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WEDNESDAY
12 September 2018

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Cessnock City Council
NOTICES

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Members say...

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Well Done
Not So Well Done



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School NEWS

Governor's visit an outstanding success

On Monday 10 September, 2018, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales, and Mrs Linda Hurley, visited Branxton & Greta in the Governor's capacity as patron of the Branxton Greta Memorial Cycleway Ltd.

The day commenced with a community morning tea at Branxton Community Hall attended by representatives of the local areas varying organisations, Order of Australia awardees, members of both Branxton & Greta RSL sub-branches & local schools.

The informal gathering saw the Governor & Mrs. Hurley engaging with almost all who attended to everyone's delight. He ventured into the kitchen to thank and have a sneak taste of the delightful food being prepared by a bevy of volunteers. All local schools had,

over a number of weeks, prepared different presentations to the Governor & Mrs. Hurley's delight. Just prior to leaving for a fundraising dinner at Crowne Plaza he gave a short address thanking the organisers for

making them feel so welcome & reflecting on the enormity of the sacrifice our soldiers have made since federation & particularly those who were deployed to the Europe theatre during the Great War. After departing Branxton

the entourage stopped at the Greta Memorial and were met by four students & headmistress from Greta Public School where they laid two floral tributes at the Cenotaph. The Governor then spent least 15 minutes

with the students, again to their delight. The Governor then proceeded to Crowne Plaza as guest at a fundraising luncheon. Over 160 people from business to the corporate world attended.

Photos P 13 & 14



His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales, and Mrs Linda Hurley centre surrounded by attendees as they leave the morning tea.

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DOGS

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

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

CATS

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

\$16.00

Purr cat, purr day

CPAC named as finalist in Business Excellence Awards



The Cessnock Performing Arts Centre (CPAC) has been named a finalist in the 2018 Hunter Region Business Excellence Awards, highlighting its important role in our local community.

Since opening in 2008, the centre has developed a strong reputation as it draws its audience from the Cessnock Local Government Area and further afield from areas including Singleton, Maitland, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie. Not only does the

CPAC offer a fantastic program of performances throughout the year, the team is also committed to working closely with the community.

CPAC is home to the Cessnock Senior Citizens Association, The Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society, Hunter Drama and works with a number of

local schools and dance schools to present their major performances and concerts.

“We have a strong focus on engaging children and families by producing events that are innovative, exciting and aimed at bringing our community together to celebrate who we are,” said CPAC Coordinator, Vicki Sienczuk. “The centre is also responsible for producing major events on behalf of Council, such as Spring Awakening, Carols in the Park and Australia Day as well as partnering with other Council departments for NAIDOC week, Seniors Festival and Youth Week.” “Being a finalist in the Hunter Business Excellence Awards is very exciting and we are all honoured to be recognised in this way,” added Vicki.

This will be the 25th year these prestigious awards have taken place and the Gala Dinner celebration will be held at Club Maitland City in Rutherford on Friday 21 September 2018.

NSW RFS declares start of Bush Fire Danger Period and suspends fire permits



Saturday 1st September marked the official start of the statutory Bush Fire Danger Period for the Muswellbrook and Singleton Local Government Areas (LGAs) and the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is urging Hunter Valley residents to prepare for the fire season now. Fire permits have been suspended in the Hunter Valley District from the beginning of the Bush Fire Danger Period which began on the 1st September until further notice in the Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs because of current dry conditions. NSW RFS Operational Officer Leanne Bell said the decision to suspend fire permits has been made in order to help keep the local community safe from bush and grass fires. “We have already

seen several fires across the state during August. These fires have demonstrated the risk we face across the state. We are already facing challenging fire fighting conditions.”

“If you are not prepared for the bush fire season then you must act now. Everyone should be using this time to prepare their property, including removing fuel from around homes and cleaning gutters.” Operational Officer Bell said all Muswellbrook and Singleton Council residents should take the current conditions seriously and make sure they have discussed their Bush Fire Survival Plan in order to protect their family and property should they be threatened by fire. “The Bush Fire Danger Period will commence on 1st September across most of the state including Muswellbrook and Singleton Local Government Areas. During this time fire permits are

required for all fires in the open. Due to the prolonged dry period and drought conditions, all fire permits will be suspended from the start of the bush fire danger period for the Muswellbrook and Singleton areas. Serious penalties, including fines and/or imprisonment, apply for starting a fire without a permit during the Bush Fire Danger Period.” Permits are not required for the purpose of cooking food, provided that it is in a permanently constructed fire place, the ground around the fire is cleared of all combustible materials for a distance of at least 2 metres and the fire is completely extinguished before leaving. “Permits may be issued in exceptional circumstances, such as public safety or essential business works. To request an exemption, contact Hunter Valley Fire Control,” Operational Officer Bell said. *For more information, contact Hunter Valley Fire Control on 6575 1200 during business hours.*

Emergency Phone Numbers

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Branxton..... 4938 1244
Lochinvar... 4930 7209
Ambulance... 131 233
NSW Fire Brigade
Branxton..... 4938 3396
Rural Fire Brigades
Belford..... 6574 7149
Broke..... 6579 1491
Greta..... 4015 0000
Bishops Bdg 4015 0000
Nth R'bury... 4015 0000
Rothbury.... 4015 0000
Pokolbin.... 4015 0000
Rothbury.... 4991 1733
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

Electricity

Energy
Australia..... 131 388
Hospitals
Maitland... 4939 2000
Cessnock... 4991 0555
Singleton... 6572 2799
SES132 500
Crime Stoppers
1800 333 000
Poisons Info 131 126
Hunter Water
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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 August 2018 to 31 August 2018.

| Locality | Reference | Decision Date | Property Address | Application Description |
|----------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---|
| BRANXTON | 008/2018/00000214/001 | 30-Aug-2018 | 47 Maitland ST | Alterations & Extension to Butcher Shop; Construction of an Office Building; Construction of a Take Away Food & Drink Premises; the Construction of Associated Car Park, Access & Landscaping |
| GRETA | 008/2018/00000040/001 | 15-Aug-2018 | 61 Hunter ST | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| GRETA | 008/2018/000000445/001 | 27-Aug-2018 | 49 Popham ST | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| GRETA | 008/2018/000000476/001 | 30-Aug-2018 | 2 Popham ST | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2018/000000431/001 | 7-Aug-2018 | 83 Tooze CCT | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 009/2018/00000146/001 | 7-Aug-2018 | 16 Wethered CR | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2018/000000400/001 | 8-Aug-2018 | 99 Tooze CCT | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 009/2018/00000169/001 | 10-Aug-2018 | 3 Emerton RD | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2018/000000473/001 | 22-Aug-2018 | 13 Haverty AV | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2018/000000515/001 | 31-Aug-2018 | 45 Tooze CCT | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NULKABA | 008/2018/000000456/001 | 13-Aug-2018 | 14 Tallowood DR | Demolish Existing Pergola & Construct Shed |
| NULKABA | 008/2018/000000469/001 | 27-Aug-2018 | 3 Branxton ST | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| POKOLBIN | 008/2018/000000365/001 | 3-Aug-2018 | 1620 Broke RD | Dwelling, Detached Garage & Swimming Pool |
| POKOLBIN | 008/2018/000000396/001 | 10-Aug-2018 | 17 Lilly Pilly CT | Dwelling |
| POKOLBIN | 008/2018/000000397/001 | 10-Aug-2018 | 19 Lilly Pilly CT | Dwelling |
| POKOLBIN | 008/2018/000000398/001 | 10-Aug-2018 | 15 Lilly Pilly CT | Dwelling |
| POKOLBIN | 008/2018/000000399/001 | 10-Aug-2018 | 13 Lilly Pilly CT | Dwelling |
| POKOLBIN | 008/2018/000000439/001 | 14-Aug-2018 | 50 Casuarina DR | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| POKOLBIN | 008/2018/000000338/001 | 15-Aug-2018 | 2457 Broke RD | Additions & Alterations to the Kitchen of the Existing Restaurant |
| POKOLBIN | 008/2018/000000448/001 | 21-Aug-2018 | 32 GRADY RD | Temporary Approval to Use Site as a Carpark for a Temporary Event to be held on the Airport Land from 20th -22nd September 2018 Over Three (3) Years |
| POKOLBIN | 008/2018/000000486/001 | 27-Aug-2018 | 29 Verdale PRIV | Pergola |

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 Council secures over \$1.7 million under Stronger Country Communities Fund Round Two



Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent welcomed the announcement that Cessnock City Council has been successful under the Round Two of the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund for a number of important infrastructure projects. "It's wonderful news for our local community. The Bridges Hill Regional Themed Playground has attracted the largest dollar amount with \$936,315 to be injected into the project. This will be a fantastic long term asset for our community benefiting all local residents. The playground includes fitness equipment, a multi-purpose hard court, a children's bicycle circuit and adventure playground." "The Branxton community are also big winners out of the grant with significant funding for a public square at the intersection of Cessnock Road and Maitland Street and funding for footpath upgrades and street planting."

"These grants have provided a huge injection into our community infrastructure and Council looks forward to getting to work on these projects." Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro said the roll out of the second round of projects takes Stronger Country Communities funding to \$300 million. "I congratulate Cessnock City Council and look forward to the local sports and community facility improvements that will make the region an even more attractive place to work and raise a family," Mr Barilaro said.

Photo Above (L-R): Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent, Cessnock Council GM Stephen Glen & Cessnock Councillor Darrin Gray celebrating the announcement of the funding on Monday.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC today announced \$1.7 million in funding to Cessnock City Council for five community projects through round two of the NSW Liberal National Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund. Cessnock City Council secured NSW Government funding for:

- Community Hall
- Restroom Upgrades \$126,700

- Pavement & Street Tree upgrade at Maitland Street, Branxton \$120,643
- Bridges Hill Park Regional Themed Playground \$936,315
- Branxton Public Square \$279,973**
- Cessnock Swimming Pool Splash Pad \$242,355

Branxton did extremely well under Round Two receiving \$400,616 for public domain works including pavement upgrades and tree planting along Maitland Street and

for the development of the Branxton town centre. "I am pleased to see two projects going to Branxton that will upgrade the amenity and streetscape of the town, including the creation of a public square" Mr MacDonald said. "Bridges Hill Playground will receive a new indigenous themed adventure playground to replace the existing 22 year old equipment, incorporating active and passive recreational features for all ages."

Save Liddell Power Station

The True Blue Party Australia is our newest political party and formed out of a need for mainstream Australians to have a voice on important issues such as energy policies, immigration, security and freedom of speech said the parties Chairman John Murray.



On energy, he said AGL's plans to close Liddell Power Station in 2022 and Bayswater in 2035 was disgraceful and the True Blue Party Australia would be opposing the planned closures.

Despite the fact these closures are a few years away these negative public announcements by AGL would be adversely affecting potential investments in the Hunter Valley right now. And if Liddell does close, not only will there be direct job losses but also with many businesses in the Hunter that rely on a constant supply of base load energy 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Tomago Smelter is one such important business employing 950 workers and around 200 sub-contractors. This business desperately needs reliable and affordable power supplies in order to keep production lines working. We can't afford to lose these important businesses. And the domino effect from closing power stations would be catastrophic for other businesses and consumers throughout the Hunter Valley he said.

Mr Murray said he would be coordinating a "Save Liddell" protest and would be announcing an event over the coming days. Community support towards this event will be essential to keeping the Hunter Valleys economy going as strong as possible. The True Blue Party Australia was formed in June this year and has a Branch up and running in Tweed Heads with new Branches now being formed in Branxton, Maitland, Katoomba, Wagga, Brisbane, Hornsby and Ballina. Interested persons are encouraged to visit the website www.trueblueparty.org.au and check out the full range of policies and consider joining. The party is chasing 550 members in order to be registered by the Australian Electoral Commission and to be ready for the next Federal Election. The Hunter Valley is showing strong signs of support for this new party with many new members coming onboard.



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STEVE'S RANT

Retaining our sovereignty

SOVERIEGNTY as applied to a Nation or State means that a nation or state is the supreme power and authority.

To retain our sovereignty Australia has fought in two world wars and has contributed military forces to many subsequent conflicts against communism, tyranny and threats to the safety and wellbeing of many people around the world.

We did this and continue to do this because of our standards of morality and ideas of the 'fair go' for peoples under threat of racism or ideological repression. The point being made is that our sovereignty is important to us. Our democratically established nation and our continued standards of law and order, individual freedoms and the well being we currently enjoy are dependent on us retaining our sovereignty. When the Australian states federated in 1901, the situation was of six independent self-governing sovereign states agreeing to join the 'Federation' and to cede various responsibilities to a national Australian government. Those responsibilities were, to name a few; foreign affairs, defence, immigration,

excise taxes, interstate free trade, and the electoral commission.

Over the first century of Federation more and more powers have been assumed by the Federal Government. Each time this happened the sovereignty of the states and the competition between the states was eroded. The states retention of their sovereignty is a vital part of the balance of powers in our democracy. The senate is the states representative body in the Federal Parliament. Something that escapes many of the so-called independent senators we have at present.

When the Federal Government commits Australia to international agreements or treaties, further complications attend not only the sovereignty of Australia but also the sovereignty of the states.

We saw this when Bob Hawke, as Prime Minister, interceded in the Tasmanian Governments plan to dam the Franklin River. My own nephew was arrested by the Tasmanian police during those eventful times. Bob Hawke used the excuse that Australia has international responsibility under the United Nations for protecting sensitive or

threatened environments. This also occurred when Malcolm Fraser stopped sand mining on Fraser Island. There have been other instances of this. The 'Paris Agreement' ratified or not will be used against states which attempt to implement their own coal fired power station developments. Remember, the provision of power is primarily and always has been the responsibility of the states. More than this some wonderful bureaucrats in Brussels have made it plain that if Australia pulls out of Paris then we can forget any kind of trade deal with the European Union. This is a threat to Australia's sovereignty just as any agreement we sign in the international field can be used against us.

China on the other hand uses the fact that our continued prosperity is contingent on trade with them and their continued cooperation. They do not need to threaten us. So, you can see threats to our sovereignty are many. They may come from overseas or they can be self-inflicted by bad policy at the federal level. The duty of the senate and our free-press is to ensure bad policy is called out and condemned. The states have a duty to defend their sovereignty and to politely or otherwise to tell the Federal Government to stuff off when their interests are threatened.

This now leads to the question of defending our sovereignty against direct military threat. Nothing is certain about the future and what nation state may threaten Australia or what nation state may come to our aid in the event. What is certain is that, as in the past, we WILL be subject to military threat. There is only one option for Australia beyond becoming a vassal to an overseas state. We must overtly or covertly develop our own nuclear deterrents just as the state of Israel has. The

since. How much water flows uselessly past Grafton, Nowra, Lismore, Rockhampton, Mackay, etc out to the sea? Not only would this create more water for the Murray/Darling, turn the black fertile soils around Muttaborra and Longreach permanently green, create more electricity - hydro, create lots and lots of jobs, create a population shift to rural areas, it would turn Australia into an agricultural powerhouse, despite droughts. These options, although useful, are still only treating the effect. It is the cause that must be tackled. The cause is climate change. Last century farmers could bank on 7 good years out of 10. This century the good years can be counted on one hand. Recently I drove along the Bell-line-of-road and



first step in that is the construction of nuclear power stations and reprocessing facilities. The French lead the world in reprocessing nuclear waste and would be only too happy to establish that kind of industry here. So, let us see if our federal politicians have the BALLS to map out a future for this country that will ensure our continued prosperity and security.

Cheers, Steve



with Mike Lowing

An advert on the next page did intrigue me; headlined 'LEGO Competition and Exhibition' and went on to invite, in one part, grown-ups to bring along your creation and contribute to the display - no entry fee (and alas, no prizes), but an excuse to get the LEGO out again and join in the fun of the day.

climbed Kurrajong anticipating that lovely easterly view. Instead there was a brown layer of car pollution covering the scene.

There is, apparently, a car making factory in Elizabeth, South Australia not doing much. Could not an electric car making plant be established? There will, or should be, a worldwide demand for electric cars; might be a good little earner for Australia. Also, if I was to drive to Canberra, how many electric car facilities, i.e. fill up places, would I find? Infrastructure might help.

Phillip Aughey, Branxton NSW
Growing aged care crisis hurts residents in the Hunter
Federal Member for Hunter
Joel Fitzgibbon has called out the Government's failure to stop the growing waiting list for home care



When you turn 100 & cannot play with your LEGO anymore

When I enquired I was told that it is a very popular part of the day. The 'Fun Day' is being run & organised by the Bolwarra Uniting Church so if you are < 100 years of age & a closet LEGO player why not go along. Its on Saturday September 22nd at Bolwarra Uniting Church Canna Street, Bolwarra & public viewing of all models entered is open to the public 9.00am to 2.00pm. Cost of entry is \$5.00 per person, child or adult, or \$12.00 per family.

