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WEDNESDAY
5 December 2018

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STEVE'S RANT

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Members say...



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School NEWS



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Well Done Not So Well Done



Flood Studies on Public Exhibition



these studies included a comprehensive technical investigation into flood behaviour in both the areas of study, looking at a range of flood events. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent thanked all the organisations and individuals involved in assisting Council to complete the draft studies. "Collecting the data and information for these documents is a major exercise. We appreciate the assistance from residents, the SES and the Office of Environment and Heritage." "These documents are a positive step forward as they allow us to plan for the future and better understand the flood water in these areas."

Don't miss this years
Santa's Lolly Run



Yes, it's on again; Santa's Annual Lolly Run.

Thanks to the NSW Fire Brigade based in Branxton & the Greta & North Rothbury Rural Fire Services Santa has, again, agreed to accompany them & help distribute loads of lollies.

And thanks to a very kind donation from the local business chamber there will be lollies aplenty! The first run for Santa will be at **North Rothbury** this Saturday, 8th December. Listen out for the siren, and head to the park to meet Santa and enjoy a sausage sizzle from 5pm organised by NR Tidy Towns. It will be \$3 for a sausage sandwich & a can of drink. The following Saturday, 15th December, it will be **Greta's** turn from 12 noon & last but not least **Branxton** will complete the cycle on Christmas Eve commencing at 10am.

**GOOD PRACTICE (GP)
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Suite 3, 71 Maitland Street, Branxton, NSW
Registered Nurse Required

We are seeking for an experienced
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join our surgery.

Please send CV to
goodpracticegp@gmail.com

Residents are being encouraged to view and provide feedback on two flood studies now on public exhibition. The Draft Greta Flood Study provides information about flooding in the Anvil Creek catchment, which is located approximately 5km upstream from the township of Greta and extends

downstream through Branxton to Council's local government boundary with Singleton Council. The Draft Wallis and Swamp-Fishery Creek Flood Study is also on exhibition. The catchment lies within the Maitland and Cessnock local government areas, covering a total of 400 square kilometres. Council welcomes the exhibition of the draft documents as they mark the first stage in the floodplain management process. The information collected in

Residents are encouraged to make submissions before 5pm 19 January, 2019. The studies can be accessed at Council's Administration Building, Cessnock City Library, Kurri Kurri Library and online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/exhibition. Verbal enquiries should be directed to Council's Customer Service Team on 02 4993 4100.

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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





event included a lunch which was well supported by local wineries and other sponsors. A number of valuable items were donated for auction. Proceeds from the day were presented to the Rotary Club by two members of The Vintage at a meeting last week John Retallick and Tom Hannah.

Recently Cessnock Rotary Club teamed up with ‘The Vintage Golf Club’ to run a charity golf day to raise money for drought relief for farmers in the Hunter Valley. The event was a huge success with more than \$15,000 raised by golfers on the day and other donations.

As well as golf the



• Photo above: L-R John Retallick from The Vintage, Rotary District Governor Brian Coffey, David Owens President Cessnock Rotary Club and Tom Hannah from The Vintage



“A Taste of Tamworth”

Saturday 26th January 2019

Take the worry out of driving!!!

The Rotary Club of Maitland invites Hunter residents to join them for a day trip to the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

Get in early and reserve a seat on the lovingly restored vintage train.

The ticket cost of \$110 per person includes:

- Return train travel
- Hot breakfast (a bacon/egg roll, orange juice and/or tea coffee)
- Complimentary Tea & Coffee on the return journey

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR BOOKINGS CONTACT:

Diane 0407 383 491 OR Peter 0412 561 700

email : dipete6@bigpond.com

Payment can be made by Credit Card or Direct Deposit into the Maitland Rotary Club Bank Acct

Direct deposit details: Acct Name: Rotary Club of Maitland Inc. Services Account

MMBS - BSB- 646000 Account No - 100038217

Please ensure when transferring payment that you include your name in the Reference area.

FOR SEATING PURPOSES -IF TRAVELLING IN A GROUP PLEASE STATE THIS AT TIME OF BOOKING

Information to help you organize the day:

We expect that the train will arrive in Tamworth just after 9am and hopefully just in time for the Street Parade. Tamworth CBD is a short stroll from the Railway Station. Entertainment and food outlets can be found throughout this area. Our departure from Tamworth will be approx. 5.30 pm (TBC) and we suggest supporters purchase a light meal to take with them to enjoy on the return train journey.

A small esky can be taken on the train. However, if alcohol is consumed we encourage travellers to be mindful of other passengers at all times.

Profits from the day will be distributed to Juvenile Diabetes Research.

Fatal motorcycle crash near Singleton

Sunday, 02 December 2018 08:28:18 PM
A man has died after the motorcycle he was riding crashed near Singleton today. About 2.10pm (Sunday 2 December 2018), emergency services attended Putty Road, Milbrodale following reports a motorcycle had crashed. It appears the 54-year-old male rider was travelling in a northerly direction on Putty Road when the motorcycle hit a barrier and crashed down an embankment.

The rider was unable to be revived and died at the scene. Police will continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident. A brief will be prepared for the information of the Coroner.





PUBLIC EXHIBITION DRAFT GRETA FLOOD STUDY

Pursuant to the provisions of the NSW Floodplain Development Manual 2005, notice is hereby given of the Public Exhibition of a Draft Greta Flood Study. The Anvil Creek catchment is located in the Hunter Valley approximately 5 km upstream of the Township of Greta and extends downstream of the Cessnock LGA Cessnock Local Government Areas and has a total area of approximately 36.5 square kilometres.

A flood study is the first stage in the floodplain management process and is a comprehensive technical investigation of flood behaviour for the study area for a range of design flood events.

The Draft Flood Study will be exhibited for a forty six (46) day period commencing 3 December 2018 and concluding 19 January 2019.

The exhibition material can be viewed at the following locations:

- Council's Administration Building
- Cessnock Public Library/ Kurri Kurri Public Library
- Greta Newsagency - 92 High Street, Greta NSW 2334
- Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

In order to be considered by Council, written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and must be received in writing by the close of the exhibition period (5.00pm on 19 January 2019). Submissions should quote "Greta Flood Study 2018."

Verbal enquiries should be directed to Council's Customer Service Team on 4993 4100.

 www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au  82-75 Vincent St, Cessnock  02 4993 4100



SECURE YOUR POOL

Does your fence do the job? Is the barrier secure and the latch at least 1.5m high?

BE POOL SAFE

cessnock.nsw.gov.au/poolsafety



A week after heavy rain

After a recent complaint about a potential public health risk, as a result of recent drainage works carried out by Cessnock Council, I decided to check the veracity of the complaint which was confirmed.

I had a fellow resident of the area make some enquiries about the works and the cost and associated other matters.

This is his report after making enquiries with Cessnock Council:

The Cessnock City Council recently carried out drainage and road works in Anvil Street, Greta and advised, as the result of an informal GIPA (Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, the costs of these works to be \$200,403.99.

After a recent complaint about
The first GIPA request to
Council for costings
received the following
response (see top right
hand corner):
Not sure what Council was
wanting to hide by
supplying heavily redacted
information, but a second
request for "full" details of
the cost of works elicited,
after some contemplation
and finally approval by
council management, the
following information was
tendered (see bottom right
hand).
The outcome of spending
\$200,403.99 of rate payer
funds is a drain in Anvil
Street that does not
actually drain.
After a week without rain
there is stagnant water
laying in the drain

providing an ideal mosquito breeding ground viz., potential public health risk. So, it appears from the costings at right, Council has buried some very expensive concrete in Anvil Street, moved some dirt around, spent a not insignificant amount of ratepayer's money and never actually achieved their desired result. However, their endeavours did produce a potential health hazard! The obvious questions then become; Why the secrecy by Council when costings were initially sought? Which elected councillor, or councillors, will take this matter up on behalf of the rate payers of Anvil Street, Greta, and the wider community?

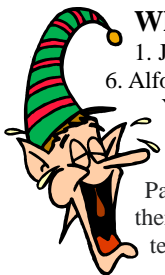
What is Council management doing to rectify the non-draining drain and alleviate this potential health hazard (mosquito breeding ground) created and overseen by Council?

What actions by Council, both elected members and employees, are being taken to prevent similar instances of mismanagement into the future?

I am sure Council would like to receive your feedback about this and other matters of interest to the community. Council can be contacted on the Customer Service number 4993 4100. Why don't you give them a call and tell them what you think?

