderful display of handicrafts on display which members had completed in the past 12 months. There was also a display of information and photos of speckled cattle (belonging to Leanne and Robert Bendeich) and the several Blue Ribbons they have won at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and others.

Congratulations Leanne and Robert. Marie also brought in some ornamental owls for displaying for agriculture/environment. Thanks Marie.

Also on display were the lovely red and white posters on Poland for International from Greta Public School for the

Public School Poster Competition. Knowing how busy schools are, we really appreciate your time and effort and hope you enjoyed learning about Poland as much as we did. Mrs Jennifer Carr, Group International Officer, judged the posters and the winning poster (which goes to Hunter River Group for judging later in the year) was done by Year 5 - Amira, Issy, Ariella, Kayasha and Becca. We will have more information on this when students return from school holidays and we can get a photo of them with their certificates.

Guests spent the day catching up with old friends and, hopefully, making new ones whilst enjoying the delicious homemade, healthy lunch. Some of the food had a Polish theme, as we discovered that Polish people ate a lot of foods we do, although cooked differently. Between lunch and dessert, the Birthday Cake (made by Noeleen to a Polish fruit cake recipe and beautifully iced by Roslyn) was cut and put out for everyone, along with the selection of slices and cakes available with tea and coffee.

There were several favourable compliments made about the table settings and am sure Marie and Helen would appreciate that, along with their helpers who assist with putting it all together. Your hard work is not going unnoticed. Thank you both.

Thank you all for making it such a wonderful day - the cooks, helpers, kitchen helpers, guest speakers and

most importantly the guests, as it would not be a day without YOU!

Denise McGoldrick, Publicity Officer.



The Birthday Cake made by Noeleen to a Polish fruit cake recipe and beautifully iced by Roslyn



Members & guests enjoying the day



The wonderful display of handicrafts



JULY
Entertainment



FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTY

6TH PANTHERS V WARRIORS 7.50PM

13TH PANTHERS V SHARKS 6PM
KNIGHTS V EELS 7.50PM

20TH SHARKS V RAIDERS 6PM
BRONCOS V PANTHERS 7.50PM

27TH COWBOYS V KNIGHTS 6PM
BULLDOGS V WESTS TIGERS 7.50PM

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE MUSIC 8.30pm

7TH SOUND OF SUNDAY

14TH EVERGREEN

21ST KEMPY

28TH ANYERIN TRIO

SPORTS RESULTS GOLF

Branxton Veteran Golfers

Results 28-6-18 Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Anderson 34 pts R/u L Hunt 30 pts 3rd R Yandle 28 pts (c/b)
Div 2 Winner S Dunkar 34 pts (SOD)(c/b) R/u A Hackett 29 pts 3rd J Atton 27 pts
Ladies Winner M Hunt 29 pts R/u R Friis 26 pts 3rd J Scobie 23 pts
NTPs Ladies J Harris Gents G Wilton
Members draw - Not won
A mixed bag, weather wise, as we had fog, sunshine and then full cloud cover with a spot or two of rain, however remaining mild throughout play. Congratulations to Stan Dunkar on winning his division and achieving the 'Score of the Day' and a well done to all other winners and placegetters.

Results 5-7-18 Stableford

Div 1 Winner L Hunt 34 pts (SOD) R/u R Yandle 30 pts (c/b) 3rd G Wilton 30 pts
Div 2 Winner R Chalmers 30 pts R/u I Harris 28 pts S Condran 27 pts
Ladies Winner J Scobie 24 pts R/u R Friis 23 pts 3rd R McCarthy 21 pts
NTPs Ladies R McCarthy Gents G Musialik
Members draw - Not won
A wonderful Winter's day greeted our happy band of players who, assembled for to-day's event. Sunshine prevailed which meant the round was played in great comfort. Congratulations to Lee Hunt for winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day", and a well done to all other winners and placegetters.