A good initiative by Cessnock City Council by teaming up with Royal Life Saving NSW to introduce the new national Keep Watch at Public Pools Water Safety awareness program locally. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent

packages. The latest data on the waiting list for home care packages reveals there are now 108,000 older Australians waiting for care. This includes more than 88,000 older Australians waiting with high needs, many with dementia. It is now abundantly clear why the Government deliberately delayed the release of this data for months - more older Australians continue to wait for the home care they need. As the list grows longer and longer, fresh stories emerge daily of older Australians waiting years for home care. The government can find \$17 billion for the big banks but has failed to deliver one new dollar of funding for aged care..

called it a fantastic initiative to improve children's water safety through improved parental supervision.

Figures released by Royal Life Saving Australia show that 34 people drowned in public pools over the past nine years and over half of those who have been injured or drowned are children. In 70% of child drownings the main factor, sadly, was a lack of direct supervision by a parent or carer.

Mayor Pynsent said that lifeguards are on duty at our aquatic facilities but they are watching lots of people at the same time. "We're urging all parents and carers to be vigilant and supervise their children during a visit to their local pool and make certain their child is safe."

I continue to be contacted by older residents in the Hunter electorate who are waiting longer and longer for the home care package they have been assigned. The issue of lengthy waiting times for aged care packages and a lack of communication and process is a story commonly heard by my office.

A local woman in Marmong Point submitted a claim for an aged care assessment on 30 Nov 2017. She made contact with my office in April 2018 when she had not heard a thing from any Department. For five months she was forced to wait without any communication about when or if she would receive the care she deserves and needs.

The Hunter Regional Manager for Royal Life Saving NSW Tanya Brunckhorst said they want to get the message across that lifeguards are not babysitters.

"Obviously, they are there to help and do all they can. Parents and carers are responsible for the care and supervision of children when they are at a public pool. We need parents to realise that they can't check their responsibility at the door."

The Keep Watch at Public Pools program will be implemented this pool season which starts the first weekend of October. Children aged between 0 to 5 years will be issued a yellow wristband and pool staff will advise that a parent or carer needs to be in the water within an arm's reach of the child at all times.

The growing waiting list will mean more constituents in my electorate will have to wait longer - this is not good enough.

Since the first release of data, the waiting list for home care has grown from 88,000 older Australians to 108,000 nationally. The Minister has already admitted the Government will need to consider other interventions to reduce the list, but with older Australians waiting years for care this action needs to be happening now. Serious questions remain about whether these numbers are even an accurate picture of the number of older Australians waiting for care after being delayed for so long.

Joel Fitzgibbon MP



Drought relief
In relation to the knee jerk, short sighted attitude of the governments and oppositions to the current drought; gift handouts and loans are not a solution to the problem. I believe it would be better policy to look further ahead and make an attempt to combat a drought situation. Get used to this drought, according to scientific study, due to climate change and the in aptitude of governments throughout the world to seriously tackle the problem, there are more to come. Most farming properties have lots and lots of Buildings; shearing sheds, machinery sheds and the like. Instead of giving a handout, (which, I might add, farming people

because of their pride are reluctant to accept), place solar panels on the abundant roof space available on their properties. How many solar panels will \$12,000 produce? This in turn would not only nullify their electricity overhead but might even add to their cash flow, as well as adding to the grid. Farmers would willingly take this option instead of the embarrassment of gift handouts. I was bought up on an irrigation property west of Griffith. The MIA has turned out to be so incredibly productive due to the result of the Snowy Mountain Scheme. This scheme was built in the 1950's, yet no such scheme has been undertaken



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

or
emailed to
thenews@hotkey.net.au

For local fans; one not to miss



Following the success of the Newcastle Jets and Central Coast Mariners trial match at Maitland No. 1 Sportsground last month, the Jets will return for another hit out on Saturday 29 September. While the Mariners proved to be tough

opposition in the city's first A-League trial match, it will be the Western Sydney Wanderers travelling to Maitland for the clash this time around. The Wanderers have been a powerhouse club since they entered the competition in 2012,

taking home the minor premiers trophy in their first season and amazingly, winning the AFC Champions League in 2014. However, after going all the way to the decider last season, Newcastle will be looking to continue their good form and claim outright victory for the first time at this particular venue. Maitland Mayor Cr Loretta Baker says, 'We had an outstanding community response to the Jets vs Mariners game and Council built a

strong partnership with the Newcastle club so when we were approached about another game we were more than happy to get behind it. 'I am particularly excited about this game because I know that Western Sydney has a very passionate fan base and it will be great to attract these people to Maitland, some of whom may be visiting for the first time. It really is wonder-

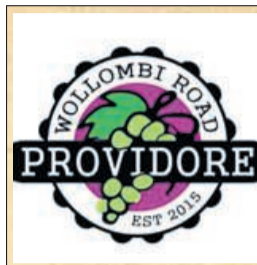
ful for the city.' Newcastle Jets CEO, Lawrie McKinna said the success of the trial against the Mariners made this decision an easy one. 'It was a great event [against the Mariners] the facilities were first class and the people of Maitland turned out in numbers,' Mr McKinna said.

'When the option to play another friendly in Newcastle became apparent, Maitland's No.1 Sportsground was the first place that came to mind. 'The Wanderers will bring plenty of support with them, so I'd encourage everyone to get along in their red and blue to see the boys in action as the [Hyundai]

A-League season approaches.' Gates at Maitland No. 1 Sportsground will open at 11.00am, with kick off at midday. Tickets to the match will go on sale in the coming week and will be available for purchase at maitlandevents.com.au Like the Maitland City or My Maitland Facebook page.

Boost for local heritage

Cessnock City Council's Local Heritage Fund is now open and eligible owners and managers of heritage properties are encouraged to apply for a dollar for dollar grant. Applicants can apply for up to \$2000 for conservation projects, maintenance works or building code upgrades. Eligible applicants include owners and managers of heritage listed properties and properties in a Heritage Conservation Area. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this fund has supported some wonderful heritage projects in the past. "These grants provide local heritage owners with a kick start to undertake renovations and much needed maintenance work." "Our community has some fantastic local history and it's great to be able to provide financial assistance that will help preserve our legacy." Recently completed projects under last year's Local Heritage Fund includes part of the roof replacement at The Rising Sun Inn, Millfield, painting of the former Wollombi Dance Hall, and painting and repair works to the verandah of the former Wollombi Post Office. Applications for funding are open until Friday 28 September 2018 and projects need to be completed by March 2019. For more information, including the application form and eligibility guidelines, please visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/planning-and-development/Heritage/heritagegrants The fund has been provided by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and Cessnock City Council.



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LEGO. THE COMPETITION SECTION is open to students from preschool to year 6, with a \$5 entry fee per model. You could win a prize! Models need to be submitted between 5pm and 7pm on Friday, 21st September for judging.

THE EXHIBITION SECTION. Older children and adults, (with no age restrictions) are invited to bring along your creation and contribute to the display - no entry fee (and alas, no prizes), but an excuse to get the LEGO out again and join in the fun of the day. All models need to be submitted between 5pm and 7pm on Friday evening 21st September.

Public viewing of all models entered is open to the public Saturday 9.00am to 2.00pm. Cost of entry is \$5.00 per person, child or adult, or \$12.00 per family.

For further **LEGO** information, and a copy of the list of categories, conditions of entry, and times.

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Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

Friday and to celebrate this uniquely Australian day, Cessnock Library is hosting a Wonderful Wattle exhibition in the foyer up until Friday 28 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. For more information about the Wonderful Wattle exhibition, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/library. Cessnock Minor Rugby League recently held their 30 year reunion. This club has contributed so much to our community and continues to do so. Sporting clubs are valuable to our sense of community and it is positive to see Cessnock Minor Rugby League celebrating a milestone. On Saturday 9 September those who have lost their lives in mines locally and across Australia were remembered at CFMEU's Annual Memorial Day Service. This is always a very emotional day for the families who have lost loved ones. It is a reminder for the industry to continue their commitment to safety. *Cheers, Bob*



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

A memorial cycleway between Greta and Branxton to honour soldiers from the area pedalled further forward this week, with His Excellency, the NSW Governor General David Hurley speaking about the significance of the project at an official luncheon on Monday. I have been pleased to be part of this idea since it began for a range of reasons, not least because one of the soldiers to be honoured is my grandfather. But as well as the importance of the cycleway as a tribute to our servicemen and women, the project will deliver a range of social, economic and environmental benefits to the local community. The official luncheon was a wonderful event and a great initiative by the Branxton Chamber of Commerce. I eagerly look forward to the day construction gets underway. There's also been a big focus on our young people recently, through a range of Council initiatives to support youth. Following on from our first recruit under the Mayoral Employment Initiative, which aims to support young people with a paid traineeship within Council, this week also saw the launch of the new laundry at the Singleton

Youth Venue. You told us that provision of services and facilities for youth were important to our community, ranking it the ninth most important service in the Community Satisfaction Survey conducted in April this year. But you also indicated we could do more – and our Youth Venue is more than delivering. A further initiative by the Youth Venue is a career expo, where St Catherine's College students can sample a selection of the careers available to them right here in our local government area. The inaugural expo on Tuesday 18 September 2018 will feature representatives from NSW TAFE, NSW Police, Singleton Business Chamber and Aboriginal Health as well as Council staff, vets, holistic therapists, dentists and vets. There's an open invitation to other businesses and organisations to be involved as well – simply get in touch with the Youth Venue. The aim is to develop the expo into an annual event to cater for all the secondary schools in Singleton. Interested members of the community were also invited to come along to the first annual general meeting of the revitalised Singleton Community Drug Action team (CDAT) at Singleton Library being held today (Wednesday 12 September 2018). The primary focus for the group will be to support the delivery of early intervention and education programs to Singleton High schools, working in partnership with the Red Cross and Save a Mate program to raise funds to educate young people about keeping themselves and others safe from alcohol and substance abuse. *Cheers, Sue*



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

The drought is terrible and our farmers need and deserve our support. But we can surely chew gum and walk too. We are one of the wealthiest and most fortunate countries in the world and we can help our farmers, the sick and the needy here at home while also helping those elsewhere. It's disappointing that the plight of our framers has given rise to a debate about foreign aid. While \$4 billion annually is a lot of money by any measure, it represents a very small part of the Commonwealth Budget and is money well spent. There are at least five reasons we should continue to make a contribution. First, it's the right thing to do. Morality demands we join with other wealthy

nations in making a contribution in support of the billions of people around the world who regularly go without food, clean water, shelter, health care, sanitation, an education or all of the above. Second, doing so earns us enormous levels of goodwill in the international community. That goodwill in turn builds relationships and improves trading opportunities. Third, our foreign aid helps to keep developing countries stable. That stability reduces the number of people trying to flee to other countries including Australia. It also helps us to avoid joining military operations in failing nation-states. That cost can be much greater than is the investment we make in foreign aid. Further, when we help developing countries build their economies it further creates trading opportunities for Australia. Fourth, most of our foreign aid goes to our near-neighbours. It is important the nation-states which surround us are able to deal with internal upheaval or foreign invasion. They are in a sense, our last line of defence. And neglecting them opens up an opportunity for others to court and support them, including those with the potential to be our adversaries in a crisis. Fifth, to be a healthy Australia we need the world to be relatively free of disease. Outbreaks originating in nearby countries in particular, have the potential to spread here. We certainly don't want that. Many years ago Australia pledged we would join with the community of wealthy nations in committing to spending the equivalent of half of one per cent of our Gross National Income on foreign aid. We currently spend less than 3 per cent. Helping others is a sound investment and we should be doing more, not less. I'm sure our farmers would agree.

Recent upheaval in Canberra has had plenty of media coverage and I won't waste too much time repeating it here. Suffice to say that while we have a new Prime Minister we have the same Government and the same policies. Scott Morrison's first test will be energy policy. If he doesn't embrace a policy that deals with the carbon emissions problem he will not restore investment certainty and our electricity bills will continue to rise. So far things don't look encouraging. Stable and effective government requires the capacity to sell your policy reforms to your own political party and to secure their passage through the Parliament. I see no sign that the prospects of effective government sometime soon has improved. *Cheers, Joel*



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE SPEEDOMETER IN MY CAR

In my role as a local MP, I drive a lot. I do almost a thousand kilometres each week. At least half of those kilometres are done between Cessnock and Sydney – on the M1. Over the past 4 years or more, I have noticed that I am no longer passing trucks on the M1 anywhere near as often as I used to. I am certain that there are more trucks on the road, not less. I am confident, and I have double checked, that trucks are still limited to a 100kmh speed limit. In theory, at 110kmh in my car, I should still be going past trucks fairly regularly but for some reason this is not happening. In fact sometimes, it's the trucks going past me. In my office, I have had several heavy vehicle driver training companies express their frustrations to me about the current training system. They describe the current system, rolled out in 2013-14 as "a joke" and "a danger to society". Their concern is that drivers are no longer being trained properly and that inspectors from RMS that used to inspect and supervise the driver training process have been sacked and that surprise spot inspections rarely take place now. On the road, it was my lived experience that the heavy vehicle inspection station at Mt White on the M1 was staffed less often and that the same was true of the 12 Mile Creek station just north of Raymond Terrace. It is also my lived experience that I see the mobile heavy vehicle inspectors, that set up temporary inspection stations at various points around the state, far less often in 2018 than I did back in 2012. Meanwhile, we have had truck drivers driving into tunnels in Sydney with over-size loads and jamming up the entire network and we have had an over-supply of heavy vehicle crashes, often fatal, on our major roads including the M1. So in November of 2017 I started to ask some questions about heavy vehicle log-books, checking stations, inspections and fines. The questions have continued throughout 2018. In response to my questions; RMS have said that it is a matter for Police and Police have said that it is a matter for the RMS. Insiders have confirmed that inspections are happening far less often and that of the 50 experienced heavy vehicle inspectors that used to work for RMS, only 3 remained. Insiders also told me that random inspections of

vehicles at a home or business address has now almost completely disappeared. Making our roads safe, for you and your families, for me and my family, requires regulations, inspection and enforcement. Small minded people call this stuff "red tape" but I call it "safety". The poor old truck driver is stuck in the middle; trying to do a safe days work while at the same time being pressured and pushed by impossible deadlines imposed on them by greedy bosses. It is uncomfortable and confronting, but I have no doubt in my mind that a number of heavy vehicle road fatalities in recent years are a direct result of Government policy – removing safety regulations and cutting the RMS budget. *Cheers, Clayton*



Clr Melanie Dagg - Cessnock City Councillor - Ward C

Armistice Day Grant Success

Council successfully secured \$4\$ grant funding recently under the Federal Government's Armistice Centenary Grants Program for the design, print and installation of Armistice themed banners and new banner poles in the LGA. Four of the poles will be installed in Greta, four in Weston and one banner pole in Wollombi. Council will continue to seek external funding opportunities to increase the number of poles in the other towns and villages in the Cessnock LGA. Banners allow the opportunity to promote our towns, promote community events, and install an enormous amount of civic pride. Their presence will no doubt provide a sombre and respectful backdrop to Armistice Day in a couple of months' time. **Recent DA Decisions** Only a small number of DAs have come to been referred to Councillors of late with a short summary below: 288-290 Maitland Rd, Cessnock: proposed construction of multi-dwelling development Rejected due to flood-related risks 41 Olivia Place, North Rothbury: single storey dwelling with attached secondary dwelling and attached garages Approved as per officers recommendation 1764 Wine Country Drive, North Rothbury: alterations and additions to an existing dwelling to establish an 84 place centre-based child care facility Approved with amended conditions of consent related to traffic movement and

roadworks **Continuing Focus on Improvements to Road Network** A Road Safety Audit of Wollombi Road, from Wollombi to Bellbird was carried out in May 2015. Wollombi Road is one of the most complained of sections of our road network, and bit by bit this Council has been chipping away at improvements. The most recent staged improvement was approved last week. The Audit identified a number of recurring risks on Wollombi Road at Cedar Creek and these works will now be undertaken to ensure public safety. Improvements are continuing to be made at the Hart Road intersection. Following community lobbying, we were able to see the installation of traffic calming measures and we recently saw the authorisation of temporary roundabout controls. Ultimately, these expensive and resource-intensive measures are simply trying to overcome poor driver behaviour. After hearing of the many near-misses at this intersection, I implore drivers to please slow down and be patient - nothing can be so important that it is worth risking your life! **Congratulations to local organisers** By the time you're reading this, the NSW Governor will have visited our wonderful little community in support of the proposed Branxton Greta Memorial Cycleway. I'm thoroughly looking forward to seeing our community rally together for such an important and hard-fought for piece of infrastructure. Congratulations to the team from the Chamber and the BGMC Ltd for planning, coordinating and running such a large event - you all deserve a well-earned rest! Well done! *Cheers, Melanie*

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Singleton Council presented prestigious 2018 Statewide Mutual Risk Management Excellence Award



Photo above: Singleton Council's Risk Management Officer Dimity Maher, WHS Advisor Jenny Rudder, General Manager Jason Linnane, Manager Integrated Risk Deborah McDonald.