[illegible]

PROJECT SUB ACCOUNT TOTALS FOR MULTIPLE YEARS		Total Spent
5426		
1	Job Vot	0.00
3	Infrastructure Works Overheads	9,037.78
400	Adjust Public Utilities	1,800.00
1065	Drainage Loom	0.00
1075	Stormwater Mgmt Service	0.00
6012	Wet Weather	13,558.55
9001	Provision For Traffic	501.65
9003	Locate PU's & House Services	987.26
9010	Clearing/ Tree Removal	0.00
9011	Strip topsoil	131.37
9012	Tipping Fees/ Rubbish Removal	2,551.78
9017	Excavation - Pavement/ boxing	1,920.90
9018	Excavation - Drainage	31,452.82
9021	Trim/ Shape batters	2,347.96
9022	Form/ Trim Table drains	1,501.80
9042	Sandbed/ backfill	18,354.86
9060	Supply & Lay 375mm Dia RCP	958.74
9064	Supply & Lay 675mm Dia RCP	35,107.80
9083	Junction Box	10,597.19
9084	Raised groud inlet pit (RM11)	16,725.86
9085	Median Pit	896.50
9088	Precast concrete headwall (600-750mm)	845.00
9095	Repair existing drainage	1,615.52
9096	Courted stone pitching	2,395.50
9099	Subsoil Drainage - Type A (Complete)	307.30
9127	150mm thick Base	9,728.89
9152	Two Coat Seal	860.59
9180	Gravel to driveways/ footways (75mm)	0.00
9187	Adjust concrete driveway/footway	15,436.33
9240	Trim, topdress & turf footways	0.00
9245	Intermesh table drains	0.00
9287	Site establishment	13,370.15
9290	Pre construction surveys	2,200.00
9291	Survey netout	2,917.69
9292	Sediment & erosion control	509.97
9295	Engineering Consultants - External	1,300.00
9496	Storage of Materials	0.00
9501	Variation 1 - Clearing Waterway	882.25
5426		200,403.99



1. Jack the Ripper 2. Spiro Agnew 3. Benito Mussolini 4. Adolf Hitler 5. Jorge Bergoglio
6. Alfonse Capone 7. Vladimir Putin 8. Clive Palmer 9. Saddam Hussein 10. Tiger Woods
You had trouble with No.5, didn't you? You know all the liars, criminals, adulterers,
murderers, thieves, scumbags and cheaters, but you don't know the Pope?

Paddy was driving home, drunk as a skunk, suddenly he has to swerve to avoid a tree, then another, then another. A cop car pulls him over as he veers about all over the road. Paddy tells the cop about all the trees in the road.

Cop says "Good grief sake Paddy, that's your air freshener swinging about!

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STEVE'S RANT

How the repetition of falsehoods is leading this country to ruin

We may never know the extent of Mr Super Ego's involvement in the treacherous undermining of the Liberal Party. What is known is enough to condemn him as a self-indulgent individual intent on his own advancement at the expense of the Liberal Party and therefore the people of Australia. The best that could be said about Malcolm Turnbull is that he became obsessed by his own brilliance and honestly thought he was fortunes gift to Australian politics. He even convinced many of his wet colleagues in the left of the Liberal Party that this is true. But a team player he ain't..... may he fade away and not be seen or heard from again. Now to the main point; how the repetition of falsehoods is leading this country to ruin. As it is said, you say something often enough and it becomes a verity. What have become verities to more that half our population are in fact inventions or theories which are not proven. A close examination of the assumptions and evidence upon what these ideas are based reveals them to be

nonsense. Let's take our classic example - CLIMATE CHANGE. First assumption is that the climate is changing. Well from my own point of view the climate I experienced seventy years ago as a child in Melbourne is no different from what it is today. Yes, we have some hot days, wet days, windy days and cold days. We experience wet summers and dry summers, drought and floods. Mankind (and Womenkind) has experienced all these things with much greater extremes than we face today through out recorded history and even earlier in the myths and legends orally handed down. The next assumption is that activities of the human species which involves burning of fossil fuels and farting increase the amount of CO2 and methane in the atmosphere thereby producing the so-called greenhouse effect. This assumption is based on laboratory experiments which indicate the higher the concentration of CO2 and methane the greater the insulating effect the atmosphere has on the surface of the earth. Trouble is this is not happening in fact despite the measured concentration of these gases rising over



the last hundred years. The so-called hockey stick effect has not happened and the IPCC has had to amend their prediction of disaster in the last decade. So, the laboratory experiments are not duplicated on the grand scale. Ask any chemical engineer how difficult it is to replicate a lab experiment into an industrial process for making chemical compounds as a commercial venture. Further to this are the many unknown effects in the atmosphere which are not part of the closed system experiments. The other interesting point is that human caused increases to greenhouse gas concentrations has only occurred since the advent of the coal powered part of the industrial revolution of the 19th century. Variation in climate has been happening for millions of years. Even during the last two millennium it has been recorded that temperatures have varied to the extent that standards of living have been gravely

affected. As it is now the people of this earth are able to feed, cloth, and provide a lifestyle for themselves undreamed of 100 years ago. These cycles are inevitable and what causes them is not fully understood. The solar cycles, the Jupiter effect, the long-term effect of our part of the galaxy slowly revolving, or even the evolution of different species and the rise and fall of their populations; all farting of course. So, the closed mind of the climate change twits is the result of being hoodwinked by the media, untaught teachers, stupid politicians and Mike McGregor of Gunnedah.

Cheers, Steve



with Mike Lowing
Many years ago I remember

supply matching demand during every second of the year, and not just at 4am when demand is lowest. Demand is highly variable, and coal is not flexible enough to meet it at every moment. Thus, historically coal generation has been supplemented with more flexible gas and hydro in our electricity system. As our existing coal generators reach end of life, we must decide what is the best way to replace them. This is the question that was recently answered

by AEMO, our electricity market operator, in its integrated system plan. While maintaining reliability and security of supply, it found the lowest cost solution to replacing the retiring coal generation was a mixture of solar, wind and storage, with a comparatively small amount of flexible gas generation. Each year as wind, solar and storage gets cheaper, and the external costs of coal become more evident, it is increasingly clear that a mostly solar and wind generation system is the best way forward, both environmentally and economically. **David Osmond, Dickson**

Migration's foolishness
It has been correctly stated the PM needs to take more than 30,000 off the net migration figures. Taking 230,000 off would be about right. Compare Australia's growth rate of 1.6 per cent with those of comparable countries: US 0.7 per cent, Canada 1.2, UK 0.6, France 0.5, Germany 0.4. Why is it that Australia needs a high population growth rate, generated by a high immigration rate, but other First World countries do not? Are our Treasury officials correct, while those of most comparable countries are wrong? The government needs to explain its reasons for high immigration. The "excuse" about the needs of an ageing population seems nonsense. Surely productivity improvements will easily cope with that "problem".

Importantly, population growth cannot go on forever. When does the government think it should end? As Australia's immigration rate over the past decade has been ridiculously high, the delayed effect of immigration on population is likely to soon raise the population growth rate even higher. Therefore it is essential to now dramatically lower the

immigration rate to compensate for the recent foolishness. Many Australians are becoming aware of that foolishness. I suspect that at the next election the party which promises the greatest reduction in immigration will gain a considerable advantage. **Name & address supplied but not published at writers request**

105 year old woman's remedies to her health

"For better digestion – I drink beer. In the case of appetite loss, I drink white wine. In the case of low blood pressure, I drink red wine. In the case of high blood pressure, I drink scotch. And when I have a cold, I drink Schnapps." "When do you drink water?" "I've never been that sick."

Police have notified FACS' You can only hope that on the 19th December the magistrate makes sure she never ever has a drivers licence again & that her children are looked after by Family & Community Services.

Our last edition for the year will be out on the 19th December & we will be taking a break until after the Australia Day weekend.

