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# The News

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WEDNESDAY 29 August 2018

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Well Done Not So Well Done



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School NEWS



Join us for the official luncheon launch of

## THE BRANXTON GRETA MEMORIAL CYCLEWAY

Secure your ticket now for the cycle way's official Luncheon where our patron, His Excellency General David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor, New South Wales will join us for the official launch of the cycle way project.

**SPECIAL GUESTS:**




The luncheon is an opportunity for business and corporate leaders of the Hunter region to meet and hear His Excellency, the NSW Governor General, speak on the significance of the Branxton Greta Memorial Cycleway project.

The event is an opportunity to raise valuable funds towards the construction and memorial costs.

**CROWNE HUNTER VALLEY**  
**MONDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2018 FROM 12:00 PM TO 2:30 PM**  
 Tickets can be purchased via 'Cycleway Official Luncheon' on Sticky Tickets  
 \$134.00 for individuals  
 \$1,225 for corporate tables (10 guests)  
 More information: [www.bgmc.org.au](http://www.bgmc.org.au)



## Heritage funding approved for the Commercial Hotel Branxton

The Commercial Hotel in Branxton is a successful recipient of a \$97,740 Heritage Near Me Activation Grant from the NSW Government, Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC announced last Sunday. The grant will enable the adaptive reuse, upgrade and repair of the Commercial Hotel in order to allow it to become a vibrant emporium of accessible spaces. This 1929 coal fields hotel will live a new life through its heritage business hub, accommodation, cafe, museum, gallery display and community space. The project is one of 33 projects across NSW that will share \$2.67 million in grants to provide for the upgrade, expansion, restoration or conservation of locally listed heritage items in towns and suburbs across NSW. Touring the Commercial Hotel on



© Photo: Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC with owners David and Kim Barnes, and Cessnock City Councillor John Fagg at the Commercial Hotel Branxton

Sunday afternoon with owners David and Kim Barnes, and Cessnock City Councillor John Fagg, Mr MacDonald said the Heritage Near Me Activation Grants target heritage items that are accessible to the public. "I'm pleased to be able to support the crucial role played by heritage owners and managers, and congratulate David and Kim Barnes on their innovation in bringing our local heritage to life," Mr MacDonald said. "By encouraging the community to use and enjoy our heritage places we ensure they are valued

and protected for future generations." "We would like to thank the Department of Heritage for providing the financial support that will enable this historic building to be reopened to the public," Mr and Mrs Barnes said. "We would also like to thank the community for all the support and encouragement they have given us along the way." "We had 57 letters of support from local government, community groups, the public and local artists and artisans", said Kim. "With renewed enthusiasm from the Branxton people

and the Branxton & Greta Business Chamber, along with many new housing developments coming into the area, this is a rapidly changing area," Mr Fagg said. "This is a great project to show to all residents and visitors alike that we have a proud heritage in caring hands." "The Branxton Heritage Walk will be further enhanced, as we also welcome new visitors to our overnight RV park. These are great examples of working together providing more prosperity for businesses and the community."

## Lochinvar Pet Motel

206 Old North Road, Lochinvar (Est. 2007)  
 \* Air Conditioned for your pets comfort  
 \* Heated Flooring for winter

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[www.lochinvarpetmotel.com.au](http://www.lochinvarpetmotel.com.au)

### DOGS

2018 Pricing schedule as of 1<sup>st</sup> 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

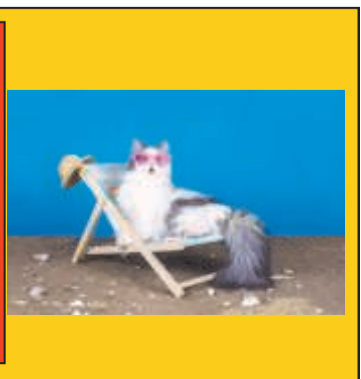


### CATS

2018 Pricing schedule as of 1<sup>st</sup> February (daily price)

## \$16.00

Purr cat, purr day





# Hunter Valley Boutique Collective



promotes a fair and equal environment allowing members to collaborate. The organising committee states: "Our meetings aim to inspire our members and let them walk away with constructive and valuable information from their peers".

The first event in July welcomed close to 50 attendees and the group was treated to a talk from successful business owner, Lisa Fowler. The August event featured well known winemaker, chef and business owner Lisa Margan from Margan Wines at Broke, who spoke about her experiences in business over the past 20 years.

The next meeting is



scheduled for Thursday 6 September 2018 at Prop That in Greta in collaboration with local businesses Prop That, Holy Cuppa and Picottee Floral Design. On this occasion, the HVBCI are excited to present a panel of speaking on the topic of 'managing

the juggle'. Speakers include Counsellor Melanie Dagg, Kylie Humphreys of Head and Heart Mindfulness and Pru Killick, Operations Manager with Pegasus. If you are interested in growing your professional and business skills the first

meeting is at no cost and no obligation to join and everyone is welcome. Further information can be found on the HVBCI facebook page or by emailing [boutiquecollective@outlook.com](mailto:boutiquecollective@outlook.com)

**Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate**  
4938 3300  
Free PROPERTY APPRAISALS

In July 2018 the Hunter Valley Boutique Collective Inc. (HVBCI) held their official launch event in Branxton. The HVBCI is a non-for-profit association that aims to bring together likeminded business professionals within the Hunter Valley, predominately women.

allowing for attendees to gain valuable skills on different areas of business and professional development.

The group welcomes people of all levels of experience, whether in business or otherwise, and

The HVBCI aims to offer monthly events with a focus on informative guest speakers that inspire members as well as



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**melbourne cup 2018**

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(Seats are limited to 92 persons)

**BRANXTON WE SERVE**

**TRIVIA NIGHT**

**Branxton Golf Club**

**Saturday 8 September 2018**  
**7.00pm**

**Kitchen open for meals from 5.00pm**

**BYO nibbles for the evening**

**Tickets \$100.00 per table of ten**

**Tickets available from**

**Brian Thomas 0417 282 440**



## 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 July 2018 to 31 July 2018.

Locality	Reference	Decision Date	Property Address	Application Description
BRANXTON	008/2017/00000756/001	16-Jul-2018	45 Maitland ST	Change of Use from Hotel to Licensed Restaurant, Commercial Premises, Light Industry (Knife Making) & One (1) Tourist Accommodation Unit.
CONGEWAI	008/2018/00000057/001	12-Jul-2018	153 Eglinford LANE	Change of Use to Tourist Accommodation (Serviced Apartment)
EAST BRANXTON	008/2018/00000363/001	16-Jul-2018	21 Wyndham ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
GRETA	008/2018/00000390/001	16-Jul-2018	65 Anvil ST	Demolition of Existing Shed & Construction of a New Shed
GRETA	008/2018/00000395/001	17-Jul-2018	26 Anvil ST	Carport
GRETA	008/2018/00000409/001	17-Jul-2018	20 Anvil ST	Construct a Carport & Extension of Existing Shed
GRETA	008/2018/00000416/001	26-Jul-2018	24 Popham ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
GRETA	008/2018/00000427/001	30-Jul-2018	22 Ouita CL	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
LOVEDALE	008/2018/00000171/001	3-Jul-2018	39 Lovedale RD	Storage Building
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000352/001	11-Jul-2018	97 Tooze CCT	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000355/001	11-Jul-2018	7 Wethered CR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000277/001	17-Jul-2018	112 Tuckers LANE	Construction of Five (5) Tourist & Visitor Accommodation Units & Associated Site Office
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000389/001	18-Jul-2018	20 Slattery RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	009/2018/00000142/001	18-Jul-2018	91 Tooze CCT	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000375/001	25-Jul-2018	12 Abberton PWY	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000403/001	26-Jul-2018	75 Kesterton RISE	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000419/001	31-Jul-2018	11 Ainsworth CR	Swimming Pool
NULKABA	008/2017/00000553/001	6-Jul-2018	5 O'Connors RD	Alterations & Additions to an Existing Educational Establishment
NULKABA	008/2018/00000083/001	23-Jul-2018	27 Occident ST	Subdivision of One (1) Lot into Six (6) Lots
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000345/001	11-Jul-2018	6 Hillii Lane PRIV	New Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000304/001	12-Jul-2018	1946 Broke RD	Change of Use to Cellar Door Premises
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000364/001	26-Jul-2018	48 Angophora DR	Two (2) Storey Dwelling & Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2018/00000413/001	26-Jul-2018	13 Liquid Amber PRIV	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2017/00000694/001	31-Jul-2018	LOT: 3 DP: 1019768 Broke RD	Construction of Dwelling & Clearing to Facilitate Ancillary Land Uses
ROTHBURY	008/2018/00000294/001	20-Jul-2018	1474 Wine Country DR	Single Storey Dwelling House

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





Cessnock City Council is proud to be hosting a free BioBlitz event from 9am to 2pm on Sunday 9 September at Poppet Head Park, Kitchener and everyone is welcome to join the fun!

This wonderful event forms part of Council's 'Our Bushland' campaign which aims to raise awareness about our local bushland and its importance to local species.

A BioBlitz is a citizen science event where scientists and ecologists work with the local community to explore and discover a number of living things in the local area.

Across the day there will be a number of activities including bushwalks with experienced guides where you'll discover the many plants and animals within the local bushland.

Walks start from 7am and you don't have to limit yourself to just one! Make sure you wear enclosed shoes, bring a water bottle

and pack binoculars if you have them so you can see the wildlife up close. There will also be plenty to keep the kids entertained. They can listen to Aboriginal cultural stories and learn, explore, laugh and play with the highly qualified team of National Parks Discovery Rangers.

Hunter Waterwatch volunteers will also be there to guide the children as they find all about water quality and water bugs. Along with activities, there will also be displays and food stalls on the day so it is sure to be a great day out for the whole family.

There's no need to book in for the kids activities however numbers are limited and it will be first in best dressed. It is recommended that you book your preferred walk and time to avoid disappointment. These bookings can be completed online.

Find out more and book your spot today by visiting

[www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/BioBlitz](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/BioBlitz)

This event has been made possible thanks to a partnership between Cessnock City

Council and Birdlife Australia, with funding by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust.

## Greta Rural Fire Service showcase new lockers

Greta Rural Fire Service (RFS) are better prepared for emergency situations following the acquisition of steel mesh lockers for their uniforms thanks to \$10,672 in funding under the Community Building Partnership program.

State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr, recently visited the RFS station to personally thank volunteer members for their service to the community and inspect the new lockers.

"It is great to see the investment the RFS has been able to make as a result of the funding" Mr Barr said.

Mr Barr said it was important to prioritise the needs of local RFS volunteers by ensuring they have the equipment to carry out their life-saving work. "Firefighters rely heavily on their uniform to protect them from spilt chemicals, toxic fumes and heat. These new lockers will prevent the unnecessary wear and tear, which means the uniforms will have a longer service life" Mr Barr said.

"The Greta RFS is the backbone of the local community and it is only fitting that they have received this funding to support them with their important work".

The Greta RFS is currently calling for volunteers. Volunteering offers the opportunity to learn new and valuable skills that will not only assist you in your voluntary role but in day to day life and even your workplace.

If you live locally and are interested in becoming part of the Greta RFS team, I would encourage you to contact Sarah Gnat of the Greta RFS on 0421 387 069.



### Seniors Class

\$5 per Class

- Mondays & Wednesdays at 9:30am
- Location: Old St Brigid's School, Station Street, BRANXTON
- 45-minute Seniors Class suitable for all ages & fitness levels. The class is designed to build strength for everyday life & increase mobility
- Welcome, supportive & enjoyable

BOOKING ESSENTIAL PRIOR TO THE CLASS  
**Contact: Katie on 0432 387 805**

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# STEVE'S RANT

After the Liberal / National Party room discussion last Tuesday (14th inst) we now know the full extent of the Governments betrayal of the people of Australia. The spineless rump of the Liberal/National party has agreed to back the senseless, yea pointless, National Energy Guarantee. Thankfully there remain a number of Members of these two parties who have the wit to disagree and will not vote for it in Parliament. The consequence of this being to force the *Dear Leader* to negotiate with *Shortens Mob* to get legislation passed for his treasonous policy. Of course *Shortens Mob* are even dafter than the *Dear Leader* and would only vote against it if they could see a short term advantage in doing so. Such is the opportunistic and cynical attitude of our Federal politicians. It is more important to them to win a point than consider the long term well-being of the nations economy. As Bill Clinton is famous for saying "It's the ECONOMY stupid." If the nation's economy is not balanced and growing everything else that requires Federal Government money is at risk; you can forget about Medicare, Education, National Security, the

Disability Insurance Scheme, National Development and anything else the Federal Government has got their sticky fingers into. So, what will the NEG do for the Nation? It will guarantee that the economy is stuffed. Don't worry about old people freezing to death in winter and overcome by heat in the summer. The old people don't matter it seems, because their voting block is only small. But when industries and the general infrastructure of the nation are closed down because the wind isn't blowing and it is night time, how is the *Dear Leader* going to explain that? This is what the individual householder can do; next time your power bill arrives and is unreasonably high, pay only half of it and spend what you have saved on a 5KW generator. Remember 1kw of power = 1000 watts. Make sure (get advice) that your appliances don't exceed the generators capacity. Have it professionally installed. For fuel you will need a quantity of jerry cans which you fill when prices are low. If you do not have gas for cooking and hot water, consider these options. Avoid mains gas because this can be cut off

by the company any time. Use propane gas in bottles because you pay as you go and have only yourself to blame if you run out. Then switch to you BBQ bottle, if you have one. Will it come to this? Your need for a backup generator or complete independence from mains power viz., Living off grid? When you consider the collective stupidity of our Federal politicians and their enthusiasm for meddling in our markets, our lives and the economy to our detriment we would be well advised to think about alternatives.

As a positive step we can write to the Premier of NSW and beseech her to publically fund a number of coal fired power stations to be constructed in the state. NSW can become the backup power for the eastern states and make a motza profit. Remember the old adage; when making a complaint go to the highest authority there is. The highest authority is the Governor General. He has the power to prorogue parliament and appoint qualified administrators to run the country while the people run around and organise for themselves new candidates for a general election. Not turkeys nominated by political factions. If the Governor General receives an avalanche of letters he will have the justification for putting parliament on notice to lift their game. What say you? The failure of our Federal Government to reflect the wishes of the people cannot be allowed to continue. There are many avenues, we as individuals, can take to influence politicians but we cannot wait for elections because as we have seen in the past, governments have locked in ridiculous expectations to buy votes whilst they have the chance. This to the detriment of the Nation's economy. We saw this when Tony Abbott was voted into

emissions reductions target. Whatever becomes of this mess need not impact on the people of NSW. The States of Australia are Sovereign entities and have the authority to pursue whatever actions are required to maintain our living standards and wellbeing. In fact are obliged to do so. I beseech you in the name of common sense to immediately commence the planning for and construction of at least three coal fired power stations in locations where they will have the benefit of existing transmission corridors and infrastructure. Further to this and in anticipation of future power shortages, would you make it clear to the people of the ACT that power to their precinct would be the first to be cut in the event power needs to be rationed.



power in a landslide and yet he was stymied from the start by policies of the Rudd/Gillard predecessors from doing anything about bringing the budget to surplus. And the *Dear Leader* has exacerbated the problems and his NEG is the nail in the coffin for Australia. Cheers, Steve (Ed. This article was prepared about 3 weeks prior to publishing) **25/8/2018 (Update)** With the removal of Malcolm Turnbull from the Liberal Party it is now helpful that the ridiculous emission reduction targets can be consigned to history and the government will now require the energy companies to provide disposable power at the world's lowest prices, as it should be. How that is achieved is up to the companies but if they cannot provide this then the State Governments must. (See the copy of

my letter to the Premier of NSW and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition) I do not want to make comment about the last two weeks of entertainment coming from Canberra since every newspaper in the country is full of it this weekend. What I must comment on is the silly suggestion by some Liberal Party members that the ability to remove the leader should in same way be curtailed, similar to the provision put in place by the Labor Party. As we saw last week a leader who would not give up his ideological druthers in face of compelling evidence to the contrary had to go. The means to do that must be retained even when it risks the instability of the party in the future.

What is to be the policies of the new Prime Minister we must wait and see. There is a mass of real concerns that have been ignored in the past three years, due to the red herrings of global warming, feel good policies which affect only a tiny percent of the population and an inability to negotiate policy through the senate. It is heartening to hear now that the priority is to be given to the plight of the NSW and Queensland farmers

facing the drought. Nobody would disagree that our bread and butter are more important than worrying about gender assignment or the infighting of political parties... they all do it from time to time and it is generally about personalities rather than policy. Have a nice day, Steve.

## daily thoughts

"Trust your own instinct. Your mistakes might as well be your own, instead of someone else's." ~ Billy Wilder

And of course the Medicare rebate freeze has not helped. I urge that the care and protection of the elderly should be a bipartisan matter and improvements should be made to ensure the wellbeing and living standards of aged Australians meet community expectations. We must keep them safe and ensure that they have a decent place to live, can afford the essentials in life and have access to the health care they need to maintain quality of life for as long as is possible. I don't believe that we are succeeding sufficiently in

those objectives. I don't believe our pension payments are sufficiently keeping pace with our cost of living. And it appears we are failing to ensure older Australians have access to the health care they need when they need it. As Members of Parliament, we should always be mindful of the role older Australians have played in the development of our great nation. Many of them lived through the toughest of times to improve living standards for future generations—standards we now enjoy today, as do our children. *Joel Fitzgibbon MP Member for Hunter*



We all belong to one human race  
I am writing in response to *Steve's Rant* in last edition of the paper.  
I believe everyone has a right to their own opinion, but when that person singles out a particular religion (Islam) it shows that persons ignorance to another person's beliefs, I just hope that people that have read the column in the area & outside the area don't think this is a reflection of everybody in the community.  
It seems like a case of Islamophobia to me; you cannot judge a whole religion when it's the acts of a tiny minority that disrespect the religion, Islam is a peaceful religion. It is peoples ignorance that fuels hatred & violence.

To many people get their idea's or views from television or social media. There is good & bad in all religions.  
**QUOTE**  
"We may have different religions, Different languages' Different coloured skin, But we all belong to one human race"  
**Kofi Annan**  
*Name & address supplied but not published at the request of writer.*

Federal Parliament in its true form  
In the last week we have seen Federal Parliament in its true form. In my opinion, dysfunctional and bordering on betrayal of the Australian people in the headlong pursuit of a pointless and destructive

In order to finance the power station construction I can think of no better way than the enlisting of the people of NSW to invest in Government Bonds. By not restricting the issue of Bonds by any minimum dollar amount and allowing the widest possible opportunity for our people to contribute, I believe a project such as this would fly and provide Bond holders with a good return as NSW underwrites the other eastern state power demands. Steve and Maureen Lind, North Rothbury NSW (Ed. This letter was also sent to the Premier & the Opposition Leader of NSW)  
Local Member highlights the need for quality aged health care  
I wish to express the importance of caring for our older Australians, in particular ensuring access

to health practitioners in aged care facilities. Despite our ageing population, worryingly General Practitioner (GP) visits to aged care facilities have declined 13 per cent in just three years. Our GPs are busy, and visits to aged care facilities are time-consuming, both in getting there and once they arrive there. The care issues they encounter on those visits can be quite complex and, again, time-consuming. The monetary compensation they receive for visiting aged care facilities is less than that which they would receive if they saw patients in their own surgeries.

## Emergency Phone Numbers

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

AirVenture Australia is just over a month away and the event is promising to be bigger and better than ever! Being held at Cessnock Aerodrome in the beautiful Hunter Valley, less than an hour from Newcastle, this aviation event is perfect for both a day trip or an extended stay.