Singleton Council's proactive approach to risk management has been recognised at the highest level after taking out the prestigious 2018 Statewide Mutual Risk Management Excellence Award in Sydney today. The award is the culmination of a host of hard work and innovation across the organisation that has cemented Singleton's place as an industry-leader in all facets of risk management, including workplace safety.

Singleton also received two commendations for the establishment of the Integrated Risk Team and the innovative Most Valuable Player program that encourages staff to report workplace hazards before they become incidents. The awards presentation was part of the Statewide Mutual Risk Management Conference that was held recently in Sydney. General Manager Jason Linnane said he was particularly proud of the

award because it represented the emphasis Council placed on risk and safety. "It's no secret that my number one priority is managing, as best we can, the risks to our organisation and most importantly to our staff," he said. "Establishing the Integrated Risk Management Team was a key decision to best lead Council's approach and it has paid dividends in terms of the development of the safety culture we have across all of our business

units. "Having said that, the results are largely driven by the expertise of the people we have on our Integrated Risk Management team, as well as the commitment of all our staff across the organisation. "We are extremely fortunate to have the team we've got, and I'm extremely proud of their hard work and dedication to the job that is seeing Singleton recognised at the highest level."

A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul. George Bernard Shaw Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please. *Mark Twain* If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month. *Theodore Roosevelt* Any religion that professes to be concerned about the souls of men and is not concerned about the slums that damn them, the economic conditions that strangle them and the social conditions that cripple them is a spiritually moribund religion awaiting burial. *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

PHARMACY ADVISOR

Mumps fact sheet

Mumps is a contagious viral infection that occurs mainly in school-aged children. Immunisation with mumps containing vaccine prevents the disease. People with mumps should stay away from others for nine days after the onset of swelling of the salivary glands.

What is mumps?
Mumps is an infectious disease caused by the mumps virus. In the past, mumps infection was very common in childhood. Due to immunisation, it has become uncommon in Australia.

What are the symptoms?

- Common symptoms of mumps are fever, loss of appetite, tiredness and headaches followed by swelling and tenderness of the salivary glands. One or both of the parotid salivary glands (which are located within the cheeks, near the jaw line, below the ears) are most frequently affected.
- About one third of infected people do not show any symptoms at all.
- Mumps is usually a more severe illness in people infected after puberty.
- Complications from the mumps are uncommon and can include inflammation of the brain (encephalitis), the lining of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis), the testicles (orchitis), the ovaries

(oophoritis), breasts (mastitis), spontaneous abortion and hearing loss. Sterility (inability to have children) in males is extremely rare.

How is it spread?

- Mumps is spread when a person breathes in the mumps virus that has been coughed or sneezed into the air by an infectious person. The mumps virus can also spread from person to person via direct contact with infected saliva.
- People with mumps can be infectious up to seven days before and nine days after swelling of the salivary glands begins. Maximum infectiousness occurs between 2 days before to 4 days after the onset of symptoms.
- The time from being exposed to the virus and becoming sick can range from 12 to 25 days but is most commonly 16 to 18 days.

Who is at risk?

Anyone who comes into contact with infectious mumps can get mumps, unless they have been infected in the past or have been immunised.

How is it prevented?

- People with mumps should stay at home for nine days after the onset of swelling of the salivary glands to help stop spreading the virus to others.
- MMR vaccine protects against mumps, measles, and rubella, while MMRV protects against these



and varicella and both are part of the standard vaccination schedule. MMR vaccine should be given to children at age 12 months and MMRV at 18 months of age.

- People born after 1965 should ensure they have received two doses of mumps containing vaccine.

How is it diagnosed?

The doctor will usually diagnose mumps based on the person's symptoms and signs alone. A blood test or sample from the throat, urine or spinal cord fluid can confirm the diagnosis.

How is it treated?

There is no specific treatment for mumps. Simple analgesics like paracetamol may reduce pain and fever. Warm or cold packs to the swollen glands may provide relief.

What is the public health response?

- Laboratories, school principals and directors of childcare centres must report all cases of mumps to their local public health unit. These reports provide statistics to help understand trends in the incidence of mumps in the community.
- People with mumps should stay away from childcare, school and work for nine days after the onset of the swelling of the salivary glands.



BBQ fennel lamb with pearl couscous and rocket

For easy entertaining, try this delicious BBQ lamb served with a fresh couscous, tomato and rocket salad.

Ingredients

- 2 cups (340g) pearl couscous
- 6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 1/2 tablespoons fennel seeds, coarsely crushed
- 2.5kg Coles Australian Lamb Whole Leg Roast
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 2 lemons, zest finely grated, juiced
- 350g mixed medley tomatoes, halved
- 6 spring onions, thinly sliced
- 60g baby rocket leaves

Method

- Step 1 Prepare a covered barbecue for indirect cooking on medium-high heat (190C) by lighting the burners under the flat plate. In a large saucepan of boiling salted water, cook couscous for 7 mins or until al dente. Drain well and transfer to a large bowl. Toss with 4 tbs of the oil. Set aside to cool.
- Step 2 In a small bowl, combine remaining 2 tablespoons oil, fennel seeds, 2 teaspoons salt and 1 teaspoon pepper. Coat lamb with the spice mixture. Lay lamb, fat-side down, on barbecue flat



plate. Close barbecue hood and cook for 20 mins or until well browned. Transfer to a baking pan, fat-side up, and move to unlit side. Cook, rotating pan halfway through cooking, for 50 mins or until an instant-read meat thermometer inserted into thickest part of lamb meat registers 54°C. Transfer lamb to a carving board and let rest for 15 mins.

- Step 3 Toss the couscous with parsley, lemon zest, 1/3 cup (80ml) lemon juice, tomatoes, spring onion and rocket. Season with salt and pepper. Carve the lamb and serve with the salad.





Above: At left Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald at Cessnock Police Station last Monday

New laws to tackle outlaw motorcycle gangs in the Hunter

New laws will make it easier for NSW Police to tackle organised crime during raids on outlaw motorcycle gang clubhouses, Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC announced on Monday last.

“NSW has the toughest organised crime laws in Australia and our Police will now be better equipped than ever to tackle dangerous outlaw biker gangs,” Ms Berejiklian said.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government will not tolerate criminal behaviour which undermines community safety.”

Under the new laws, Police executing a warrant on outlaw biker clubhouses will have clear powers to:

- search anyone on site;
- compel any person to reveal their name and address; and
- compel people present at the venue to move on.

Mr MacDonald said the reforms will help Police in the Hunter region continue to break up outlaw

motorcycle gangs. “NSW Police have done a great job tackling outlaw motorcycle gangs in the Hunter region and these new laws will give them even more powers to keep our communities safe,” Mr MacDonald said.

“Outlaw gangs have no place in our society and we make no apologies for taking this tough stance.”

The legislative amendments, to be introduced into the Parliament in coming weeks, respond to the Ombudsman’s report on the *Restricted Premises Act*.

The NSW Government has accepted all the Ombudsman’s recommendations which will give Police greater clarity about their powers and responsibilities when raiding outlaw biker gang clubhouses.

Police have been using the powers provided under the *Restricted Premises Act*, which was formerly known as the *Disorderly Houses Act*, to target outlaw biker clubhouses for the past decade.

These powers were strengthened in 2013 to enhance the ability of Police to combat firearms-related and organised crime, with a focus on the activities of outlaw biker

gangs. These powers are on top of a range of other tough measures available to Police to target outlaw biker crime, including those set out below.

- **Serious Crime Prevention Orders** – to impose restrictions on people to disrupt their involvement in serious criminal activity.

- **Public Safety Orders** – to prevent people from attending places or events where they are expected to engage in violence or present a serious threat to public safety or security.

- **Consorting laws** – which carry a maximum three year prison term for people who continue to associate with convicted offenders after receiving an official warning from Police.

- **Unexplained wealth laws** – which place a burden on suspects to prove their income was lawfully acquired.

- **Firearm Prohibition Orders** – allowing Police to search, without warrant, premises or vehicles occupied by anyone subjected to the order to ensure compliance. “Strike Force Raptor has dismantled numerous biker-led drug and organised crime operations and is

continuing to crack down on outlaw biker violence,” said Police Commissioner Mick Fuller.

In April 2018, NSW Police successfully applied to the Supreme Court for Serious Crime Prevention Orders against 10 high-ranking members of the Finks and Nomads outlaw motorcycle gangs who were linked to gang-related violence across the Lower Hunter region.

Deliberate fire at sports ground near Cessnock

Tuesday, 28 August 2018 11:13:08 AM

A sports stadium at a ground near Cessnock has been destroyed after a fire overnight.

Emergency services responded to a building fire at a sports ground on William Street, Abermain, near Cessnock, about 6pm (Monday 27 August 2018). The fire was extinguished however the building was destroyed. Officers from Hunter Valley Police District attended and established a crime scene.

At this stage, the fire is believed to have been deliberate lit, originating in five plastic wheelie bins. Inquiries are continuing. Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report crime via NSW Police social media pages.

Double fatal crash – Muswellbrook

Saturday, 08 September 2018 11:04:48 AM

A second man has died following a crash in the Hunter region yesterday. Just before 3.30pm (Friday 7 September 2018), emergency services were

called to the New England Highway at Muswellbrook, after reports a Subaru Forrester and an Audi Q3 crashed head-on. The driver of the Subaru, a 48-year-old man, died at the scene. The male driver and female passenger of the Audi, both aged 59, were trapped for some time before being freed. The pair were both airlifted to John Hunter Hospital in a critical condition, where the man later died about 7am

today (Saturday 8 September 2018). The woman remains in a critical condition and is undergoing surgery. Officers from Hunter Valley Police District established a crime scene and are investigating the circumstances surrounding the crash. A report will be prepared for the Coroner. Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or [https://](https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au)

nsw.crimestoppers.com.au. Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report crime via NSW Police social media pages.



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 13th September 2-3pm

Term 4 sessions:

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

Call our school office for further details. 65747152

Our Kirkton community looks forward to meeting you soon.

Junior Blasters

Ages 5-7

Saturday Morning 9am-10am

Starting 20th October

\$99 (Free when Active Kids Voucher used)

Includes T-shirt, hat bat & ball, personalised bat sticker sheet and progression tracker



Master Blasters

Ages 7-10

Wednesday Afternoon - Time TBA

17th October – 12th December

\$99 (Free when Active Kids Voucher used)

Includes T-shirt, player cap and progression tracker



Junior Competition

Ages 9-17

Saturday Morning 2-4 hours

Season Starts 13th October

\$60 Registration and \$5 per game

First 40 children to register will receive bonus pack

Senior Cricket

Saturday Afternoons

Season starts 6th October 2018

\$100 Registration and \$15 per game



To register visit playcricket.com.au click on 'Where can I play?' and enter 'Branxton NSW' Contact gbucricicketclub@hotmail.com or Sean Wright 0429 578 322





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Funding for ANZAC projects and Community Infrastructure Grants open

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC and Minister for Veterans Affairs David Elliott have called for applications in the latest round of the Community War Memorials Fund (CWMF) and the Anzac Community Grants Program (ACGP). A total of \$1 million has been invested into the revitalisation of local war memorials during the Centenary of Anzac, ensuring regional communities across NSW have a place to remember the service and sacrifice of defence personnel. Mr MacDonald said new funding of \$175,000 was available to help protect and repair local war memorials and to support projects which commemorate or support veterans and their families. "I encourage community groups, RSL sub-branches, schools and councils to apply before applications close on Remembrance Day," Mr MacDonald said. Mr Elliott said more than 200 war memorial conservation and repair projects have already been funded across NSW. "This NSW Government investment in veterans' projects in part of a suite of measures to commemorate the Centenary of Anzac,

including upgrading the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park, funding the Veterans Employment Program and supporting the 2018 Invictus Games. "I encourage local community groups, RSL sub-branches, schools and councils to apply for a Community War Memorials Fund or Anzac Community Grant, particularly as we gear up for the Invictus Games Opening Ceremony and Armistice Centenary commemorations." The CWMF provides grants of up to \$10,000 to protect, conserve and repair war memorials including statues, honour rolls and memorial halls which commemorate the Anzac legacy. The ACGP provides grants of up to \$2,000 to schools, community organisations and veterans groups to recognise Australia's military service, educate a new generation and support the NSW veteran community. Applications are open until Remembrance Day, Sunday 11 November 2018. For more information visit <https://veter-ansnsw.smartygrants.com.au/> Community organisations looking to build new or

upgrade current facilities are encouraged to apply for funding from the NSW Liberal National Government's Infrastructure Grants program. Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast and the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC said applications could be submitted for sport and recreation, arts and culture, and emergency preparedness. "This funding can make a real difference to the local community, either by providing new or improved sporting or cultural facilities, or by protecting local residents in emergency situations," Mr MacDonald said. "Some recent projects include a new fit out of Lake Macquarie Marine Rescue's radio base at Swansea Heads and the development of the Visitor Information Centre at Hunter Wetlands." "This year will see the NSW Government complete its commitment to invest \$50 million into community infrastructure projects across NSW in four years." The funding is provided through the Clubgrants Category 3 program, which receives a contribution from registered clubs' gaming machine profits to

benefit local communities. Funding ranges are \$50,000 to \$200,000 for arts and culture, \$10,000 to \$200,000 for emergency preparedness and \$100,000 to \$300,000 for sport and recreation. Applications for the current round of Infrastructure Grants are currently open from until 24th September.

The Dangers of DIY Will Kits and Writing your Own Will

The NSW Trustee & Guardian website has a page dedicated to case studies of situations whereby a deceased person's affairs have ended in an unfavorable way. One that sticks to mind is the story of a man filling out a DIY Will Kit and filling it out incorrectly. He had intended to leave his estate to his wife however inserted his wife's name in the section that appointed her the Executor however forgot to insert her name in the section nominating her as a beneficiary – in effect, he left his whole estate to no one. Another poor fellow passed without a will and it could not be established that his birth was ever registered therefore the next of kin could not be established. His entire estate worth \$180,000.00 was passed to the Government. Or the story of the woman who drafted her own will and used a number of terms such as "balance", "remainder" and "residue". The Will was confusing and conflicting. The family were required to take action in the Court to rectify the terms of the Will and the cost was \$13,000.00 and took over 2 years to complete. The value of the

estate was \$78,000.00. All of these stories are timely reminders of the inherent dangers of relying on a DIY Will Kit or writing your own Will. As lawyers, we appreciate the appeal of a DIY Will Kit given the price, the convenience and the speed of the process. However what we have seen over the years is a rise in the number of these sorts of wills being either ambiguous or misinterpreted; therefore they are challenged through the Courts. Or there are cases whereby the will is not valid and able to be executed. All of these issues only arise after the testator has passed and loved ones are trying to administer your estate. Sadly in some instances, there have been so many issues that at the end of resolving it all, there is virtually nothing left to pass down to your loved ones. Some of the key pitfalls may be as follows:-

- The executor has died or does not want the role and there is no substitute provided;
- The Will is incorrectly signed and witnessed;
- The gift fails (e.g., you specifically gift your 2007 Toyota Hilux but you sell that car and buy a 2017 Holden Astra);

- The entire estate is not dealt with in the Will and therefore results in partial intestacy;
- The Will attempts to do something which is not enforceable, such as disinheriting your child, placing unreasonable conditions on the gift or incorrect powers are given to the executor;
- Ambiguous identification of gifts, executors or beneficiaries;
- Alternate scenarios are not covered, such as your beneficiary passing away before you do;
- Making amendments incorrectly;
- Not naming guardians for your children;
- The assets gifted to children under 18 are not correctly set up to be held on trust for them.