Cheers, Mike



Getting the mix right
THE claim that coal is the cheapest way to meet baseload demand is about as useful as claiming solar PV is the cheapest way to produce power at noon, or

that wind turbines are the cheapest way to produce power when it is really windy. Our electricity market needs to have generation

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FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected. When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct. ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED		
For non-life threatening calls.....		
Police Assistance Line (PAL).....		
131 444		
Police		
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	
SES	132 500	
Crime Stoppers		
	1800 333 000	
Poisons Info	131 126	
Hunter Water		
	1300 657 000	
Ausgrid	131 388	
Gas Emergencies .	131 909	
Lifeline	131 114	
Mental Health Line		
	1800 011 511	
Domestic Violence Support		
	4990 9609	
Centrelink Self Service		
	136 240	
Medicare	132 011	
Native Animal Rescue		
	0418 628 483	

Helen Lowing, Property & Leasing in Charge

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The ORIGINAL Wesleyan Chapel



Tue 3 Jan 1865 - The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW : 1843 - 1893)
Page 2 - A NEW WESLEYAN CHAPEL AT BRANXTON.
A NEW WESLEYAN CHAPEL AT BRANXTON.
LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE.
The foundation stone of a new Wesleyan Chapel was laid at Branxton yesterday. There were about one hundred and twenty persons present at the ceremony, some of them from Maitland and Singleton, and other places. Shortly before two o'clock the proceedings were commenced by the singing of a hymn.
The Rev. Mr. Wilkinson here introduced Miss Lindsay, the lady who had been requested to lay the stone, making a few remarks of a complimentary character respecting her father, Mr. L. Lindsay, who, he said, had been identified with the educational and other interests of the town.
Miss Lindsay then came forward, and performed the ceremony, laying the stone in the name of the Trinity. Underneath the stone was placed a bottle having a document within it bearing the following inscription:—
"The foundation stone of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Branxton, in the Singleton district, was laid by Miss Lindsay, the daughter of Thomas Lindsay, Esq., J.P., the second day of January, A.D. 1865, 26th year of Queen Victoria, Sir John Young, Governor of New South Wales; Rev. J. Buller, President of the Australian Conference; Rev. J. S. Waugh, secretary; Rev. Samuel Wilkinson, Chairman of the Maitland District, and Superintendent of the Singleton Circuit. Trustees: Messrs. Watson Rudd, Branxton; Samuel Hixson, Branxton; James Toose, Branxton; William Barnett, Singleton; William McMullen, Branxton; George Jarman, Singleton; James Pickering, Noble Glass, Singleton; John W. Bowes, Singleton." The bottle



Our office received the following missive from former Branxtonian, Ross Hipwell.
All were amazed at the clarity of the photo of the laying of the foundation stone.
The email read:-

Mike,
I have just gone online and have seen the Centenary of Branxton Uniting Church report & photos.
I have since left the area although keep an eye on your paper. I can remember very well remember the first issue.
Please find attached some family photos of the ORIGINAL Wesleyan Chapel

where the Branxton Preschool building now sits. The old church was demolished in the early 1970's for Clift Street realignment.
My second great-grandfather, Watson Rudd, apparently was the first Wesleyan Pastor in Black Creek/Branxton as it was known, and is mentioned in newspaper article attached dated 3rd January 1865 at the laying of the 'foundation stone' for the chapel giving dimensions and the placing of a time capsule.
I have also included a photo of my grandfathers wedding of Royal James Osland of "Clifton Vale" Branxton and

Jess Ballantyne of "Glenlevit" Branxton, in August 1914 (windy day; note pine tree in back-ground). I believe it was the day WW1 was declared.
Great grandmother Osland is close to entrance on left. The other photo is of the laying of the foundation stone of the NEW church in Drinan Street Branxton. The lady's that have been marked are with the feather and black dress my great grandmother Mrs William Osland (nee Rudd) and my great Aunt Miss Averil Osland who resided at 17 Drinan Street Branxton . Mrs Osland was fortunate to

be at the laying of both foundation stones.
Many years ago (early 1990's) you published a narrative given by my great aunt Lilly Victoria Harris (nee Osland) of what life was like while growing up; it was given to you by the gentleman that ran the landscaping business on the vacant Standen Engineering site opposite Ted and Jackie Rocketts home, 100 Maitland Street, Branxton.

Hope you enjoy this bit of trivia.
Thanks, Ross Hipwell
Canowindra NSW

Medical Research Institute, and Conjoint Professor in the Faculty of Business and Law at the University of Newcastle – *Events and the Hunter: Innovation and research driving new event opportunities and raising the profile of the region.*
Lyn Lewis-Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Business Events Sydney – *Why business events matter, how to find them and how to leverage them.*
Geoff Parmenter, Group Executive Brand and Corporate Affairs at The Star – *The changing nature of the event sector, and the pathways to success for regional host competitors.*
New Zealand's successful bid to host the Women's Rugby World Cup 2021 was highlighted as an example of the Hunter's international and national

regional competitors building profile and securing events the Hunter could host.
"This is an event that was tailor made for the Hunter and we need to make sure that we don't lose any of these events in the future," Cr Pynsent said.
The success of the 2015 AFC Asian Cup, which saw Newcastle host key matches, shows we can do it well. Cessnock hosted Japan's team base camp. A great example of how the economic benefit from a major event in one part of the region can be shared across the region.
Cr Pynsent noted the visitor economy was increasingly important to the Hunter, and that stakeholder support for lifting the region's events and visitation profile to the

'next level' were strong themes.
"There is a real appetite to develop signature events that define the region and drive overnight visitation. There is also great enthusiasm for both traditional and quirky events to be held in our region."



Husband Creche

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

Ladies we have the answer

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

Drop him off at our husband crèche.
We'll take good care of him and he may even learn something
Just pay \$2.00 for his morning coffee
'Branxton Greta Menshed' 49 Branxton Street' Greta in the grounds of the old St Marys Primary School

Christmas Vigil Mass

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

Christmas Midnight Mass

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

Christmas Day Mass

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

Branxton and Singleton Catholic Parish Office 6572 1824
www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au

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Adam - 0438 410 381 - Station St Branxton Old St Brigid's School

Members say



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

In the lead up to White Ribbon Day last Friday I attended a number of local events as a White Ribbon Ambassador. It was great to see such a strong level of support in the Cessnock Local Government Area including local high schools and the Cessnock Business Chamber. The Cessnock Business Chamber hosted a breakfast in recognition of this important issue, raising awareness about this problem that sadly is happening in our community. Mount View High School also had a number of activities last week to raise awareness in their school community. This culminated with a performance by their drama students which demonstrated domestic violence from a young person’s perspective. Last Friday I joined Cessnock High and walked from Kearsley to the school campus. As a community we need to continue this important conversation. Organisations across our community are beginning to celebrate the Christmas season. It is always a pleasure to recognise the magnificent work many organisations do in our community. Whether it be Lions, Rotary, View Clubs or the Retired Mineworkers, all of these organisations contribute so much to us all. On behalf of the community thank you for making our community so much stronger. It was great to attend the 100 years celebrating the Branxton Uniting Church and the 175 years of Christ Church Mt Vincent. These events illustrated the importance of churches in our community over a long period of time and how they form a very important part of community life for many residents.

Carols in the Park 2018 is on next Friday at Cessnock Sportsground from 5:30pm. Country music star and local, Tara Naysmith returns as MC. Santa’s Little Helpers, a 14 piece big band are expected to put on a wonderful performance. For those last minute Christmas gifts, there will be market stalls by Market2Markets showcasing some of the region’s finest handmade items. The night will culminate in a spectacular fireworks display. Gates open at 5:30pm with Carols from 6:45pm. Pack a picnic rug

and join us in making this a truly wonderful community event. The event is proudly sponsored by Newcastle Permanent Building Society (our major sponsor), Cessnock City Council, Rover Motors and Slattery’s Helicopters. For more information visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au. The Mayoral Scholarships are open again for residents looking to further their education in 2019. The Scholarships support those in the community who are working hard to build a career and are enrolled to study next year. If you are studying at university or TAFE you may be eligible for one of the nine scholarships on offer. The scholarships are \$2,500 and can be used at the recipient’s discretion to support their studies. Applications are now open and close Friday 1 March 2019. For more information and to apply online visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/mayor/scholarships.

Nominations are now open for the 2019 Australia Day Awards and Council is calling on the community to nominate locals who deserve to be recognised. There are a number of award categories to choose from including Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Event, Sport, Environment, Heritage, along with Achievement and Appreciation awards. In 2019 ‘The Marie Callaghan Young Female Achiever Award’ has been announced. It is inspired by women contributing service to the community. Nominations must be submitted by Monday 10 December 2018. Nomination forms and selection criteria can be found on Council’s website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/australiaday. *Cheers, Bob*



Cr Ben Mitchell – Maitland City Council-West Ward

Two Jewels
Last week I was fortunate enough to be able to witness a presentation made to my Rotary club’s weekly meeting. The presentation was made by the Director of Maitland Regional Art Gallery, Ms Bridgette Uren. From the moment Bridgette was handed the microphone the crowd was impressed. She’s a highly educated and intelligent woman who is clearly passionate about what

she does. Bridgette has been the Gallery’s director for three years and before that was Deputy Director. She’s also worked in Dubbo, Armadale and Sydney but came to the Hunter with her husband and three children about five years ago. Interestingly she wanted to study child psychology after school but had the opportunity to become a Rotary exchange student in Austria. Her experiences in Austria made her realise there was a cultural industry out there and that it did in fact have career opportunities. Child psychology’s loss was art’s and ultimately Maitland’s gain.