LN Bootes, Hon Sec

Branxton Golf Club

Saturday, 23RD June 2018 SATURDAY COMP – 2 MAN AMBROSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

56 players

SCRATCH WINNERS CAMERON JOHANSON/ CODY FLETCHER 62 NETT WINNERS LEE HEUSTON/ NEIL JORDAN 61.75 NETT SCRATCH RUNNERS UP- MICK TRACEY/ JOSH TRACEY 66 NETT RUNNERS UP GRAHAM BULL/ JAKE GOWARD 63 NETT NETT THIRD PHIL BAKER/ TOM FOSTER 63.5 NETT NETT FOURTH DAVID KINCH/ KELVIN MATHER 63.75 NETT NETT FIFTH JOHN BURGESS/ TERRY PARTRIDGE 64.5 NETT NTP 2/11 M CARLING 260 cm NTP 4 J TRACEY 320 cm NTP 9/18 J BURGESS 166 cm NTP 13 C FLETCHER 143 cm
The pairing of two near scratch makers proved that the "cream rises to the top" when Cody Fletcher and Cameron Johanson combined together to easily win Saturday's 2 Person Ambrose Championship with an astounding 8 under par 62. This included a nearest to pin on the difficult 13th, finishing only 143 cms from the pin which no doubt accounted for another birdie for these two outstanding putters. The A Grade Pennant team, which just missed out this year, will certainly be looking

forward to next year with the addition of Cody Fletcher who has only just joined the Branxton Club after moving year earlier in the year. Cameron will continue to travel from his Killara base to play with his home club. The runners up, Mick and Josh Tracey played excellent golf as well, finishing with a 4 under par 66 themselves. These two are also a part of the A Grade Pennants team with Josh the current club champion—we are building up an embarrassment of riches with the top team now looking very competitive. Lee Heuston combined with Neil Jordan to win the nett competition with an excellent 61.75—just over 8 under their handicap. Graham Bull and Jake Goward finished runner up with their 63 nett, with the B Grade pennants champion pair of Phil Baker and Tom Foster third with an excellent 63.5. David Kinch and Kelvin Mather finished 4th with John Burgess and Terry Partridge 5th only another stroke away. It is interesting to note that 3 of the nearest pins belonged to players who finished in the prizes, proving the need for good iron play in these events.

Saturday, 30th June 2018

SATURDAY COMP – STABLEFORD BRANXTON PRO SHOP 60 players

A GRADE WINNER Victor Matt 39 pts
A GRADE RUNNER UP Richard Barrington 35 pts
A GRADE THIRD Isaiah Wolferstan 34 pts
B GRADE WINNER Kelvin Mather 34 pts
B GRADE RUNNER UP Paul Bush 32 pts
B GRADE THIRD Lee Hunt 31 pts
C GRADE WINNER Michael Carling 29 pts c/b
C GRADE RUNNER UP Richard Alley 29 pts c/b
C GRADE THIRD Robert Watson 29 pts
BALL COMP 29 pts
NTP 2/11 L Hunt 10.4cm
NTP 4 L Heuston 220cm
NTP 9/18 D Rogers 70cm
NTP 13 R Alley 278cm
A good sized field of 60 players found life at Branxton Golf Course very difficult on Saturday with a DSR of 72 (the highest I can remember) and only 29 points needed to win a golf ball. These winter months certainly test most players around this tight, longish course with its intricacies of water, small greens, interesting pin and tee placements and no run on the fairways. Despite all this, quality golfers can rise above any obstacles on the golf course as Victor Matt proved in winning the A Grade stableford with an outstanding 39 pts from his low single figure handicap—a near par round. Victor hasn't played a great deal this year but he is always capable of producing wonderful golf so it comes as no surprise to see him do it once again. Runner up was Richard Barrington, formerly of Riverside Oaks and now a veteran member of Branxton. His score indicated he is coming to terms with this course so I expect to see him produce many good rounds in the near future as Richard has quite a pedigree in golf. Isaiah Wolferstan finished third with his 34 pts—he is another player with outstanding ability who will be an asset to the A grade Pennants team in 2019. Kelvin Mather won B Grade with his 34 pts, just ahead of Paul Bush with 32 pts and Lee Hunt with 31 pts. C Grade was won by Michael Carling with 29 pts, showing how difficult the day's

play was for most players. Richard Alley and Robert Watson filled the minor placings with the same scores. The shot of the day belonged to Dan Rogers on the 9th/18th, finishing only 70 cms away—a great shot