A will is one of the most important legal documents that you will ever make in your lifetime. Whilst the price of a DIY Will Kit may be appealing, your family may end up paying far more money to fix the mistakes that are made by using these kits

Greta Museum



Honours the sacrifices of our local Service People - Come in to see our displays and photographs about them, and many other subjects. Open Wed. & Sat. 11- 3pm 96 High Street Greta

A step in the right direction, says smoke alarm experts



Following on from REINSW's call to the NSW Government to better protect consumers, Australia's largest smoke alarm compliance and maintenance provider, Smoke Alarm Solutions has also welcomed the recent smoke alarm and public safety recommendations handed down by the NSW State Coroner's Court Magistrate, Harriet Grahame, but believes more should be done. The Magistrate's recommendations follow the inquest into the death of nine-year-old Miata Jibba, who was tragically killed in 2016. The fire that caused Miata's death occurred in a rental property that did not have functioning smoke alarms. The Magistrate found if adequate smoke alarms were fitted in the property, Miata's death could likely have been prevented. Improved safety will save lives

- Smoke Alarm Solutions CEO, Cameron Davis, says

the Magistrate's recommendations will improve safety and save lives, but added they could be tougher. "The recommendations are a step in the right direction, but from a compliance perspective, NSW still trails Queensland," he says. "NSW should follow Queensland's lead and mandate that smoke alarms in all rental properties are either hardwired (240 volt) or are 10-year smoke alarms with non-removable batteries." Queensland's new smoke alarm legislation comes into effect 1 January 2022 and requires all rental properties: Have smoke alarms installed in every bedroom

- Have smoke alarms powered by either 240 volt or 10-year lithium batteries
- Have interconnected smoke alarms
- Have photoelectric smoke alarms
- Ensure smoke alarms meet Australian Standard 3876:2014

Davis also recommends interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms be located in hallways, living areas and bedrooms and be installed by reputable providers. "It's essential families, landlords and property managers engage trusted, experienced professionals to manage their smoke alarm maintenance needs,"

Davis says. "If your smoke alarm compliance provider is a cowboy who places profit above safety, it's time to find a new provider."

Cyberattacks can happen

In May last year, REINSW reported a cyberattack in which an experienced principal of a Sydney real estate agency watched helplessly as over \$750,000 was stolen from the agency's trust account. Despite contacting the police and bank immediately, the principal was still left \$80,000 out of pocket. **It's happening now** Cybercriminals are increasingly targeting real estate transactions, and successfully stealing large amounts of money from unsuspecting agencies and vendors. In fact, in the last week the REINSW Helpline supported an agent impacted by sophisticated cybercrime. After the sale of a property, the agent transferred money to the vendor, using the account details the vendor had sent via email. However, this email was not from the vendor. The email appeared legitimate and to have come from the same email address the agent and vendor used to

communicate throughout the campaign. **A clear warning** These two attacks, and others in the real estate industry, are severely impacting the reputations of agents and agencies. REINSW is warning all agents to exercise caution when handling money and communicating with clients. "You must be vigilant," says Tim McKibbin, REINSW CEO. "It is critical that you educate yourself and your teams about cybercrime and regularly review the security systems you have in place. Insurance does not cover everything. It comes down to you." This is sage advice given the agent in question must make up the shortfall personally until the matter is resolved. **Lessons learned** While the agent involved in the most recent cyberattack is still in the process of remedying the issue, the principal we reported on last year has had time to reflect on how to prevent cyberattacks in the future. "Check your internet banking does not allow for Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) payments," the principal says. "This allows a

same day transfer to another bank with transactions settled as soon as they are processed, meaning money can be transferred and withdrawn in a very short space of time." The principal also warned against allowing the same person to create and authorise a payment and relying on your bank to protect you. "Do your own due diligence on protection and ask questions of your bank and insurer on cybercrime prevention."

Has your phone stopped ringing?



You need to advertise your business in 'The News'

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Interest rates remain steady

The Reserve Bank of Australia has continued its holding pattern, keeping interest rates steady at 1.50 per cent at its September board meeting. REINSW president, Leanne Pilkington, says there's significant rate movement irrespective of the RBA at the moment. "There is no compelling reason for the RBA to adjust the office cash rate at this time," she says. "Of greater interest is the approach the banks are taking with their lending terms. Honeymoon interest rate deals are in vogue to attract first home buyer attention, but it's

necessary to crunch repayment numbers based on the actual rate you'll be paying once the honeymoon is over. "On the flipside, Westpac's pre-emptive strike to lift rates, and the subsequent 'please explain' demanded by the new Treasurer, is cause for concern," Pilkington continues. The RBA cut interest rates by 25 basis points two years ago in August 2016 as well as May 2016. There were no changes to interest rates in 2017. The RBA will next meet on Tuesday, 2 October 2018.



With the successful visit earlier this week of the Patron of the Branxton Greta Memorial Cycleway Limited, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), it is an opportune time to revisit the essence of the proposed memorial cycleway project and to remind our readers just what is involved. The Branxton-Greta Business Chamber and the RSL sub-branches of each town have joined forces to advocate for the raising of the required funds for the multimillion project. The 4.5-kilometre cycleway will connect the towns via the New England Highway – from one war memorial rotunda to the other – with a Lone Pine tree planted for each of the 350 plus Branxton and Greta residents who served in World War I. There will also be points of reflection dedicated to each military conflict and

peacekeeping mission in which Australia has served. Chairman of the Greta Memorial Cycleway Limited Brett Wild said the project will honour the sacrifices of the 350 plus men from Branxton, Greta and North Rothbury who served in the Great War; 45 percent of the towns' male population at the time. "With support from Cessnock City Council, the state government through their Resources for Regions grants, local businesses & the corporate world we hope to have the first sod turned prior to Armistice Day this year," said Brett. The implementation of cycleways in Branxton and Greta will also extend critical transport and recreational connections with the Hunter Expressway. It will also provide a link to Kurri Kurri and beyond utilising existing cycling infrastructure on the Hunter Expressway, also creating a



BRISCOE, Leopold Lionel
Regimental No: 119
Place of Birth: Greta NSW
Place of Enlistment: Rose Hill Camp
Date of Enlistment: 26th September 1914
Occupation: Shop Assistant
Unit: 13th Battalion

cycling loop from parts of Newcastle/ Lake Macquarie. A great deal of historic research has been done over the last few years to identify those who did enlist from the local area & some very interesting information has surfaced. In all editions of The News leading to Armistice Day we will endeavour to print some of that historic data that has been found and the first is

BRISCOE, Leopold Lionel
 Described in his initial medical examination as being 20 years and nine months of age, 5ft 4in (1.62m) tall, weighing 154 lb. (70 kg) with a dark complexion, brown eyes and dark brown hair. He is further described as not having any vaccination marks but did have a scar on his left wrist. Leopold Lionel Briscoe had served three years with 14th Infantry Regiment of the Citizen Military Forces and was accepted in the AIF as a Lance Corporal. Lance Corporal Briscoe was allocated to the 13th Battalion which was being formed during the later part of September 1914. The 13th Battalion along with the 14th, 15th and 16th Battalions formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash. Lance Corporal Briscoe embarked at Melbourne on HMAT A38 Ulysses on the 22nd December 1914 bound

for the Middle-East. The Ulysses had a short stop in Albany, Western Australia before reaching Suez during early February 1915. On the 24th January 1915 the 1st Australian General Hospital was established at Heliopolis, a suburb of Cairo. By the 4th March 1915 Lance Corporal Briscoe had been admitted suffering from Rheumatism and Endocarditis. A Medial Board confirmed the doctor's diagnosis and Lance Corporal Briscoe returned to Australia, again on HMAT Ulysses, departing from Suez on the 21st March 1915. On that same day before leaving the 1st Australian General Hospital, Lance Corporal Briscoe penned a handwritten note seeking discharge at his own request and stating he will not claim any Medical Attendance except from a military hospital. This note was witnessed by a Sergeant at the 1st Australian General Hospital. Lance Corporal Briscoe disembarked in Victoria, within No. 3 Military



His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd)

District, and was admitted to the Army Medical Corps Convalescent Home at North Geelong, Victoria. During his time at the convalescent hospital, another medical board was convened which confirmed the previous medical decision, and Lance Corporal Briscoe was discharged from the AIF as medically unfit on the 29th July 1915. Within seven weeks of his discharge from the AIF, Leo Briscoe applied to re-join the army and was accepted. His Attestation Paper provides the following personal information:
Unit: 30th Battalion 3rd Reinforcement
Regimental Number: 1986
Place of Enlistment: West Maitland
Date of Enlistment: 13th September 1915
 Directly after enlisting Leo Briscoe commenced recruit training and on the 30th

December 1915 he was formally appointed as a Private in 30th Battalion 3rd Reinforcements. The 30th Battalion 3rd Reinforcement embarked at Sydney on board HMAT A70 Ballarat on the 18th February 1915, disembarked at Suez on the 23rd March 1916 and entered Zeitoun Training Base, Egypt. Then, on the 1st April 1916, Private Briscoe was formally taken onto the strength of 30th Battalion at Ferry Post Camp adjacent to the Suez Canal. Private Briscoe trained with 30th Battalion until the 16th June 1916 when the Battalion embarked at Alexandria on HMAT A20 Honorata to join the British Expeditionary Force in France. Private Briscoe disembarked at Marseilles on the 23rd June 1916, entered camp, and on the 5th July 1916 was found to be absent without authority at the

Tattoo rollcall and was subsequently awarded three days Field Punishment.. On the 20th July 1916 Private Leopold Leonard Briscoe was killed in action. There is no known grave for Leo Briscoe, however his name is recorded on the memorial at V.C. Corner Australian Cemetery and Fromelles. Leo Briscoe was awarded the 1914/15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. His mother, as his next of kin, received these medals as well as a Memorial Scroll, Memorial Plaque and the publication "Where Australians Rest". The name Briscoe, LL. is inscribed on a memorial panel of the Greta War Memorial and was one of the first soldiers to be remembered on ANZAC Day 1917. The first year after the Greta War Memorial was dedicated.
by Dianne Davis

A total of \$26,193 raised for Cancer Council



Another successful Daffodil Day raised \$2230.50 for the Cancer Council. A wonderful effort from our small communities of Greta Branxton. Our total fundraising is now an amazing \$26192.90 since we started 14 years ago. Many thanks to our local shop owners Greta Bakery, Greta Shop and Stop and Branxton IGA who allow us to sell our merchandise on their sites.

A big thank you to my loyal band of volunteers Colleen Anderson, Carmel Bernini, Sue Bernini, Margaret Dalbozek, Kay Ingold, Fiona Jacobs, Sue McAlister, Jennifer Partridge and Lorraine Ware. Our raffle winners were Karen Mc Dougall, Sue Smith and Diane Bard. Thanks to all for your wonderful support. *Team leader, Gail Jacobs BRANXTON*



Natives Bee Workshop

Venue: Elderslie Community Hall, 758 Elderslie Rd, Elderslie
Date & time: 14th October 2018 starts 0930 & finishes 1230
Presenter: Dr. Tobias Smith from Sugarbag Bees in Queensland
Participants: limited number
Funded by Singleton Shire & Lamb Valley Landcare
Free admission with morning tea
 Please book as soon as possible with Ah Moi by email (ah.moi@hotmail.com) or phone **M: 0401 921 837**

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3 Mitre Load \$250
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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



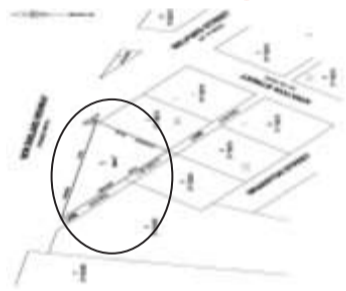
One for the Handyman
The bones are good ~ just needs to be tidied up.
Three good sized bedrooms, sep lounge, eat-in kitchen opening onto back decking. Good sized block.
ASKING \$299,000 Neg

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



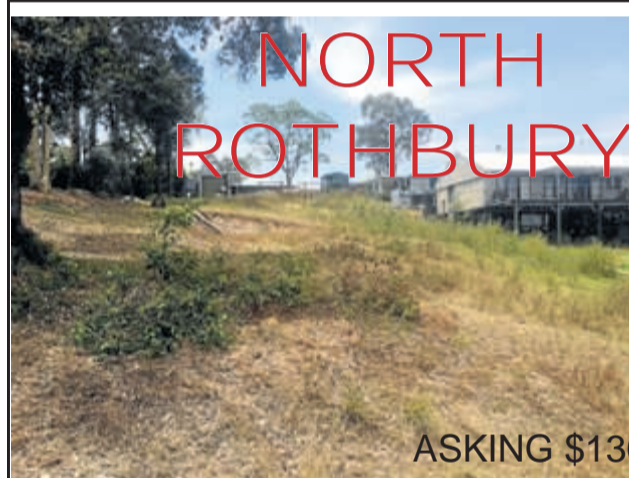
Vacant Land 2559m²
Vacant Land with building approved Lot 1 DP 1205549
Well over half an acre of good level block.
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NORTH ROTHBURY



Lots 521 & 523 Littlewood Road,
Vacant blocks
4ha (10 acres) very private bush blocks. Fully Fenced & within minutes to Hunter Wine Country
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NORTH ROTHBURY



Vacant Land 809m²

Vacant Building Block
Fantastic visage

ASKING \$130,000 ONO

East Branxton



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 ono

Community Morning Tea ~ On Monday 10 September, 2018, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales, and Mrs Linda Hurley, visited Branxton & Greta in the Governor's capacity as patron of the Branxton Greta Memorial Cycleway Ltd. The day commenced with a community morning tea at Branxton Community Hall attended by representatives of the local areas varying organisations, Order of Australia awardees, members of both Branxton & Greta RSL sub-branches & local schools.



Over 1000 photos were taken at both Regal Functions. If you would like a copy of a photo please call me on 0414 757. It will cost \$5 per copy which is going to the Branxton Greta Memorial Cycleway Trust to help in a little way to have the cycleway completed (Edit.)

Photos courtesy Annemaree Winter

Fundraising Luncheon at Crowne Plaza ~ The Governor, as special guest & Patron of the Branxton Greta Memorial Cycleway Trust attended a luncheon at Crowne Plaza. Over 160 people from business to the corporate world attended.



(L-R) Singleton Mayor Sue Moore with Mr & Mrs Bill Gurr



Brian Boughton OAM President RSL Hunter Valley District Council with Governor



Mrs Hurley enjoying a ride in a vintage World War 11 Willy's Jeep



Brett Wild President of the Memorial Cycleway & the Governor on the head table



The Governor giving his occasional address at the luncheon



Kevin Gordon, centre, speaking with the Governor



Guest speaker Lawrie McKinna CEO Newcastle Jets



Joy & Lester Bootes



Over 1000 photos were taken at both Regal Functions. If you would like a copy of a photo please call me on 0414 757. It will cost \$5 per copy which is going to the Branxton Greta Memorial Cycleway Trust to help in a little way to have the cycleway completed (Edit.)

Photos courtesy Annemaree Winter

Greta Workers Sports & Rec Club Ltd

2 West Street Greta Ph 4938 7325



Miller Park Sports Club

6 Maitland Street East Branxton Ph 49381226

The Oaks Restaurant



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\$16 Roast Wed & Sun/Lunch & Dinner

Friday 14th September

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Friday 21st September

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DINNER 6PM—9PM

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Greta Workers

Thursdays 4pm—6pm

Miller Park

Wednesdays 4pm—7pm



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Miller Park

Fridays & Sundays

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ALL DAY EVERYDAY

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& Miller Park



Members Badges Draw

Greta Workers

Wed \$1600 & Sun \$2500

Miller Park

Thurs \$1600 & Sun \$5000

Join now!

Membership

1 Year \$6 FULL \$4 PENS
3 Years \$15 Full \$10 PENS



John McCain reflects on his ‘maverick’ past and the future of the country

“I can speak my mind without fearing the consequences much.” John McCain

By James Hohmann

Reporter ~ *The Washington Post*

In his closing chapter, the man who has spent a lifetime playing the maverick has gone full Bulworth. “I’m freer than colleagues who will face the voters again,” writes Sen. John McCain, 81 now deceased, in “The Restless Wave,” co-authored with Mark Salter, his former chief of staff. “I can speak my mind without fearing the consequences much.” In this thoughtful valedictory, he delivers.

Unlike the previous six books McCain and Salter have composed together, this one wasn’t written for voters. It was written for history. In an era of all-caps tweets and angry denunciations of supposed “witch hunts,” the Arizona Republican’s final book, published Tuesday, casts him as a profile in courage. McCain highlights his advocacy for the Iraq troop “surge” when it was toxically unpopular in 2007 and his decisive vote against repealing Obamacare in 2017. He finally tells his side of his 2008 Sarah Palin partnership. With what time he has left, the “maverick” — an appellation he has worn throughout his career, at some times more comfortably than at others — is going to put country first and tell the truth.