Bridgette went on to talk to us about the history of the gallery. We were told that the gallery really started with its first acquisition made by council’s purchase of a painting at the Maitland Show. This was later pushed along by a Maitland legend- Margaret Sivyver OAM. Anyone who knows Margaret will know that she is a very determined, rather convincing but above all, passionate about the arts. Margaret’s contribution to the gallery has been recognised by the naming of one of the main gallery spaces after her as well as a ‘Freeman of the City’ award and an Order of Australia medal.

With Margaret’s and many others help, this little gallery grew. After starting off in Brough House it later moved to the former Tech building on High Street which was later extended to the gallery’s current form. The Gallery has 9.7 full time staff with 49 volunteers. It boasts a well-supported members committee with around 1,200 members (that contrasts with about 150-250 for most other regional galleries). Bridgette also spoke about some of the programs conducted at the gallery. Two of her particular favourites are the Arts in Health program which is mainly comprised of the dementia program and a program which takes art works out to nursing homes for residents that are unable to get to the gallery.

The crowd was also informed that most works coming into the \$9mill collection are donated. Many donors are from Sydney or elsewhere which goes to show the high regard for our Gallery around the country. The state Arts minister has said to me previously that he regards Maitland’s gallery as the best outside of Sydney bar none. With around 80,000 visits a year and 25% of visitors staying longer than three hours, they must be doing something right!

If you haven’t yet ventured into the gallery I can highly recommend it. There is something in there for everyone. Go and experience Maitland’s cultural jewel. *Cheers, Ben*



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR ENDEAVOUR INDUSTRIES CLOSURE

Over recent months we have all been shocked by the closure of the Endeavour Industries group. While the administrators were called in and the sale of property and equipment began we all held on to a faint glimmer of hope that new ownership might save the business and the 131 jobs. Sadly, information in the past couple of days has confirmed that most of the basic equipment, required to run the business, is being sold and there will essentially be nothing left. In plain terms – the car isn’t of much use once the engine and the wheels have been sold off. This is an incredibly sad event for the many employees who worked there, for the more than 450 businesses who relied on Endeavour services and for the entire community who helped to build and support such a wonderful place. As a kid growing up, my next door neighbour Pete was an employee of Endeavour and his mum Sheila was one of the founders. Having Pete and his Mum next door was one of life’s unpredictable gifts for me (although I didn’t appreciate it at the time). There was so much to learn about acceptance, tolerance and respect. Endeavour helped us to do that across an entire community. Some of the great workers of Endeavour are heroes in our community. And I refer to many people from the shop floor right up to the Board level. It is their decades of great work that make the loss of Endeavour so much harder. If we didn’t care about this great organisation then we would not be feeling the pain that we are now. So my enormous congratulations and thanks to all of those wonderful people.

POVERTY IS NOT A FAR AWAY CONCEPT – IT’S RIGHT HERE IN TOWN

I am reminded, as we head toward the festive season, that not all is well for all families in our community. No doubt those with the financial means will have quite lavish spreads of meals and a tree full of gifts. And indeed as we head toward State and Federal elections in 2019 we will get tempted to vote for a political party that offers an extra \$50 or \$100 in our pockets and dare a political party not offer that same gift of money, then they

will be cast as the evil incarnates. But a sobering truth is that we have families right here in our community that can’t afford gifts or enormous meals; that can’t afford basic food, shelter and clothing.

The ability of any Government to help our people living in poverty is limited by the money that it collects and spends on behalf of all of us. So while we set aside 2019 as the time to consider these bigger issues in political terms, perhaps, if you can, keep an ear and an eye out for members of our community that might be able to use a little help in the coming weeks.

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

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

Cheers, Clayton



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

Labor has outlined its plan to fix the Coalition Government’s energy crisis and to deliver more renewable energy and cheaper power for Australian consumers. Our plan will be good for households, good for the economy and good for the environment.

Australia is in an energy crisis because of five years of policy indecision. Power bills are out of control, pollution is rising and the Coalition Government hasn’t been able to agree on an energy policy for five years. Our preference is for bi-partisanship on energy and climate policy. That’s why the National Energy Guarantee (NEG) should stay on the table. But while we will work with the Government, Labor won’t wait for them.

Labor’s plan for more renewables and cheaper power includes investing in renewable energy and delivering 50 per cent of power from renewables by 2030. The Upper Hunter will be a significant beneficiary of that policy. Labor also wants to end to the power privatisation mess and to stop incentives to privatise electricity assets.

With more than 98 per cent of our Hunter Valley coal bound for the export market, it’s clear coal mining will continue to be an important industry for the Hunter for many years. But it’s important to the Hunter that

we properly plan for the transition to renewable generation as our local coal-fired generators come to the end of their economic lives. This involves making sure local power workers have future job opportunities and local economies benefit from the change.

It’s an unavoidable fact that a number of ageing coal-fired power stations will close in the coming years. Nationally, 75 per cent of coal-fired power stations are already operating beyond their original design life. It’s impossible for ageing coal-fired power stations to stay open forever. And it’s irresponsible to pretend otherwise. Australia must have a plan to help workers and communities respond to future closures.

Labor’s energy plan will also help Australians slash their power bills by setting a new national target of one million household battery installations by 2025. This will bring down household bills and will be good for the environment. From 2020, Labor’s Household Battery Program will provide a \$2,000 rebate for 100,000 households on incomes of less than \$180,000 per year to purchase and install battery systems. Low cost loans for households would also be available. This would triple the number of battery systems in Australian households compared to today’s numbers. The massive boost will also help manufacturers scale up production and reduce their costs in order to reach the goal of one million households with battery systems. The plan has the potential to cut power bills by hundreds of dollars each year.

Cheers, Joel



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

Progress is a magical word, and it’s even better in the context of the campaign for more passenger rail services for Singleton and Branxton through to Maitland.

Working alongside the Two More Trains for Singleton group, Singleton Council’s conversations with the State Government on this issue have been ongoing, and continued only a few weeks ago with a visit from senior Transport for NSW staff. The fact that discussions have reached the Minister for Transport Andrew Constance and senior transport staff at all is a positive sign. But the latest update on the future transport plans and investigations into the feasibility of additional passenger services gives rise to hope that we’ll see even more progress on this issue. It’s no exaggeration that public transport services up

the line from Maitland, and rail in particular, are grossly inadequate. As the Two More Trains for Singleton group rightly points out, Singleton is only one hour by train from the centre of Newcastle. Yet the limited number of services means it might as well be a world away for anyone from Branxton or Singleton wanting to access health or education services in Newcastle or beyond to Sydney, or anyone at the other end of the line coming our way. That’s been the basis for every discussion we’ve had with Mr Constance and Transport for NSW representatives, and I have no doubt they are listening. The progress we’ve seen to date, and the latest news that additional services are under consideration, is a great example of Council and the community working together for the betterment of our local government area. We know what we are fighting for is desperately needed, and are most encouraged the progress we’re seeing may bode well for an announcement – soon.