The event kicks off on Thursday the 20th and Friday the 21st with a host of seminars, exhibitors and trade stalls, aircraft displays, and interactive sales demonstrations. Saturday the 22nd begins with some fantastic presentations from Red Bull Air Race pilot Matt

Hall, Women in Aviation International, and contestants from the Outback Air Race. Saturday afternoon will see a high energy airshow featuring Matt Hall, the RAAF Roulettes, and many more - check out the full lineup below. There is so much to see and

do for the whole family. There will be helicopter flights, adventure flights, joy flights, and trial introductory flights, for anyone hoping to get a taste of what it's like to be behind the controls. Kids will be kept



entertained with inflatables, rides and activities, and visitors will be able to walk the lines of aircraft on display. The event will close with a celebratory Gala Dinner for those

that want to kick up their heels on Saturday night. As well as everything that AirVenture Australia has to offer, there is so much to

see and do in the Cessnock region. Be sure to visit the **Hunter Valley Visitor Centre** to plan your trip.

## From the Paddock to the plate...



Looking for healthy fresh produce from local farms? Wollombi Road Providore in Cessnock is where you will find it. Fresh from your farmers & open seven days a week.

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*Come in and Enjoy ~ Lisa and Michael*

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If you require assistance please call

0414 757 826

## Trivia Fund Raising Event



Branxton Lions Club is holding its third annual Trivia Night on Saturday 8th September 2018 and is calling on the local community to support the event. The Branxton Golf Club is the venue for the evening.

The Lions Club provides funds to support local and regional organisations, charities and to people in crises.

Substantial donations have been made to locals requiring mobility assistance equipment, Cancer Council, Westpac Rescue Helicopter, the Black Dog Ride (mental health), a number of medical research foundations, children's charities and the Lions Foundation, a national body which responds to disasters such as bush fires, cyclones and floods.

The Lions also supports the seniors of Branxton and Greta holding a free Christmas Dinner for them in both towns each year.

On Anzac Day the Lions support the local RSL Veterans by assisting with lunch. Every dollar raised by the Lions is used for these worthwhile causes.

The Club has decided to again hold a trivia night to raise funds in addition to normal fund raising activities. To have a successful night and to maximise their fund raising the club would appreciate the support of the local community.

Fifty percent of funds raised at this year's trivia night will be donated to Motor Neurone Disease Research, Lions Diabetes Foundation and the local Women and Children's Refuge.

Everyone is invited to participate in the evening which is a great social event.

Tables of 10 are \$100.00 and tickets can be obtained by contacting Brian Thomas on 0417 282 440.

Trivia will commence at 7.00pm and the kitchen will be open for meals from 5.00pm. Table groups can also bring nibbles or a plate for supper if desired.

**SEE UNUSUAL CATS**

Norwegian Forest Cat  
Snowshoe  
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as well as  
Perfect Persians  
Beautiful Burmese  
Sensuous Siamese  
Alert Abyssinians  
British Shorthairs  
Birmans ..... &  
beautiful desexed domestic cats/kittens

## CAT/KITTEN SHOW

Greta Arts & Sports Community Hall  
Cnr. New England Hwy & Water Street Greta  
**Saturday September 1st**  
11.00am - 4.00 pm  
admission: - \$2.00 adults/children, \$5.00 family

Branxton Wine Country Cat Club  
Further information contact DEEANNE 0429 636 825

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## FREE COMMUNITY WALKING GROUP AT GRETA

Commencing: 5th September 2018

Where: Greta Central Oval

When: Wednesday's at 5:30pm

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Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

It was a pleasure to be involved in the launch of the Second Edition of the Convict Trail Map and the new website. The preservation and promotion of this trail is important to our community as it is reflective of the rich history of our area. It represents the hardship and workmanship of those who came before us. It was a monumental task new settlers faced in building infrastructure in rugged terrain and in often harsh conditions. The relics left behind such as Ramsey's Leap tell us this story. Council will undertake work on Ramsey's Leap to see it preserved for generations to come. This is a great example of convict workmanship and it was fantastic to receive a grant from the Office of Environment and Heritage to undertake these works to preserve the spectacular stone curved retaining wall. The project will involve the installation of interpretive signage telling the tale of Ramsey's Leap and the Convict Trail, how the road came to be from the Hawkesbury to the Hunter Valley. The attraction of Wollombi continues to grow and there is a need to provide visitors with information so they can fully appreciate this area. Council was extremely pleased to be able to support the new map and congratulates all of those involved in seeing the publication updated. Once again the Australian Wallabies ran onto the Cessnock Sportsgrounds as part of a training camp earlier this month. The team did the same last year and enjoyed it so much they came back. This is a tribute to our facility. It is great to see Rugby Australia showing their support for the regions. We look forward to welcoming them back into our community in the future and are very positive about the proposal for the 2021 Women's Rugby World Cup, with our vineyard precinct picked as the perfect location for teams to stay. Happy Birthday to the Cessnock VIEW club who celebrated their 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday last week and to Branxton VIEW club who celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> birthday earlier in the month. Councillor Dagg attended the Cessnock celebrations alongside Mayoress Pynsent who attended both the Cessnock and Branxton

luncheons. Council recognises the important contribution of services clubs to our community. Cessnock VIEW club continues to support young people in our community with their educational needs which is a fantastic benefit to all. The community has celebrated the opening of the new Greta Medical Centre building. It is wonderful to see up to date infrastructure being built in our community that will provide residents with improved access to care. Next Monday is a special occasion for our entire community as the Hon Meryl Swanson, MP will officially hand over the medals of Pte William Kelly to Kurri Kurri Public School for safekeeping. The miner from Glasgow, Scotland lived in Kurri Kurri prior to WWI. In 1916 he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces and tragically lost his life fighting for Australia on May 15 1917. As William Kelly had no living relatives his war medals were not passed on. The medal handover ceremony will be a very special symbolic moment to welcome William Kelly home to Kurri Kurri. This will be a unique moment as for 100 years he has had no known grave or no one to mourn his death. *Cheers, Bob*



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

No one needs me to tell them it's a tough time to be on the land right now. The drought is taking a toll on everyone, and most people are inclined to think there's someone else "worse off" than them. There's a lot of support out there from the State and Federal governments as well as charity organisations, and it's great to see so many people donating whatever they can to support our farmers. But quite often the biggest problem for people is knowing where to start to find help. So, Singleton Council has stepped up to establish an information hub, working in partnership with the many government agencies and organisations available to our farmers. Council staff will be on hand to help people register with Rural Aid and other organisations distributing hay bales, food and other essentials. It's a practical way that we can help. Council staff are undertaking training ahead of the official launch of the service from

Monday 27 August 2018, when we'll be ready to take calls from our farming community to point people in the right direction and connect them with the right organisations according to what help they need. Or you can drop into Singleton Library or Singleton Visitor Information and Enterprise Centre for a chat and a cup of tea, use a computer or connect to the internet, or let us help you register for aid – whether it be a bale of hay, food or financial help. You can also talk to us about rate relief. Council's events team is also busy planning an event for Saturday 27 October 2018 to bring the community together in a demonstration of the support that exists right across Singleton for people affected by the drought. More details will be announced in the coming weeks. The event will be an opportunity to raise funds for the people in our community who are doing it a little bit tough, but mostly we just want people to know they are not alone. And that's the message I have for everyone who is feeling the impact of this drought. I can't stress enough that you are entitled to assistance now. Don't leave it until you are at crisis point before you access the help and support that is available to you. If you don't know what's out there, or how you go about finding it, call us at Council on 02 6578 7290 and we can help. *Cheers, Sue*



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

**Raising the BARR FEAR AND HATRED WILL TEAR US APART** I have been struck by the amount of fear and hatred that is now regularly peddled in politics and media. Things are now said and reported, by supposed leaders that would have been unthinkable and met with the appropriate levels of disgust and protest just 10 years ago. Certain types of people, certain races of people, and certain religions are all being singled out as either acceptable or unworthy. Politicians say it, media reports on it and then we all think that we have to accept it as true and reasonable. It's not. You may recall from history a fellow called Adolf Hitler who led an attack on the Jewish people internally and the world at large externally – all based on his extreme view that he was entitled to "cleanse" the world by killing millions and millions of people he deemed unworthy. As though one human was somehow less

than another! The work of Hitler sickened us all and that is why I am so alarmed at an emerging action in our communities, across the globe, that are pushing the same agenda. Right now, in the U.S there are people running for Government that openly identify as supporters of Nazism. Here in Australia we have politicians that are not far less extreme in their views. In his book *The Coming of the Third Reich*, historian Richard Evans wrote of that time in the 1920's and 1930's "it had now become possible to utter in parliamentary sessions and electoral meetings hatreds and prejudices that in the mid nineteenth century would have been deemed utterly inappropriate in public discourse." It is frightening how our society could mirror that same language less than 100 years later. Folks, we don't need to hate our fellow man. Hatred will lead us to war and to doing unthinkable things to our fellow humans. Those terrible things will be done to men, women and children. And quite frankly I have seen enough sickening images on the nightly news to remind me of the pathetic injustice of hatred across our world – that is not me, that is not who I am, and I am sure that is not you either. \* \* \* \* \* *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](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp)", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp or check out my website at [www.claytonbarr.com.au](http://www.claytonbarr.com.au) Cheers Clayton*



Cr Ben Mitchell - Maitland City Council-West Ward

**An Introduction to Cr Ben Mitchell Maitland City Council-West Ward.** My family were early settlers of the Midwest region of WA, arriving there in 1867. I spent my childhood on the family farm near the small town of Mingenew in the Northern Wheat Belt of Western Australia. My father became a cabinet maker after school before returning to the family farm. My mother worked as a bank teller for NAB and later worked in the local post office. I was born in 1992 and have a younger brother and sister who still live in WA. Mingenew is a town of less than 500 people and is

largely known for its grain production and for the wild flowers surrounding the area which put on a spectacular show each year. There is a remarkable contrast in the landscape of the region between wet and dry years with wildflowers carpeting the ground in the good years and vast, nearly lifeless plains in the dry. I attended the local Primary School, followed by two years of boarding at Geraldton Grammar School in grades 8 and 9. I then moved to Perth and continued my education at St Stephens School before leaving to continue the family tradition of working on the farm. At the time, the family complimented their grain crops with sheep. This was my main interest in farming. The Gillard Government's sudden live export ban led to the end of the family's sheep farming as two thirds of our sales were cut overnight. The ban had a devastating effect on many Western Australian families who partly or solely relied on sheep or cattle farming for their livelihood. As I was not so interested in the grain side of the farm, I returned to Perth and obtained an apprenticeship in horticulture, working full time and studying after hours. In 2014, I moved to Maitland and began working at The Vintage as a Horticulturalist. I am the first and only member of my family to move away from WA, but I am now a proud resident of the Hunter. I joined the NSW Young Monarchists in 2015 and was elected Chair in 2016. I am passionate about maintaining Australia's current constitution which has served us so well for so long. I also joined the NSW Young Liberals in 2014 before transferring to the Maitland senior branch in 2016. In September 2017, I had the privilege to be elected as Councillor for West Ward of Maitland City Council, becoming the youngest in Maitland's history. I love Maitland. I have made my home in Telarah and am excited about the opportunities that the rapid growth we have will bring for our city. For far too long the western portion of Maitland has been talked down and considered by many as second best. I'm glad to see a reassessment by many as they choose to make this part of our city home. Contact: 04 58 929 202 [ben.mitchell@maitland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ben.mitchell@maitland.nsw.gov.au) or Cr Ben Mitchell on Facebook *Until next time, Ben.*



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

**SHORT-TERM HOLIDAY LETTING**

**POLICY GIVEN GREEN LIGHT** Short-term holiday letting will have tougher but fairer regulation from 2019, after the NSW Parliament passed the Government's plan for the industry. The short-term holiday letting reforms bolster NSW's sharing economy while clamping down on unruly guests. NSW Fair Trading and industry stakeholders were developing a new Code of Conduct to manage noise levels and disruptive behaviour. The mandatory Code will come into force next year, and will apply to online accommodation platforms, letting agents, hosts and guests across the State. Under our 'two strikes and you're out' policy, hosts or guests who commit two serious breaches of the Code within two years will be banned for five years, and be listed on an exclusion register. Amendments to the *Strata Schemes Management Act* are also being made so owners' corporations can pass by-laws to ban short-term letting in their block, if the host is not present, and they get a 75 per cent majority vote. The new state-wide planning rules would come into force next year, detailing how many days a year properties could be let. It's great to see these sensible reforms pass through Parliament, giving certainty to the industry, and to all involved. For more information on short-term holiday letting go to [www.fairtrading.com.au](http://www.fairtrading.com.au) **Contact:** My Email address; [upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au), phone numbers; 6543 1065, Fax 6543 1416; postal address P.O. Box 493, Muswellbrook 2333. *Cheers, Michael*



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

Many are dismayed by the failure of the Australian Parliament to reach a settlement on energy policy. Over a period stretching more than a decade, political partisanship has run interference on every attempt to put a carbon constraint in place without unnecessarily pushing power prices up, or undermining electricity reliability. It's both a bewildering and sorry story. But there is an even more bewildering story. Next year marks 10 years since the completion of the Productivity Commission's (PC) inquiry into government drought support. The PC's work should be compulsory reading for anyone with an

interest in farm and drought policy. Like the energy sector, we still have no coherent and effective drought policy 10 years on. What makes this even more incredible than the energy story is that we managed to lose 10 years despite a lack of partisanship. At least until the Member of New England came along. In 2008 Commonwealth and State Primary Industries Ministers reached an historic agreement on drought reform. They agreed, and I quote: "drought support based on Exceptional Circumstances was no longer appropriate in the face of a variable climate". Sitting as the CoAG Committee known as the Standing Committee on Primary Industry (SCoPI) – which the now Government abolished in 2013 – Ministers further agreed to commission the PC inquiry and report. Another historic agreement followed. On May 3, 2013, SCoPI Ministers, including the former Queensland Agriculture Minister and now Federal Minister for Regional Development, signed the InterGovernmental Agreement on National Drought Reform Program (IGA). Five of the nine Ministers who signed the agreement represented Conservative Governments. It is important to note that both the 2008 and 2013 Agreements enjoyed not only bi-partisanship support across the political parties; it was backed by the key farm leadership groups. So why is it, 10 years on, we are now dealing with the third Government drought announcement in 2 months? Why is it that only a fortnight separated the second and third announcements? Why is it we still have no coherent drought policy based on the 2008 and 2013 Agreements? The answer can be found in the September 2013 election result. Two things followed. First, the Member for New England became the Minister for Agriculture. Second, the now Turnbull Government abolished the SCoPI, the key CoAG Committee. SCoPI's focus was on adaptation and resilience building. It must be our key response to a hotter and drier environment going forward. We must help farmers regenerate their landscapes; to improve the quality and biodiversity of their soils and to retain water. Raising the soil carbon levels by one per cent on an acre of land will hold 140,000 litres of water. We owe it to future generations to change our course, to focus more on product value and less on volume. To ensure our natural resources are allocated to the product which creates the greatest value and return for both our farmers and the economy. And most of all, we need to do so in a sustainable way. check my website at [www.joelfitzgibbon.com](http://www.joelfitzgibbon.com) or you can even sign up to my E-Newsletter. To contact the office, phone 1300 301 753, visit [www.joelfitzgibbon.com](http://www.joelfitzgibbon.com) or by post 3 Edward Street, Cessnock, 2325. *Cheers*



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PHARMACY ADVISOR

**Medicine and side effects**

Side effects are unwanted effects of a medicine. All medicines can cause side effects. It's important to know the side effects of your medicines so that you know what to do if you get them.

**What are medicine side effects?**

Any unwanted or unexpected effects of a medicine are called side effects. They are also sometimes called adverse effects or adverse reactions.

Side effects can also include:

- interactions with other medicines or food
- the medicine not working well

Not all side effects are serious. Most are mild, although some medicines have serious side effects. These medicines are usually prescribed for serious health conditions. You can often avoid side effects by taking the medicine exactly according to the instructions, for example after eating food, or at a certain time of the day.

**What types of medicines can cause side effects?**

All types of medicines can have side effects. This includes prescription

medicines and over-the-counter medicines that you can buy from a pharmacy, supermarket or other shops. Vitamins and minerals can also have side effects, as can any herbal, complementary, alternative or natural medicine. Even though all medicines can cause side effects, not everyone will get them.

**Where to get information on side effects**

For information about potential side effects, speak to your doctor or pharmacist. Here are some questions you might want ask.

- What are the possible side effects of the medicine?
- How commonly do the side effects happen?
- Does the medicine have any serious side effects, and what's the risk?
- What can I do to avoid or reduce the risk of side effects?
- Do the side effects get better with time?
- What should I do if I think I'm having a side effect?

You can also get information on side effects from the medicine's Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) leaflet, which is available from your pharmacist for all prescription and some non-prescription medicines. .

**Thinking about side effects**

If you are thinking about starting a new medicine, it

is worth thinking about the side effects. How common are they? How serious are they? And what do they mean to you?

This is especially important if you have a serious health condition and the medicines might have serious side effects.

**How to get help if you have side effects**

If anything worries you after taking your medicine, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. You can also call healthdirect on 1800 022 222 to speak to a registered nurse. If you think you might be having a serious side effect, see your doctor or hospital immediately.

For life-threatening emergencies, call triple zero (000).

**Practical Ways to Manage Medicines**

The more health complaints you have, the more medicines you are likely to take. Therefore managing your medicines is important, but it can be difficult. This may apply to yourself or someone that you are caring for.

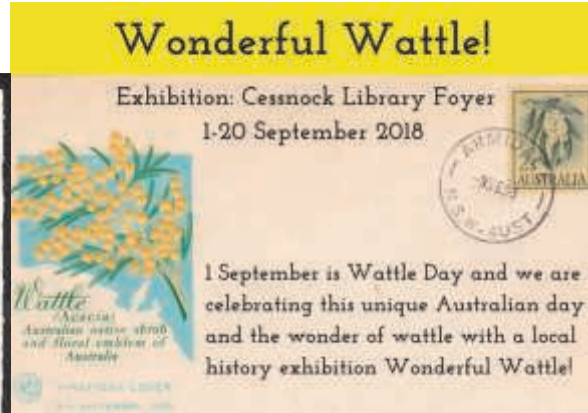
You can easily forget to give or to take medicines, or even take them twice. You will find it easier if you use a medicines list to record this information. It is important that you take this list to all of your medical appointments. You should also ask your doctor to update this for you when your medicines are changed. Sometimes, your doctor or pharmacist may suggest that you use a dose administration aid. This is a way to organise your medicines so that they are easier to manage. Your pharmacist may be able to fill this regularly for you. There may be a cost for this service.

**Wonderful Wattle exhibition**

. Wattle Day is on 1 September and to celebrate this uniquely Australian day, Cessnock Library will host a Wonderful Wattle exhibition in the foyer from 1 to 20 September 2018. The exhibition also falls within History Week, so it will also cover the history of Wattle Day, both locally and nationally, as it was once a major Australian celebration and public holiday. What many might not know is that Golden Wattle (acacia pycnantha) is our national floral emblem and like Australian people themselves, it has great diversity with more than 750 species!



There are also significant local history stories about Wattle Day celebrations in Cessnock, Kurri Kurri and Wollombi schools where students would take to the bush, collect wattle and crown a Wattle King and Queen. In 1955, the first annual Cessnock Wattle Day ball was held in Lyceum Hall and was a



great success, attracting almost 300 people. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent encourages the local community to visit Cessnock Library to check out the Wonderful Wattle exhibition during September. "This timely wattle themed exhibition also marks the beginning of spring and there will be lots of glorious

wattles coming into bloom throughout our local government area!"

For more information about the Wonderful Wattle exhibition, visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/library), or call the library team on 4993 4399.