Saturday, 7th 2018 SATURDAY COMP – MONTHLY MEDAL

Field: 50 players
MEDAL WINNER – Micheal Carling 68 nett
A GRADE WINNER Tony Seamer 75 nett c/b
A GRADE RUNNER UP Greg Noble 75 nett c/b
A GRADE THIRD Cody Fletcher 75 nett
B GRADE WINNER Benjamin Porter 71 nett
B GRADE RUNNER UP Robert Hale 74 nett
B GRADE THIRD Peter Marquet 75 nett
C GRADE WINNER Darren Mathers 69 nett
C GRADE RUNNER UP Richard Turnbull 73 nett
C GRADE THIRD Ted Zawirski 75 nett
BALL COMP 79 nett
NTP 2/11 L Hunt 253 cm
NTP 4 G Gillard 165 cm
NTP 9/18 M Johanson 185 cm
NTP 13 T McCaw 335 cm
Saturday's Monthly Medal was a real challenge to all players as the strong, cold westerly winds emerged throughout the morning making play very difficult around this tight, unpretentious course. The ball competition went down to a nett 79—an incredibly high score for the players to win a prize. The DSR of 71 (still rather low!) is a testament to the challenges of the day. Mick Carling had a great day, winning the overall Monthly Medal with an outstanding 68 nett. He was one of only two players to play better than their handicap, with Darren Mathers winning C Grade with his excellent 69 nett. Tony Seamer won a very tight A Grade with a 75 nett score, on a countback from Greg Noble and scratch marker Cody Fletcher (a great round in such conditions). It is good to see two young veterans win the A Grade when the conditions are so difficult. B Grade was won by Ben Porter with a very pleasing 71 nett, with Robert Hale and Peter Marquet filling in the minor placings. As mentioned, Darren Mathers won C Grade, well ahead of Richie Turnbull and Ted Zawirski, both of whom managed their game well on such a windy day. The shot of the day belonged to anyone who hit the green on any of the par threes, especially Troy McCaw on the 13th. Well done to Lee Hunt, Club Captain Murray Johanson and Greg Gillard for winning the NTPs in these conditions.

Branxton Lady Golfers Results for 27th June Stableford

Winner: Neridah Busch on 36 pts
Runner-up: Jen Salna on 34 pts
3rd: Ruth McCarthy 33 pts c/b
4th: Carol Miller on 33 points
NTP 9/18: Robyn Hoffman
Hunter Valley Golf Club
Sunday 24th June The Weekly Challenge has been won by Warringah GC visitor Tony Krishna with 42 points from John Stewart on 38 and Steve Abel 3rd with 37 points on countback. Balls were won by: Greg Noble v37, Kyle Binco v36, Arthur Ling 34, Jason Bear 34, David Curry v33, Mark Makin 32, Steve Bear v32, Jodie Dunn 32 and Brendan Connor 32. Nearest-the-Pin went to Scott Goldman (4th).
Tuesday 26th June Mark Barrow found conditions to his liking in the Tuesday Stableford to record a massive 44 points and win the day from