A pre-emptive celebration might just be part of the cheer we’ll see at Christmas on John Street this Friday 7 December. I’d go so far to say there isn’t any other community Christmas party that can match the spirit of our local government area, and I’m pleased to report Council’s events team has pulled out all the stops to make this year even bigger – including a gift for everyone in our community with the official opening of Riverside Park at 4.30pm. All the festivities will follow at 5.30pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

Cheers, Sue

CONT. PAGE 11

Members say

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The Branxton Greta Vineyards News

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Pharmacist Advice

Healthy Eating Diet suggestions



<p>Definition</p> <p>The aim of the Healthy Eating Diet is to provide advice about everyday nutrition so that the diet can contribute to a healthy lifestyle.</p> <p>Diet should be high in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Variety. A nutritious diet is one that includes around 30 different foods each day. Food variety is achieved by eating a mixture of foods across the whole range of food types (e.g. fruits, vegetables, cereals, meat, fish and dairy products). Eat a range of foods within these food types (e.g. cereals can be wheat, oat, rye, rice or barley). In this way, the nutritional benefits of each different food can be gained.•Antioxidant Foods. Foods rich in vitamin E and flavonoids are important in the healthy diet and may help protect against conditions like heart disease and certain types of cancer. These foods include vegetables, fruits, vegetable seed oils (e.g. canola oil, sunflower oil), nuts, soybeans, tea and grape products.•Dietary Fibre. Including fibre-rich foods in the diet can decrease the risks of heart disease and intestinal disorders. Approximately 30g of fibre per day is an ideal amount for good health.•Water. The Healthy Eating Diet recommends a daily water intake of at least 6 to 8 glasses. <p>Diet should be moderate in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Unsaturated Fats. Unsaturated fats should	<p>replace most of the saturated fat in a healthy diet. Unsaturated fats help to lower blood cholesterol levels and improve general health. Omega-3 fatty acids are unsaturated dietary fats found in dark-fleshed fish such as tuna, mackerel and sardines. Try to eat at least two fish meals per week (preferably fish that contains abundant natural oils, such as those listed above). Monounsaturated fats are found in olive oil, canola oil and some cold pressed oils. Omega-6 Fatty Acids are found mainly in plant foods such as seeds, nuts and vegetable oils. These oils include safflower, sunflower, soybean and cottonseed oils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Cholesterol. Moderate amounts of cholesterol can be eaten by people without cholesterol problems.•Sugars. Only moderate amounts of sugars and foods containing added sugars should be eaten. <p>Diet should be low in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Saturated Fats. Saturated fats increase the risks of certain diseases (e.g. heart conditions) and increase blood cholesterol levels more than eating cholesterol-rich foods. Saturated fats are found in most animal products. Lamb and beef contain large amounts of saturated fats; pork and chicken contain a slightly lower amount and game meats (e.g. kangaroo and deer) have a lower level still. Products derived from these animal fats also have a high content of saturated fat (e.g. dripping, butter, cheese and cream). Coconut oil, coconut cream, coconut milk and palm-kernel oil are all high in saturated fat. Saturated fats should make up less than 8% of the total daily caloric intake.•Alcohol. If you drink alcohol, you should limit	<p>your intake.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Salt. Choose low salt foods and use salt sparingly. <p>Breakfast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•For added variety, try untoasted muesli with added sunflower and pumpkin seeds, served with yoghurt and a mixture of fresh or dried fruits. <p>Lunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•A sandwich made on multigrain bread with cheese, chutney, tomato, lettuce and avocado.•Try filling sandwiches with lots of salad vegetables and using small servings of lean meat, skinless chicken or fish or a reduced fat cheese. <p>Dinner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Chopped lamb fillet cooked with salt-reduced soy and ginger, served with stir-fried vegetables OR•A large serving of pasta with a small serve of sauce.•For dessert, try couscous with added nuts and dried fruit. <p>Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Choose low-fat cuts of meat and trim any excess fat from meat before cooking (this includes removing the skin from chicken and turkey).•Use low fat cooking techniques such as steaming and grilling, rather than frying.•Use low fat dairy products such as skim milk and reduced fat cheeses, yoghurts and creams.•If spreading margarine on bread, use a polyunsaturated variety and keep the scraping thin. A scraping of avocado is a healthier alternative to margarine or butter. Butter contains a lot of saturated fat, which should be kept to a minimum in the Health Eating Diet.
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Funding available for events in the Hunter

Regional events held between July and December 2019 can now apply for NSW Government funding, aimed at driving more overnight visitors to rural and regional towns across the State. Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC said applications are now open for Round Two of both the 2019 Incubator Event Fund and the 2019 Flagship Event Fund, with more than \$500,000 available statewide. “These two funds are a great platform for the owners of new and emerging events in our region interested in extra support to help get their event off the ground or grow into something bigger,” Mr MacDonald said. “The funding grants will assist in attracting more overnight visitors to the Hunter, in the hope they stay longer and spend more time exploring everything our region has to offer, putting more tourist dollars into the pockets of local businesses.” The Newcastle Writers Festival and Riverlights Multicultural Festival in Maitland are both examples of events held in 2018 supported by the Regional Flagship Events Program. Minister for Tourism and Major Events Adam Marshall said the two funds are part of the Regional Flagship Events Program, an important NSW Government strategy designed to support more grassroots events and kick start local economies. “Since 2011, the Program has provided more than \$6.2 million to 180 events throughout rural and regional NSW,” Mr Marshall said. “We know that when people visit regional NSW, they stay in local

accommodation, buy from local shops and eat at local restaurants and cafes, helping to create more jobs and turbocharge local economies. “As a country Minister, it’s really important to me that NSW Government support continues to reach every corner of the State’s tourism industry, and I encourage events to apply for this fantastic funding opportunity which is now available.” The Flagship Event Fund offers an annual grant of \$20,000 or a triennial grant of \$27,500 to support marketing activities. The Incubator Event Fund offers grants of up to \$20,000 to new events to assist with elements such as temporary infrastructure, marketing and promotions, venue hire or attendee research. Applications to Round Two of both funds close on Sunday 13th January 2019. For more information and to lodge an application go to www.destinationnsw.com.au/rfep

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Slow cooker pork shoulder with apple and sage sauce

The rind is removed and baked in the oven separate to the pork. Enjoy the ease of using a [slow cooker](#), without sacrificing the traditional treat of pork, crackling and apple sauce.

Ingredients

- 2kg pork shoulder, rind removed and reserved
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 eschalots, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup fresh sage leaves, roughly chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 fresh thyme sprigs
- 4 fresh bay leaves
- 330ml bottle crushed apple cider
- 2/3 cup Massel chicken style liquid stock
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 4 granny smith apples, peeled, cored, roughly chopped
- 1 tablespoon caster sugar
- 2 teaspoons white wine vinegar

Method

Step 1

- Remove and discard excess fat from reserved rind. Score rind at 2.5cm intervals. Place rind, top-side up, on a wire rack set over a baking tray. Refrigerate until needed (see Notes). Tie up pork with

kitchen string at 5cm intervals.

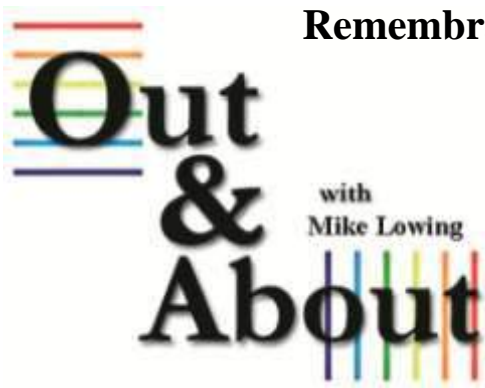
Step 2

- Heat 1/2 the oil in a large frying pan over medium-high heat. Add pork. Cook, turning, for 5 minutes or until browned. Transfer to the bowl of a 5.5-litre slow cooker.

Step 3

- Reduce heat to medium. Heat 1/2 the remaining oil in pan. Add eschalot. Cook for 4 minutes or until softened. Add sage and garlic. Cook for 1 minute or until fragrant. Transfer to slow cooker. Add thyme sprigs and bay leaves. Combine cider, stock and maple syrup. Add to slow cooker. Cover with lid. Cook on low for 6 to 8 hours (or on high for 4 hours), adding apple halfway through cooking time.

Remembrance Day combined service 2018; Branxton & Greta RSL Sub-Branches 11/11/18



Armistice Day takes place on 11 November each year and marks the end of the First World War. It is a day of commemoration, an occasion to remember the some 8.5 million soldiers who died across the world during the 1914–18 war – as well as those lost in the conflicts that followed. This year marked the centenary of Armistice Day and it was commemorated with a combined Branxton & Greta RSL Service at the Branxton Rotunda ~ 'Lest we Forget' Brian Furner OAM, President Branxton RSL S/B.



● Branxton 1B Girl Guides (Chloe Furner, Crystal Furner, Mikayla Price, Jessica Lester & Hayley Bolam) placing a wreath with Errol Bailey & Taffy Fortune (backs to us) with MC Brian Furner OAM & Joe Royston, "Joe the Piper" in the back ground



● Branxton Girl Guides Chloe Furner, at right, & Hayley Bolam. The Girl Guides did a wonderful job serving the meals at the official luncheon after the service.



● Branxton RSL Sub Branch President Brian Furner, at left, Joe Royston & serving member & treasurer of the Branxton Sub Branch CPO Cath Harvey



Members & affiliate members of the Branxton RSL Sub Branch who attended the service



● Greta RSL Sub Branch Pastor, Alan Daly, giving the Remembrance Day Homily & prayers

Branxton Uniting Church Centenary Celebration of the Laying of the Church Foundation Stone; Sun 18 Nov



● Local residents Mrs Melva Standen and her daughter Jan Brown attended the celebration.