To find out more about Wattle Day, visit [www.wattleday.asn.au](http://www.wattleday.asn.au).



On the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 18, Branxton Lions Club had another successful fund raising event with a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Singleton We also held a B.B.Q at Dalwood Winery and markets on 8.7.18. Funds raised on these days will go to the Black Dog institute for Diagnoses and treatment of depression and Bipolar Disorder. Also the Lower Belford Country Women's Association [ C W A ]. Branxton Lions Club are always looking for new members to share our friendship and have fun doing it with what we do best to raise money for our community. We hold our monthly meeting at Branxton Golf club on the first Tuesday of the month at 4pm Please call Lion Brian 65747186 or Lion Ken on 65747027 come and join us.

Ken Meany publicity Officer



**Chow mein cabbage rolls**

Chow mein and cabbage rolls combine to create this budget-friendly dinner winner.



**Ingredients**

- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2cm piece fresh ginger, peeled, finely grated
- 2 tablespoons shao hsing (Chinese rice wine)
- 1/4 cup oyster sauce, plus extra to serve
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon ground white pepper
- 1 tablespoon peanut oil
- 500g pork mince
- 4 green onions, thinly sliced, plus extra to serve
- 1 small carrot, grated
- 72g packet chicken-flavoured 2-minute noodles, broken into small pieces
- 9 large green cabbage leaves
- 1 teaspoon sesame seeds, toasted
- 1 tablespoon roasted unsalted peanuts, chopped
- 1 long red chilli, thinly sliced
- 4 cups steamed jasmine rice, to serve

**Method**

**Step 1**

Combine garlic, ginger, shao hsing, oyster sauce, soy sauce and pepper in a bowl.

**Step 2**

Heat a wok over medium-high heat. Add oil. Swirl to coat. Stir-fry mince, breaking up lumps, for 5 minutes or until browned. Add onion, carrot, sauce mixture, noodles, flavour sachet and 1 cup water. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 10 to 15 minutes or until noodles are tender and mixture has thickened. Remove from heat.

**Step 3**

Meanwhile, place 1 cabbage leaf on a board. Cut along each side of the centre vein to form 2 pieces. Discard vein. Repeat with remaining cabbage leaves. Bring a large saucepan of water to the boil over high heat. Blanch cabbage, in batches, for 1 to 2 minutes or until softened. Using tongs, place on a tray lined with paper towel to drain.

**Step 4**

Place cut side of 1 cabbage piece closest to you on a flat surface. Spoon 2 tablespoons mince mixture onto centre of leaf. Fold in sides, then roll up to enclose filling. Place on a large metal baking tray. Repeat with remaining leaves and mince mixture. Bake for 10 minutes or until heated through and leaves are beginning to char. Sprinkle rolls with sesame seeds, peanuts, chilli and extra onion. Drizzle with extra oyster sauce, and serve with rice.







- Or any other type of fraud

The NSW Police Force encourages you report this to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or online.

**Dating and romance scams - don't let them break your heart or wallet**

Dating and romance scams are very destructive – both financially and emotionally.

In 2013, more money was lost to dating and romance scams than any other type of scam, with over \$25 million reported lost in Australia - \$7.4 Million from NSW alone.

Unfortunately, the scammers have a high rate of success, with 43 per cent of people who reported an approach by an 'admirer' losing money – on average over \$21,000!

These scams also cause significant emotional harm, with many victims reporting a break down in relationships with friends and family. With the proliferation of online dating websites, forums and social media channels, these scams are moving increasingly into the online space. Online communication channels allow scammers to operate anonymously from anywhere in the world.

**How these scams work**  
Scammers exploit their victim's emotions in order to take their money. They can be very elaborate hoaxes, sometimes taking years to develop and run by experienced criminal syndicates.

The scammer develops a strong connection with the victim before asking for money to help cover costs associated with a supposed illness, injury, family crisis, travel costs or to pursue a business or investment opportunity.

Scammers often approach their victims on legitimate dating websites before attempting to move the 'relationship' away from the safeguards that these sites put in place; communicating through other methods such as email, where they can more easily manipulate victims.

Scammers also target victims through social networking sites, where they 'like' them and then express shared interests based on personal information taken from the victim's profile.

**How to stop this happening to you**

**Keep your personal details personal:** Never share personal information or photos with someone you don't know and trust – especially photos or webcam calls of a private nature.

There have been reports of scammers using this material to blackmail victims.

**Watch out:** If an online admirer asks to communicate with you outside the dating website, such as through a private email address or over the phone, watch out – they could be trying to avoid detection. If you are considering meeting in person, choose a public place and let family or friends know where you are at all times.

**Search:** Run a Google Image search to check the authenticity of any photos provided. Scammers often use fake photos they've found online.

**Think twice:** Never send money to someone you've met online, especially via money order, wire transfer or international funds transfer – it's rare to recover money sent this way.

**Report:** If you think you have provided your account details to a scammer, contact your bank or financial institution immediately.

**Report Scams**

If the scam originates in NSW, you can report this to the NSW Police Force by visiting your local police station or calling the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

You can report scams to the ACCC via the 'report a scam' page on SCAMwatch (www.scamwatch.gov.au) or by calling 1300 795 995. If you met the scammer through

a dating service or social media, you should also inform the dating service/ social channel of your experience so that they can try and stop the scammer hurting others.

Where to find out more:

**Scamwatch** -

www.scamwatch.gov.au

**NSW Fair Trading** -

www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

**Australian Competition and Consumer Commission**

- Targeting scams: Report of the ACCC on scams activity

2013 - Australian

Competition and Consumer

Commission (ACCC) -

http://www.accc.gov.au/

publications/targeting-scams-

report-on-scam-activity

Be aware!

A woman was at her hairdresser's getting her hair styled for a trip to Rome with her husband. She mentioned the trip to the hairdresser, who responded: "Rome? Why would anyone want to go there? It's crowded and dirty. You're crazy to go to Rome. So, how are you getting there?"

"We're taking Continental," was the reply. "We got a great rate!"

"Continental?" exclaimed the hairdresser.

That's a terrible airline. Their planes are old, their flight attendants are ugly, and they're always late. So, where are you staying in Rome?"

"We'll be at this exclusive little place over on Rome's Tiber River called Teste."

"Don't go any further. I know that place. Everybody thinks it's gonna be something special and exclusive, but it's really a dump."

"We're going to go to see the Vatican and maybe get to see the Pope." "That's rich," laughed the hair-

dresser. You and a million other people trying to see him. He'll look the size of an ant."

Boy, good luck on this lousy trip of yours. You're going to need it."

A month later, the woman again came in for a hairdo. The hairdresser asked her about her trip to Rome.

"It was wonderful," explained the woman, "not only were we on time in one of Continental's brand new planes, but it was overbooked, and they bumped us up to first class. The food and wine were wonderful, and I had a handsome 28-year-old steward who waited on me hand and foot.

And the hotel was great! They'd just finished a \$5 million re-modelling job, and now it's a jewel, the finest hotel in the city. They, too, were overbooked, so they apologized and gave us their owner's suite at no extra charge!"

"Well," muttered the hairdresser, "that's all well and good, but I know you didn't get to see the Pope."

"Actually, we were quite lucky, because as we toured the Vatican, a Swiss Guard tapped me on the shoulder, and explained that the Pope likes to meet some of the visitors,

and if I'd be so kind as to step into his private room and wait, the Pope would personally greet me.

Sure enough, five minutes later, the Pope walked through the door and shook my hand! I knelt down and he spoke a few words to me...."

"Oh, really! What'd he say?" He said: "I'd get rid of your hairdresser; it looks terrible!"



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**It's actions like these today that power a more affordable energy future.**

**Q POWERING FORWARD**

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**Gemma BUNNER BA/LLB (Hons), Acc Spec (Personal Injury) & Kerri SHAW B.Comm/LLB (Hons)**

**REPORT**

**SHAW & BUNNER**

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**How a nineteenth century influenza remedy shaped contract law**

In 1891 the Carbollic Smoke Ball Co. published advertisements in a number of English newspapers claiming that it would pay £100 (equivalent to over £12,000 in 2018) to anyone who got sick with influenza after using its "smoke ball" product according to the instructions provided with it. The product was advertised as a cure for influenza and a number of other diseases. The advertisements went on to state that £1000 was deposited with the Alliance Bank showing their sincerity in the matter. Mrs Carlill saw the advertisement, bought one of the smoke balls and used it daily for nearly two months, she then contracted the flu. After contracting influenza she claimed £100 from the Carbollic Smoke Ball Co. They ignored two letters requesting payment and following a third request for payment they replied with an anonymous letter that if it is used properly the company had complete confidence in the smoke ball's efficacy, but "to protect themselves against all fraudulent claims", they

would need her to come to their office to use the ball each day and be checked by the secretary.

Mrs Carlill brought a claim in Court arguing that there was a contract between the parties, based on the company's advertisement and her reliance on it in purchasing and using the Smoke Ball. It was argued:

- The advertisement was clearly an offer; it was designed to be read and acted upon and was not an empty boast.

- The advertisement was made to the public and as soon as a person does the specified act there is a contract, merely performing the act constitutes acceptance; further communication is not necessary.

- The terms are not too vague and uncertain. Carbollic Smoke Ball Co. argued that while the words in the advertisement did not amount to a promise and it was not a binding contract. They argued:

- the advertisement was too vague to constitute a contract.

- there was no consideration from the plaintiff.

to make a contract by performing a condition there needs to be either communication of intention to accept the offer or performance of some overt act.

The Court held there was a binding Contract and awarded Mrs Carlill damages of £100. The company appealed the decision and the Court of Appeal unanimously rejected the company's arguments and held that there was a fully binding contract for £100 with Mrs Carlill.

The case of Carlill v Carbollic Smoke Ball Co. established important legal principles around unilateral contracts: Communication of acceptance is not necessary. If there is an offer to the world at large, and that offer does not require notification of performance then performance of the specified condition in the offer will constitute acceptance of the offer and consideration for the promise. Statements made in an advertisement may be a mere "puff" and not intended to be legally binding. If the advertisement shows a clear promissory intention to be legally bound, it may constitute a unilateral offer.



**What's fresh and best for August 29.**

Welcome. Today we are eating local spring/green garlic, grown in locally at Kulnura

Spring or green garlic is simply garlic that hasn't fully developed; the garlic bulb is milder in taste compared to the fully developed bulb.

Harvested after four months the whole plant can be used, the bulb stem and leaves.

Spring garlic can be used as shallots or spring onions in salads and stir fries.

To cook the spring garlic, slice and cook in butter or olive oil, use as a topping for pasta dishes, add to soups, use as a garnish or bake...

Spring/green garlic will stay fresh for up to two weeks if stored in a damp towel or wrapped in foil in the crisper.

Fresh in store is Kohlarbi, a member of the cabbage family. Kohlarbi can be served the same way as



cabbage ~ the flavour is slightly stronger and sweeter. Slice and eat raw, add to salad, sauté boil or bake. The leaves, stem and bulb of Kohlarbi can be eaten. It is rich in vitamins A,C

and K as well as B vitamins. It also contains copper, manganese, iron, potassium, dietary fibre, calcium and rich in antioxidants. Some of the benefits of eating Kohlarbi are:-

- \* Helps prevent high blood pressure
- \* Enhances the immune system
- \* Promotes healthy bones and teeth
- \* Helps with the absorption of iron

produce, large variety and local old fashion serve.

Cheers Michael

**Helen Lowing,**  
Licencee-in-Charge with 30 years Real Estate experience in the local area  
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Honours the sacrifices of our local Service People - Come in to see our displays and photographs about them, and many other subjects.

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could likely have been prevented. Of high importance was her recommendation for the introduction of a Certificate of Compliance regime for all residential dwellings (like that implemented for swimming pools). She stated the Certificate of Compliance should be part of the residential tenancy agreement and certified by appropriately qualified individuals who can confirm the smoke alarm:

- Has been properly installed and located
- Has been tested and cleaned
- Works effectively

The Certificate of Compliance should also contain a diagram of the location of each smoke alarm in the property. This recommendation echoes those made by REINSW and substantiates the need for smoke alarm safety reform. "We have suggested a safer and more systematic approach should be taken," says Tim McKibbin, REINSW CEO. "A Certificate of Compliance regime is a far more effective solution. "The reality is property managers are not experts on smoke alarms and do not have the technical expertise to confirm they are

compliant and working." **Changes will save lives** Cameron Davis, CEO of Smoke Alarm Solutions, agrees Magistrate Grahame's recommendations will improve safety and save lives. "The introduction of a Certificate of Compliance



will help ensure working smoke alarms are in every NSW rental property," he says. "It will also reduce the burden on property managers."

"It is unacceptable only 75 per cent of properties in the State have working smoke alarms. It is vital smoke alarms are maintained and serviced at the commencement of each lease by qualified and highly trained technicians." REINSW predicts more accidents if changes aren't made Two years prior to the death of Miata Jibba, REINSW contacted the then Minister for Fair Trading, the Honourable Matthew Mason-Cox (dated 7 May 2014), and the then NSW State Coroner, Magistrate Michael Barnes (dated 30 September 2014), regarding the dangerous expectations

placed on property managers and the risks to consumers. "It is irreconcilable that Government has prescribed procedures for consumer protection in relation to swimming pools, but leaves them unprotected in other areas," says McKibbin.

"Unfortunately, as we did with smoke alarms, we can predict with some certainty that there will be accidents in relation to glass, windows and balconies.

"In fact, REINSW will write to the Government again this year regarding balcony collapses, which we expect to occur as the weather warms up." **Property manager vs tenancy manager** REINSW believes the role and functions of property managers should be reconsidered. "We should be moving away from the concept of 'property manager' and towards 'tenancy manager'," McKibbin continues. "This title is more in line with the functions a property manager should be responsible for, that is, managing the relationship between the landlord and the tenant."

**Housing finance numbers continue to fall, says REIA President**



The June 2018 housing finance figures released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that the number of loans for housing continue to decline. "Overall the figures for June 2018 show, in trend terms that the number of owner-occupied finance commitments decreased by 0.5 per cent – the ninth consecutive month of decreases," says REIA President, Malcolm Gunning. "If refinancing is excluded, in trend terms, the number of owner-occupied finance commitments decreased by 0.2 per cent – the tenth consecutive month since an increase. Decreases recorded across Australia "In trend terms, decreases were recorded in all states and territories except

Tasmania and Queensland, where lending increased by just 0.1 per cent. The largest decrease of 1.8 per cent was in the Australian Capital Territory. "The value of investment housing commitments decreased by 1.8 per cent in June, in trend terms. The dollar amount approved for the purchase of dwellings by individuals for rent or resale is at the lowest level since July 2013." Purchase and construction of new dwellings down Gunning says in trend terms, the number of established dwellings purchase commitments decreased by 0.4 per cent while the purchase of new dwellings decreased by 1.1 per cent and new dwelling construction fell by 0.5 per cent. "While the proportion of first home buyers, as part of the total owner-occupied housing finance commitments, increased in June to 18.1 per cent, the number of loans to first home buyers decreased by 8.3 per cent," he says.

"The continued decline in housing finance reflects the slowing market, which, in large part, can be attributed to the APRA restrictions and the fallout from the Royal Commission into Banking which has seen an extremely cautious approach being taken by lenders that can be best described as a real estate credit squeeze."

**Government must act to prevent consumer danger**

For many years, REINSW has actively lobbied Government in regards to consumer safety in rental properties. Currently, property managers must make determinations regarding the safety of a property on issues including, but not limited to:

- Smoke alarms
- Glass
- Asbestos
- Window safety locks
- Decks and balconies
- Electrical installations
- Swimming pools
- Lead paint

Although experienced in tenancy and legislative matters, property managers are not qualified to comment on these issues. **State Coroner's Court echoes REINSW recommendations on smoke alarms** Following the inquest into the death of Miata Jibba, Magistrate Harriet Grahame of the NSW State Coroner's Court made recommendations in relation to smoke alarms and public safety. Magistrate Grahame found that if adequate smoke alarms were fitted in the property, Miata's death



# Kurri Kurri smelter site acquired by Flow Systems to generate positive economic and environmental outcomes



Australian multi-utility provider Flow Systems has recently reached agreement to purchase the 2,000ha former Kurri Kurri Smelter site from current owners, Hydro Aluminium. Hydro Aluminium has been preparing the site for sale since its closure in 2014, managing demolition, remediation and rezoning activities at the site. Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri Managing Director Mr Richard Brown said the decision to sell the site to Flow Systems was due to the values shared between the two groups. "Flow Systems is the ideal partner for us to work with to renew the Kurri Kurri site while meeting our environmental and social commitments to the people of the local region. "Environmental stewardship is a hallmark of Hydro's global business. We selected Flow because we felt their commitment to sustainable economic and environmental values was directly aligned with ours," he said. Over the next 10 years the project is expected to deliver approximately 250ha for employment activities, around 250ha for residential development, and more than 1,200HA for

conservation purposes. This is expected to generate employment opportunities during the construction phase as well as long-term jobs in retail, commercial, industrial and tourism sectors. Flow Systems' Executive Manager-Development Solutions, Jamin Tappouras, said the Kurri Kurri site presented an exciting opportunity for Flow Systems to showcase how innovation and sustainability could be the catalyst for growth. "Flow Systems and its development partners intend to deliver a new community that at its heart is economically viable, liveable and sustainable. It will bring much-needed new services, new amenities, jobs and broader economic vitality to the existing Hunter Valley growth corridor. Flow's vision is premised on a residential development eventually comprising 2000+ homes and a thriving business, retail and tourism precinct, featuring parklands and enhanced wetlands for public amenity," Mr Tappouras said. "Flow is working on a bold and enlightened vision for the Kurri Kurri project to bring long-term sustainable

vibrancy full of innovation, with best practice sustainability built in. The non-residential precinct will be developed to attract international and national business, that may benefit from resilient and sustainable energy uses, to enhance the region as an employment destination." Mr Tappouras said energy security was paramount for business and residents, and the proposal included alternatives such as solar and smart energy storage, with the opportunity to export to the grid. The project will showcase Flow Systems' fully sustainable, multi-utility residential and commercial services delivery model not yet seen in Australia. "On completion, the project will be a global exemplar for what can be achieved in this sector," Mr Tappouras said. "We are looking forward to engaging with the local community on this very exciting opportunity to deliver essential housing and jobs to the local area, while also providing much-needed services that are both environmentally responsible and cost effective to future residents," Mr Tappouras added. Flow will be providing infrastructure and utility services for drinking water, recycled water, wastewater, telecommunications and embedded energy networks for the total project in one integrated delivery platform. This will bring a significant reduction in the costs of household utilities for homes and businesses within the project. Flow takes immediate responsibility for the development and transition

of the site while Hydro will continue the demolition and remediation of the smelter and surrounding land, which is expected to take another three to five years to complete.

Demolition, remediation and recycling is well underway along with Biodiversity Certification for 1,250 HA of conservation lands (85% of the buffer land around the smelter site) and rezoning of the remaining areas for residential and commercial use.

Flow Systems is progressing with the development of the residential areas to the east of the smelter site between Clifleigh and Gillieston Heights and will partner with local residential developers to facilitate progress. The project is proceeding along the rezoning pathway. Flow Systems is now continuing development and planning activities with both Cessnock and Maitland City Councils.