Bob Prentice on 39 on a countback to Branxton GC visitor Mark Thomas. Balls were won by: Garry Hedges 38, Michael Watson 37, Greg Ireland 37, John Stewart 36, Rex Talbot 36, Col Bradley 34, Rick Turnchini 34, Garry Clarke 34, David Peel 34 and Ray Newton 34. Nearest-the-Pins went to Michael Watson (3rd & 17th) Wayne Barber (4th) Steve Abel (8th) and John Stewart (10th)
Wednesday 27th June Ann Grace-Smith has claimed the Ladies Stableford with an even round 36 points from kerrie-Anne Skinner on 35 on countback to Jeanette Irwin in 3rd spot. Ball winners were: Sue Williams 34, Robyn Dunlop 33, Kerry Wyatt 33, Christine Tancred 31, Isabel Skeates 31 and Jenelle Jurd 30. Nearest-the-Pin to Kerrie-Anne Skinner (3rd).
Thursday 28th June The Vets Medley Irish Stableford went to Dale Macklinshaw with a great round of 84 points from Ken Wright 80 and Wayne Berry 3rd with 78 points. Ball winners were: Bruce Chambers 77, Ken Harris 77, Paul Ireland 76, Ray Newton 75, Graeme Flynn 72, Wayne Barber 69, Dave Fury 67 and Eric Smith 66. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Barber (3rd) Ken Harris (8th & 17th) and Wayne Berry (10th). The raffle has been won by Peter Mathews. The Misty Glen Wines outstanding performance of the month has gone to Steve Rawlings.
Saturday 30th June The American Stableford event has resulted in solid scoring in all grades with Troy Wallis claiming A grade from Craig Sharp on countback after both had posted 57 points, B Grade to Wayne Saunders with 59 points from Peter Milas on 55 and C Grade to Maitland GC visitor Lachlan MacPherson with 59 points from Jill Ramsden with 55 points. Ball winners were: Andrew Auld v56, Peter Franks 54, Matt Killick 54, Patrick Carey v53, David Peel 53, Adrian Kent 53, Matt Simister v52, John Brown 52, Angello Wood 52, Lachlan Peacock 52, John Barbour 51, Wayne Jenkin 51, Andrew Zok 51, Jeff Morton 51, Brad Burgess 51 and Chris Lawson 50 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Matt Killick (3rd) Matt Merlo (4th) John Brown (8th) and Adrian Kent (17th)
Sunday 1st July Ken Roe has won the Weekly Challenge on countback to son Jackson with Bob Koppman relegated to 3rd also on countback after all 3 had 38 point returns. Ball winners were: David O'Brien 37, Mark Makin 37, Chris Connolly 37, Steve Knowles v36, Justin Lawrence 36, Peter Power 35, Paul Woodbine v35, Arthur Cuttriss 35, Ben Hedley 35, Drew Dewar 34, Keith Bryars 34, Jason John 33, Bob Colley 33 and Paul Neuss 33 c/b
Tuesday 3rd July A 4 way countback was needed to separate the placings in the American Stableford event with Peter Maer getting the nod from Rex Talbot and Mark Barrow 3rd after all had 55 point returns. Ball winners were: Mark Makin 55, Jason Bear 54, John Stewart 53, Paul Smith 53, Robert MacBeth v52, Graeme Flynn 51, Heinz Kestermann 51, Bob Prentice 51 and Steve Bear v51 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ian Newell (3rd) David Peel (4th) Steve Piggott (8th) and Julie Van Den Berg (17th)
Wednesday 4th July The Ladies American Foursome event has been won by Kay Dunn & Dale Hamilton with 73.75 net from Brenda Mannix & Jenny Chambers 77 and Sue Peel & Pam Snaddon in 3rd place with 79.12.
Thursday 5th July The Vets Medley Stableford has been won by Graeme Flynn with 40 points with Wayne Berry surviving a countback for 2nd after he and Geoff Sweetman, also surviving a countback, had tied on 37 points. Ball winners were: Greg Ireland 37, Ken Harris 36, David Blackburn 35
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Whale Shark Dreaming

Last week I took a week off from running my fitness classes and went on a holiday to Western Australia. I flew to Perth and hired a car and drove North for the winter, or at least for a few days!