● Mary, Gillian and Iris Leavesley. Mr Alfred Leavesley was the Methodist Minister here in the Branxton Circuit from 1955 to 1959. His 3 daughters were in attendance to celebrate the 100th anniversary.



● John & Clemence Tulloch of Singleton. Johns' Great Step Grandmother laid the foundation stone.



● Tracey Shade and family enjoyed a picnic



● Maureen and George Dick from Stanhope and Mrs Judy Spillard of Branxton.



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Air conditioning for local public schools announced

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC has welcomed last weeks announcement by Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Education Minister Rob Stokes of the first round recipients of the NSW Liberal National Government’s Cooler Classrooms Fund. Over 900 schools, including many in the Hunter will benefit from the first round of the record \$500 million program, the largest investment of its kind in NSW history.

Branxton Public School, Greta Public School, Lochinvar Public School, Singleton High School, Singleton Public School & Singleton Heights Public Schools are included. Mr MacDonald said he was pleased to see many Hunter schools on the list released today, including strong representations in Cessnock and Maitland. “Air conditioning has long been a cause lobbied for by school communities and P&C groups in the Hunter and I am pleased that today the Premier and Education Minister have highlighted the NSW Government’s commitment to delivering air conditioning to more students across the Hunter”, Mr MacDonald said. “The NSW Government’s Cooler Classrooms Fund is being run concurrently with the installation of solar panels and smart systems, highlighting an economically and environmentally sustainable program, in contrast to Labor’s plans.” Schools in areas that have an average maximum January temperature of 30 degrees or more will now automatically receive air conditioning in their classrooms and libraries, while all other schools can apply for funding under the Cooler Classrooms Fund on a needs basis. Previously only schools with an average maximum January temperature of 33 degrees or more were air conditioned. In addition to the hundreds of schools benefiting under the Cooler Classrooms program, air conditioning will be delivered in all new and upgraded schools under the Government’s record \$6 billion school building program over the next four years. The first round of applications took place throughout Term 3 this year. A second round will open in the new year. School principals are encouraged to apply to the second round of the Fund, which will open on Day 1 of Term 1 next year.



● Premier Gladys Berejiklian with Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC

NSW Court of Appeal Upholds Landmark Workers Compensation Ruling

Following amendments made to the law in 2012 Section 59A of the Workers Compensation Act 1987 (NSW) provides that an injured worker is not entitled to compensation in respect of any treatment, service or assistance that is given or provided after the compensation period has elapsed. Prior to these amendments injured workers were free to make claims for medical treatment for a workplace injury at any stage in their lifetime. Further amendments to the legislation in 2015 introduced a number of exceptions to such time limits, including treatment for the provision of, amongst other matters, ‘artificial aids’, leading to the question - what type of treatment falls within the ambit of ‘artificial aids’. In 1999 Mr Baldacchino suffered a left knee injury in the course of his

employment with Pacific National, for which he underwent a left knee arthroscopy surgery which was paid for under his accepted workers compensation claim. Over the years Mr Baldacchino’s knee deteriorated and an orthopaedic surgeon recommended a knee



replacement. Mr Baldacchino made a claim for medical expenses in respect of the surgery and liability was declined for the proposed surgical treatment on the basis that it was not reasonably necessary as a result of the initial frank injury. The dispute proceeded to Arbitration in the Workers Compensation Commission and the Arbitrator found that the proposed surgery was reasonably necessary. The application of the

Section 59A rule was also considered and it was determined that the proposed total knee replacement fell within the meaning of an “artificial aid” in Section 59A (6). Accordingly, the Mr Baldacchino was entitled to compensation for the proposed surgery. The insurer then challenged that decision and lodged an appeal. Surprisingly, the State Insurance Regulatory Authority (‘SIRA’) exercised its statutory power to be heard by the Commission on appeal and intervened in support of the Arbitrator. Deputy President Snell determined the appeal on the papers and concluded that the plain words of the text in Section 59A(6)(a) are consistent with a total knee replacement falling within the definition of an artificial aid and he rejected the appeal. Pacific National then appealed to the NSW Court of Appeal and the Court upheld the earlier decision of the Workers Compensation Commission. This important precedent-setting decision creates scope for injured workers to claim medical expenses outside the legislative compensation time frame and will have ramifications for many injured workers across New South Wales.

seek self-regulation, industry seeks a cooperative and constructive relationship with a regulatory authority who has competencies and experience in the property industry,” Mr McKibbin said. Mr McKibbin said the decision of the Minister to announce publicly that there will be no Parliamentary Inquiry with less than one day’s consideration is alarming. “Attempting to assign blame to industry while a pandemic of incompetence flushes at Fair Trading strongly suggests that Government is not acting as a model citizen,” Mr McKibbin said. “The first step to resolving any problem is an acknowledgement of, and a detailed understanding of the issues. Pretending it doesn’t exist and blaming others only delays implementation of the requisite remedial actions. REINSW respectively suggests that, in this case, sunshine is the best disinfectant. “Accordingly, publicly exposing the systemic failure of Fair Trading’s ability to understand and adequately support the property services industry is an important step forward.

Misplaced confidence and ignorance are a dangerous combination, and a recipe for harm as in this case. “REINSW as the State’s pre-eminent representative body for the property services industry offers its assistance to the Minister,” Mr McKibbin said.

Lobbying pays off: electronic signing passed

In a big win for the property services industry and consumers, residential tenancy agreements can now be signed and witnessed digitally. The Conveyancing Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 (NSW) was assented to on Thursday, 22 November 2018, after swiftly passing through both the Upper and Lower houses of NSW Parliament between October and November. REINSW has actively lobbied for electronic signing for many years. REINSW CEO, Tim McKibbin, says it’s great to see the Government finally take the step forward. “This is good for agents, landlords and tenants,” he says. “Times are changing, and technology is playing a more pivotal role in the property services industry. This amendment will bring the industry in-line with other industries embracing

technology and streamline business practices. “We have lobbied hard for this win and we are proud that we can provide the tools property professionals need to take advantage of the efficiencies this Bill enables. “With digital forms and agreements, and digital signing platforms – such as REI Forms Live and DocuSign – at the ready, property managers across NSW will have the ability to develop, communicate and finalise residential tenancy agreements digitally.”

Don’t duck out. Make your portable pool safe.

A portable pool comes with certain responsibilities – and potential legal obligations – for parents and carers. So don’t duck out. Make your portable pool safe for children. **3cm of Water & 20 Seconds** Did you know young children can drown in only 3cm of water, silently within just 20 seconds? That on average one young child dies from drowning in a portable pool in Australia every year? Or that the risk of drowning in any unfenced home pool is higher than one which is fenced? Or that you could be fined or prosecuted if you don’t safeguard your

portable pool correctly? **The statistics** ●18 children 0-4 years drowned in Australia in 2017/18. ●12 (or 67%) drowned in a swimming pool. ●Accidental falls into water were the leading activity prior to drowning among children under five, with 14 drowning deaths or 78% of all drowning deaths. As portable pools (also known as a wading, paddling, inflatable and kiddie pools) become cheaper and more popular, the drowning risk for young children grows. So, don’t duck out of your responsibilities and any legal obligations. **Do**

- * Do think twice about buying a portable pool. Consider a public pool instead – it’s cheaper than a fine for having an unfenced portable pool.
- * Do stay switched -on. Always supervise within arm’s reach. Drowning deaths and brain damage can occur in seconds.
- * Do check local fencing requirements. In most states and territories, bodies of water over 30cm in depth must be fenced by law.

- * Do CPR first. If the worst happens, get your child out of the water and perform CPR, while someone else calls Triple Zero (000). Every second counts.
- * Do tag-team another adult. If you have to leave the pool, hand over responsibility to another adult before you leave.

Don’t

- * Don’t leave children unsupervised. Ever. If you fill the pool, the responsibility is on you.
- * Don’t duck out when supervising. Don’t get distracted by a phone call, text messages, social media or household chores.
- * Don’t rely on kids to supervise. It isn’t a good idea - or fair - to put the responsibility on children.
- * Don’t forget to empty and store your pool. Empty it after every use and store it away where it can’t be inadvertently filled by rainwater or reticulation.
- * Don’t be surprised if the council calls. Local authorities are ramping up checks on portable pools including using aerial photography to check for unfenced bodies of water in backyards.