### Flow Systems

Flow Systems Pty Ltd is a sustainable multi-utility providing drinking water, recycled water, wastewater services, embedded energy networks, and hot water systems to communities including greenfield and urban infill communities. In total, Flow Systems is providing utility services to over 400 communities and ultimately 100,000 customers in the next five years. Flow Systems is committed to creating new solutions that harness innovation, reduce costs and carbon outputs while ensuring greater operating efficiencies that can be returned to the community. Creating communities of the future Flow Systems is working with leading developers and councils to create future communities, underpinned by sustainable energy and water networks. These communities are demonstrating capital cost savings and multiple benefits to developers, councils and customers:

- Differentiating the development as a sustainable development
- Facilitating developer innovation and hastening delivery
- Providing the best possible brand equity for developers
- Compliance with new metering requirements

# See some unusual cats this weekend



Some of the unusual breeds of cats – Norwegian Forest Cat, Snowshoe, Bengal, Selkirk Rex – will be competing in the Branxton Wine Country Cat Club's 3rd Annual Show, to be held at the Greta Arts and Sports Community Hall, cnr New England Highway and Water Street Greta, on Saturday 1st September. See them there along with perfect Persians, beautiful Burmese, sensuous Siamese, alert Abyssinians, etc and as well the beautiful desexed domestic cats and kittens of all colours and descriptions.



The Show is open to the public from 10.30am to 3.30pm. There is a small admission charge \$2.00 adults/children, \$5.00 family (to cover some of the staging costs). All will be able to watch the judging and listen to the international and NSW judges as they talk about the cats and kittens as they judge. Again the owners and breeders will only be too happy to talk to all about their exhibits.



There will also be a number of cat product trader stalls operating. For further information contact the Club's Secretary, Deeanne Wenham, 0429 636 925 **A little challenge for you:- the first 2 people to call our office after 9am on Friday 31st August 2018 and correctly identify the breed of the cats pictured at right will receive a family pass to the Branxton Wine Country Cat Club's 3rd Annual Show.**

### A hint

1. Snowshoe
2. Bengal
3. Norwegian Forest Cat
4. Dali

**GOOD LUCK!**





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# SPRING FAIR

15th SEPTEMBER 2018

10AM TIL 3PM

Wine Country Dr, Nulkaba (near Cessnock)



## East Branxton



**Low Maintenance 2 Bedroom Unit**  
Are you seeking your first home or maybe an investment. Well this is the opportunity to buy at a low price. A brick and tile two bedroom unit with a large open living area and large bedrooms. The property has its own private outdoor space and internal access to the garage. Updated Bathroom and Strata managed with low fees. It is currently tenanted at \$260 per week. Situated on a quiet street and conveniently located close to the Hunter Expressway  
**ASKING \$275,000**

## 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 under-cover entertainment area, large double lock-up garage, in quite area. New carpet & blinds.  
**ASKING \$350,000**



## Branxton



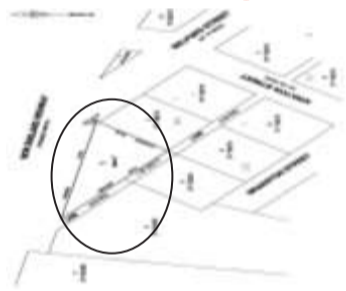
**One for the Handyman**  
The bones are good ~ just needs to be tidied up.  
Three good sized bedrooms, sep lounge, eat-in kitchen opening onto back decking. Good sized block.  
**ASKING \$299,000 Neg**

## 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: All reasonable offers considered**



## BELFORD



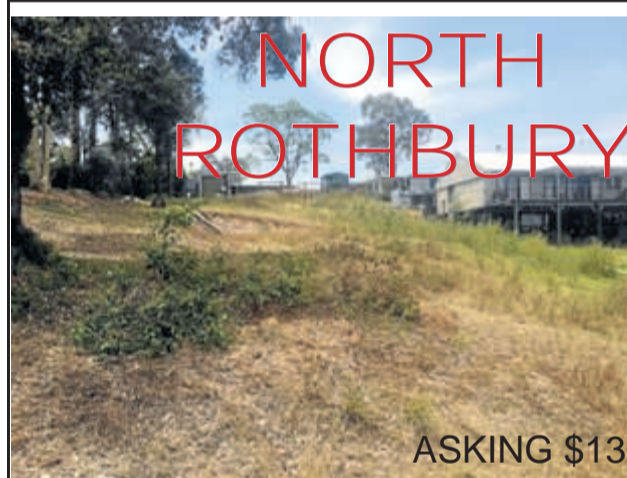
**Vacant Land 2559m<sup>2</sup>**  
Vacant Land with building approved Lot 1 DP 1205549  
Well over half an acre of good level block.  
**ASKING \$160,000 ONO**

## NORTH ROTHBURY



**Lots 521 & 523 Littlewood Road,**  
Vacant blocks  
4ha (10 acres) very private bush blocks. Fully Fenced & within minutes to Hunter Wine Country  
**ASKING: \$420,000 each**

## NORTH ROTHBURY



**Vacant Land 809m<sup>2</sup>**  
  
Vacant Building Block  
Fantastic visage

**ASKING \$130,000 ONO**

## East Branxton



**UNDER CONTRACT**

### Solid Home ~ Solid investment

This brick & Tile family home is potential plus+. Features include:-  
\* Spacious formal & informal living areas \* Country feel kitchen \* Builtins in all bedrooms \* Modern bathroom & 1 extra \* Enclosed BBQ area \* Massive shedding to house all your 'grown up' toys (boats, caravans etc.) \* Set on 1183sm fully fenced block  
**INSPECTION RECOMMENDED**

**ASKING \$550,000**



## Glendon Brook

**(Lot 61 DP 1100235)**  
**6.217HA**

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



**ASKING \$680,000**





MONDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> September, His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, Mr David Hurley, will be visiting Branxton Community Hall for a Morning Tea (catered jointly by us and Branxton View Club) to talk about the Memorial Walk/Cycle Path which is proposed between Branxton and Greta. The Morning Tea commences at 9.15am and is by Invitation Only. His Excellency, the Governor of New South Wales, Mr Hurley, will also be attending a luncheon at the Crown Plaza at Cessnock, which is open to the Public. Anyone interested in attending the luncheon, or wanting any other information, can contact Helen Scott on 0427047024.

SUNDAY, 16<sup>th</sup> September, will see us catering for what is becoming an annual event – the 1,000km Camp Quality Ride4Kids, which raises money to support children with cancer. These dedicated bicycle riders have been doing this for many years and deserve all the support we can give them. 40 riders and 15 support crew, travelling from Maleny, Queensland, will be arriving approx. 10.00am at the McCauley Centre Station Street, Branxton for a well deserved morning tea. The support crew will have collection buckets for anyone wishing to contribute to their cause. No amount is too small. Anyone wishing to come along and just have a chat to the riders and talk about their trip are very welcome.

We would happily welcome anyone interested in helping to raise money to help people in need and also making new friends. Should anyone be interested in joining Branxton/Greta CWA, or attending any of our functions, please contact our Secretary, Marie Shearer on 0402015850 or email [branxtongre-tacwa@hotmail.com](mailto:branxtongre-tacwa@hotmail.com)

The lack of rain creating such a wide-spread and long, devastating drought

affecting many hard working farmers and their families is upsetting to watch on the news, so we can only imagine what it would be like for those living through it. It has been heartening to read and view all the assistance they have already received and also to read in

the latest NSW CWA Journal that \$100,000 has been donated from the NSW CWA Disaster Relief Fund, and the CWA of Australia (which received Dick Smith's generous donation of \$1M to distribute to the drought affected farmers) is progressing. Anyone who has been to a CWA function or donated to CWA in any way can be assured that they are contributing to the Disaster Relief Fund. All Branches allocate a portion of what they raise to the DRF everytime they have a Function or Cake Stall etc. and to a variety of charities. This is done on your behalf. Anyone wishing to donate more money to the CWA Disaster Relief Fund without going to a Function can do so by mailing it to: CWA of NSW, Disaster Relief Fund, PO Box 222, Mascot. NSW. 1400. Please make cheque payable to CWA Disaster Relief Fund. If you want a receipt for tax purposes, please include your name and address.

WEDNESDAY, 15<sup>th</sup> August. The Hunter River



Abbey, Noelene and Marie at HRG Cultural/International Day.

Group Cultural/International Day held at the Maitland City Bowling Club was attended by approx. 100 Delegates from within the Hunter River Group. First on the Agenda, Mrs Val Wild, Group Cultural Officer, introduced the Guest Speaker for Cultural, Mrs Helen Scott, from Morpeth, who volunteers regularly at Grossman and Brough Houses in Maitland. Helen spoke about the history of both houses and the history of Maitland's housing and industry in general in the early days. Both houses were the first to have gas lighting in the area. Grossman House is now part of Grossman High School. A very interesting and educational talk about the Maitland area and its historic homes. Thank you

Helen for your time. CULTURAL was next on the agenda and Val Wild introduced a variety of acts and poetry readings which were very enjoyable and entertaining. Mrs Jennifer Carr, Group International Officer, was next to introduce Mr Robert Lojczyk, Guest Speaker for International, born in Australia of Polish Parents (who emigrated to Australia in the 50's), Mr Lojczyk took his own family with him on a trip to Poland. The family were into motorcycles and went to watch races whilst there, as well as other points of interest as everyone was able to see by the wonderful photos he displayed. He also stated that women are held in high regard in Poland which was good to hear. Thank you for your time Robert.

Ms Lyn Braico, NSW State International Officer, told a humorous story of her experience when she visited Poland. Lyn misunderstood the signs on the road she was travelling and was pulled up by a policeman for speeding but fortunately let go. Thank goodness. Due to the official judge for the School Poster Competition unable to attend, Ms Lyn Braico was asked to judge them. The results are as follows: 1<sup>st</sup>: Kirkton Public School, Lower Belford. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Greta Public School/ Gresford Public School 3<sup>rd</sup>: Soldiers Point Public School

Congratulations to Kirkton Public School and to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places also. Great effort. Denise McGoldrick Publicity Officer.



30 year badges by Ann Louise O Connor, who also presented Shirley Green, our newest member, with her VIEW badge. These three ladies were then asked to cut the birthday cake and we all sang Happy Birthday to us! Congratulations ladies!

Our 30th Birthday celebrations were memorable in every aspect of friendship, fun and lots of laughter-sincerest thanks to all those who helped in any way.

President Denise welcomed our faithful band of community supporters-guests from Cessnock and Maitland VIEW clubs, National Councillor, Ann Louise O Connor, Cessnock Council Mayor's wife, Mrs Pynsent, Councillors Sarah Lukeman and Sue George from Singleton Council and President Julie and Treasurer Laurel from Greta Workers Club. Special thanks to Phil and especially to the super cooks for their help and service.

In memory of our late first President, Jacqui Rockett, the last banner that Jacqui had painted for our "Sound of Music" presentation was kindly given to us to display by Jacqui's daughter, Kendall Harrison. A memorabilia table with photos and items from past years, beautifully decorated tables, lucky door prizes and a well stocked trading table all added to the atmosphere of a successful birthday.

Inaugural members Jan Travis and Edith Mc Rae were presented with their



National Councillor, Ann Louise then spoke to us about the valuable contribution VIEW clubs make in sponsoring disadvantaged Australian school children through the Smith Family Learning for Life program. Branxton VIEW Club fundraise to support four children through this program.

A surprise but hilarious stage presentation in which no words were spoken - (miming for a change), was delivered by Denise, Helen and Judy and finalised a splendid birthday.

Special thanks to all our wonderful supporters from this great Branxton and Greta community in which we are so lucky to reside! Our next function will be our donna-lou Fashion Parade-Branxton Community Hall 10 am start-\$15 which includes a light lunch-Tuesday, 25th September. Latest fashions-sizes 8-26. All these items can be tried on in privacy and purchased on the day-EFTPOS is available. So come along and bring a friend- everyone welcome.

Welcome back to our secretary, Bethany-we trust you are feeling strong again. Bethany 0419 429 364 is always happy to hear from prospective new members.

Some of our ladies visited former member, Dorothy Comer who lives in Lemon Tree Passage and has attained her 90th Birthday. Best wishes Dorothy from all of us.

Peace and love to everyone, Judy Spillard

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

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<b>Rutherford</b> 1st FRIDAY of the month Maitland City Corps Church, Bunting Avenue 10am	<b>Singleton</b> 3rd TUESDAY of the month Generate Church, 3 Campbell Street 10am

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Singleton - Kristi Arnot  
0409 758 823  
Maitland - Kylie Greentree  
0428 498 687  
Tocal - Jim Kerr  
0439 185 275  
Wingham - Lyndell Stone  
0429 532 855  
Regional Livestock Officer  
Kirstin Bisley: 0438 593 875  
Regional Pastures Officer  
Justine Baird: 0428 107 206  
Agronomy Officer  
Peter Beale: 0427 007 468  
*Agricultural Extension Officers*  
Scone Sarah Giblin:  
0409 785 172  
Tocal Col Freeman:  
0428 043 427  
Wingham Albert Mullen:  
0428670 524  
Independent beef consultant:  
Bill Hoffman: 0458 505



## Daily Thoughts

"I believe that mink are raised for being turned into fur coats and if we didn't wear fur coats, those little animals would never have been born. So is it better not to have been born or to have lived for a year or two to have been turned into a fur coat? I don't know."  
~ Barbi Benton, former Playboy bunny  
"I haven't committed a crime. What I did was fail to comply with the law."  
~ David Dinkins, New York City Mayor, answering accusations that he failed to pay his taxes.

Hunter Local Land Services wants to pay tribute to the local farming community as the region heads into a second spring severely affected by drought. Drought now affects 100 per cent of New South Wales and in the Upper Hunter Valley in particular the conditions have been very difficult for in excess of 18 months.

Upper Hunter District Vet Jane Bennett said the longevity of this drought has led to many having to make tough decisions. "The Hunter is traditionally considered a safe region but unfortunately the ongoing dry conditions have led to the worst drought in living memory, forcing many people to have to sell nearly everything, including core breeding stock," said Dr Bennett.

"I want to give credit local producers for the huge effort they have put into maintaining their stock, and the majority of cattle coming through the sale

yards locally are in remarkably good health considering the season.

"Given the challenges in sourcing quality feed and the cold, harsh winter we have just faced the fact so many producers are still turning off quality cattle is a sign of how robust local farmers are." The Hunter Local Land Services team is assisting landholders to make important decisions regarding animal health and nutrition, as feed is becoming increasingly scarce.

"A lot of people who were trying to hold onto stock are now choosing to destock further, often cutting into their core breeding herd or fully destocking and we know this is an incredibly difficult time," said Dr Bennett.

"With many animals now calving and the cows requiring additional nutrition to feed offspring, it is more important than ever to be making those tough

decisions early.

"As with last spring we will be advocating for producers maintaining breeding stock to wean early where possible, as it seems we are facing an uncertain forecast in the near future."

While the majority of the cattle have been in excellent condition, Hunter Local Land Services have been assisting the RSPCA with some welfare cases in our region. We understand no producers deliberately let stock condition slip away and the high cost and lack of available feed such as hay and silage has led to some difficult situations. Many producers in the Lower Hunter and Manning Great Lakes are now also implementing their drought plans as the seasonal conditions have again deteriorated during

winter.

Hunter Local Land Services district vet team and agricultural extension officers are available to discuss your herd's health and nutrition needs one on one.

Regional Livestock Officer Kirstin Bisley is also being supported by independent beef industry expert Bill Hoffman who is available to discuss individual producers situations in light of the ongoing drought. The Upper Hunter team will be holding another round of 'drought drop in sessions' in coming weeks for producers wanting to discuss their weaning and feeding plans for spring. More information about times, dates and locations will be released soon. Our district vets:

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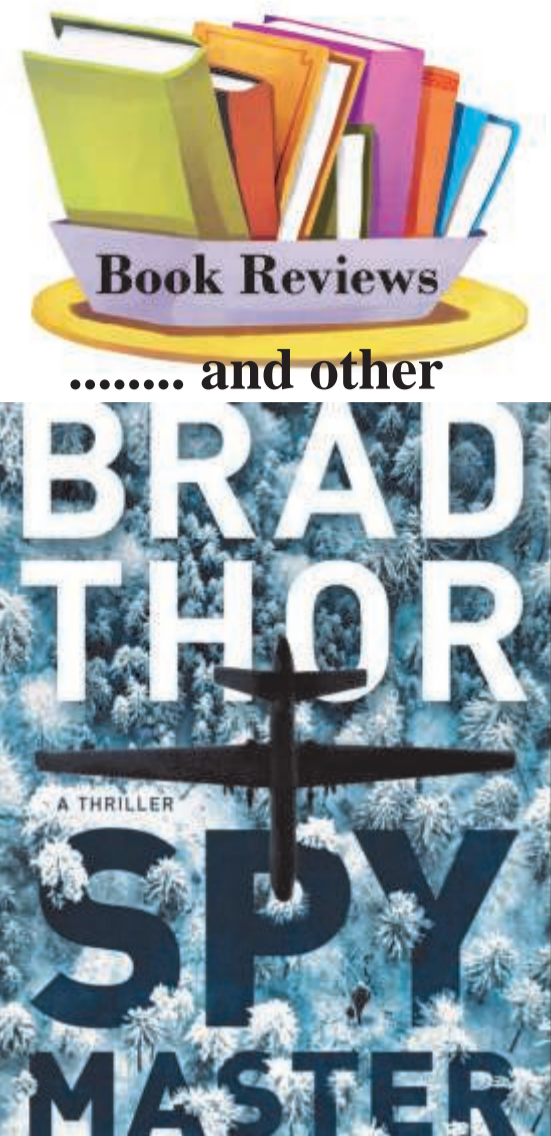
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Fridays & Sundays





## Outspoken conservative Brad Thor takes aim at Russia in his latest thriller

By Richard Lipez

It's refreshing to find a self-described "conservative libertarian" thriller writer bashing Russia instead of liberals. Brad Thor may be a regular contributor to Fox News and is a possible presidential candidate, but his new book is way out of sync with the current cozy-up-to-Putin right-wing zeitgeist. In "Spymaster," his 18th Scot Harvath international espionage saga, Thor convincingly portrays Russia as a reborn Cold War-era evil empire hell-bent on reconquering its former territory — first by fomenting strife among the NATO alliance and then by grabbing the Baltic states before anybody can say "Oops."

"Spymaster," by Brad Thor (Atria/Emily Bestler) Thor's many fans — more than 15 million of his Harvath books have been sold — will find his former Navy SEAL hero aging a wee bit in this one. Now in his mid-40s, Harvath takes performance-enhancing "Hulk sauce" injections. He is even contemplating marriage to his long-time main squeeze, Lara, giving up his pursuit of Swedish flight attendants. As his action-hero youth recedes, Harvath also considers replacing his beloved long-time boss, Reed Carlton, as head of a private intelligence company that performs controversial deeds — abductions, black-site renditions, torture — away from, but on behalf of, a sclerotic CIA.

Carlton's descent into a fog of Alzheimer's is untimely, as his organization has been tasked with retrieving some tactical nukes filched from a U.S. base in Poland and spirited into Belarus. Harvath convinces U.S. President Paul Porter that Russian machinations could lead to World War III, and the operative is given pretty much free rein to thwart the Russian intelligence agency's intentions.

It's a big job saving the world, but Harvath is up to it. He and his crack team of multinational commandos track down and capture a variety of Russian baddies and then make them sing like canaries. Readers learn all the latest interrogation techniques — one specialist loosens tongues with a kind of aroma therapy — and by the time you get to the last page of "Spymaster" you'll know the difference between a "Mark 48 belt-fed machine gun" and a "LaRue Tactical 6.5 Grendel FDE rifle with a Schmidt & Bender 5-25x56 scope with an illuminated reticle." Though perhaps this level of detail is not surprising from Thor, who in a 2014 Shooting Illustrated article confessed: "I like guns. I like owning them, holding them, shooting them, learning about them, looking at them, cleaning them. . . . My two favourite types are the ones I already own and whatever it is I can't wait to buy. . . . As a thriller author, I could probably justify a lot of my purchases as 'research,' but I buy what I do because I love it."