On my way to Exmouth I stayed with my cousin in Geraldton and of course I decided to explore the town by going for a run early on Saturday morning. While I was running I saw some words stencilled on the pavement which summed up my feelings perfectly. They read "If not now, then when?"

For years I have been putting off doing some things that I really wanted to do. I was always too busy, too tired, too cash poor, too worried about other people. But back in February I was inspired to stop making excuses and just do it. Because if not now, then when?

One thing I have wanted to do for many years is swim with Whale Sharks. I have always loved the ocean, and I am fascinated by what lies below the surface. In the mid 90s, while at University, I learned to SCUBA dive and I spent many hours diving at Fly Point and Halifax at Nelson Bay and hanging out at the local dive shop, eventually attaining my Dive Master accreditation. I even studied Marine Biology as part of my Graduate Diploma at the University of New England. I was in the dive shop one day when a couple walked in to have a look and wistfully told us "we used to dive". I distinctly remember thinking "Wow, I hope I never say that". Fast forward 10 years or so and that is exactly what I was doing! Telling people "I used to dive".

But I digress. In February I decided that this was the year I was finally going to swim with a Whale Shark. And I was going to do it on my birthday (which happens to fall in the middle of the Whale Shark season). It wasn't a milestone birthday, I turned 49 this year, I just decided "if not now, then when?". So I booked a return flight to Perth, and a whale shark tour on my birthday, and everything else fell in around it.

One thing that struck me about swimming with whale sharks was just how much energy was required. In the past when I have been in the water with sharks it was under SCUBA and I either descended to a "pinnacle" and watched them swim around me (eg Bronze whalers in the Solomon Islands), or descended to "gutters" and watched the sharks swim or sleep below me (eg Grey Nurse sharks at Broughton Island or South West Rocks). Occasionally I would see a small white tipped reef shark swim by me but that was on the rare occasions I was fortunate to dive on the Great Barrier Reef.

Whale Sharks are completely different. Their habitat is the open ocean, and legislation dictates that you can only snorkel with them, not SCUBA dive. In the open ocean the Whale Sharks swim in straight lines. They are in 50 metres or more of water, and the currents where they are can be strong, not to mention the waves on the surface.

The day started with a snorkel on the Ningaloo reef in a few metres of water, to make sure everyone could snorkel and their gear (mask, snorkel and flippers) was comfortable. The reef was beautiful although it could be best described as "Fifty shades of brown" as most of the bright colours Ningaloo is famous for are much further North. There were so many different types of brightly coloured fish though, that the coral paled into insignificance!

After snorkelling in the shallows it was time to head to the open ocean. While we had been snorkelling a spotter plane had been looking for sharks and we were told that a suitable shark had been sighted, a 6.5m female. As the boat cruised alongside the shark we were split into two groups of ten with one group of ten launched off the back of the moving boat, into the path of the Whale Shark.

I have to say that sliding off the back of a moving boat in the open ocean, in 50 metres of water with only a mask, snorkel, flippers and a short wet suit for protection, was pretty daunting!

Once the shark appeared though, I forgot everything except kicking hard to keep up and trying to stay out of the way of the other swimmers as they did the same. I was amazed to see it moving so gracefully through the water, filtering plankton through its huge mouth, while we kicked and splashed and duck-dived around it.

We were lucky that the Whale Shark we swam with was quite slow moving. Most of the time I kept up with it easily but every now and again I realised I had to kick a bit harder. In the end I was fortunate enough to have four swims with the shark, each swim lasting about 7 minutes. What made me sad though was how many people did only one or two swims with this majestic creature from the deep, mostly because they were too tired to do any more! Once again I found myself feeling grateful for my health and my fitness which allowed me so much more time to swim, and keep up with the Whale Shark so I could admire it without being tired or out of breath. Several people commented to me that they would have had much more enjoyment if only they were fitter and if they had known how much swimming was involved they would have done a bit more exercise before their trip. You never know what life is going to throw at you and because of that you can't always plan on doing the things you want to do "one day".