He expresses regret that he did not pick Joe Lieberman to be his running mate 10 years ago. His best friend, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), “enthusiastically endorsed the idea” of bringing their colleague, who had been the 2000 Democratic vice-presidential nominee, onto “a national unity ticket.” But everyone else in McCain’s circle told him it would fatally divide the GOP. “It was sound advice that I could reason for myself,” McCain writes. “But my gut told me to ignore it, and I wish I had.”

McCain attributes the insufficient vetting of Palin, 44 and two years into her first term as Alaska’s governor, to his sulking about not being able to tap Lieberman. Taking the blame for her stumbles, he writes, “She was a skilled amateur performer asked to appear on Broadway twice a day.” I wish he had grappled more fully with the mayhem Palin’s selection created inside the GOP. It laid the groundwork for the ascent of Donald Trump a few years later. Trump emerges as a bete noire in the book. When McCain after the 2016 elections received a copy of the “dossier,” detailing unverified allegations about the president compiled by an opposition researcher, he immediately turned it over to James Comey so the FBI could explore whether Trump was compromised by the Russians. “Anyone who doesn’t like it can go to hell,” writes McCain.

But he also portrays the president as an outgrowth of tectonic shifts in a party for which, just 10 years ago, he was the standard-bearer. Now he sometimes struggles to recognize it. “Trump seems to vary from refusing to believe what [Russian President Vladimir] Putin is doing to just not caring about it,” he frets. “And some House Republicans investigating Russian interference seem more preoccupied with their own conspiracy theories than with a real conspiracy by a foreign enemy to defraud the United States.” McCain repeatedly criticizes conservative “talk radio blowhards.” He calls the House Freedom Caucus “the say-no-to-everything crowd.” He says nativists “need to be confronted, not ignored or winked at or quietly dismissed as kooks.” He mocks his 2016 primary challenger, Kelli Ward, for attacking him as “a champion of compromise.” “You’re damn right,” he responds. Former Trump aides Steve Bannon and Sebastian Gorka are “self-proclaimed nationalist radicals.” “Bigger misfits haven’t been seen inside a White House since William Taft got stuck in his bathtub,” he writes.

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) is another punching bag. The hawkish McCain faults the libertarian for falling prey to a conspiracy theory that he met with representatives of the Islamic State and for putting a hold on a vote to let Montenegro join NATO. Last year, he accused Paul of “working for Vladimir Putin” by opposing the expansion of the alliance. It was “an intemperate thing to say,” McCain now writes. “But it wasn’t incorrect.”

All politicians self-mythologize. This book is an effort to codify McCain’s maverick brand. He puts extra emphasis on his work across the aisle, including a 38-page chapter about working with Sen. Ted Kennedy, the liberal lion from Massachusetts, on health care and immigration. He has kind words for other leading Democrats, too, including Hillary Clinton.

Critics say McCain has always been more “straight talk” than action, but sometimes these skeptics, especially on the left, want him to be someone he’s not. McCain admits

entertaining the idea of switching parties in 2001, when the Senate was split 50-50 and he still harbored “some hard feelings” about his bitter primary battles with George W. Bush. The Democrats offered him the chance to chair the Armed Services Committee. “I listened and was flattered, but insisted in every conversation that my differences with Democrats were more numerous than those I had with current Republican orthodoxy,” he writes. “After a while they relented.”

McCain says he’s a proud Reagan Republican. “Not a Tea Party Republican,” he writes. “Not a Breitbart Republican. Not a talk radio or Fox News Republican. Not an isolationist, protectionist, immigrant-bashing, scapegoating, get-nothing-useful-done Republican. Not, as I am often dismissed by self-declared ‘real’ conservatives, a RINO, Republican in Name Only.”

Really, though, he’s always been a John McCain Republican. Even Reagan, who he says he “revered,” didn’t always get it right. In the book, McCain touts his 1983 opposition to the deployment of Marines to Beirut and his 1986 vote to override Reagan’s veto of sanctions on the apartheid government in South Africa.

Still, the senator does not really acknowledge that he’s tended to lurch right, including on some signature issues, to win primaries and get reelected. He opposed the Bush tax cuts in 2001 — but supported extending them in 2006. In 2016, he promised to repeal and replace Obamacare. In 2017, he cast the vote that saved the law.

In other words, McCain’s maverick-iness has ebbed and flowed. He’s mostly been a reliable party-line vote since getting elected to Congress in 1982, but he’s broken with Republicans on a few key issues. He earned the enmity of appropriators in both parties by battling earmarks before that was in vogue, and he clashed with his own party leaders by agitating for campaign finance reform. (His embrace of that cause was a result of his ensnarement in the Keating Five scandal, which almost ended his career and turned him into a reformer.)

He admits to some big mistakes: “The principal reason for invading Iraq, that Saddam [Hussein] had WMD, was wrong,” McCain writes. “The war, with its cost in lives and treasure and security, can’t be judged as anything other than a mistake, a very serious one, and I have to accept my share of the blame for it.”

As in any memoir, there is score settling — and lots of I-told-you-so’s. McCain faults Barack Obama, his 2008 opponent, for not keeping a residual force in Iraq, for not bombing Syria after Bashar al-Assad crossed the “red line” on chemical weapons and for announcing a timetable to start withdrawing forces from Afghanistan.

But the senator’s critique of the current president is more sustained than any other. “For all our disagreements I never doubted President Obama shared the seventy-five-year bipartisan consensus that American leadership of the free world was a moral obligation and a practical necessity,” he writes. “I’m not sure what to make of President Trump’s convictions.”

There are enough strong shots at Trump to get headlines, which sell books, but they’re sprinkled somewhat sparingly throughout. “He seems uninterested in the moral character of world leaders and their regimes,” McCain writes. “The appearance of toughness or a reality show facsimile of toughness seems to matter more than any of our values. Flattery secures his friendship, criticism his enmity.”

McCain does not want to be defined by opposition to Trump, who got elected despite declaring in 2015 that McCain was not a war hero because he was captured by the North Vietnamese. He would, however, like to be remembered for his long crusade against torture. He devotes a meaty chapter to the topic and recounts apologizing personally to someone who suffered at the hands of his American captors while in Libya, over the objection of the CIA station chief. He sided with Democrats on the issue after the 9/11 attacks and recently declined to endorse the nomination of Gina Haspel for CIA director, amid concerns about her past role in the agency’s interrogations.

McCain wants to hold that moral high ground, and he’s peeved by any suggestion that he’s not worthy of claiming it. The senator tried to run an honorable campaign in 2008. He forbade his staff from mentioning Jeremiah Wright, Obama’s controversial former pastor. In many ways, this gesture seems much more impressive now — after Trump spent years insisting that Obama was born in Kenya and demanding to see his birth certificate.

With that in mind, McCain reveals some of the charges against him that have rankled most. He still resents insinuations that Obama’s skin color was darkened in one of his campaign ads. “Silly s--- like that was tossed at us regularly,” he writes. And his feelings remain hurt that Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), a civil rights icon whom he calls “a personal hero,” invoked George Wallace and said McCain’s campaign was creating the kind of charged political atmosphere that led to the Birmingham, Ala., church bombing in 1963. “I couldn’t believe it, and I couldn’t forgive it,” McCain writes. “I still can’t.”

At times, the book reads like the travelogue of a globetrotting grandee. McCain devotes more ink to foreign affairs than any other topic, recounting so many sit-downs with heads of state that they’re hard to keep straight. But his book will be remembered for its genuine concern about the future of our republic and the West.

“I worry that we are at a turning point, a hinge of history, and the decisions made in the last 10 years and the decisions made tomorrow might be closing the door to the era of the American-led world order,” McCain writes. “I hope not, and it certainly isn’t too late to reverse that direction. But my time in that fight has concluded.”

The New York Times Best Sellers Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (16 Sept 2018)

1. THE RESTLESS WAVE

5 weeks on the list - by John McCain and Mark Salter

A memoir by the recently deceased Republican senator from Arizona.

2. EDUCATED

28 weeks on the list

by Tara Westover

The daughter of survivalists, who is kept out of school, educates herself enough to leave home for university.

3. THE RUSSIA HOAX

6 weeks on the list - by Gregg Jarrett

The Fox News analyst makes his case against the F.B.I. investigation into collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia.

4. AWARE

New this week - by Daniel Siegel

A look at the science that supports the effectiveness of meditation.

5. UNHINGED

3 weeks on the list - by Omarosa Manigault Newman

The reality TV star and former White House staffer describes her time and relationship with Donald Trump.

6. WINNERS TAKE ALL

New this week - by Anand Giridharadas

The former New York Times columnist examines the new gilded age and the failures of modern philanthropy.

7. CALYPSO

12 weeks on the list

by David Sedaris

A collection of comedic stories on mortality, middle age and a beach house dubbed the Sea Section.

8. SAPIENS

37 weeks on the list - by Yuval Noah Harari

How Homo sapiens became Earth’s dominant species.

9. ASTROPHYSICS FOR PEOPLE IN A HURRY

60 weeks on the list - by Neil deGrasse Tyson

A straightforward, easy-to-understand introduction to the laws that govern the universe.

10. LIARS, LEAKERS AND LIBERALS

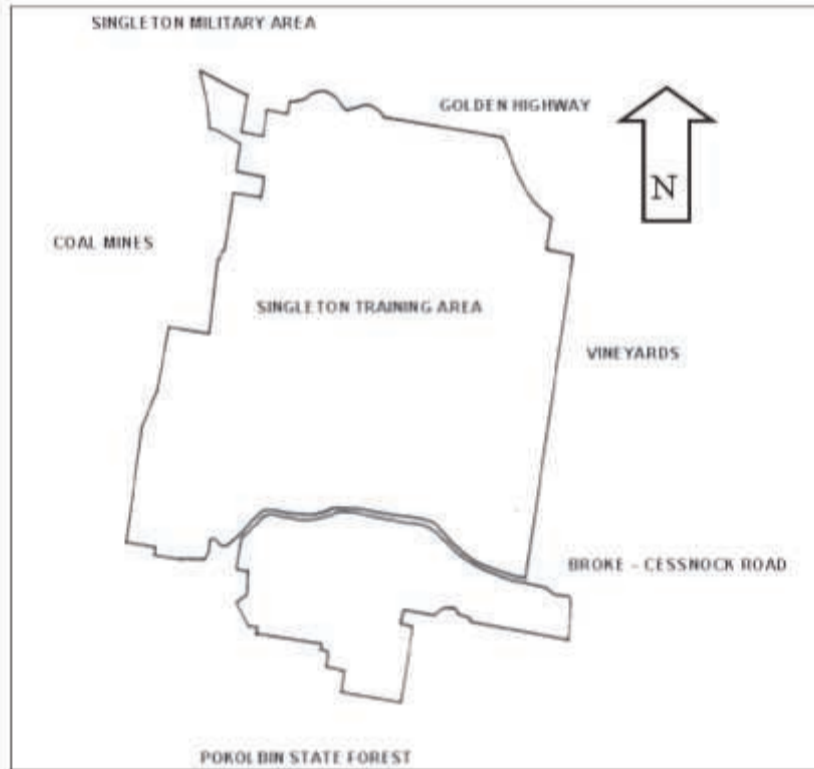
7 weeks on the list - by Jeanine Pirro

The legal analyst and Fox News host argues in favour of President Trump.



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



Hunter producers rising to the challenge

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 to 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.

Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton report date 5 Sept 2018

Consignments increased marginally and the quality remained mixed, with the majority of the younger cattle suitable for the restocker and lot feeder orders. There were good percentages of prime conditioned younger cattle suitable for the butchers also in the penning. There were 80 cows penned, with the majority in poor condition. The market trend was dearer, however the young cattle suitable for the butchers struggled to maintain the same high prices attained at the previous market. The over 200kg vealer steers and heifers returning to the paddock improved 12c, with the steers making from 200c to 294c, as the heifer portion sold from 150c to 248c/kg. The medium weight yearling steers to the lot feeders lifted 6c, making from 266c to 288c/kg. There were also dearer trends throughout the limited supply of yearling heifers. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers trended cheaper, however still sold well with the better yielding pens topping at 354c/kg. Heavy grown steers and bullocks to slaughter made from 260c to 274c, as the heifer portion sold from 232c to 260c/kg. The better covered cows lifted 7c, with the medium weights ranging from 216c to 218c, while the heavy weights topped at 230c, before averaging 220c/kg. The plainer cows sold at similar prices, however quality on average was lower week-on-week. The best heavy weight bull reached 240c/kg.

Scone report date 4 Sept 2018

Light rain across the supply area limited supply to 555 head, consisting of several small lines of plain young cattle. More than one third of the cattle penned were plain conditioned cows selling to an increased price trend compared to the previous sale. Odd lines of supplementary vealers also improved in price from recent weeks. Young calves weighing more than 80kg met limited demand, easing by up to 40c, making from 158c to 200c/kg, while very young light weight calves attracted limited interest. A reduced supply of vealer steers and heifers above 200kg improved by up to 60c/kg for better bred types. Northern restockers secured steers from 270c to 288c, while similar heifers sold from 220c to 240c/kg. Higher yielding supplementary fed young cattle to the trade sold from 300c to 318c/kg. There were insufficient yearling steers to reliably quote. Light yearling heifers to restockers reached 185c and supplementary fed heifers to trade made to 246c/kg. Limited numbers of heavy 3 score cows sold to 210c, while extra heavy cows topped at 215c to average 211c/kg. Heavy 2 score cows sold to 200c, to average 188c and lighter plain conditioned cows improved 9c to average 135c/kg. Supplementary fed bulls made 242c/kg.

TRLX Tamworth report date 3 Sept 2018

There was an increase in numbers following last week's rain reduced offering, however supplies remained well below the pre-rain levels. Yearlings made up a large percentage, with cows also in fair supply. The quality of the young cattle was fair to good, with some well bred lines in forward condition suiting feedlotters. Restockers were also well catered for with lighter weight cattle. The usual orders were in place and there was increased feedlot competition. There were around 30 calves penned, with feed supplies still short, having been split off cows early. Those calves were sold on a dollar per head basis to restockers and made from \$165 to \$270/head. Feeder steers with the extra competition sold to a dearer trend with light and medium weights averaging 15c to 17c/kg dearer. Some of the better quality lines achieved greater improvements. Restockers were not quite as active this week, resulting in a firm to cheaper market overall. There were some quality related price changes however. There were similar trends in the yearling heifers, where feeders were dearer, the improvement not as great as that of the steers. Those to restockers sold firm to cheaper. There were a few heavy weight grown steers, however nothing from last week to compare to. The few well finished grown heifers sold to a cheaper trend with demand not as great. Plain condition cows experienced strong gains, particularly on the leanest lots. The well finished heavy weight cows saw little change. The better end of the heavy bulls sold to a dearer trend.

Boosting drought relief for farming families

The Australian Government has announced a Farm Household Allowance (FHA) boost to help farming families and their communities get through the current drought and other hardships.

The Government is also making it easier for farmers to get help by increasing funding to the Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS), who can assist farmers fill out their application for the FHA. This is a free service.

An extra \$5 million dollars will be invested in the RFCS, which will provide additional support for farmers – particularly those applying for the FHA for the first time.

The FHA provides a fortnightly payment totalling around \$16,000 a year to help farming families in tough times to put food on the table and give them breathing space to make important business decisions for a viable future. Farmers do not need to be in drought to receive FHA payments.

In addition to the recent extension of the FHA from three to four cumulative years, new lump sum payments of up to a total of \$12,000 will be made available for eligible households.

The first of the FHA supplements will be paid to on 1 September 2018. People will have to be an FHA recipient between 1 September and 1 December 2018 to receive the first payment. The eligibility period for the second payment is between 2 December 2018 and 1 June 2019.

The first instalment from 1 September will provide couples in a household with up to an additional \$6,000 (if both people are receiving FHA) and single households will receive \$3,600.

The Government is also making it easier for farmers to access support through temporary changes to the FHA assets test. This means farmers who have up to \$5 million in net assets locked up in their farms can apply for FHA from 1 September 2018. The temporary increase will be in place between 1 September 2018 and 30 June 2019.

The Government's \$190 million of immediate relief measures also includes additional support for mental health services and community organisations.

Farmers can find out if they qualify for new lump sum payments by calling the Farmer Assistance Hotline **132 316** or by visiting humanservices.gov.au/fha

Farmers are encouraged not to self-assess, just because they may think they're not eligible for FHA doesn't mean they are. Seek guidance from a rural financial counsellor. Farmers can access this free service by calling **1800 686 175** or by visiting agriculture.gov.au/rfcsa



Racing review

James Cummings is sure to be a big spring player with horses like Avilius, Best Of Days, Kementari and Hartnell among the arsenal of big guns in his stable.