This minutia on firearms and Thor's geopolitical musings — especially on Putin's territorial ambitions — are often more interesting than what actually happens in

the novel. His narrative prose ranges from the workmanlike to the snooze-inducing. Tree limbs cracking with ice echo "through the forest like gunfire." Reed Carlton "had the type of mind that was always steps ahead of everyone else." Russian soldiers in a Swedish bar stand out "like sore thumbs."

Some of Thor's action scenes trundle along well enough, but not so with the events where Harvath isn't present. To sow discord and confusion within NATO, Russia stages a series of terrorist bombings across Europe with evidence pointing to a fake group. These scenes are oddly under wrought. At an Istanbul subway attack, bombs "tore through everything — flesh, bone, steel, tile, and concrete. Aboveground, buildings shook violently. Some thought it was an earthquake."

Thor's banality even spoils an otherwise exciting scene where Harvath and some of his cohorts skydive into Lithuanian airspace, glide over the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad, then parachute into a pasture at night. The best line Thor can come up with for Harvath as he soars across the inky sky is: "There was absolutely no other feeling in the world like it."

The Kaliningrad raid in the final section of the novel in fact turns out well overall, once Harvath and his brave crew fight off a slew of armed Russians. By now you know that in the end things will probably be okay, because, in a thriller written by a member of the NRA, of course the answer to bad guys with guns is good guys with guns.

In a last-page twist — it's actually the only surprise in the entire book — a betrayal is revealed that feels less like a logical result of anything that has come before than a marketing tease for Scot Harvath thriller No. 19. **Richard Lipez** writes the Don Strachey PI novels under the name Richard Stevenson.

### About . . . . .

**Bradley George "Brad" Thor Jr.** (born August 21, 1969) is an American thriller novelist, and putative Republican presidential candidate challenging Donald Trump in the 2020 United States presidential election. He is the author of *The Lions of Lucerne*, *The First Commandment*, *The Last Patriot*, and other novels. His latest novel in the Harvath series, *Spymaster*, was released in June 2018. Thor's novels have been published in countries around the world. He also contributed a short story entitled "The Athens Solution" to the James Patterson-edited anthology, *Thriller*. Thor also makes frequent appearances on Fox News and The Blaze.

*The Last Patriot* was nominated for "Best Thriller of the Year" by the International Thriller Writers Association. His novel *Blowback* was voted by National Public Radio listeners as one of the "100 Best Ever" Killer Thrillers. Thor ranked #26 on Richtopia's list of 200 "Most Influential Authors in the World". *The Lions of Lucerne* was named one of the "10 of The Best Political Thrillers Ever" by Barnes and Noble.

### Early life

Thor was born and raised in Chicago, and lived in Park City, Utah for eight years. Thor is a graduate of the Sacred Heart Schools, the Francis W. Parker School (Chicago), and the University of Southern California (*cum laude*), where he studied creative writing under author T.C. Boyle.

### Career

Prior to becoming a novelist, he was the award-winning creator, producer, writer, and host of the national public television series *Travelling Lite*.

Thor is a member of The Heritage Foundation and has spoken at their national headquarters on the need for robust missile defense. Thor is a Fellow of the Alexandrian Defense Group, and is a frequent television and cable news commentator. Thor has said in interviews that he shadowed a Black ops team in Afghanistan in 2008 to conduct research for his thriller *The Apostle*.

His novels have been published in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, United Kingdom, United States, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam.[*citation needed*] On April 21, 2018, Brad Thor officially entered the 2020 Presidential race. Thor indicated that he has been in "unofficial discussions since last year", but has "no official backing."

### Reaction to *The Last Patriot*

Robert D. Crane, a Muslim convert and one-time aide to President Richard Nixon, called the novel "'Islamophobic", "a subliminal mimetic", and an "emotional demonization of Islam and Muslims." In response, Robert Spencer criticized Crane's article.

The novel is said to have been banned in Saudi Arabia.

### Media

Thor is a regular contributor to the Glenn Beck television program and has appeared on other Fox News Channel shows, as well as on CNN, ABC, CBS, NBC, MSNBC, and PBS to discuss terrorism and parallels between his novels and real threats facing the world today.

Warner Bros. has purchased the rights to both Thor's **Scot Harvath** and his *The Athena Project* books to develop action-thriller movie franchises for the studio.

In May 2016, he made speculative comments on the Glenn Beck radio show about Donald Trump that appeared to offer conditional support for violence against him if Trump were elected and did something that he felt endangered the country. Thor denied the comments were a call for assassination.

### DHS Red Cell Program

In an interview with the Daily Caller, Thor revealed that he is a participant in a Department of Homeland Security program designed to identify targets for terrorism. Described by Thor as the "Analytical Red Cell Unit", the program uses creative thinkers from outside of Washington, D.C. to create possible terrorism scenarios for the government. The creative individuals work with members of the government, military, and intelligence community. Thor describes Red Cell as the "Las Vegas" of government programs, saying "what happens in Red Cell, stays in Red Cell."

### Politics

#### 2020 Presidential Campaign

On April 21, 2018, Thor announced his candidacy for President of the United States in the 2020 election. On July 5, 2018, Thor decided against running and left the Republican Party, becoming an Independent, citing frustration with the GOP-controlled Congress and President Donald Trump's divisiveness.

## The New York Times Best Sellers Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (8 Aug 2018)

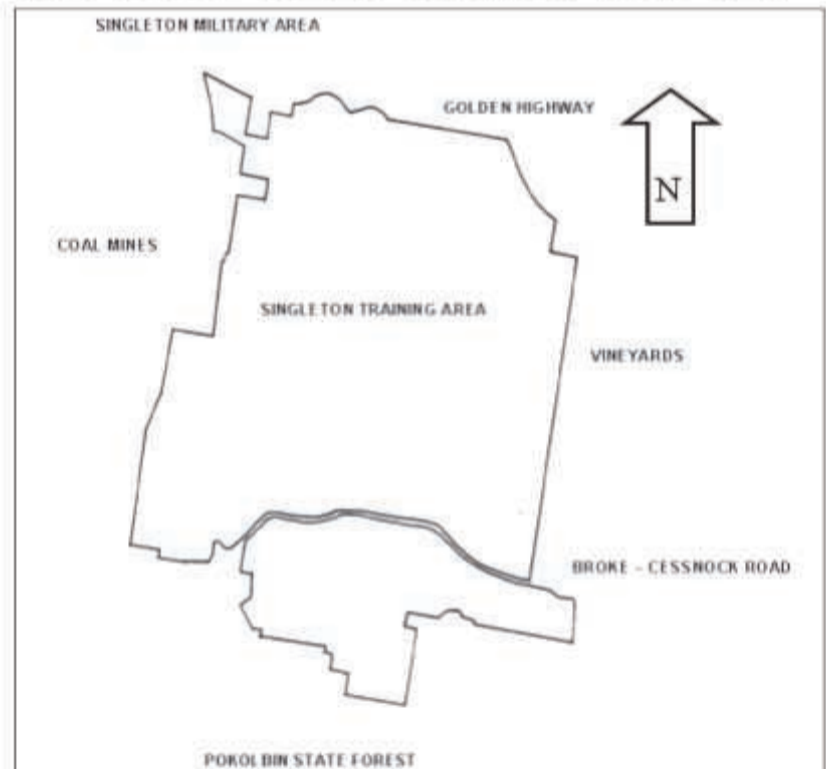
- 5 weeks on the list  
**THE PRESIDENT IS MISSING**  
by Bill Clinton and James Patterson  
President Jonathan Duncan, a Gulf War veteran and widower, takes on adversaries at home and abroad.
- New this week  
**SPYMASTER**  
by Brad Thor  
The 18th book in the Scot Harvath series. As a war looms, a counterterrorism operative takes on a new role his own way.
- 3 weeks on the list  
**THE PERFECT COUPLE**  
by Elin Hilderbrand  
A body is found in Nantucket Harbor hours before a picture-perfect wedding.
- 2 weeks on the list  
**ALL WE EVER WANTED**  
by Emily Giffin  
A scandal sends members of two Nashville families into chaos.
- 17 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

## NY Times Best Seller list ~ FICTION



Australian Government  
Department of Defence

## WARNING NOTICE DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES



Residents of areas adjacent to Singleton Training Area are warned it is a Defence Army Live Firing Range.

Singleton Training Area is described generally as the area bounded to the south by Pokolbin State Forest, to the east by commercial vineyards and to the west by a combination of rural developments and open cut coal mines. The northern boundary is defined by the Golden Highway which separates the range area from the Singleton Military Area.

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

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

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

Persons found trespassing on Defence Training Areas will be prosecuted.

Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

**The Range Control Officer**  
Directorate of Operations and Training Area Management  
Range Control Centre  
Range Road  
Singleton Training Area  
Singleton NSW 2331





## Kangaroo Management

### Background

The NSW Government has approved changes to licences to harm kangaroos to reduce kangaroo numbers as a part of a package of drought relief measures. **The changes were effective from 8 August 2018.**

### What has changed?

The changes are intended to assist landholders to manage the impact of kangaroos during the drought while maintaining animal welfare standards and ecologically sustainable kangaroo populations. They include:

- Increased limits on the number of kangaroos that may be culled, based on property size.
- Previous and current licence holders can apply for licences over the phone.
- More shooters may operate under each licence, and shooter details are provided to National Park and Wildlife Service (NPWS) after culling operations, rather than with the licence application.
- Remove use of carcass tags and 'shoot and let lie' licence condition to reduce biosecurity risks.
- Allow landholders and shooters to use carcasses for non-commercial purposes

View the new licence conditions for licences to harm kangaroos here.

In addition, the NSW Government has announced extensions to the commercial kangaroo harvest zones in South East NSW. This is expected to occur during 2019.

### Register of kangaroo shooters

Local Land Services is establishing a register of licenced commercial harvesters, professional and experienced volunteer recreational shooters who are willing to assist landholders to manage kangaroos.

### For shooters

Licenced commercial harvesters, professional and experienced volunteer recreational kangaroo shooters who hold a NSW Firearms licence and would like to assist landholders manage kangaroos can register their interest here.

Submitting this form means your contact information will be added to kangaroo hunter register that can be accessed by landholders.

### For landholders

Landholders who wish to obtain contact details of a shooter in their region can register their interest here. Once registered, landholders will receive a spreadsheet with the contact details for registered shooters in their region.

The register will be progressively added to over time as shooters contact Local Land Services and submit their details.

*Please be aware the Local Land Services has not verified the licences, qualifications or experience of the shooters listed in this register. Any landholder who wishes to make contact with a shooter listed on this register must ensure that they conduct their own inquiries as to the suitability of the shooter for their needs. Local Land Services does not accept any responsibility for false or misleading claims made by shooters on this register.*

### Non-commercial kangaroo shooters best practice guide

The Department of Primary Industries Game Licensing Unit has developed a comprehensive best practice guide for shooters wanting to be involved in non-commercial kangaroo culling.

The guide covers critical aspects of safe and humane kangaroo culling including legislative requirements, kangaroo species identification, firearms calibres and projectiles, marksmanship and shot placement, disease identification and handling game meat.

The best practice guide will be provided to all landholders and shooters participating in non-commercial kangaroo culling.



## Racing review

### Godolphin's raiders go into quarantine ahead of Melbourne spring

Article Author ~ **Ben Dorries**

A trio of Godolphin spring hopefuls from Charlie Appleby's UK stable have entered quarantine in Newmarket as the international invasion for Victoria's spring carnival gathers momentum.



Kerri McEvoy rides Folkswood to victory in the Cranbourne Cup

Folkswood, which ran third behind Winx in last year's Cox Plate, was one of the three Appleby horses which entered quarantine in Newmarket on Thursday night. Folkswood is likely to run in the Group III Naturalism Stakes (2000m) at Caulfield on September 22 and that is a race which carries a guaranteed start for the winner in the \$5 million Caulfield Cup.

Cox Plate nominee Blair House in another Appleby galloper that has begun two weeks of pre-export

quarantine in the UK ahead of a flight to Melbourne early next month. A Group I winner at the Dubai carnival earlier this year in the Emirates Airline Jebel Hatt at 2000m, Blair House is likely to run in the Group I Under-

wood Stakes (1800m) at Caulfield. Jungle Cat, which won the Group I Al Quoz Sprint (1200m) in Dubai, will aim to get his debut Australian campaign off to a winning start in the Group I Sir Rupert Clarke Stakes (1400m).

**Godolphin has never won the Melbourne Cup** but UK trainer Appleby has enjoyed terrific success in Australia in the past two years. Since 2016, Appleby has won seven races in Australia and his runners Down Under have banked more than \$2.2 million in prizemoney.

RV's General Manager International and Racing Operations, Paul Bloodworth, believes the high-

class Godolphin have the right profile to make an impact on this spring. "It's exciting that three horses of the quality of Folkswood, Jungle Cat and Blair House are just over two weeks away from landing in Melbourne," he said.

"Local racegoers will be familiar with Folkswood after he won last year's Cranbourne Cup before running a place behind Winx in the Cox Plate, but Jungle Cat and Blair House will both be new to Australian audiences and, if they can run up to their recent form over here, I fully expect them to add to Charlie Appleby's amazing strike rate."

## Detailed saleyard report



## Saleyard report - cattle

### Singleton report date 22 Aug 2018

Consignments halved and the quality was mixed, with the majority of young cattle in store condition, suitable for restockers and feeders. Additionally, there were good percentages of supplementary fed, high yielding cattle suitable for the butchers in the penning. Cows made up the bulk of the grown cattle, with around 130 head offered. Cows trended dearer, as the younger cattle sold to a cheaper trend. The over 200kg vealer steers and heifers going to restockers and backgrounders

declined 11c, with the steers making from 186c to 250c, while the heifer portion sold from 160c to 220c/kg. Breed and quality contributed to much of the losses recorded in the yearling categories, with the medium weight steers to feed averaging 222c, and the better finished pens sold around 284c/kg. The high yielding and prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers reached 332c, with the average pens making from 234c to 304c/kg. The plainer cows trended 5c dearer to make from 110c to 186c, depending on cover, while the better finished heavy weights remained firm at 178c to 210c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 218c/kg.

### Scone report date 21 August 2018

Consignments increased, with the majority entering the younger categories, as good numbers of split calves were penned. Cows dominated the grown cattle, with around 300 in the yarding. The younger cattle were mainly cheaper, as the cows sold at dearer prices. The over 80kg calves remained firm to 7c dearer, making from 96c to 228c/kg. There was very little interest in the very light weight calves. The over 200kg vealer steers and heifers, going to the restockers, decreased 10c, with the steers making from 162c to 250c, while the heifer portion made from 140c to 228c/kg. The medium weight

yearling steers to feed lost 8c, making from 218c to 270c/kg. The supplementary fed and high yielding younger cattle to the butchers made from 310c to 320c/kg. Grown heifers to slaughter sold from 194c to 238c/kg. On average, the plainer cows were a better breed and quality this week, as prices increased 20c to make from 118c to 162c/kg. The better covered heavy weights remained firm to 5c dearer, making from 180c to 205c/kg. The best heavy weight bull topped at 232c/kg.

### TRLX Tamworth report date 20 August 2018

There was a reduction in numbers, 400 head below the draw. Once again young cattle and cows made up the bulk of the offering with very few heavy grown steers or heifers penned. The quality of the offering was very mixed, while condition was mostly plain. There were limited supplies of well-finished young cattle, just enough to satisfy local butcher orders. Not all regular processors or feedlotters were in attendance. Restockers were active throughout the market in the face of a weekend rain forecast. There were quite a few bobby calves penned and sold on a dollar per head basis. These cattle attracted strong competition from restockers and sold to a top of \$150/head. The plainer quality and condition young cattle recovered much of last weeks' price losses to record dearer trends throughout. There was some negative price change, however this was attributable to variations in breed mostly. Both steers and heifers attracted those increases. The better quality medium and heavy weight yearling feeder steers sold to dearer trends of 5c to 8c/kg, with again breed and quality affecting price change. Medium weight yearling heifers sold on a firm to dearer market trend, up to 10c/kg where breed was also a factor in the price improvement. There were no well-finished heavy grown steers to speak of. The small number of well-finished grown heifers attracted strong processor competition, selling to a much dearer trend. The cow market was also dearer with the plainer the cow the greater the price improvement. Well-finished medium and heavy weight cows were 8c to 10c/kg dearer, while the 1 and 2 scores showed substantial price improvement. The plainest doubled in value for the most part and more in some cases. Heavy bulls sold to a dearer trend with increased numbers of younger bulls penned.

### Saleyard throughput weighs on the EYCI

Increased yardings saw the Eastern Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI) fall 42¢/kg between 9 July and 6 August, to 475¢/kg cwt.

After a brief upswing in June, saleyard cattle prices have eased in recent weeks. Factors including increased saleyard throughput, limited restocker interest and low stockfeed availability continue to affect market sentiment.

Indicative of the season, saleyard throughput increased during July, as many producers now face the real prospect of running out of stockfeed and water. Eastern states saleyard throughput for the four weeks ending 2 August surpassed 250,000 head, which was 37% higher than the previous four weeks and 28% higher than the same period in 2017.

Increased yardings over the past four weeks were driven by NSW and QLD, up 35% and 25% year-on-year, respectively. If the poor weather outlook recently issued by the Bureau of Meteorology holds true, yardings are likely to remain elevated for the remainder of winter. In the absence of decent rain in early spring, some producers will have little option but to offload the majority of their remaining livestock.

In the first half of 2018, demand for finished and feeder cattle remained relatively stable, driven by a growing lot feeding sector and solid export demand. This trend now appears to have abated somewhat, with eastern states indicators drifting lower since mid-July. Between 19 July and 6 August, feeder steers fell 5% to 276¢/kg live weight (lwt), while heavy steers fell 11% to 266¢/kg lwt.

Cow prices, which found some support for a short time in July, have started to decline across eastern saleyards. Largely due to rising supply, the medium cow indicator fell 18% between 19 July and 6 August, to 179¢/kg lwt. Australian manufacturing beef has found strong demand in Asia this year, however, enlarged US production is beginning to increase the global supply of beef – which will inevitably impact saleyard cow prices.

Although the severity of the current situation should not be undermined, prices have shown a degree of resilience, especially when compared to previous drought periods. On Monday, the EYCI was down 5% on the five-year August average, while medium cows were down 9%. Prices for feeder steers, which are currently in limited supply, remain in line with the five-year August average.

On another brighter note, although rainfall is the key factor that will break the current pricing trajectory, other influences are providing some degree of support in the face of rising turn off. The Australian dollar remains low, keeping Australian product competitive overseas, while Asian demand continues to absorb some of the increased global supplies of beef.





## This Is What's Really Wrong With Facebook

By John C. Dvorak

**Russians buying ads aren't the problem. It's a lack of employees policing the truly harmful and dangerous content and a lacklustre communications strategy**

I'm seeing a lot of hysteria over Facebook privacy. It's nonsense, but the company is obliging and potentially ruining what people like about it. This may be a good time to stop and think things over.

First, if people really wanted complete privacy, they would not be on Facebook or social media in general. The public fell in love with Facebook because you can develop a feeling of community with your circle of "friends." It is particularly useful for keeping up with old pals and relatives. If you do not like any of its features, the answer is simple: *do not use Facebook.*

I do not use the product

personally and never want to. That option is open to anyone. When I see the government getting involved with Facebook, I get concerned. What kind of nanny state wants to legislate all these rules?

That said, there are issues and they are indeed the fault of Facebook. There are not enough employees monitoring the site for fake accounts and pages advocating violence. Congress brought up some incidents that were not resolved fast enough, like pages that advocated killing USA Republicans. How hard would it be to take them down the next day? FB couldn't do it. Other radical examples abound and seem

more important than the appearance of sketchy political ads purchased by a Russian troll farm. Many modern Silicon Valley operations, from Facebook to Google to Twitter, face a common problem: terrible communication. None of these companies have anyone to call for help. If something goes astray, you fill out a form and wait. It's an insult to the users. Press inquiries are similarly frustrating: emails sent to generic press inboxes are often ignored.