Parliamentary Inquiry and self-regulation: REINSW

The property services industry does not seek self-regulation as suggested by Minister for Better Regulation Matt Kean, according the Real Estate Institute of New South Wales. The clarification comes after REINSW called for a Parliamentary Inquiry (22 November) into the decision-making processes of NSW Fair Trading in the wake of its negligence involving trust account audits, following the State’s largest fraud case. Fair Trading removed the requirement for licencees to lodge their trust account audits with Fair Trading in 2013. Realising their mistake and the consumer harm they caused, Fair Trading reversed their decision in March of this year.

Alarmingly this remedial activity has not worked its way through the system and the legislative changes have not yet commenced, so consumers are still at risk. REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin said the constant reference to industry seeking self-regulation in the Minister’s press releases is not only incorrect, it also demonstrates a desperate clawing for relevance and an attempt to divert attention away from Fair Trading, who are facing a barrage of consumer protection failures. “Let’s once again be crystal clear, industry does not

Kurri Kurri High School take out Waste Ops competition

Kurri Kurri High School have taken out the 2018 Waste Ops competition with their great short film encouraging people to reduce the amount of waste they generate. Cessnock City and Maitland City Councils offered local Year 7 and 8 students the opportunity to enter the 2018 Waste Ops short film contest earlier in the year. Seven schools

entered the competition that focused on reducing the amount of waste we generate every day. Rutherford Technology High School and Kurri Kurri High School were named finalists, which saw the films brought to life by professional videographers. The films were posted online and it was up to the community to decide the 2018 Waste Ops champion.

Kurri Kurri High School took out the top spot receiving the most votes. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent congratulated all students who got involved. “Well done to everyone who participated in this wonderful initiative. Lots of hard work went into producing the scripts and final product. It’s great to see young people talking

about an issue that is so relevant in our community.” “If you haven’t checked out the films there is still time. They are certainly worth a watch.” Kurri Kurri High School Teacher, Vanessa Crooks was grateful for the opportunity the competition gave the students and is extremely proud of her students.

Kurri Kurri High School will receive \$500 for an environmental project of their choice. The runner up, Rutherford Technology High School will receive \$250. Check out the Waste Ops website at www.wasteops.com.au. This is a NSW EPA Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative funded from the waste levy.



TUESDAY, 23RD OCTOBER The Hunter River Group Annual Conference was held this year at Cooks Hill Surf Life Saving Club and Hosted and Catered by Newcastle Evening Branch. Guest Speaker Mr Ran Mitchell spoke about the effects of soil management in times of drought and ways to protect the land for cultivating crops and feeding stock. Very interesting and educational. After a lovely lunch, office bearers were nominated and officially voted in. Congratulations to Bronwyn Dunstan our new HRG President. Wishing you all the best in your new role. Thank you to Mary Bowman, outgoing HRG President for your hard work and commitment during your time as President. We have pleasure in advising that two of our members have been voted in as HRG Officers for



The Cooks on the Barbeque were kept very busy keeping up with the steady stream of buyers at the Clearing Out Sale at Dalwood.

2019 – Leanne Bendeich, Branch President, was nominated and accepted the nomination as HRG Land Cookery Officer and Marie Shearer, Branch Secretary, was nominated and accepted the nomination as one of six HRG Vice Presidents (this will be Marie’s 2nd year), which was also unanimously voted in also. Congratulations Leanne and Marie. MONDAY, 5TH NOV – The Annual Land Cookery/ Product Promotion (Pomegranates) Day was a warm, welcoming and relaxing day for the approx. 40 guests and members in attendance. Roslyn Shearer (Cookery Officer)

and Camile Manton (Cookery Judge), with Debbie (who was learning to be a cookery judge) were very busy with the judging, whilst everyone enjoyed a lovely morning tea and catching up with friends. Mr Brian Bruce from the Red Cross Blood Bank gave a talk on Blood Donations and Blood Transfusions and the importance of giving blood to save lives and how much the process had improved. A very thought provoking talk and much appreciated. Thank you Brian for your time. Before lunch, results of the Land Cookery Competition were announced by Camile and Roslyn and certificates

presented to the appropriate winners. Will only name 1st places due to restriction of space and the fact that they will be going onto Hunter River Group section in March 2019. Noeleen Bendeich - Pudding; Strawberry Jam; Finger Lamingtons; Chocolate Sponge. Roslyn Shearer – Fruit Cake; Lime & Buttermilk Cake; Rainbow Cake; Honey Jumbles. Marie Shearer – Sultana Cake; Date Loaf. Denise McGoldrick – Donna Latter Memorial Choc. Cake. Declan Shearer – Cinnamon Tea Cake (Section 11 (a)) Zac Shearer – Decorated Butter Biscuits (Section 11



Guests enjoying the day



Judge Camile Manton with Roslyn and Debbie busy with the judging.

(b) Congratulations to all and all the best for Hunter River Group in March, 2019.

SATURDAY, 24TH NOV – The Cooks on the Barbeque

were kept very busy keeping up with the steady stream of buyers at the Clearing Out Sale at Dalwood. From the packed cars, trailers and trucks departing the property, all

was “cleared out” hopefully. The view, when we had time to look, was fantastic.

Denise McGoldrick
Publicity Officer.



Kirkton Public School

Assembly Awards
Principal’s Awards: Charlee-Rose—A positive and friendly approach to people and tasks. K/1/2/3 Lucette—Improvement in writing Andre—Commitment to learning

4/5/6 Taylor—Improvement in mathematics Bree—Improvement in mathematics.

Well done to all students for completing the Premiers Reading Challenge, with some special awards to be handed out at presentation night for those students who have hit some important milestones!

Clr Melanie Dagg ~ Deputy Mayor & Cessnock City Councillor representing Ward ‘C’

Members say



It’s been an incredibly busy few weeks as It’s been a busy lead up to Christmas as I’ve been representing

Council at many meetings and events across the LGA and indeed, the State. I recently attended the very last meeting of the Mine Subsidence Board before it is to be wound up on the 31st December. We had an update on the remaining contentious claims and high risk subsidence items, together with instruction on the procedures for the Agency and clarity around the collection of the

colliery levies once the Board is disbanded in the New Year. If you live in a Mine Subsidence District and are concerned about the effect of these changes on you and your property, the Subsidence Advisory website (www.subsidenceadvisory.nsw.gov.au) is a great resource that explains the changes and sets out the process if you need to lodge a claim. On another note,

Maurie the Mole will soon be brought out of retirement and after receiving a facelift will once again be educating kids about the dangers of mine shafts and mine subsidence - so keep on the lookout! Cessnock has another good news story that it can share with the community. Cessnock was incredibly successful in Orange recently at the Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy

Towns Awards with a number of wins acknowledging community groups and projects such as Greta Museum, Yengo Gallery, Wollombi Awards Display Board, Cessnock Regional Art Gallery and Council’s own Waste Management Centre Transfer Station, the Revolving Energy Fund Energy Efficiency Projects, and Council’s Biodiversity Communications Engagement Strategy. But most

importantly, Cessnock was awarded the overall winner of the 2018 Tidy Town Award which qualifies Cessnock to represent NSW in the Keep Australia Beautiful National Tidy Towns Awards. I was honoured to be present in Orange and accept the award on Council’s behalf, it was incredibly satisfying being able to stand in front of a full room and speak about how good this LGA

is. We should all be proud to live in Cessnock, as these awards represent more than just collecting rubbish from the side of the road, they are an acknowledgement of this Council’s initiative to engage and work with the community to make our region more liveable, attractive and sustainable and we should all be incredibly proud of the award-winning work being done right across the LGA.



North Rothbury



As new ~ Totally renovated; kitchen, bathroom, new flooring & freshly painted

- This brick & Tile family home on a very large fully fenced block (885sm) features
- * Spacious living area
 - * New kitchen
 - * Builtins in all bedrooms
 - * New bathroom
 - * Reverse cycle split air conditioning
 - * Large single lock-up garage
 - * Set on 885sm fully fenced block with magnificent views to the north



INSPECTION RECOMMENDED

Open to Offers

EAST BRANXTON



AUCTION

**Saturday 2nd February, 2019
11am on-site
74 Yates Street, East
Branxton NSW 2335**

If not sold prior to auction

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.