The racing world today is very different to when Bart ruled the roost - and so too is James' life as he has the keys to the Blue Army's Aussie operation.

But Bart's tried and true teachings remain a heavy influence on what James does every day and how he goes about things.

Top of the list is to keep things simple – but also not

Bart Cummings' famous legacy lives on in the methods of grandson James

BY Ben Dorries

Just over three years since the legendary Bart Cummings passed away, his grandson James still has his words ringing in his ears every day as he prepares for a spring carnival assault with Godolphin.



(L-R) James, Anthony & Bart Cummings

be afraid to experiment and to try something out of the box. It didn't work with Hartnell last spring when the big horse failed over the Melbourne Cup trip, but that won't stop James continuing to try things from left field. "One thing I noticed about my grandfather he was never shy of experimenting with something different and trying something new," Cummings said.

"But he also had a wonderful basic structure to his training system. "He never stopped asking questions of the people around him, his foreman in Melbourne, his foreman in Sydney, his veterinarians, everyone. "I also approach it the same way - it doesn't matter whether I am approaching the depths of winter in July or approaching September and October in the spring, I have that teaching from Bart in my ears.

"I might have one of ten important variables going on at one time and I rely on what I might have learned from my grandfather - or from growing up with my father - that I can deploy to the right affect."

**Branxton & Vineyards
Real Estate**
12 Clift Street, Branxton 335
4938 3300



Malware & ransomware

www.scamwatch.gov.au
Malware tricks you into installing software that allows scammers to access your files and track what you are doing, while ransomware demands payment to 'unlock' your

to be able to access the video format. If you download the software, your computer will be infected with malware (malicious software). Another way of delivering a malware scam is through websites and pop-ups that offer 'free' file downloads, including music, movies

energy services. They might take out loans or carry out other illegal business under your name, or even sell your information to other scammers for further illegal use.

Ransomware
Ransomware is a type of

computer will be unlocked. **Have you been scammed?** If you think you have provided your account details to a scammer, contact your bank or financial institution immediately. Visit the [No More Ransom](#) website for information and decryption tools that might help you recover your data

PROTECT YOURSELF

- Do **not** open attachments or click on links in emails or social media messages you've received from strangers – just press delete.
- If you want to access footage or information about major or breaking news, use a reliable news source rather than an unknown web link.
- Be wary of free downloads and website access, such as music, games, movies and adult sites, they may install harmful programs without you knowing.
- Always keep your computer security up to date with anti-virus and anti-spyware software, and a good firewall. Only buy computer and anti-virus software from a reputable source.
- Use your security software to run a virus check if you think your computer's security has been compromised. If you still have doubts, contact your anti-virus software provider or a computer specialist. Keep your office networks, computers, and mobile devices secure. Update your security software, change passwords and back up your data regularly. Store your backups offsite and offline.



WARNING SIGNS

- You receive an email or social media message out of the blue that claims to contain links to a topical news item or something 'interesting', and you are asked to download software in order to view the material.
- Music files, games, or access to adult sites are offered free of charge if you download a particular program or agree to a pop-up box.
- Pop-up boxes start appearing on your computer screen. These may have simple questions or a button that says 'close'.
- You notice new icons on your computer screen, or your computer is not as fast as it normally is.
- You are approached by scammers or become a victim of another scam where your personal or financial details are already known.

computer or files.
How these scams work
Malware
Malware scammers send emails and social media messages at random with links purporting to be on something topical—news, an event or something 'interesting'. If you click on the link you may be taken to a fake website that looks like the real deal, complete with logos and branding of legitimate sites. In order to view the video, you will be asked to install some software, such as a 'codec',

and games, or free access to content, such as adult sites. Malware scams work by installing software on your computer that allows scammers to access your files or watch what you are doing on your computer. Scammers use this information to steal your personal details and commit fraudulent activities. They may make unauthorised purchases on your credit card, or use your identity to open accounts such as banking, telephone or

malware that blocks or limits access to your computer or files, and demands a ransom be paid to the scammer for them to be unlocked. Infected computers often display messages to convince you into paying the ransom. Scammers may pretend to be from the police and claim you have committed an illegal activity and must pay a fine, or they may simply demand payment for a 'key' to unlock your computer. If you pay the ransom, there is no guarantee your

without having to pay ransoms to cybercriminals. You are encouraged to report scams to the ACCC via their [report a scam](#) page. This helps them to warn people about current scams, monitor trends and disrupt scams where possible. Please include details of the scam contact you received, for example, a screenshot. We viz., www.scamwatch.gov.au also provide guidance on protecting yourself from scams and where to get help. Spread the word to your friends and family to protect them.

Remote access scams

Remote access scams try to convince you that you have a computer or internet problem and that you need to buy new software to fix the problem.

How this scam works

The scammer will phone you and pretend to be a staff member from a large telecommunications or computer company, such as Telstra, the NBN or Microsoft. Alternatively they may claim to be from a technical support service provider. They will tell you that your computer has been sending error messages or that it has a virus. They may mention problems with your internet connection or your phone line and say this has affected your computer's recent performance. They may claim that your broadband connection has been hacked. The caller will request remote access to your computer to 'find out what the problem is'. The scammer may try to talk you into buying unnecessary software or a service to 'fix' the computer, or they may ask you for your personal details and your bank or credit card details. The scammer may initially sound professional and knowledgeable—however they will be very persistent and may become abusive if you don't do what they ask. You don't have to be a Telstra or Microsoft customer to be called by these scammers. You don't even have to own a computer! **Warning signs** ~ * You receive a phone call out of the blue and the caller claims to be from a large telecommunications or computer company, or a technical support service provider. * They tell you that your computer is experiencing technical problems and they need remote access to sort out the problem. * They ask you to buy software or sign up to a service to fix the computer. * They ask for your personal details and your bank or credit card details. * The caller is very persistent and may become abusive. **Protect yourself** * Never give an unsolicited caller remote access to your computer. * Never give your personal, credit card or online account details over the phone unless you made the call and the phone number came from a trusted source. * If you receive a phone call out of the blue about your computer and remote access is requested – hang up – even if they mention a well-known company such as Telstra. Telstra does not request credit card details over the phone to fix computer or telephone problems, and is not affiliated with any companies that do. See: [Is it really Telstra contacting you?](#) (link is external) * Remember that you can still receive scam calls even if you have a private number or have listed your number on the Australian Government's Do Not Call Register (link is external). Scammers can obtain your number fraudulently. * Make sure your computer is protected with regularly updated anti-virus and anti-spyware software, and a good firewall. Research first and only purchase software from a source that you know and trust. ~ If you have fallen victim to a scam or you receive a lot of unsolicited emails and phone calls consider changing your email address and phone numbers.

MOVIE REVIEW

BOOK CLUB

Synopsis

Diane (Diane Keaton) is recently widowed after 40 years of marriage. Vivian (Jane Fonda) enjoys her men with no strings attached. Sharon (Candice Bergen) is still working through a decades-old divorce. Carol's (Mary Steenburgen) marriage is in a slump after 35 years. Four lifelong friends' lives are turned upside down to hilarious ends when their book club tackles the infamous *Fifty Shades of Grey*. From discovering new romance to rekindling old flames, they inspire each other to make their next chapter the best chapter.

The Cast of "Book Club" Is So Strong It Helps You Forget the Premise of "Book Club"

by APRIL WOLFE
Yes, there's a scene in Bill Holderman's boomer-ensemble rom-com *Book Club* where the perpetually promiscuous bachelorette Vivian (Jane Fonda) has to shut up and listen as her long lost beau Arthur (Don Johnson) delivers a movie-style confession of love with unabashed earnestness. In that moment, Holderman trains the camera just as much on Vivian as he does on Arthur, even though she's not saying a word. Vivian purses her lips, tries to look away, skittish as a pussycat caught digging through the trash. For a split second, as I watched Vivian watch Arthur, I suddenly *recognized* Fonda from her iconic performance in 1969's relentless, tearjerker classic *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* And I mean "recognized" in that, for a breath, all the kitsch trappings of rom-coms fell away and I was beholding the raw emotion that Fonda is capable of emitting. That's a breathtaking ability, to channel such talent and experience into even humdrum scenes, something all four of *Book Club*'s leads — Fonda, Diane Keaton, Mary Steenburgen, and Candice Bergen — can do. Even though it follows the map of every rom-com before it, Holderman's film still offers the too-rare chance to marvel at just how good these women are at their craft, how easily they inhabit the bodies and lives of other people. This story revolves around four successful women in a monthly book club who start reading E.L. James's *Fifty Shades of Grey* trilogy, which inspires them to rekindle their own love lives. Yet I nearly forgot that catalyst multiple times, getting caught up instead in the charming interplay of the actors. Occasionally, a character would remind me of those books' supposed relevance with a toss-away line. But, really, *Fifty Shades* merely serves as an excuse to get these women into the same room



regularly, where they talk about their love lives and can assess and critique one another's relationships — or lack thereof. The routine scenes of gathering are redeemed by the quick-fire casual banter. Each character is wholly formed, and often informed by these actors' real-life personas, as well as the most popular characters they've brought to life in the past — from Murphy Brown to Annie Hall. As recently widowed Diane, Keaton does her loosey-goosey awkward shtick with flair. She quickly falls into her classic rhythms of adorable physical comedy in a scene where Diane is seated on a plane next to a stranger who she'll come to know as the dashing Mitchell (Andy Garcia). She tumbles over Mitchell's body to her window seat and then almost knocks him out with a jerking elbow as she tries to retrieve anti-anxiety pills from her purse. Then a loud noise frightens her, and she grabs into Mitchell's crotch to steady herself before mumbling some long-winded apologies punctuated by a perfectly Keaton-esque exasperated gasp laugh at her own silliness. I don't care if I've seen this performance from Keaton a million times, in such recent romances as *Hampstead*, *Something's Gotta Give*, *Darling Companion*, and *So It Goes*, or *5 Flights Up*. Keaton is still charming as hell. Seriously, all a director has to do to please a crowd is shove Diane Keaton and Andy Garcia into an enclosed space and let them improve the shit out of graceless flirting. I'm thankful Holderman knows when to let his actors lead. Candice Bergen, whose stern, critical voice defines her character Sharon's

judgmental nature — we're a little on the nose here because she's actually a federal judge — gets her own muddled meet-cute, with George (Richard Dreyfuss), whom she finds on a dating site. "I could legally put you in handcuffs," she tells him, misgauging their familiarity and having to quickly apologize. That line drew quite the laugh from the audience I saw this with, not the writing so much as Bergen's characteristically blunt delivery, spoken as if Sharon doesn't process or feel shame in the same way other humans do but knows she's *supposed* to. Throwing all these actors together feels eerily like some kind of *Avengers*-type crossover for wine-drinking women curious about what would happen if the coach from *Coach* hooked up with the mom from *Joan of Arcadia*. I'm not not saying I'm that person. Netflix's senior buddy comedy *Grace and Frankie* hits a lot of these same notes — especially the ones about having an active sex life even as your kids are trying to put you in a home — with a few of the same special guests, and is always an injection of joy. But one hidden purpose of a film like this is that it gives hope to the under-35 crowd that a woman can play the lead in her own story for the entirety of her life, not just until babies or marriage come along to define her. To get that beneficial message out of *Book Club*, you'll have to endure every character's requisite rom-com epiphany speech, but it's still worth it.



Power retailers spend big on advertising and consumers pick up the tab

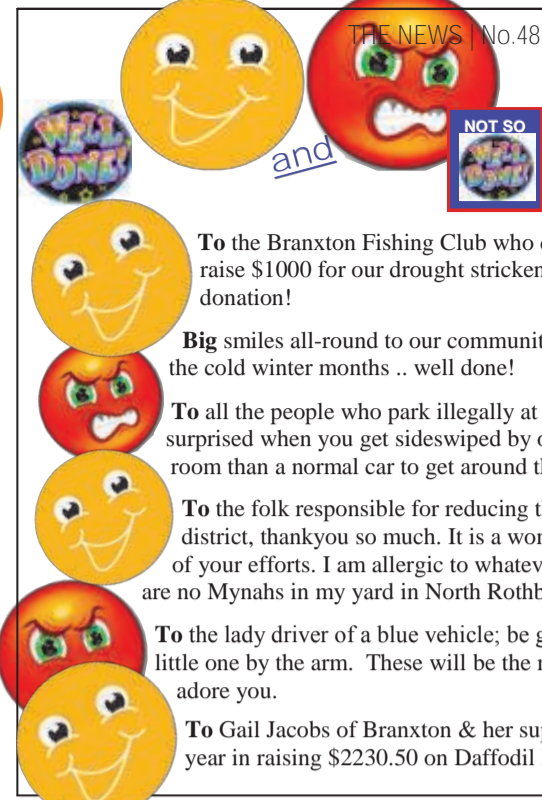
By Richard Dennis

Electricity companies pay millions for ‘customer retention’. The cost of this marketing nonsense is passed on to you and me

Once upon a time people remembered to buy electricity even though there were no ads to remind them. But thanks to the “efficiency of the market”, these days electricity companies spend hundreds of millions of dollars on marketing to remind us to turn on our lights. Needless to say the costs of all this marketing are passed on to you and me in the form of higher electricity bills. That’s how efficient markets work. It’s not renewable power that is hurting Australian consumers. It’s market power. Like the big banks, the big electricity retailers are making big profits off the back of charging high prices. But rather than admit that “competition policy” in Australia has failed to deliver the benefits, or even the competition that was promised, the Abbott, Turnbull and now Morrison governments are trying to blame renewable energy for the cost of electricity, rather than the failed reform agenda of privatisation and deregulation. Take AGL for example. AGL is the biggest electricity retailer in Australia and 24% of the average AGL residential customer’s electricity bill goes to AGL shareholders in the form of profit. Put another way, of the \$1,855 average bill for an AGL retail customer, \$450 is pure profit. And according to the AGL annual report, they spend about \$101 per customer each year on “customer retention”. Before we advertised electricity on television, the industry was largely owned by state governments who owned both electricity generation assets (mainly coal fired power stations) and electricity distribution (mainly poles, wires and transformers). All of the electrons from all of the power stations got mixed up in the wires and no one really thought about what brand of electricity they should buy or, more weirdly, what their electricity brand said about them.

But that was before the bankers, economists and marketers took control of our electricity industry away from the engineers. These days, customers have access to a baffling range of electricity products and plans. We get to open junk mail, receive marketing calls, chat to friendly people at our door, watch TV ads and – if we are really keen – go to websites to compare the prices we can pay for our identical electrons. And, thanks to the efficiency of the market, we the consumers have to pick up the tab for all of this marketing nonsense. The neoliberal architects of this new electricity industry decided that it would be most efficient to chop the formerly state government-owned electricity companies up into multiple generator businesses, distribution businesses and retail business. Today there are 36 different electricity retailers selling to NSW households, with a family in central Sydney required to choose between over 250 plans – all in order to receive the exact same electrons. What could go wrong? In order to help customers “choose” between the bewildering array of plans, the electricity retailers employ an army of salespeople to knock and ring and email us with ideas, suggestions and friendly advice about how to simplify our billing. Since we started privatising and chopping up our electricity industry, the number of people employed in sales and marketing in the industry has grown by 400% to almost 5,000 in 2016. The number of managers grew by 217%, 10 times faster than those who actually make the electricity. Again, all of the advertising and marketing costs are passed on to customers. First, some customers at least. The average price charged to AGL residential electricity users is \$301 per MWh, while their

businesses customers pay an average of \$165. For the exact same electrons you get to pay almost double. Electricity bills can strain household budgets, especially when wages growth is at record lows and workers reliant on penalty rates are seeing their incomes fall. But the electricity sector is not the only one where privatisation is pushing up prices. Indeed, between 2010 and 2016 the price of both health insurance and child care rose even more rapidly than electricity prices. Tony Abbott spent the three years leading up to his 2013 election victory telling anyone who would listen that rising electricity prices caused by the carbon tax were the main reason they felt poor. Never mind the fact that electricity prices rose rapidly for years before the carbon price came in because of the profits of the electricity retailers and distributors. Never mind that rising housing costs combined with flat wages were making middle class people feel poor and that removing the carbon price did almost nothing to improve the lot of the “working families” the Coalition spends so much time feigning concern for. If Scott Morrison was actually worried about working families struggling with the cost of living he would encourage highly profitable firms to boost their workers’ wages and he wouldn’t just pick a fight with the electricity industry, he would inquire into the abject failure of privatisation to lower the cost of health insurance and childcare. But if the last 10 years have taught us anything it’s that the purpose of energy policy isn’t to fix problems in the energy market, it’s to cause problems for your political opponents. • *Richard Dennis is the chief economist for the Australia Institute. His Quarterly Essay, Dead Right: How Neoliberalism ate itself and what comes next, is available now.*



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Concrete consequences

By Amanda Meade ~ The Guardian

The ABC’s cherished Play School is not a program you’d expect to promote dangerous activities for preschoolers but that is exactly what happened back in July, when a segment showed children playing with wet concrete. After an audience complaint, an investigation by the ABC’s audience and consumer affairs unit found Play School in breach of two of Aunty’s editorial policies, 7.1 and 7.6, which say that content that is likely to cause harm or offence must be justified by the editorial context, and if it’s justified but still dangerous appropriate steps must be taken to mitigate those risks. The segment “was likely to cause harm and appropriate steps were not taken to mitigate the harm that may arise from imitation of the practices shown in the segment”, the investigation found. “Accordingly, the segment was not in keeping with the ABC’s editorial standards for harm and offence,” the investigation found. “The ABC undertook to recut the concrete segment for any future broadcast to ensure it complies with safety standards.” But in happier Play School news, the program has added three new presenters to the to the family: Kiruna Stamell, Kaeng Chan and Hunter Page-Lochard. Stamell, who featured in her own episode of Australian Story recently, Chan and Page-Lochard make their debut next week. “I am little because I was born with a type of dwarfism,” Kiruna told the kids in the announcement of her role. “Having dwarfism means you are much shorter than most other people your age. As you grow taller, it is the bones in your body that are growing longer. My bones grew differently from other people. My bones just didn’t grow very long. And because my bones didn’t grow very long, I didn’t grow very long. So this is why I am very short. Much shorter than most people my age. Much shorter than the other grown-up presenters on Play School.”