The best example: Facebook recently took the biggest one-day stock market plunge of any company in the history of the stock market. It wasn't over much more than an

earnings warning, but the stock plummeted. Was there not a crisis PR team on hand? How is it possible for a multi-billion-dollar, publicly traded operation to be that clueless? But they all get away with it, so the approach is creeping over to companies such as Amazon. Microsoft is next, I bet. With their stocks skyrocketing, why bother? It's a weird, new disdain for the public at large exhibited by a lot of massive corporations pocketing billions. If the US Congress and other complainers want to rake these companies over the coals, ask them why can't they afford good customer relations. Privacy protection is not the real issue.

## Updated: Tracking Facebook's Policy Changes

In March 2018, reports surfaced that the private information of up to 87 million Facebook users had been harvested by the firm Cambridge Analytica since 2014. This was not the first time Facebook had received backlash for the mishandling of user data: Facebook first issued an apology on the issue in 2007, when a feature called Beacon tracked and shared users' online activity without expressly asking them for permission. In 2013, after admitting to a year-long data breach that exposed the personal information of 6 million users, Facebook promised to "work doubly hard to make sure nothing like this happens again." Nonetheless, Facebook rushed to update its data policy immediately following the latest scandal, publishing at least five press releases detailing new measures and adjustments issued in March and April of 2018. (Reuters, *New York Times*, Facebook Newsroom, Facebook Newsroom, Facebook Newsroom, Facebook Newsroom, Facebook Newsroom, Facebook Newsroom). For over a decade, Facebook has faced criticism for the misuse of its platform on issues ranging from the publication of inappropriate content to user privacy and safety. Rather than taking preventative measures, Facebook has too often jumped to make policy changes after damage has already been done. The Counter Extremism Project (CEP) has documented instances in which Facebook has made express policy changes following public accusations, a scandal, or pressure from lawmakers. While one would hope that Facebook is continuously working to improve security on its platform, there is no excuse as to why so many policy changes have been reactionary, and it raises the question as to what other scandals are in the making due to still-undiscovered lapses in Facebook's current policy. (Reuters, *New York Times*, Facebook Newsroom, Facebook Newsroom, Facebook Newsroom, Facebook Newsroom).

## Facebook overhauls its privacy settings – how to protect your data

By Daniella Nicholls

Facebook has overhauled the way you manage its privacy settings and data shared with third parties – and you can now even choose which ads you see. The social network's latest move to tighten privacy comes off the back of the Cambridge Analytica scandal, which involved the misuse of users' data, and

ensures it complies with new European data protection rules (GDPR). There are several layers to Facebook privacy, from what your friends see, what the public sees and what third parties see. These changes relate to what other companies can view about you (though we also deal with how to manage what mates can see later). If you're someone who has logged in

to public Wi-Fi, done a quick quiz through Facebook, or used it to log in to any other website, these are third parties and this blog is for you.

You'll likely have had a pop-up on screen asking you to make choices about privacy and how Facebook uses your data. All users will also have to agree to Facebook's updated terms of service and data policy – if you decline, you won't be able to use Facebook.

Many will have clicked to accept the options for speed without fully understanding what they were for, so we're going to decode what it all means. As part of the changes it has revamped the area in which you find your privacy preferences, so we show you how to change your settings and revoke or limit any access third-party applications have to your data. What does the pop-up ask you to accept?

CONT. NEXT PAGE

# MOVIE REVIEW

## THE WIFE

### Synopsis

Joan Castleman (Glenn Close) is a highly intelligent and still-striking beauty – the perfect devoted wife. Forty years spent sacrificing her own talent, dreams and ambitions to fan the flames of her charismatic husband Joe (Jonathan Pryce) and his skyrocketing literary career. Ignoring his infidelities and excuses because of his "art" with grace and humor. Their fateful pact has built a marriage upon uneven compromises and Joan's reached her breaking point. On the eve of Joe's Nobel Prize for Literature, the crown jewel in a spectacular body of work, Joan's coup de grace is to confront the biggest sacrifice of her life and secret of his career. *THE WIFE* is a poignant, funny and emotional journey; a celebration of womanhood, self-discovery and liberation.

### 'The Wife' knows the author winning the Nobel is no prize

By Richard Roeper

One of the things I so admired about "The Wife" was the spot-on casting of the actors assigned with the monumental task of playing Glenn Close and Jonathan Pryce in their younger years. Close and Pryce are going to be transcendent in a sharply written, character-driven, intense domestic drama set against the backdrop of a Nobel Prize ceremony. We know that. (And yet we're STILL blown away by their work. More on that later.)

Ah, but when the time comes for the years to melt away so we can meet these characters 30 or 40 years in the past, it's a tough and tricky task to find young actors who of course must pass the "OK I can see the resemblance" test but, more important, can carry their scenes so we don't find ourselves tapping our feet, waiting for the movie to return to present day and those two great stars. Annie Starke and Harry Lloyd play the young versions of the Close and Pryce characters in "The Wife," and maybe the best compliment I can give them is to say their scenes set in the 1950s and 1960s are nearly as riveting and nuanced and impactful as the sequences in the main story, which takes place in the early 1990s.

### MORE FROM RICHARD ROEPER

Pryce plays Joseph Castleman, a novelist of towering talent, success and fame (and ego to match) who is in the conversation as the greatest literary voice of his generation. Close is Joe's wife, Joan, who fell in love with (the married) Joe when she was his (greatly gifted) writing student at Smith College in the late 1950s, and set aside her own career ambitions so she could take on the duties of wife/mother/editor/personal assistant/you name it for her husband. And so it has been, for some 35 years.

Then, early one morning in 1992, the phone rings in their gorgeous Connecticut home, and Joe picks up and Joan runs to listen in on the

other line, and they get the news they were hoping for: Joe has been awarded the Nobel Prize for literature. This sets off a whirlwind chain of

events, starting with a reception at their home, attended by Joe's colleagues, some of his star students, reporters from prestigious publications such as the *New York Times*, and the two grown children of Joe and Joan: Susannah (Alix Wilton Regan), who is pregnant and seems happy and apparently



has come to terms with the fact that her esteemed father is a serial philanderer who always put work ahead of family, and David (Max Irons), the obligatory Prodigal Son who is always getting into trouble, wants to be a writer (yikes) and is desperate for his father's approval even as he simmers with resentment. As Joe basks in the lime-light, he always takes great care to thank Joan and say he couldn't have done it without her — even as Joan keeps telling Joe she doesn't want to be cast in the role of the long-suffering wife. Instead of listening, really listening, to Joan, Joe's reaction is: *Why can't we just enjoy all this? Why can't you be happier for me?*

Joan's status as the (Not So) Significant Other is magnified in Stockholm, as the Nobel winners are treated like royalty while the spouses are encouraged to take shopping trips and enjoy spa days. Meanwhile, a pesky writer (Christian Slater, oozing oily charm) obsessed with writing Joe's biography circles in close proximity, waiting for the right moment to gain the trust of at least one family member.

And with each flashback, we learn a little more about the relationship between Joe and Joan, and exactly how

**Director** Björn Runge

**Main Cast** Christian Slater, Max Irons, Elizabeth McGovern, Jonathan Pryce and Glenn Close

**Genre** Drama

**Running Time** 100 MIN

**Release Date** 02 Aug 2018

and why they arrived where they are now.

Swedish director Björn Runge (working from Jane Anderson's adaptation of a Meg Wolitzer novel) displays a nimble touch for knowing the right moment for a flashback. "The Wife" is visually arresting, but Runge wisely opts for a straightforward approach

overall, giving center stage to the dialogue and the actors. Pryce gives a devilishly effective performance as the undeniably charismatic but astonishingly self-centered Joe Castleman, who

has been lying to so many people to such great effect for so long, he seems genuinely stunned when someone tries to call him out on his B.S. (Joe might remind you of certain politicians from both parties.)

Glenn Close is as memorable here as she's ever been. She shifts emotional gears — sometimes within the span of a minute or less — with beautiful precision. Yes, the story affords opportunities for Close to let loose and hit big, theatrical notes, and she's a force in those scenes, but she's at least as effective in the quieter moments.

With six Oscar nominations (three for best actress, three for supporting actress) but no victories, Close is always mentioned in in those "Most Nominations Without a Win" articles.

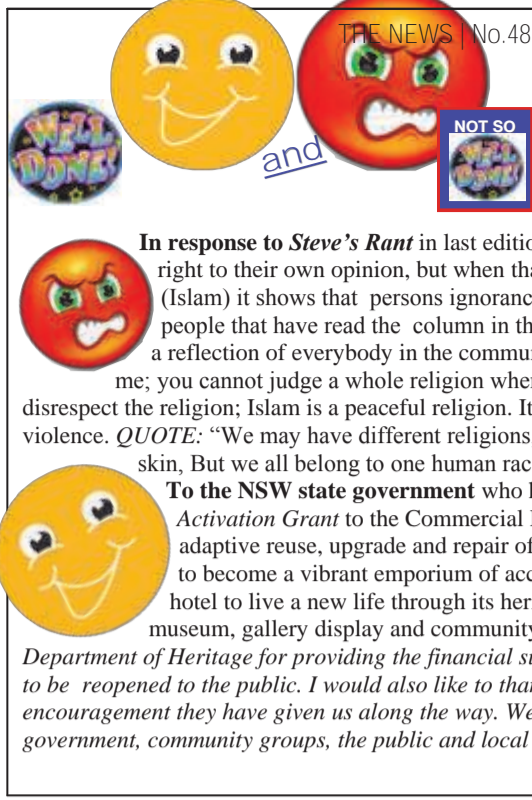
Close might well receive a seventh Academy Award nomination for "The Wife." She might "lose" again. Whether you see Close's work in this movie today or tomorrow or 20 years from now, whether or not it results in a trophy will be the last thing on your mind.

**'The Wife'**  
★★★★1/2





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



# Analysis: What Scott Morrison's victory means for the nation

As stealthily as he played the Liberal leadership spill in 2015, Scott Morrison has grasped the prime ministership just three years later by waiting in the wings, biding his time and striking when necessary.

By Rashida Yosufzai, Brett Mason

Only on Wednesday Scott Morrison took Malcolm Turnbull in a side hug and when asked if he bore leadership ambitions he replied: "This is my leader. I'm ambitious for him". That wasn't exactly an untruth even as speculation firmed a day later that he, of course, did want the prime ministership, and he'd put his hand in the ring when the leadership would be open for contest. In 2015, Mr Morrison, then the Social Services Minister, revealed that Tony Abbott had offered him the job as Treasurer and deputy leader in a last-minute attempt to save his prime ministership, ahead of the spill that resulted in Malcolm Turnbull as PM. Mr Morrison declined both offers, voted for Mr Abbott, but got the coveted job as Treasurer under Mr Turnbull anyway. It was a win-win. This time around, Mr Morrison managed what has been one of the most chaotic and shambolic spills in Australian political history without blood on his hands and emerged victor anyway. He didn't tear down the prime ministership, the spill wasn't pushed by him but Peter Dutton - and that could be a better sell to a disillusioned public that's been watching this saga of rotating leaders with distaste. **What does a Morrison victory mean for the Liberals?** From the outset, a Peter Dutton victory would have been difficult for the Liberal party to push to the public. While believed to have strong support among MPs in his home state of Queensland where several marginal seats are at hand, Mr Dutton as prime minister was considered to have been a tougher sell to voters in NSW and Victoria.

And at the same time as he was canvassing numbers for his leadership, questions around Mr Dutton's eligibility for parliament were still swirling around his interests in child care centres he owns through a trust receiving Commonwealth funds. Even the Solicitor General's advice which was released just hours before the midday spill didn't exactly endorse his eligibility whole-heartedly. Put simply, you could not have a new prime minister and new leader during what would have been a 'honeymoon phase' under an eligibility cloud. Mr Morrison is socially conservative and economically liberal enough to appease the Right wing of the party. Liberal MPs say Scott Morrison's pitch to colleagues was simple - "I can hold the team together. I can say I've stopped the boats and cut the taxes. I've got clean hands in this transition." As a former treasurer who's delivered three budgets, he can also boast to having the economic credentials to appeal to the Liberal voter base and businesses. However, Mr Morrison is the man behind the company tax cuts, the subject of the recent divisions within the party. Now he's the prime minister. And his new deputy Josh Frydenberg was the chief architect of the national energy guarantee - which was cited as the reason why the Liberal Right wing had moved the spill in the first place. On a policy level then, the question for the party is - what has changed now under the new leadership, and can he unite the party on policies that continue to fracture it? Perhaps the most telling aspect about the week's events is the loss

of Julie Bishop as deputy leader and the missed opportunity for the Liberal party to capitalise on her popularity among voters. A snap poll conducted by Roy Morgan just a day before the spill showed she was the strongest contender among Scott Morrison, Peter Dutton and Malcolm Turnbull to win an election against Bill Shorten. A loyal deputy for more than a decade, Ms Bishop put her hand up for the leadership at Friday's party meeting, only to be knocked out in the first round. The party effectively rejected the person most likely to win them another term in office. **How will a Morrison victory affect the federal election?** It could make fighting an election against Labor easier for the coalition than under Mr Dutton. As one Labor insider told SBS News following Friday's spill result, Mr Dutton would have been an easier target on a policy fight, especially since his idea of removing the GST on power bills was even rejected by Finance Minister Mathias Cormann - a last-minute supporter of his. But the distaste with which the public - largely ignored in this week's bunfight of political ambition - has received this latest spill has handed Labor an opportunity to campaign on stability and party unity after the upheaval it suffered during the Rudd-Gillard years. And as the insider put it, Mr Morrison will have to sell himself to a public largely unaware of his profile: "They've shifted to a guy who's less well-known and less popular than Turnbull - but who will largely continue his policy agenda."

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## FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

### Facebook overhauls its privacy settings - how to protect your data

**Updated terms, data policy and cookie policy** - This is how Facebook uses your data, from the information provided in your profile to the targeted ads you'll see based on data from its partners. As above, it's a refresh of the terms and conditions you would've accepted when you signed up to Facebook. **Turn off/on face recognition** - If you clicked through the pop-up and accepted, you've agreed to face recognition being turned on. According to Facebook, the technology will "help protect your privacy and improve your experiences, like detecting when others might be attempting to use your image as their profile picture". However, in reality you could be tagged in all sorts of embarrassing photos and videos, even if you're not friends with the person who uploaded them. **Is managing data a simpler process? And why is it so important to act?** Previously, these privacy controls were hidden within the settings, but there is now a new central hub which makes controlling your data privacy a simpler process. But due to the pop-up which many people sped through, it's easy to have allowed access to your data and accepted face recognition - we take you through how you can amend this below. It's important because data collected by Facebook allows its advertising partners to 'target' ads to specific groups of people, which affects the ads you see on the platform. In addition, allowing third parties access to your data - including your photos, political views and phone number - means they could spam you with all sorts. **How to see the data advertisers are able to see about you - and revoke access** This is key as you can review the personal info companies could have access to, eg, relationship status, email address - so tighten up your security and avoid getting spammed. Here's what to do: On mobile - **Settings & Privacy > Privacy Shortcut > scroll to Ads > Ad Preferences > Your Information** > Here you are able to show or hide your personal data from advertisers.

On desktop - **Settings > Ads > Your Information** > Here you are able to show or hide your personal data from advertisers. **How to turn off face recognition** Even if you're only in the background of a photo or video on Facebook, at a gig for instance, it will potentially be able to recognise your face - even if you're not a friend of the person who uploaded the image/video. This means Facebook would be able to build more of a profile on your preferences to share with advertising partners. If you don't want Facebook to automatically recognise your face, here's what to do: On mobile - **Settings & Privacy > Privacy Shortcut > scroll to Privacy > Control Face Recognition** > "Do you want Facebook to be able to recognise you in photos and videos?" > **Yes or No** On desktop - **Settings > Face Recognition > edit**. **How to view and change ad preferences** This is where you can view the types of ads you see and the frequency. Here's what to do: **Settings & Privacy > Settings > scroll to Ads > Ad Preferences > Ad Settings > Here you'll see three different types of ad setting:** - 'Ads based on data from partners' - 'Ads based on your activity on Facebook Company Products that you see elsewhere' - 'Ads that include your social actions' The Hide Ad Topics button (on the Ad Preferences screen) has been made very accessible, allowing you to suggest topics you wouldn't like to see ads on. If you're looking to save money and avoid online shopping temptation, hide retailers you find yourself browsing. **How can I review what I share with friends and publicly?** Here you'll be able to review who sees what you post and your activity on Facebook, be that the public, friends, friends of friends etc. Desktop - **Settings > Privacy > Your activity** Mobile - **Settings & Privacy > Settings > Privacy Settings** Do take the time to run over your privacy settings and avoid oversharing your data.



**FREE Classifieds**

## Classified's

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



**Classified's**

**Computer Tuition:** From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908  
**Computer Services:** Repairs, Sales & Service. Phone repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128  
**For Rent:** Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460  
**For Sale:** 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  
**GARAGE SALE** - 5 Russell street Branxton starting at 8am on the 1/9 and 2/9. Tools, fishing gear, sporting, dvds/games and more  
**Microchipping:** Cats and Dogs, all sizes and breeds, will come to you. \$20 per animal, please call Angela on 0431649947.  
**Mobile Travel Agent:** 20 yrs experience. Will come to you for expert holiday planning. Obligation free appointments. P: 1300 365 68 (ext 595) M: 0404 831 867 W: [www.mtatravel.com.au/sfenton](http://www.mtatravel.com.au/sfenton) E: [sfenton@mtatravel.com.au](mailto:sfenton@mtatravel.com.au)  
**Position Vacant:-** Casual cafe Assistant Position. Mature female, experience not necessary just need great positive attitude; training given, fast paced new Vintage cafe in Lochinvar - week day or weekend available in great work environment. Please call 0487427203  
**Riding Lessons:** agjstment, horses trained. [www.byalee.net](http://www.byalee.net) 0407 453 494  
**Wanted:** high quality mechanical wrist watches & clocks. Keen collector. Willing to pay good prices. Prefer Rolex, Omega, Oris & Tag. P: 0414 757 826  
**Wanted:** all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 sl70 & 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  
**For Sale** - It has a Brocken drive cable and no seats or full tank and is unretsted. But the motor works and no cracks or leaks in it and has a great retro string wheel with is so comfy. And has an anchor.  
 Im looking to get \$800 but im willing to trade for a drone. If you do not like the price and think it to be un fair please call and we can negotiate. P 0457112346 (please only call me on week days from 3:00pm till 9:00 and you can call me any time on the weekend). [arexanderhughes@gmail.com](mailto:arexanderhughes@gmail.com)

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

### Dates for your diary >

Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Aug - Branxton Public School Book Week Parade and Book Fair  
 Sat 1 Sept - Branxton Wine Country Cat Club's Annual Show 10.30 am to 3.30pm Greta Arts and Sports Community Hall (cnr New England Highway and Water Street Greta). See unusual breeds - Norwegian Forest Cats, Snowshoes, Bengals, Selkirk REXs - competing in the show, along with perfect Persians, beautiful Burmese, sensuous Siamese, alert Abyssinians, etc. and as well the beautiful desexed Domestic cats and kittens of all colours and descriptions. Watch the judging and listen to the international and NSW judges as they talk about the cats and kittens as they judge. Again the owners and breeders will only be too happy to talk to all about their exhibits. Small admission charge \$2.00 adults/children, \$5.00 family ( to cover some of the staging costs).  
 TUES 04/09 - Branxton Lions Club monthly meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club  
 Sun 9 Sept - BROKE VILLAGE FAIR  
 MON 10/09 - Visit by NSW Governor 9:15am - 3:30pm  
 MON 10/09 - B/G CWA & B/VIEW CLUB jointly catering morning tea for NSW Governor and Guests at Branxton Community Hall re Branxton/Greta Veterans Memorial Cycleway. Invitation only. LUNCH for NSW Governor and Guests at Crown Plaza, Cessnock.. Open to anyone wishing to attend. Tickets can be purchased direct at Crown Plaza. Any other enquiries phone Helen Scott 0427047024.  
 TUES 11/09 - B/G CWA Mtg. 9.30am, Old St Brigids School Staff Room, Station St, Branxton  
 SUN 16/09 - Approx. 55 bicycle riders and support crew for Camp Quality Ride4Kids 1,000km ride from Old, arriving at McCauley Hall, Station St. Branxton, approx. 10am or earlier for well deserved morning tea provided by B/G CWA. Supporters

### Dates for your diary >

welcome.  
 THUR 20 SEPT - Branxton Public 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 Phone Bethany 0419 429 364  
 TUES 09/10 - B/G CWA Mtg. 9.30am, Old St Brigids School Staff Room, Station St, Branxton  
 WED 10 OCT - 'Dress in Pink High Tea'. Brxt Community Hall 10am. Further info call Helen on 0427 047 024  
 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** .....  
 6th Oct - OPERA IN THE VINEYARDS  
 8 Dec - Shania Twain 'NOW' - 2018 Tour Hope Estate in what promises to be one of the most anticipated tours of 2018, Global superstar Shania Twain has announced that she will hit the road this year in support of her new album, NOW. It's been 15 years since Shania Twain released the hit album 'Up!'