I am glad I was able to enjoy my holiday SCUBA diving and snorkelling on the Ningaloo reef, swimming with Whale Sharks and Manta Rays and generally being awed by the diversity of the underwater world, and it's my mission to help as many people as possible live the life they dream of, whether that is getting more organised, feeling less stressed, or improving their health and fitness so they can enjoy their dream holiday. Because if you don't start living your dream life now, when will you do it?

What else is happening at Louise Cairns Fit for Life?

Summer bodies are made in Winter! So if you are starting to feel a bit flabby around the middle or if you have the winter blues, come along and join in my 6am fitness classes at Miller Park Branxton. Classes are held 6am Monday (Boxing), Tuesday (Cardio and Strength) and Thursday (Core and Strength).

About Louise

Louise Cairns is a Personal Trainer and Performance Coach based in Branxton. Louise runs regular fitness classes in Branxton, as well as PT sessions in Branxton and Kurri Kurri. Call Louise on 0439 383478 if you want to find out more or visit www.louise Cairns.com.au

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The News SPORT

Greyhound Racing...



Local Report

with Sam

PUNTERS ON A WINNER AT MAITLAND

There are no secrets on a race track; when punters got wind that the Greta branch of the GBOTA was running a fundraising BBQ they couldn't help but tuck into the snag and onion rolls.

Club Chairperson Sarah Kedwell delegated tasks to four club members, Jonny Sledzianowski (SNAGS) Garry Kedwell (ROLLS) Bob Sabotic (ONIONS) and Barry Foley (SAUCES). The onions were the highlight of the night until race three when the Tracey Scrusse trained PINDARI EXPRESS upstaged the BBQ by breaking the track

record over the 450 metres. The black dog won by 8 lengths in the time of 24.59sec. and took his record to 5 wins from 5 starts.

The Greta club also ran a raffle with Scott Kedwell and Anne Foley mingling amongst the patrons selling tickets; the lucky and delighted winner was Luke Redgrove.

LOCAL TRAINERS IN THE WINNER'S CIRCLE

Thirteen local trainers picked up twenty two winning cheques during the month of June. The star of the training ranks was Graeme Barnett landing a



treble with SAHALEE at The Gardens. Other winners at The Gardens were MORSE for Susan Smith, BLOW THE SENOR (Emanuel Borg) O'LEARY (Brian Tuft)

DAISIES THE ONE (Lindsay Davis) MAKOSA (Louise McGee) MARCUS ME MATE (Tony Desira) and ROSE OF MIDNIGHT for Bradley Sabotic. The ladies outdid the men

at Maitland with four of the seven winners, KRANSKEY for Lindsay Davis, KEYED IN (Mischelle Edmunds) DANA KAZZA (Michelle Lill) QUEENS ME MUM

(Tamara Ball) BOWLS AND HOLES (James Porter) O'HARA (Brian Tuft) and BEDAZZLED for Graeme Barnett. Four trainers ventured to Wentworth Park for the

bigger cheques and returned to the Hunter with the loot, DAISIES THE ONE for Lindsay Davis, WYEMBAH CHARLIE (Chris Kedwell) DOUBLE BUXTON and NINGHAN EXPRESS (James Porter) and MIDNIGHT ON FIRE for Bradley Sabotic. Muswellbrook held two meetings in June and although no locals could manage a win. Robbie Neville was over the moon with a third placing. The family pet HILLBILLY JO is a placid big black dog and at the ripe old age of five and a half he refuses to retire to the lounge and just loves to race.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GRETA G.B.O.T.A. WILL BE SUNDAY 5TH AUGUST, 7PM AT THE GRETA WORKERS CLUB SEE YA AT THE TRACK OR THE BAR MIDNITE

■ Photo: Jonny Sledzianowski, Bob Sabotic and Garry Kedwell cooking up a storm.

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