Amanda Meade

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

Dates for your diary >

Thur 13 Sept - 4PM Go4Fun Free Program for Kids @ Cessnock Basketball Stadium: Go4Fun is a FREE lifestyle education program funded by NSW Health for children aged 7-13 years who are above a healthy weight range. Parents/ carers are also required to attend the sessions which are run by qualified staff.
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 welcome.
THUR 20 SEPT - Branxton Public School Concert “A journey through music and time”
21st & 22nd SEPT - WOLLOMBI MUSIC FESTIVAL
TUES 25/09 - BRANXTON VIEW CLUB FASHION PARADE- Branxton Community Hall. All welcome \$15 includes light lunch Phone Bethany 0419 429 364
Thur 27 Sept - Cessnock Prostate Cancer support group meet 3pm Cessnock Leagues Club. Topic: Showing information via DVD featuring a panel of experts talking about everything you need to know about Prostate Cancer Awareness. PSA. Gleason Score. Grading. Scans. etc: Cost FREE. Wives/ Partners welcome. Contact: Barry 49904554. Rose 0457073852.
Thur 27 Sept - Madame Butterfly // Melbourne City Ballet 8PM. Cessnock Performing Arts Centre, 198 Vincent Street, Cessnock. Artistic Director, Michael Pappalardo brings to life the tragic opera favourite, Madame Butterfly, featuring Puccini’s signature score. Expect gorgeous costumes, impressive new scenery and stunning hair pieces in this dazzling work.
Mon 1 OCT - Labour Day public holiday
SAT 6 OCT - Jane Rutter presents Madame Flute! // French Classical Cabaret @ Cessnock Performing Arts Centre

Dates for your diary >

SAT 6 OCT - Live at the Crossing 2pm 6 Caledonia St, Kearsley Live poetry, spoken word, & storytelling. Open mic. Local poets & guest artists. All welcome.
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
SUN 25 Nov - Plektra mandolin & guitar ensemble, Sacred Spaces Singleton
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
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!’
Other dates to remember
 6th Oct - OPERA IN THE VINEYARDS

School NEWS



Kirkton Public School

Assembly Awards

Principal's Award:
Taylor ~ consistently representing our school with 100% effort and school values

values

K/1/2/3: Andre - Pleasing progress in literacy. Sophie - Working hard in all areas. Lachlan - Excellent mathematical thinking skills.

4/5/6: Paige - Working to improve the neatness of her writing. Jorja - consistent effort and achievement



Branxton Public School



≡ Kaylem

Kindergarten enrolments are currently being accepted. Our first orientation visit for children and parent information session will take place early next term. Please pop in to see the friendly Office Staff or phone the school on 49381214 for more information if you have a child to enrol for 2019.

Well done to our Debate teams who have competed enthusiastically in their various debates over recent months. We recently hosted Rutherford P.S. for a debate and although it didn't go their way, they showed great sportsmanship and are constantly improving their skills. Thank you to Mrs Morrow for providing these opportunities for our students. Stage 2 enjoyed a busy two days in Sydney, seeing the sights and visiting various places to complement their learning at school. Thank you to the parents who volunteered for the excursion and helped to make the experience a fabulous one for our students.

A spectacular effort was made by students and teachers for our Book Week parade. Entertaining viewing for our family and friends who visited our school for the event. Thank you to everyone who visited classrooms and supported the Book Fair. We now have over \$1000 to purchase resources for the students to use.

Congratulations to our athletes who attended the Regional Athletics Carnival. A great effort by all students, including Kaylem, who managed to take 5.2 seconds off his PB in the 800m. The Father's Day Stall was a huge success with happy shoppers making those important choices for their loved dads and grandfathers.



≡ Fathers Day stall



≡ Book Week



≡ Soccer team

Thank you to our P&C for organising the stall and we hope all our dads and grandfathers enjoyed their day. Well done to Grace and Emily who represented Stage 2 and Jake and Ian who represented Stage 3 in the Regional Final of the Premier's Spelling Bee at Greta P.S. All students did their Personal Best with Jake coming 3rd in his final and Grace being the winner of the Stage 2 Final. This means she heads off to the State Final in Sydney. An amazing achievement! Our soccer team played an incredible game against



≡ Sydney Excursion



≡ Stage 2 Excursion

Floraville P.S. in the Hunter Final last week, losing 2 nil. It was such a great achievement to get to the final and all players should be proud. Thanks go to Mr Tattis, Mr Kelly & Mrs Guilbaud for their work in training the team.

Dates for the Calendar

Friday 14th September – Jump Rope For Heart 'Jump Off'
Thursday 20th September – School Concert "A journey through music and time"

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



≡ Stage 2 spellers

Branxton Croquet Club hosts section of Australian Championships



By Tom Jackson

Last Monday, 10 September, Branxton Croquet Club held one of the competitions from the Australian Croquet Championships. It was "The Plate" for players eliminated in the first round of the competition. A full report will be published in our next edition.

The club was very excited to be part of the Australian Championships and hoped that this event would popularise the sport locally and encourage more people from the local area to come along and see what we have to offer at our very social, friendly club.

The sport is very suitable for retire people who would like to get out, socialise and enjoy a little light exercise in a very pleasant environment. This is not to say that croquet is only for those of us with extensive life experience because some of the really top players in the country are still in their teens; we cater for all age groups.

At Branxton we play on the croquet lawns adjacent to Branxton Oval on John Rose Ave (at traffic lights

in the centre of the shops in Branxton). We play on Tuesday and Saturday from 8.30am to noon every week. Free coaching is available and we all enjoy our morning teas and a chat between games.

We hope to share with you the amazing allure something like that great old staple of a series that was "Midsummer Murders" and that is the gentle game of croquet. As Publicity Officer for the Branxton Croquet Club, I have to go back to source of information for this fascinating pastime, a source which is actually just older than I am, Arthur Mee's CHILDREN'S ENCYCLOPEDIA covered hundreds of games in its, well encyclopaedic way, leading me to plagiarise that tag about the 'gentle game'. Here is what they told us about this perfect activity for the not-so active (and the sporting assassins amongst us) in my own volume 7 of the CE dating from the 1940's: "Croquet, that rather sedate game usually associated with the green lawns and garden parties of a leisurely age that has passed, has lost much of its popularity for more exhilarating pastimes. Lawn tennis for example, has left it far behind but for all that is deep in its debt. In 1869, the All England Croquet Club made

Wimbledon its headquarters. Six years later, the club set aside a few acres of their grounds for lawn tennis, which was just struggling into favour. In 1877, the name was changed to the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club, and instituted the Lawn Tennis Championships. Such was the start of Wimbledon, magnet for the lawn tennis talent of the whole world. So there you go - we geriatrics have the historical (not hysterical) jump on the tennis world, no matter how or where you hit the ball. That CE text indicates that croquet will celebrate its 150th birthright next year - I hope to be in the UK for it.

William would have conquered croquetwith mallets aforethought
As a (very) Ancient Historian, I was fascinated to discover the rather discriminatory title that William the Conqueror no doubt enjoyed before he put an end to Anglo-Saxon ownership of England in 1066. The great Norman was known as William the Bastard, so thank heaven the Battle of Hastings elevated him to something more er, regal and not

illegal in history's page. So, what's the connection with the gentle game of croquet, I hear you ask?

Very simple actually. More years ago than I can remember, our star player at Branxton Croquet Club (who went on to win the State title) was approached by the Branxton Press about our new club facilities and lawns (which were - and are - something to see). He was also quizzed about the psychology and philosophy of this fascinating (and I have to say) sometime frustrating game. I have mentioned previously the distinguished history of our pastime (yes, the preference of aristocrats before lawn tennis, but I concede, not lawn bowls). Our spokesman confided to the (good looking- editor's note) Branxton newperson that, while etiquette and decorum are uppermost in our approach to the game (bashing each other with the mallet is definitely not on, despite your feeling at some times), he personally believed there was an inescapable reality about success in croquet. But it is not printable, so our representative did not want to enlarge on it.

Pressed (of course) by the local press, our member disclosed that only people with, yes, the pre - 1066 nominal qualities of the

leader of the Norman Conquest won at croquet. But our spokesman was assured the local newspaper wouldn't offend its readers with such language. And needless to say, the paper came out the following day with a smashing coverage of the Branxton Croquet Club and its enthusiastic members with the headline CROQUET - THE - GAME ONLY B.....S WIN!

As a rare winner at the Club, I wasn't offended - and I believe we actually recruited a few good souls who not only accepted the slogan but claimed to qualify: a former Defence Force mate reminded me of the old Music Hall gag: "Don't call me a b....., I saw me mum and dad married when I was 18!" And so, in an attempt to convince (and recruit) our readers about the magic of a game that is seldom called off, short of the worst of the Hunter summer or winter, I swear

you really don't have to be like the old William of Normandy to win. As we say, it is perfect for those of us who are not as limber as we were in the past - but I have been assured by more than one medico that it is perfect as an outdoors

opportunity to remain reasonably active in body and mind. So why not consider a shot - not in the dark, but in the park at John Rose Avenue, Branxton? And remember - defeat at croquet is not life or death: it's just hoopless.



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"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living, Branxton
Recent sales



Pick the kid!



Noel Goodyer & some his protégé

Noel Goodyer, a big kid at heart, was fare-welled last Saturday by a legion of his protégés, their parents & committee members of the Greta Branxton Junior Rugby League Colts.

Club President John Hunter said that the club would not have been a reality without Noel's input & that the club wished he & his family all the best in the future. (see full report in this issue)

Greta Girls Selected in District Team

Two members of the Greta Women's Bowling Club, Therese Abdilla (right, pictured below) and Jean Paviour-Smith, were absolutely delighted when they were chosen to represent the Hunter River District in the "Hunter Challenge" Trophy.

The Trophy, which is contested annually between the Hunter River and Lake Macquarie Districts, had been won by Lake Macquarie for the last two years, so the Hunter River ladies were very keen to have it back!

The game, played with 7 teams of 4 players, was hosted in outstanding fashion by the East Maitland Bowling Club. It was a fiercely contested match with the lead swinging one way and then the other, before the Hunter River eventually prevailed by 3 shots.

Well done Hunter River.



Above: Jean, at left & Therese

15 & 25 year service medals for RFS members

Monday 1st of December saw the presentation of 15 and 25 year service medals to 8 dedicated members of the Rural Fire Service (RFS), Pokolbin Brigade.

The awards are recognition of consecutive years of active membership of the RFS. Members of this group of committed people were presented with their awards at the Pokolbin Fire Shed before the Brigade's Christmas party on Monday night. They were presented by Pokolbin Brigade Captain Des Butler, with State Member for Cessnock Kerry Hickey and Cessnock City Councillors James Hawkins and Rachael Main on hand for the official ceremony.

"It's great to know we have such dedicated members in our community, and good to see young people encouraged to get involved as well", said Councillor Hawkins after the presentation.

Group Officer John Ryan and Pokolbin Brigade member Lloyd Russell were presented with 25 year service medals. Mr Ryan also received the 25 year National Clasp medal in recognition of his outstanding service to the RFS.

Pictured after the presentation are:

Back row: (from left) Group Officer John Ryan, State Member Kerry Hickey, Steve Plumb, Graeme Lewis, David Thompson, Pokolbin Captain Des Butler, Councillors James Hawkins and Rachael Main. **Front Row:** Lloyd Russell, John Drayton, Steve Drayton and Denis Ruddick.





WHAT'S ON

| | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| MON | 2 FOR 1 PIZZA FROM 6PM | Dine In Only |
| TUE | STEAK STAMPEDE LUNCH & DINNER | Dine In Only |
| WED | PASTA LUNCH & DINNER | |
| THU | \$12.50 SNITTY LUNCH & DINNER | Dine In Only |
| FRI | FRIDAY NIGHT RAFFLES FROM 6PM | |
| SAT | LIVE MUSIC FROM 8.30PM | |
| SUN | FREE POOL ALL DAY | |

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SPORTS RESULTS GOLF

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB SAT 1ST SEPTEMBER

STROKE - MONTHLY MEDAL MEDAL WINNER

Peter Mathews 68 nett
A GRADE WINNER
Lee Heuston 72 nett
A GRADE R/UP
Chris O'Brien 73 nett
B GRADE WINNER
David Kinch 72 nett c/b
B GRADE R/UP
John Burgess 72 nett
C GRADE WINNER
Alan Cannon 72 nett
C GRADE R/UP
Geoff Jones 73 nett
BALL COMP

76 nett NTP's

L Heuston 102cm V Matt 172cm C Fletcher 182cm M Simpson 48cm
The wild, windy weather on Saturday certainly made golf difficult for all players, with the Monthly Medal Winner, Peter Mathews, the only player to play better than his handicap. Peter's 68 was a great round, with his nearest competitor 4 shots back in the nett competition. The biggest anomaly which continues to occur at the Branxton Golf Club is the DSRating, which was a 70—very low considering only one player scored lower than this, with the winner of each grade recording a nett 72—this doesn't happen at other courses! Lee Heuston won A Grade with an excellent 72 nett from his low single figure handicap, with Chris O'Brien runner up with his pleasing 73 nett. David Kinch won B Grade with a 72 nett, on a countback from last week's runaway winner John Burgess. Alan Cannon won C Grade, also with a 72 nett score, just ahead of Geoff Jones, the recent nett winner of C Grade in the HRDistrict Championships, and runner up in the scratch section. A 76 nett was needed to win a ball. The shot of the day belonged to Mick Simpson on the last hole, a wonderful shot that finished only 48 cms away. It is interesting to note that all the nearest pins were won by single figure handicappers, indicating that high quality shot making was needed to play the par threes.

SAT 8TH SEPTEMBER STABLEFORD

A GRADE WINNER Greg Gillard 40 pts
A GRADE R/UP Kyle Mounser 38 pts
A GRADE THIRD Edward Barrett 37 pts
B GRADE WINNER Ed Garland 42 pts
B GRADE R/UP Joseph Bereza 39 pts c/b
B GRADE THIRD David Kinch 39 pts
C GRADE WINNER Darren Thompson 40 pts
C GRADE R/UP Fraser Wilson 34 pts c/b
C GRADE THIRD John Martin 34 pts
BALL COMP 30 pts
NTP's
T Foster 440cm T McGee 150cm D Hollis 670cm M Barrett 89cm
Greg Gillard returned to form in winning Saturday's A Grade Stableford Competition with an excellent 40 pts, defeating Kyle Mounser,

another to return to Saturday golf at Branxton, with 38 pts. Local veteran, Eddie Barrett finished third with his 37 pts, on a day when only 30 pts was needed to win a ball. Eddie Garland showed his true form in winning B grade with a wonderful 42 pts, the day's best stableford score, with Joe Bereza and David Kinch filling the minor placings with their 39 pts. Darren Thompson completed a hat trick of high winning scores by winning C Grade with his 40 pts, defeating Fraser Wilson and John Martin way back with their 34 pts. The shot of the day belonged to M.Barrett on the last, with his tee shot only 89 cms from the pin. Next Saturday, the final of the 5 skins will be held at Branxton with \$440 worth of vouchers on offer for the 4 finalists, starting between 12.30 and 1.00. The 4 finalists are: David Kinch (109), Eddie Barrett (108), Tom Lundy (103) and Peter Marquet (103). The best 3 scores from the 5 qualifying rounds were taken to calculate the finalists. Another reminder to members—the Twilight Competition starts again this Wednesday at 4.00 and with the weather predicted to be very warm and clear this week, this is a great opportunity to play some golf and win some prizes and enjoy the company of other local members.