## Branxton Public School

Kindergarten enrolments are currently being accepted. Our first official orientation event will take place very soon, with a Parent

Information Evening on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August. 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.



Boys Soccer Team

Well done to our Debate teams who were very successful in their recent debates. Good to know that being argumentative can be a positive thing! They now look forward to future debates. Our students were on show during Education Week. Our choirs, dance groups and public speakers entertained us during the assembly while parents and carers enjoyed seeing what goes on in the



Debaters



Choir



Junior Dancers

classrooms. Congratulations to our Education Week Award recipients who were presented their awards at a ceremony at Rutherford Technology High School. Fantastic effort by our boys' soccer team who defeated Ashtonfield PS 1-0 in Week 4. They progress to the sixth round and will soon play Belair PS. Book Week Celebrations will be in Week 6 with the theme this year being 'Find Your Treasure'. Start

thinking about you costumes for the Book Week Parade on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August. Parents and family members are welcome to join us for the parade and for the Book Fair which will be held all day in the library. A great chance to check out the refurbished library!

**Dates for the Calendar**  
 Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August – Parent Information Evening Kinder 2019  
 Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August – Book Week Parade and Book Fair  
 Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## Enrolling now for 2019 Kirkton Public School

At Kirkton Public School we are excited to offer a range of academic, sporting, cultural and social opportunities for students, including:

- L3 Learning environment
- Premiers Reading Challenge
- Debating and Public Speaking
- Premiers Sporting Challenge
- School swimming program
- PSSA Sports
- NAIDOC Celebrations
- Small class sizes..... just to name a few.

We invite you to contact our school now to register your interest for 2019. We have vacancies in all years across Kindergarten to Year 6.

Please see below our **Kindergarten Orientation Program** dates, beginning in Term 3.

**Introductory afternoon:** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2-3pm

**Term 4 sessions:**

Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup> October	9.30-11.30 (includes parent information session)
Thursday	25 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00-11.30
Thursday	1 <sup>st</sup> November	10.00-11.30
Thursday	8 <sup>th</sup> November	10.00-11.30
Thursday	15 <sup>th</sup> November	10.00-11.30

Call our school office for further details. 65747152

**Our Kirkton community looks forward to meeting you soon.**

## Invitation to Kindergarten 2019 Welcome Visit at Kirkton Public School

**On: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Time: 2-3pm**

Kindergarten students and parents for 2019 are invited to come along to an afternoon at our school to meet some friendly faces and make some new friends.

Children will participate in a range of activities in a peer support group with other Kirkton PS students.

Parents are invited to share an afternoon tea with our P&C.

Uniforms will be on display and available for purchase.

Our orientation sessions will then continue into Term 4 on Thursday mornings, more information will be provided. Information packs will be given out at this session for completion prior to attending orientation sessions in Term 4.

Children are required to wear appropriate footwear and bring a hat.

Please return the slip below or call the office to indicate if you and your child will be coming along to our Welcome Visit.

Looking forward to seeing you.





# Analysis: What Scott Morrison's victory means for the nation

...Beyond his pledge as the incoming PM to prioritise drought relief and institute a low-taxing government, Australians are in the dark about what Mr Morrison will be like as their newest leader.



What the public and interest groups are relying on are past comments, his track record as treasurer, immigration and social services ministers, and his socially conservative beliefs.

On immigration, Mr Morrison has previously slapped down a proposal by Tony Abbott to reduce migration by 80,000 people saying it would cost the budget billions of dollars. But he is also the man behind Operation Sovereign Borders and widely credited for "stopping the boats" as immigration minister. It's unlikely Mr Morrison will have a change of heart on refugee policy and offshore detention. On climate change, Mr Morrison hasn't been forthcoming about his personal views but nor has he shied away from displaying his agreement with coal – he once brought a lump of coal into the lower house to celebrate the commodity during question time. Climate change was also absent from his most recent budget.

As for his religious beliefs, Mr Morrison appears to be both a staunch Christian – voting against same-sex marriage for example - but once offered a pragmatic line: "the Bible is not a policy handbook, and I get very worried when people try to treat it like one".

# Book on History of the Hunter Valley Wine Show

WHEN John Flannery decided to record the history of The Hunter Valley Wine Show he had no idea this 'little project' would take 13 years to complete.

*From Tendrils to Trophies* is now printed and the timing couldn't be better. The 48th Hunter Valley Wine Show judging is now over and early release of the book was part of the trophy presentation at the conclusion of the show last Friday.

"The story is quite amazing, the original concept of the show aimed to put the spotlight on the wine produced across the Hunter Valley region and the continued success of the show has certainly achieved that and more," John said.

"I started compiling this history back in 2005 but seriously began my research 12 months ago into those first ten years and what surprised me was this build up of interest at the time by the Hunter vigneroners due to the growth of Upper Hunter wineries in the early 1970s. The book tells the story of the first 10 years of the show, from 1974 to 1984, and celebrates the personalities, results, trophies and stories behind the formation of the show and its success to date. The book includes all trophy results and

judging panels through to 2017 and profiles on the people who pioneered the Hunter Show.

"Back in the late sixties, early seventies there were 13 wineries in the lower Hunter, the traditional producers such as the Draytons, Tyrrell, McGuigan and McWilliams families, but the growth of wineries in Denman, Muswellbrook and Broke Fordwich took off and it was recognised that the two, the new and the old, needed to come together and Singleton became the focus as a convenient and central meeting place and judging venue.

"Ron Petrie was one of the keen tourism operators and he and people like Chris Barnes and Robert Drinan and a few others began meeting in Singleton and The Hunter Valley Wine Show evolved from those enthusiastic and ambitious discussions," John said.

Without revealing too much of the book, the partnership with Singleton Military personnel and the ability to host the judging component of the show at the Officers Mess was a significant step forward for the capacity to present an event that is now considered the premier regional wine show in Australia.

Freeman of the Singleton Shire, one-time Commandant of Singleton Army Base (and, just quietly, Governor General of Australia) Peter Cosgrove graciously wrote in the foreword of *From Tendrils to Trophies*, that 'the show's gestation has come through the happy coincidence of the logistical presence of the Army, who could and did host the exhibition and judging of the Valley's glorious wines -

and as a past commandant it was pleasant, not onerous, to do so!' 'I consider it a fortunate opportunity for the Army to have played a small role in the show's birth and life. Long may it continue," the foreword states. John said he hopes the book gives recognition to the individuals, the people like Ron Petrie, Chris Barnes and the like, who could see the potential for wine tourism and what The Hunter Valley Wine Show could achieve for the wine industry across the region. An early release of the book will be part of the Wine Show trophy



presentation at Cypress Lakes Resort Pokolbin on Friday August 24. Wine judging will take place at the Singleton Army Base from next Monday, 20 August. An open invitation is extended to the community for the official launch of *From Tendrils to Trophies – The Origin of the Hunter Valley Wine Show* on Wednesday, September 12, from 5:30pm to 7pm at the Singleton Convent of Mercy reception room in Queen St, Singleton, where the book will go on sale.



## DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR GRANT SCHEME 2018/2019

### SPORTING AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Cessnock City Council has \$20,000 available within the Sporting Facility dollar for dollar grant scheme and \$20,000 in the Community Facilities dollar for dollar grant scheme to distribute to sporting and community groups.

All applicants must contact Council's Recreation & Community Liaison Officer Kate Hicks on 4993 4234 prior to lodging an application.

### COMMUNITY & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Cessnock City Council has \$25,000 available within the Community & Cultural Development dollar for dollar grant scheme to distribute to not-for-profit community, arts and cultural groups.

All applicants must contact Council's Community and Cultural Engagement Officer Jo Miller on 4993 4258 prior to lodging an application.

### TIDY TOWN

Cessnock City Council has \$10,000 available within the Tidy Towns dollar for dollar grant scheme to distribute to adopted Tidy Town groups.

All applicants must contact Council's Sustainability Officer Tricia Donnelly on 4993 4239 prior to lodging an application.

Groups are invited to apply for funds through these grant schemes.

Grants will be provided on a dollar for dollar basis and Council will assess applications in line with a preset selection criteria. All projects must be completed by June 30, 2019.

Application forms and grant guidelines are available from Council's Administration Building or via Council's website ([www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)). Completed application forms must be returned no later than 5pm Friday, 7 September 2018.

## NEW FEES AND CHARGES FOR OUTDOOR AQUATIC FACILITIES

At the Ordinary Meeting of Cessnock City Council on 1 August 2018, Council resolved to place on Public Exhibition the New Fees and Charges for Aqua Fitness and Learn to Swim.

The public exhibition period will be from Monday, 13 August 2018 to Sunday, 9 September 2018.

The documents can be viewed at Council's Administration Building (Customer Service Section); Cessnock Public Library; Branxton Post Office; Kurri Kurri Public Library; Council's website at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up until 4pm Sunday 9 September 2018 via email [recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or post.

## USE OF COUNCIL'S SPORTING FACILITIES 2018/2019 SUMMER SEASON

Applications for the use of Council's recreation facilities by personal trainers, educational institutes, sporting organisations and community groups during the Summer Sporting Season (6 October 2018 to 17 March 2019) are now open. Applications should be submitted to Council by Friday 31 August 2018. Applications are available via Council's website ([www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)) or from Council's Administration Building, Vincent Street, Cessnock.

Permission must be obtained from Council before organised sporting activities can take place. Enquiries should be made to Council's Recreation and Community Liaison Officer, Kate Hicks on (02) 4993 4234.

## USE OF COUNCIL'S OUTDOOR PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS 2018/2019 SUMMER SEASON

Applications for the use of Cessnock and Branxton Swimming Pools during the upcoming Summer Season by educational institutes, sporting organisations and community groups are now open. Applications should be submitted by Friday 31 August 2018. Bookings for the Pool season commence Tuesday 2 October 2018. Application forms are available via Council's website ([www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)) or from Council's Administration Building, Vincent Street, Cessnock.

Permission must be obtained from Council before organised swimming activities can take place. Enquiries should be made to Council's Aquatic Coordinator, Matt Ziembra on 0427 489414.

 You are invited to  
**Branxton's 4th Annual Dress in Pink High Tea Fashion Extravaganza**   
featuring  
**Sue's Clothing, Rutherford**  
With local models  
**Wednesday 10th October 2018**  
10.00am  
**Branxton Community Hall**  
Tickets \$15 to be pre purchased  
for Women's Cancer  
Catering by Branxton Greta CWA Ladies  
Helen 0427 047 024  
Proudly supported by Renew Energy & Electrical  
and Branxton Crab Box Cafe

 **Our Bushland**

**Bioblitz** **FREE EVENT**

**Sunday 9 September 2018**  
**Poppet Head Park, KITCHENER**

A Bio Blitz is a citizen science event where scientists work with the community to explore their local area. Everyone is welcome!

- Book into one of the many walks and learn from a team of highly trained ecologists. Bookings for walks are recommended as numbers are limited.
- The kids can have fun with the DISCOVERY RANGERS or find out all about WATERWATCH. (Bookings are not necessary for the childrens activities).
- Lots of displays and food stalls



For more information and bookings visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/bioblitz](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/bioblitz) or 4993 4100

This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.



# Council's drought assistance hub is ready to help



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

A drought assistance hub to put people in touch with the help they need as the dry takes a toll on Singleton farmers will officially become operational on Monday. Singleton Council has partnered with a range of stakeholders to be a conduit between Singleton farmers and the services available to rural producers to make finding help easier.

Singleton Library and Singleton Visitor Information and Enterprise Centre are available during business hours on weekdays for people to come in for a cup of a tea and a chat to find out what assistance is available, and to use computers or connect to the internet to register for help.

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said it was amazing to see the outpouring of support and fundraising for farmers across the country, and the sense of community spirit was just as strong in Singleton.

"With 100 per cent of NSW now in drought, and a range of government packages now available to farmers as well as an overwhelming response to community fundraising, the difficulty for farmers is often knowing where to start to find the help available to them," she said.

"The aim of Council's drought assistance hub is to be a first point of contact so people can be connected to the right organisation according to the help they need. "We understand it can also be daunting to fill in online forms, or downright impossible for people without a computer or home internet, so this is a practical way that Council can provide assistance by providing facilities and a friendly ear if people have questions or want to chat."

Council's Customer Service teams have undertaken training this week to best be able to help the people who may come through the door or pick up the phone on Monday.

"Last month was the second hottest July on record, and the driest since 2002, continuing a 15-month run of below-average rainfall across NSW – so it's going to take a fair bit of good hard rain to break it," Cr Moore said.

"We know people are doing it tough, and there are people in our agricultural community who may be putting off asking for help because they're waiting for things to get better or they know someone who's 'worse off'.

"The assistance that is available is there for a reason, and that's because people who are doing it tough deserve it. If you are feeling the impacts of the drought, you are entitled to assistance now. Don't wait for things to get better. You can contact us at Council and we can tell you what's available and how to find the people you need."

## Daily Thoughts

"A horse never runs so fast as when he has other horses to catch up and outpace." **Anonymous**

"I have often depended on the blindness of strangers." **Adrienne E. Gusoff**

"The most happy marriage I can imagine to myself would be the union of a deaf man to a blind woman."

**Samuel Taylor Coleridge**

# Do you REMEMBER

THE NEWS Issue No 155 8th April 2004 page 9

## Hard work and dedication rewarded

**Shiloh Smith, daughter of David and Susan Smith from the Branxton Newsagency, graduated with a degree in Arts/Law at the New England University at Armidale on the 19 March 2004.**

The Smith family is very proud of her achievements. The course has taken her five year to complete & of those five years, four were spent at the New England University where she lived and studied on campus through the Duvall College. Her final year was completed through correspondence whilst working full time as a Law Clerk.

Most of the Branxton Greta Community would know Shiloh as she has worked for her parents on weekends at the newsagency and had attended local schools. Shiloh's commenced her schooling at St Mary's Infant Catholic School, Greta then onto St Brigid's Branxton, completed her High School years 7 to 10 at St Catherine's College in Singleton & the final year's at Mount View High School, Cessnock.

Whilst at school Shiloh was also a member of some local sporting clubs; the Branxton Greta Soccer Club, Branxton Greta Little Athletic Club and Branxton Greta Pony Club.

Shiloh is currently living and working in Newcastle and her family & the community congratulate her & wish her all the best in her career.



Above: Shiloh Smith on her Graduation Day



# SUNDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER



<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>8AM-10AM</b>
<b>BRUNCH</b>	<b>10AM-12PM</b>
<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>12PM-2PM</b>
<b>DINNER</b>	<b>6PM-9PM</b>

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL P: 4938 1335

[www.royalfederal.com.au](http://www.royalfederal.com.au)

Graphics - Parée Erica



# SPORTS RESULTS GOLF

**Branxton Veteran Golfers**  
Results 9-8-18 Stableford  
Div 1 Winner E Barrett 29 pts  
R/u R Yandle 27 pts (c/b)  
3<sup>rd</sup> G Anderson 27 pts (c/b)  
Div 2 Winner L Bootes 32 pts  
(SOD-c/b) R/u A Cannon 32 pts  
3<sup>rd</sup> G Beeton 28 pts  
Ladies Winner T Martin 30 pts  
R/u R McCarthy 27 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup>  
R Friis 27 pts  
NTPs Ladies T Martin  
Gents J Sheedy

What a way to enjoy a game of golf, especially on the “Ultimate 9” course at Branxton, when the Winter bathes our players in balmy and sun filled days, providing great playing conditions for golf. Congratulations to Lester Bootes on winning his division and achieving the “Score of the Day”. A well done to all other winners and placegetters.  
*Results 16-8-18 Stableford*

Div 1 Winner G Noble 32 pts (sod)  
R/u E Munzenberger 28 pts  
3<sup>rd</sup> G Gazzard 26 pts (c/b)  
Div 2 Winner J Flynn 30 pts  
R/u R Brooks 27 pts  
3<sup>rd</sup> I Harris 26 pts  
Ladies Winner T Martin 27 pts  
R/u M Hunt 26 pts R McCarthy 24 pts  
NTPs Ladies R Friis  
Gents T Seamer  
Will these ‘beaut’ Winter days ever end?? It certainly makes conditions for playing golf more pleasant and it was shirt sleeves for our keen group, who assembled for a round of golf. Congratulations to Greg Noble on winning his division and achieving the “Score of the Day”. A well done to all other winners and placegetters.  
*Results 23-8-18 Stableford*

Div 1 Winner E Munzenberger 29 pts (c/b)  
R/u B Turner 29 pts  
3<sup>rd</sup> K Anderson 28 pts  
Div 2 Winner G Scobie 35 pts (sod)  
R/u A Cannon 32 pts  
3<sup>rd</sup> R Brooks 30 pts (c/b)  
Ladies Winner J Harris 32 pts  
R/u T Martin 28 pts (c/b) M Hunt 28 pts  
NTPs Ladies M Hunt  
Gents S Condran  
Quite a chilly morning greeted the players who assembled for today’s round, however it warmed as the morning wore on, which made playing conditions quite comfortable. Congratulations to Graeme Scobie on winning his division and achieving the “Score of the Day”, despite the good scores and the fact the greens had recently been “Cored”. And a well done to other winners and placegetters.

**A REMINDER Next week -Thu 30 Aug - “Two person Ambrose Event”**

**Fri 31 Aug - ‘Away Day’ to Hawks Nest - 7.30 am for 8am**  
**Branxton Lady Golfers**  
*8<sup>th</sup> August 2018 - PAR*  
Winner: Caren Caldwell +1  
Runner-up: Neridah Busch -1  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Toy Martin 4<sup>th</sup>: Ruth McCarthy  
Nearest to the pin: Caren Caldwell  
*15<sup>th</sup> August 2018 - Stableford*  
Winner: Ruth McCarthy on 35 points  
Runner-up: Kerrie O’Connell on 30 points  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Neridah Busch on 26 points  
4<sup>th</sup>: Caren Caldwell on 25 points c/b  
Nearest to the pin: Kerrie O’Connell  
*22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018 - Stableford*  
Winner: Jan Scobie on 37 points  
Kerrie O’Connell on 35 points  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Ruth McCarthy on 34 points

4<sup>th</sup>: Jen Salna on 32 points  
Nearest to the pin: Jan Scobie  
**BRANXTON GOLF CLUB**  
*SAT 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST*

A GRADE WINNER Phil Baker 40 pts  
A GRADE RUNNER UP Steve Eccles 36 pts  
A GRADE THIRD Tom Foster 35 pts  
B GRADE WINNER Peter Marquet 40 pts  
B GRADE RUNNER UP Richard Crooks 35 pts  
B GRADE THIRD Mick Martin 31 pts  
C GRADE WINNER Mick Lutovac 39 pts  
C GARDE RUNNER UP Steven Primmer 33 pts c/b  
C GRADE THIRD Robert Watson 33 pts  
The long hitting Phil Baker overpowered the course in winning Saturday’s A Grade Stableford Competition with an excellent 40 pts, on a day where only 30 pts was needed to win a ball and the DSR was a 70 nett. Steve Eccles played well to finish runner up with his 36 pts with Tom Foster making a return to the podium with his 35 pts good enough for third. Peter Marquet won B Grade with a very impressive 40 pts as well finishing well clear of Richard Crooks with 35 pts and Mick Martin’s 31 pts. Mick Lutovac was also impressive in winning C Grade with 39 pts, well clear of Steve Primmer and Robert Watson who both had 33 pts. It is quite unusual to see all winners so clear of the rest of the field—the 3 winners were also the only ones to play better than their handicap. The shot of the day belonged to two players, Steve primmer on the 4<sup>th</sup>, finishing only 55 cms away and Steve Eccles on the difficult 13<sup>th</sup>, which was only 60 cms away—a great shot to this long par three. The final of the singles match play was played today between Barry Turner and Dave Hollis, with Barry closing it out on the 16<sup>th</sup>, winning 3 and 2. It was a great result for Barry, never an easy task winning these events especially against quality opposition such as Dave who can give the golf ball “a ride”.

**BRANXTON GOLF CLUB**  
*SAT 25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST STABLEFORD*  
A GRADE WINNER Gary Wilton 39 pts  
A GRADE R/UP Edward Barrett 37 pts  
A GRADE THIRD Peter Wilton 36 pts  
B GRADE WINNER John Burgess 46 pts  
B GRADE R/UP Robert Miller 42 pts  
B GRADE THIRD Lee Hunt 40 pts  
C GRADE WINNER Terry Partridge 45 pts  
C GRADE R/UP Darren Mathers 39 pts  
C GRADE THIRD John Martin 38 pts  
BALL COMP 32 pts  
\_Gary Wilton showed his continuing class as a long time veteran at Branxton Golf Club by winning Saturday’s A Grade stableford competition with an excellent 39 pts, defeating another veteran, Eddie Barrett with 37 pts with low single marker Peter Wilton third with his 36 pts. John Burgess had an outstanding day, winning B grade with an unbelievable 46 pts, relegating Robert Miller to runner up with his 42 pts, and Lee Hunt to third with his pleasing 40 pts. Terry Partridge was just as impressive in winning C Grade with a very memorable 45 pts, with Darren Mathers and John Martin filling the minor placings. The shot of the day belonged to Peter Wilton on the last, finishing only 60 cms away although David Matt’s shot to the 4<sup>th</sup> was also within a metre—both great shots. 32 pts was needed to win a ball on a day where some great scores

were recorded. On Sunday Branxton was well represented at Kurri in the Hunter River District Golf Associations B and C Grade Championships. Daryl Sheppard managed to win the B Grade Championship whilst Geoff Jones was runner up in C Grade—not a bad effort from our little club. The A Grade was played at Singleton on the same day—we await all the results to come through on the HRDGA’s site.

**Hunter Valley Golf Club**  
**Sunday 5th August** Steve Abel has won the Weekly Comp with 39 points from Bodhi King who returned 38 points.

**Tuesday 7th August** Grahame Sheldon came home strong on the back nine to win the Tuesday Stableford on countback after he and Graeme Flynn had 37 point cards, 3rd went to Col Bradley with 36 points. Ball winners were: Paul Smith 35, Nathan Sweeney 35, Rick Turnchini 35, David Peel 34, Matt Killick 34, Gary Arnold 34, Mark Barrow 34 and Ben Bradley 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Greg Ireland (3rd) Ben Bradley (4th) Col Bradley (8th) Tom Waite (10th) and Gary Arnold (17th).

**Wednesday 8th August** The Ladies HRDGA Medal Stroke round and 6th Round of Golf NSW Medal has been won by Jenny Chambers with 72 net from Dale Hamilton 75 and Jeanette Irwin 3rd with 78 net on countback. Ball winners were: Melita Watson, Mary Fortey, Christine Tancred and Kay Dunn. Next week the Ladies will play Individual Stableford.

**Thursday 9th August.** Steve Piggott produced a great round of 40 points to claim the Vets Medley Stableford from Eric Smith 39 and Kevin Smith in 3rd with 37 points. Ball winners were: Ray Newton 36, Ray Hodson 36, David Peel 36, Wayne Cowan 36, Wayne Draton 36, Michael Watson 35, Bruce Chambers 35, Rex Talbot 35, John Stewart 34, and Ray Boyd 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Steve Piggott (3rd) Ken Wright (4th) Ken Harris (10th) and Garry Hedges (17th). This week’s raffle winner was Hedgie. Next week the Vets will play Stroke.

**Saturday 11th August** Wayne Barber was the only player to beat Par in the Blue Tee Challenge with a 1 under round of 37 points to claim A Grade, Ken Harris took 2nd spot with 35 points, B Grade went to Bruce Chambers on countback to Tracy Morison after both had 33 points and C Grade went to Belmont visitor Peter Reeves with 35 points with Wayne Drayton surviving a 3 way countback for runner up with 32 points. Bal winners were: David Peel 33, Shannon Attewell 32, Glenn Radford 32, Kevin Smith 32, Nick Looby 31, Phillip Darcy 31, Brad Windle v31, Glenn White v30, Darren Crear 30, Dean Morison 30, Scott Stevens v30, Garry James v29, Josh Curry v29, Michael McNab 29, Michael Watson 27 and Anthony Stewart 27 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ken Smith (3rd) David Peel (4th) and Bruce Chambers (8th). Next week’s event will be a Medley Stableford \*\* Reminder: Tee Bookings are open for Rd 1 of the 2018 Club Championship 25th August.

**Sunday 12th August** The Weekly Challenge has been won by Steve Piggott with 41 points from Jason Cowburn who returned an even Par 36 points.

**Tuesday 14th August** Jason Bear claimed the Tuesday Stableford with 39 points from Matt Killick 37 and Stephen Bear from Maitland GC with 35 points. Ball Winners were: Bob Prentice 33, Lindsay Self 33, Wayne Barber 33, Tom Waite 32, David Peel 32 and Garry Marsden 32. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Barber (3rd) Grahame Sheldon (10th) and Graeme Flynn (17th).

**Wednesday 15th August** A countback was needed to split Sue Peel & Jenny Chambers after both had 34 point returns in the Ladies Individual Stableford with Sue getting the judges nod for the win, 3rd went to Isabel Skeates with 33points. Ball winners were: Mary Fortey, Ann Grace-Smith, Dale Hamilton and Jill Slatter. Next week the Ladies will play Individual Stableford.

**Thursday 16th August** The Vets Stroke event went to Ken Harris with 69 net from Kevin Smith 71 on countback to David Peel in 3rd also on countback. Ball winners were: Wayne Barber 71, Wayne Cowan 72, Ken Wright 73, Ray Hodson 73, John Stewart 73, John Pascoe 75, Doug Ward 76 and John Harrison 76 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Geoff Sweetman (3rd) Steve Piggott (4th) Greame Flynn (10th) and Ray Boyd (17th). Next week the Vets will play Par.

**Saturday 18th August** The Saturday field were greeted by strong wind and slick greens which made scoring difficult for most, Shawn Parish relished the conditions to return the ‘round of the day’ a solid 39 points and a win in A Grade, runner up went to Wayne Barber with 37 points, B Grade to Nathan Sweeney with 37 points from Peter Franks with 35 and C Grade to Jeff Morton with 38 from Russ Lightfoot with 34. Ball winners were: Angello Wood 37, Bruce Chambers 35, Steve Piggott 35, Shanon Attewell 35, Mark Makin 34, Garry Marsden 34, Garry Hedges 34, Wayne Drayton 34, Ken Harris 34, Troy Wallis 33, Bohdi King 33, Ian Newell 33, Grahame Sheldon 33, Gary Arnold 32, Paul Smith 32 and Garry Ackers v31 on countback. Nearest-the-Pins went to Dean Morison on (3rd & 4th). Next week will be week one of the 2018 Club Championship Stroke rounds

**Sunday 19th August** The Weekly Challenge has been won by Jodie Dunn with 35 points from Nick Looby with 33.

**Tuesday 21st August** Mark Barrow has won the Tuesday Stableford with a solid 42 point round from Steve Abel 41 and Bob Prentice 40. Ball winners were: Tom Waite 38, Scott Ling 38, Clarke Sturman 37, Chris Taggart 35, Mitch McPhee 35, Sam O’Hare v34, David Peel 34, Dean Morison 34, Grahame Sheldon 34 and Wayne Cowan 33 on countback. Nearest-the-Pins went to Greg Ireland (3rd) Jason Cowburn (4th) Mark Barrow (8th) and Bob Prentice (10th)

**Wednesday 22nd August** The Ladies Stableford event went to Julie Van Den Berg with 33 points from Mary Fortey 32 and Melita Watson 3rd with 31 on countback. Ball winners were: Kay Dunn, Sue Peel and Jill Ramsden. Next week’s event will be round 1 of 3 for the 2018 Ladies Championship playing Stroke.

**Thursday 23rd August** Darrell Preston produce his beat round in some time to claim the Vets Medley Par with +6 from Doug Wand with +3 on countback to Greg Ireland in 3rd. Ball winners were: Grahame Sheldon +2, David Peel +1, Wayne Berry +1, Wayne Cowan +1, Ken Harris +1, Garry Clarke sq, John Stewart sq, Steve Rawlings sq, Ray Hodson sq and Steve Piggott sq. Nearest-the-Pins went to Garry Marsden (3rd) Darrell Preston (4th) Graeme Flynn (8th) and Grahane Sheldon (10th & 17th). Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford on Friday.

**Saturday 25th August** The 2018 Club Championship round 1 of 3 has been completed with Jason Cowburn (0) leading the way in A Grade Scratch with 73 from Shannon Attewell (6) and Wayne Barber (8) tied one shot back on 74. Wayne Barber is leading the handicap section on 66 net from Shanon Attewell 68. B Grade Scratch Leader is Nathan Sweeney (14) with 83 from John Stewart (15) and David Preece (13) tied on 86. Nathan Sweeney is also tie for the lead in the handicap section with Steven Balks on 69 net. C Grade Scratch Leader is Wayne Drayton (21) with 90 from Kevin Smith (21) on 93 with Ian Newell (26) and Scott Jones (22) tied for 3rd with 95. The Handicap section has Michael McNab leading with 65 net from Ian Newell and Wayne Drayton tied with 69 net. The Ladies weekend Championship will be fought out between Julie Van Den Berg and Tracey Morison with Julie currently leading. The daily competition run in conjunction has Wayne Barber 66 winning A Grade from Shannon Attewell 68. B Garde to Nathan Sweeney on countback to Steven Balks after both returned 69 net and C Grade to Michael McNab 65 from Ian Newell 69. Ball winners were: Wayne Drayton 69, Craig Sharp 71, Ken Harris 71, Brad Burgess

## Is organisation getting in your way?

“Out of clutter, find simplicity” – Albert Einstein



I really like to be on time, and yet I often find myself rushing around, late for work or an appointment, trying to find my car keys, or stopping to hang one more load of washing on the line.

When I can’t find what I am looking for I feel like I am out of control. As a result I get anxious because I am not meeting my own(or others) expectation. I become a bit “shouty”. Which is not nice for the people I live with. And if it is in the morning, being late getting my son to the bus or arriving late to work sets me up to be running late for the rest of the day. Whatever the consequences, being disorganised is not fun. At best it can be embarrassing or leave me feeling stressed, at worst it can be expensive, with items which have been lost having to be replaced (I’m thinking now of my car key and garage door opener which went missing about 12 months ago never to be seen again).

I have recently returned to full time work, which means a return to routines. I have to say it has been a shock to my system! Working from home, it was tempting to do things when I felt like it, rather than having a strict routine. Other than running classes at the park a few mornings a week, and doing some one on one PT sessions, my day was my own. When it was really cold in the morning, I went running in the middle of the day. If wond was forecast, I rode my horse in the morning.

But there is a lot to be said for routine. Working full time, I have a set amount of time before work to have breakfast, etc. When I get home in the afternoon, there are a couple of hours to go for a run or to get all the chores done before dinner and bedtime. Every minute is accounted for. And work itself has its own routine, with regular times for meetings and lunch breaks. I now I am back at work I have found that being organised and having a schedule is more important than ever, as it is this routine that frees me up to spend time on the things that are important. Like exercise!

In the last two weeks I have really missed my exercise routine. I start work at 630am on the other side of Singleton, so there is not much opportunity to exercise before work (or at least I am not in that routine yet). The workplace isn’t really set up for exercise at lunch time and most afternoons I have had appointments to attend.

One of the biggest blockers to getting anything done, including exercise, is lack of organisation. Not being able to find my socks when I want to go for a run can result in precious minutes being lost and the window of opportunity closing. Having to help my son find clean school clothes five minutes before he has to leave for the bus can end in in a shouting match. Checking a few emails before I go to bed can result in me sleeping through my alarm in the morning. And the list goes on! One way to become more organised is to delegate – I know I don’t have to be responsible for everything on my own! And this applies equally to stay at home mums, people working from home, or if you are working full time away from the home. If you have children, having a roster for them to get the clothes off the line, empty the dishwasher and fold their own clothes and putting them away where they belong can help immensely. Discussing it with them, and explaining your expectations, can help make sure it’s done! It may not be perfect to start with. You may find your coffee plunger in with the pots and pans, or the clothes on the line might be a bit crumpled, but it’s not the end of the world – resist the urge to do it yourself or to redo what someone else has done.

Another way to be more organised is to shorten your “to do” list by saying “No”. Will saying “yes” to joining that committee, or writing that newsletter, mean you won’t be at home to help with homework? Or does it mean that you have to give up joining a group that will actually help you reach your goal of running 5km without stopping. Sometimes we say “yes” to things because we think we should, or because “we’ve always done it”, or because we don’t want to let other people down. But next time you are about to say “yes” to something, think carefully about what you will be missing as a result.

Plan ahead to save time. Cooking meals in advance means that when you get home from mid week meetings or late night exercise sessions you can have a healthy dinner on the table in a few minutes rather than stopping for expensive take away on the way home. And taking a few minutes to make your lunch and lay your clothes out the night before means you can be organised in the morning, ready to go for a run or head out the door to work, feeling calm and collected! Decluttering is a “must”. Trying to find the shoes you like to wear in amongst a cupboard full of shoes you haven’t worn in years can be frustrating. The same when trying to find that bill you need to pay NOW while digging through a pile of old notes from school. Many bills these days come via email, but they can still get lost in your inbox. Create a filing system within your email program, and set reminders for when bills are due. Better still, pay them straight away or set up automatic payments.

Lower your standards! One of the best pieces of advice I ever received was to stop ironing! Most of my clothes don’t need ironing (I make sure I buy low maintenance clothing, or hang my clothes up as soon as they comes off the line), but I used to spend a huge amount of time ironing my son’s t-shirts, and my husband’s work clothes, until I realised most of the t-shirts were only being worn after school when jumping on the trampoline, and my husband told me he didn’t really need his hi-vis stuff ironed. It took me a little longer to stop ironing the pillow cases and tea towels, lol, but even that has stopped now as I realise there are more important things to do! It means I can spend less time ironing and more time putting things away where they belong!

Have a diary or planner that everyone in your family has access to. Many of my reminders are in my phone, or in my email program, but not everyone has access to that. I don’t want to be the sole person responsible for knowing when something is happening or needs to be done, so I still have a calendar hanging on the wall in the kitchen (this year it is a nice one with Labradors on it – thanks mum!). On the calendar we can all write appointments and other commitments, especially the ones which are bit out of the ordinary (eg doctors appointments or drama auditions). For really important events which involve people outside our home, I set up an event in Outlook (or my Google calendar) and “invite” other family members or friends, so they know it is happening. There are lots of others ways to keep track of appointments, the important thing is to find the system that works for you. Finally, don’t put off until tomorrow what you can do today. How many times have you been driving home only to see the low fuel light come on in your car? And how many times have you thought “it’s too cold to stop” or “I’m tired/hot/hungry, I’ll fill up tomorrow”, only to be running late the next morning and forced to stop when you really don’t have time to.

Getting organised sounds really boring, but being able to find things when you need them, getting to appointments on time and having time to do the things you really want to do, without the stress, is priceless.

**What Else is Happening at Louise Cairns Fit for Life?** For personal reasons I have returned to full time work and (for the time being) stopped running my morning classes at the park. I am training for the Great North Walk 50km event (Teralba Park to Congewai Public School) which will be run on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018. My next article will most likely be a blow by blow account of the event!



# BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

# The New **SPORT**



## Josh Tracey & Isaiah Wolferstan are Men's Foursomes Champions 2018 & Corey Lamb wins the International Players Junior Championship in Canada

The Men's Foursomes Championships held on the 18th August 2018 was impressively won by Club Champion Joshua Tracey and Isaiah Wolferstan with an outstanding scratch score of 116 over the 17 holes, equating to an 11 over par score in this difficult, uncompromising event. The weather started off beautifully before deteriorating with very strong westerly winds, making playing conditions very challenging. Peter Wilton and Mark Moylan were runners up with their 122 score which was no less impressive. Graham Bull and Jake Howard easily won the Nett competition with their 91 nett—that is 14 under their handicaps—no wonder they won so easily. Runners up Steve Primmer and Peter Mathews also

played beautifully, recording a 98 nett score. The place getters went to 7<sup>th</sup> where a nett 106 was needed. The windy conditions meant hitting the par threes was difficult, with no one hitting the difficult 13<sup>th</sup> as the wind took many balls in a right to left trajectory towards the out of bounds fence. The shot of the day belonged to Troy McCaw on the last, finishing only 103 cms away—an outstanding shot considering any shot past the hole would finish off the green. Full results were as follows:-  
**MEN'S FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018 SCRATCH WINNERS**  
 Josh Tracey/ Isaiah Wolferstan 116  
**SCRATCH R/U** Pe-

ter Wilton/ Mark Moylan 122  
**NETT WINNERS** Graham Bull/ Jake Howard 91nett  
**NETT R/UP** Steve Primmer/ Peter Mathews 98 nett  
**NETT THIRD** Douglas Muncaster/ Peter Marquet 100.5 nett  
**NETT FOURTH** Mick Lutovac/ Barry Turner 101.5 nett  
**NETT FIFTH** Tony Seamer/ Ray McGuinness 103 nett  
**NETT SIXTH** Col Hughes/ Noel Hughes 104 nett  
**NETT SEVENTH** Edward Neale/ Darrell Fletcher 106 nett.  
 The news of the week belongs to our local junior champion golfer, Corey Lamb, who won a big event in Canada, after being selected by the Jack Newton Foundation to attend this event. Corey



Lamb WON the MJT International Players Championship hosted by the Maple Leaf



Junior Tour at Jasper Park G.C. in Canada U.S.A. Corey was running second after 2 rounds

posting scores of 73 & 72 and then blitzed the field with a final round of 65 to take out

the 54 hole event. Congratulations Corey

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