Branxton Ladies Golf 29th August 2018 - Stableford

Winner: Ruth McCarthy on 33 points
Runner-up: Jen Salna on 32 points
3rd: Robyn Hoffman on 31 points
4th: Trish McMillan on 30 points (c/b)
Nearest to the pin: Caren Caldwell – winning the Nest of Balls of 7
5 September 2018 - Stableford
Winner: Ruth McCarthy on 37 points
Runner-up: Neridah Busch on 35 points
3rd: Kerrie O'Connell on 34 points
4th: Trish McMillan on 33 points
Nearest to the pin: Jen Salna - 112cm – so also won the nest of balls!

Hunter Valley Golf Club

Sunday 26th August The Weekly Challenge has been won by Brad Hoolahan with a great round of 42 points from Justin Lawrence who returned 40 points.

Tuesday 28th August Paul Smith has claimed the Tuesday Stableford on countback to Gary Arnold after both had 35 point returns, Lindsay Self survived a countback Iso to take 3rd place with 34 points. Ball winners were: Dean Morison 34, Rick Turnchini 33, Ian Newell 33, Geoff Sweetman 33 and Graeme Flynn 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Paul Smith (8th) Graeme Flynn (10th) and David Peel (17th)

Wednesday 29th August The Ladies Stroke round played in conjunction with the 2018 Championship has been won by Sue Peel with 76 net from Leesa Robinson 78 and Melita Watson 3rd with 79 on countback. Ball winners were: Christine Tancred 79, Jeanette Irwin 80, Pam Snaddon 81 and Dianne Oakes 81. The Ladies will play the 2nd Round of the Championship on Wednesday.

Friday 31st August The Vets played a Stableford event on Friday as the course was fully booked on the Thursday with

David Peel winning on countback from Ian Newell after both had 36 point returns. The Vets will resume this Thursday with a Medley Stableford.

Saturday 1st September The Monthly Medal round played in conjunction with the 2nd round of the club Championship has been won by Matt Lorenz with 68 net. A Grade went to David Peel with 69 net on countback to Wayne Barber, Bruce Chambers was runner up in to Matt Lorenz in B Grade with 72 and John Barbour won C Grade with 70 net from Michael McNab with 74 net. Ball comp nor NTP details have been posted at this stage. Many chances have emerged in the 2018 Championship after the completion of Round 2 with Wayne Barber and defending Champion Angello Wood tied with 151 scratch. Wayne also holds a 7 shot lead in the handicap section from Shannon Attewell and David Peel tied in second, B Grade has seen Bruce Chambers put his hand up to tie Nathan Sweeney for the scratch lead with 177, Steven Balks and Bruce are tied in handicap on 147 with Nathan 2 shots back and C Grade has Wayne Drayton holding a 1 shot advantage over Kevin Smith with a 2 round total of 189, while Michael McNab maintained his strong lead in the handicap section with a 9 shot lead to Wayne and 10 to Kevin and Ian Newell tied. Julie Van Den Berg has opened up a 14 shot lead over Tracy Morison in the Weekend Ladies Championship with one round remaining.

Sunday 2nd September The Weekly Challenge has been won by Peree Watson with 39 points from Phillipe Byron with 38

Tuesday 4th September Much needed rain early on Tuesday kept most of the field at home with only the hardiest turning out, Steve Abel found conditions to his liking with an excellent 40 point return from playing partner Thomas Waite 39.

Wednesday 5th September Round 2 of the Ladies Mid week Championship has seen a couple of new faces moving up the Leaderboard. The daily Stroke round winners were: Sue Williams with 71 net from Jenelle Jurd 72 and Sue Peel taking 3rd with 75 net. Ball winners were: Pam Snaddon 77, Melita Watson 80, Leesa Robinson 80, Kerrie Anne Skinner 81 and Leesa Robinson 82. The overall lead in Scratch is still with Melita Watson with Sue Williams narrowing the lead to 2 strokes, while in handicap Sue has taken a 3 shot lead over Melita. B Grade Scratch has seen Jenelle Jurd shave Sue Peel's lead to 3 shots with Sue holding a similar lead in the handicap section and in C Grade Jeanette Irwin has a comfortable lead over Kay Dunn in Scratch but a slim lead in handicap after Kay had a better 2nd round. The club wishes all Ladies competing the best of luck in Wednesday final round.

Thursday 6th September Ian Newell found the form he was looking for on Saturday to claim the Vets Medley Stableford with a solid 40 points from David Blackburn 39 on countback to Toukley visitor Scott Walker who Parred the course from his 3 handicap on his first visit. Ball

winners were: Darrell Preston 37, Steve Piggott 37, Wayne Cowan 37, Eric Smith 36, Brendan Connor 35, David Peel 35, Ken Harris 35, Wayne Barber 35, Kevin Smith 35 and Tracey Burke v34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Barber (3rd) David Peel (4th) Ray Hodson (8th & 10th) and Graeme Flynn (17th). Next week the Vets will play Irish Stableford. Graeme Flynn was this week's raffle winner.

Darrell Preston has won the Misty Glen Wines Outstanding Performance of the month in August .

Saturday 8th September The 2018 Club Champion requires a playoff to determine the Scratch and Handicap winners with defending Champion Angello Wood locked for Scratch will Ken Harris and Wayne Barber on 228, the handicap winner is dependant on the outcome of the playoff. B grade Scratch went to Nathan Sweeney with 261 by 1 shot to handicap winner Bruce Chambers who returned 217 net and C grade Scratch to Kevin Smith with 281, the handicap winner also determined by the outcome of the Club Champion playoff as well as the 54 hole net winner over the field who will be determined by the playoff. The daily Stroke round winners are: A Grade Brad Burgess 69 net from Wayne Barber 70 on countback, B Grade Mark Makin 68 net from Nathan Sweeney 70 on countback, C Grade Kevin Smith 69 from Greg Ireland 70 and the Ladies winner was Julie Van Den Berg with 69 net. Ball winners were: Ken Harris 70, Bruce Chambers 70, Garry Hedges 71, Nathan Mudd 71, Michael McNab 72, Jeff Morton 72, Ray Newton 73, Harison Preece 73, Ian Newell 73, Dean Morison 73, Steve Piggott 73, Angello Wood 74 and David Peel 74 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Bruce Chambers (3rd) Craig Sharp (4th) and Jeff Morton (10th). Next week's event will be a Medley Stableford

Branxton Veteran Golfers

Results 30-8-18

“Two Person Ambrose”

1st R Crooks & G Noble 44.00 pts
2nd M Ryan & R Showman 44.25 pts
3rd P Hocking & R Yandle 45.00 (c/b)
4th G Gazzard & R Hain 45.00 pts
5th J Harris & I Harris 46.75 pts
NYPs Ladies J Harris
Gents G Noble

Members draw - Not won
As we prepare to farewell Winter, although not necessarily the chilly days, and look forward to Spring, with longer daylight hours and warmer temperatures, we can be thankful for the many number of days with mild temperatures and plenty of sunshine, for our rounds of golf.

Congratulations to Richard Crooks and Greg Noble on winning to-day's round and a well done to the runners

Branxton Veteran Golfers

Results 31-8-18

Stableford – “Away Day - Hawks Nest”

1st L Hunt 40 pts
2nd T Seamer 38 pts
3rd J Flynn 37 pts
4th D Sheppard 36 pts (c/b) 5th K Anderson 36 pts (c/b)

A popular venue is Hawks Nest club for our “Away Day”, with good numbers of our members gathering for to-day's event. The weather was fine for our round, initially cloudy with an unpleasant wind chill, however, as the morning passed the wind abated and the sun broke through the cloud making play for the remainder of the round quite comfortable. Lunch and a convivial glass were shared by players, to round off a successful day.

Branxton Veteran Golfers

Results 6-9-18 ~ Stableford

Div 1 Winner T Seamer 31 pts R/U K Anderson 29 pts
3rd B Turner 28 pts
Div 2 Winner L Porter 28 pts R/U R McMillan 27 pts (c/b)
3rd J Flynn 27 pts (c/b)
Ladies Winner M Hunt 30 pts R/U R Friis 26 pts 3rd J Scobie 24 pts
NTPs Ladies M Hunt
Gents G Beeton

Members draw - Not won

Attitudes to mental illness is changing

An Australian study (Wesley Mission 2007) found that their mental illness clients felt they were stigmatised and discriminated against in a number of different areas. These included insurance companies as regards health or life insurance, employment, education, police, hospitals (danger to other patients/staff), media (often associated with violence), community (shunned), mental health professionals (staff can burn out), families and friends and decision makers in general.

However, attitudes are changing the latest survey by British Department of Health (National Attitudes to Mental Illness survey 2015) indicated a shift in attitudes shows a record number of people in England saying they would be willing to live, work and have a relationship with someone who has experience of a mental health problem.

Other positive changes are 68% of respondents said that they now know what advice to give a friend as regards a mental health problem, 91% of people stated the need to adopt a more tolerant attitude towards people with mental health problems in our society and 78% considered that people with mental health problems have for too long been the subject of ridicule.

When dealing or working with people experiencing mental health issues it is important to understand the key principles that underpin mental health work

- uniqueness of the individual, empowering the individual to be the center of care.
- real choices, achieving a balance between duty of care and support for an individual.
- attitudes and rights, listening to, learning from and acting on communications from the individual and their carers.
- dignity and respect
- partnership and communication, acknowledging each individual is an expert on their own life, and that recovery involves working in partnership with individuals and their carers.
- evaluating recovery, measuring outcomes on a range of indicators in addition to health and wellness, such as housing, employment and social relationships.

Some of the main factors/events that impact our mental wellbeing include:

* Self-esteem. This is the value we place on ourselves, our positive self-image and sense of self-worth. People with high self-esteem generally have a positive outlook and are satisfied with themselves most of the time.

* Feeling loved. People who feel loved, trusted and accepted by their partners and others are far more likely to have good self-esteem. They are also more likely to feel comfortable, safe and secure, and are better able to communicate and develop positive relationships with others.

Confidence should be encouraged, people who are brought up to have confidence in themselves are more likely to have a positive attitude, and to lead happy and productive lives.

* Family breakup. Separation or divorce or the loss of a family member is extremely painful. Finding ways to cope and adjust to the changes wrought by these events is critical for everyone, but particularly for youth. How grief is handled can affect young people negatively for years to come.

Early Intervention is Important in that it reduces the likelihood of the illness becoming more serve and entrenched. It minimizes the negative environmental influences that can caused by lack of information and understanding of the problem such as misconceptions of social sigma and causes of mental illnesses. When treatment is delayed in may cause the client to feel more anxious, stressed and entrenched in the mental illness.

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Oh, my aching body!

Sadly, many of us are learning to live with muscle and joint pain. When you are in pain, you unconsciously change the way you move to avoid the pain as much as possible. Sure, pain medication temporarily makes you feel better, but it doesn't address WHY you are in pain in the first place. Left untreated, the problem can get worse.

Posture is probably THE most important factor in your treatment. The body is designed to work with its structures aligned in a certain way, and your muscles quickly remember any kind of repeated movement or posture. Therefore, for successful treatment of pain, re-training them is essential. Bodywork like massage, chiropractics, and physiotherapy are wonderful ways to reduce your pain and help you in this re-training process.

Other things to consider include:

Repetitive movements – make sure you are doing them correctly and switch sides regularly to keep the strain on your body even
Sleep position – try sleeping flat on your back without a pillow, or on your side with your ears, shoulders, and hips in one line, and a pillow supporting the gap between your shoulders and jaw (keep your head level i.e. not too high or low)
Move it or lose it! - move your muscles and joints through their full range of motion. Yoga, tai chi, Pilates, swimming, and dancing are some of the best ways to do this.

Bed rest is no longer prescribed for back pain - gentle movement below your pain threshold is key to recovery
Get up regularly - if you are stuck at a desk all day, set an hourly reminder to stand up and move around (every 20-30mins is the ideal).
Sitting is the new smoking!

Belinda Doe of Wise Deer Natural Health



BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The New **SPORT**

Greyhound Racing...



Local Report

with Sam

LIFE OF BRIAN NOT SO TOUGH

Rutherford trainer Brian Tuft enjoyed Father's Day with a winning double at Maitland, his fourth with the same dogs. **O'HARA** named after his favourite female jockey took out the Ladbrokes Monthly Medal final over 565m, taking her tally to 8 wins and 14 placings. **O'LEARY** named after his favourite English soccer player saluted in the final of the Fathers's Day Gift over 400m. His record now stands at 14 wins and 12 placings.

Brian and a couple of mates bred a litter of four dogs and four bitches (all black) in May 2015 by **FABREGAS** out of a bitch named **STUNNING CHLOE**. Brian kept a dog and a bitch for himself to train, the best two in the litter earning more than \$40,000 in prizemoney with more to come. The rest of the litter hasn't tasted the same success, **CAWBOURNE COOL 3**

wins, **GO THE PARK 2** wins, **FABIN BLACK** and **BACK FORWARD IT 1** win each. Brian not only has an eye for a good pup but knows how to train as well.

It all started in England back in the sixties, after leaving school Brian had success pursuing his three passions, soccer, nightclubbing and greyhounds. Whilst playing professional soccer in Liverpool his talent caught the eye of Prahran in the Victorian State League, after signing a contract he moved to Australia in 1978 with his wife and two children. After a few seasons Brian put his soccer career and nightclubbing behind him and continued training greyhounds and after ten years in Victoria he moved to the Hunter to work at the Tomago



Smelter. After more than 50 years and over a thousand winners Brian has no plans to put his feet up. When asked which is the best greyhound he has trained Brian didn't hesitate, "**SUDDEN SPLASH** a beautiful red brindle dog by **COLLISION**, he won 22 races and was placed in another 37 collecting well over thirty grand."

LOCALS IN THE WINNERS CIRCLE DURING AUGUST

Branxton duo Sue Smith and Lindsay

Davis landed two wins each at The Gardens in Newcastle during August, Sue with **MORSE** and Lindsay with **BEAR'S OCTANE**. Other locals getting the cash at The Gardens included Tony Desira with **OHMYWOW**, **ZIPPING APPY** and **SPRING SLATER**, Chad Garrard

CHAOTIC

COBRA, Graeme Barnett **SAHALEE**, Ken Cheetham **FLETCH IS FLYING**, Ian Darcey **EASY MOVER**, Chris Kedwell **SCOTT A ITCH** and James Porter with **VIOLET VEMMES** and **STEVE THE PIRATE**.

Lochinvar trainer Louise McGee didn't have to travel far to get her two winners, **MAKOSA** and **FAIR DINKUM** both won at Maitland. Other Maitland winners were, **BLOW VALHALLA** for Emanuel Borg, **O'LEARY** and **O'HARA** for Brian Tuft, **WYEMBAH CHARLIE** for Chris Kedwell and a well deserved win

by **DANA KAZZA** for Greta trainer Michelle Lill.

Regulars Yasmin Ellis and Tamara Ball had success on their favourite track on a sunny Sunday at Muswellbrook, Yasmin with **SKETCHY ALLEY** and Tamara with **BURST OF BLACK**. Three Greta trainers, Bradley Sabotic, Kathleen Clark and James Porter travelled from the Hunter to Richmond in search of a win, all successful. Brad with **MIDNIGHT ON FIRE**, a dog he bred from **KEIRA'S CHARM** and named after his dad and Kathy with **CLIFF NUMBER ONE**, a dog she bred from **TEENAGE DREAM** and named after her husband. James collected four cheques, two with **NINGHAN EXPRESS** and one each with **STEVE THE PIRATE** and **VIOLET VEMMES**. James also sent **DOUBLE STITCHED** to Wentworth Park with his partner Sharee who didn't mind the long drive home after a good win.

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

Photo above: Rutherford trainer Brian Tuft with his kennel star **O'LEARY**.

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Contact Details for The Branxton Greta Vineyards News:- Ph: 4938 1773 Fax: 4938 3301 Email: thenews@hotkey.net.au Address: 12 Clift Street, Branxton 2335