NORTH ROTHBURY



Totally renovated cottage

Tasteful & smart describe this fully renovated large family home. Generous sized bedrooms, open plan living, gorgeous kitchen & beautiful bathroom, high ceilings & polished floorboards. Large verandah at rear to catch the great views to the Brokenback ranges. French doors & scattered leadlight windows add to its charm. All this on a 809 square metre fully fenced block.

ASKING \$495,000

East Branxton



Low Maintenance 2 Bedroom Unit

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

ASKING \$275,000

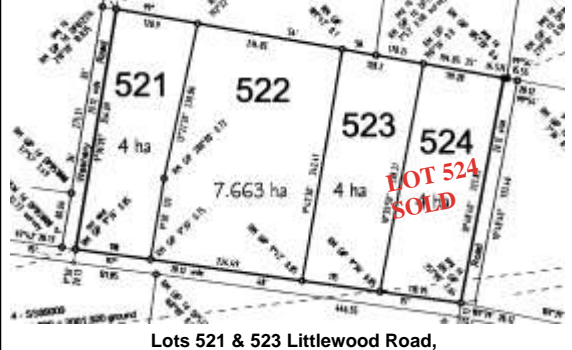
BELFORD



Vacant Land 2559m²

Vacant Land with building approved
Lot 1 DP 1205549
Well over half an acre of good level block.
ASKING \$160,000 ONO

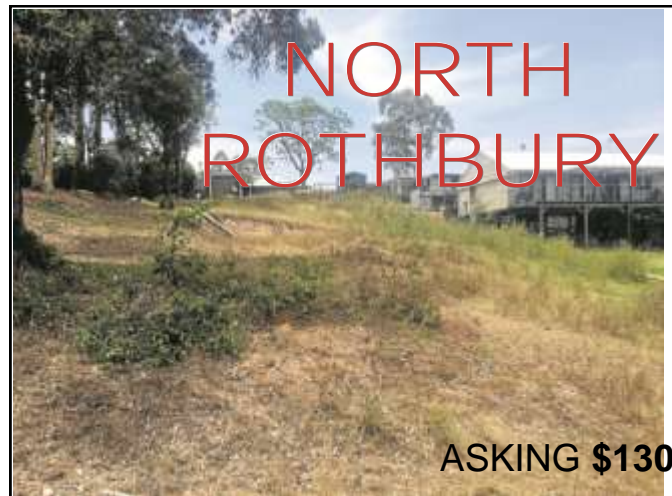
NORTH ROTHBURY



Lots 521 & 523 Littlewood Road, Vacant blocks

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

NORTH ROTHBURY



Vacant Land 809m²

Vacant Building Block
Fantastic visage

ASKING \$130,000 ONO



Properties are selling well in the local area. Call Helen for a FREE property appraisal

School News



Branxton Public School



• Leaders



• Primary Choir

Classes are ready for our Carols by Torchlight to be held this Thursday 6th December. The P&C have been busy organising everything else so that our families and the wider community can enjoy a lovely evening together. Gates open at 6pm with BBQ available with Santa and music starting at 6:30pm. Well done to our prospective leaders. Not long now until Presentation Day when our leaders will be announced.

The end of Movember was celebrated by our male staff members with a parade of spectacular moustaches, much to the delight of our students. Mr Tattis was awarded Best Mo for 2018 and we're looking forward to seeing them all clean shaven in Week 8!

Mrs Mungoven was extremely proud of our Primary Choir students who sang beautifully at the 100th anniversary of the laying of the flagstone of the Uniting Church in Branxton. They sang Touch the Sky and Coming Home as part of the service. The students were complimented by the large crowd on their beautiful singing and impeccable behaviour. Thank you to the parents and families who joined us for the service.

Our wonderful P&C held their Spring Working Bee on Sunday 25th November to establish the new vegetable garden and refresh the existing one. Parents, grandparents and children assisted with lots of shovelling and the garden bed is now ready for planting. Donations of plants and mulch will be gratefully accepted! They have also been busy organising the covering of the hundreds of new home readers purchased with a grant applied for by P&C members.

The P&C will be having their annual Bunnings BBQ fundraiser at Maitland Bunnings on Sunday 9th December. Notes for volunteers have been sent home with students but you should also keep an eye on Facebook and newsletters for further details.

Dates for the Calendar
Thursday 6th December – P&C's Carols by Torchlight
Sunday 9th December – P&C Bunnings BBQ
Tuesday 11th December – Presentation Day at Community Hall
Wednesday 12th December – Year 6 Dinner



• Book covering



• Working Bee

Thursday 13th December – Sport Assembly
Wednesday 19th December – last day for students.

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

Branxton Public School and P&C welcome families and community to...

Carols by Torchlight

Thursday 6th December 2018

6.00pm - Gates open / BBQ starts
6.30pm - A visit from Santa
7.00pm - Student performances on stage
Entry \$2/individual \$5/family
Fantastic Lucky Door Prizes!
Face painting!

All funds raised on the night go towards making our fantastic school even better!

A HUGE Christmas Hamper Raffle! Tickets on sale now and at the door.
Dress up in Christmas themes: elf, reindeer, angel, tree, Santa, wise men, barn animals, etc!

A fantastic opportunity for children to perform on stage to a sell-out crowd.

Fundraising stalls:
Sausage sizzle
Drinks and Lollies
Glow products
Coffee Van

WANTED

Croquet players wanted to join friendly, established club at 8 John Rose Avenue, Branxton.

Come and try for free, no experience or equipment needed. You'll have lots of fun! Phone Carole on

0249387234

or call at grounds
between 9am and 12am on Tuesday or Saturday.

School News



Greta Public School

Greta Public School finishes 4th in Regional Bowls Final

Greta Public School have been represented in 'The Let's Play Bowls' Primary School Competition in its inaugural year. With \$2000 prizemoney on offer, how could you not put a team in. Two teams of three were selected to represent the school in the District Playoffs at Abermain. Unfortunately, one team was defeated and knocked out of the competition and the other team won their game and moved on. This team went on to play at Raymond Terrace in the Zone Playoffs and then onto the Regional Finals. The teams were supported by Greta Workers Men's Bowling Club, giving the team's club shirts to wear.



The two Teams who Contested the Let's Play Bowls.

All players have worked hard with weekly training during lunch breaks and early mornings before school, provided by Jason and Steve from Greta Workers. The players have come a long way in such a short time as all players had never played the game prior to the event. The students are a credit to Greta Public School on the way they have conducted themselves. Greta Workers, along with Bowls Australia, are currently providing a 'Jack Attack' program at Greta Public School for a four week period for Stage 2 and Stage 3



students. This is part of the NSW Department of Education's Sports in School Program. I'm quite sure Greta will be back next year to try and improve on this year's result. Any juniors and beginners thinking of trying bowls are most welcome to enquire at Greta Workers. Free coaching is available.



An old drover walks into a barber shop in Black Stump Crossing, Northern Territory, for a shave and a haircut.

He tells the barber he can't get all his whiskers off because his cheeks are wrinkled from age. The barber gets a little wooden ball from a cup on the shelf and tells the old drover to put it inside his cheek to spread out the skin.

When he's finished, the old drover tells the barber that was the cleanest shave he'd had in years, but he wanted to know what would have happened if he had accidentally swallowed that little ball.

The barber replied, "Just bring it back in a couple of days like everyone else does."

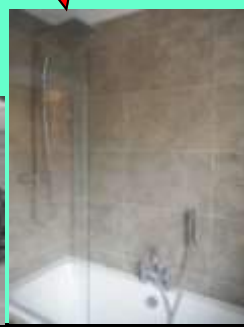
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For all your tiling needs, call the professionals
No job too big or too small
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- large floor specialist
- water proofing
- pool tiling
- concreting and paving

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0421 574 592



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Pharmacy**

**Open 7 days
8am - 8pm**

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**202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock
(opposite ALDI)**

Greta Workers Sports & Rec Club Ltd

2 West Street Greta Ph 4938 7325



Raffles
Ham & Meat Raffle
Fridays & Sundays

Friday 7th December

Whiskey Business

Toy, Meat & Ham Raffle Sun 16th Dec



The Oaks Restaurant

At Greta Workers
Open Lunch & Dinner
Wednesday to Sunday



Friday 14th December

Solid Gold Party Night

HAPPY HOUR

Thursdays 4pm—6pm



Greta Workers
**Every Wednesday
& Sunday**

Miller Park Sports Club

6 Maitland Street East Branxton Ph 49381226



Courtesy Bus



Fridays & Sundays

Wednesdays, Fridays & Sundays

Win a Ham for Xmas



Call Greta for details 4938 7325

Wednesdays

4pm—6pm

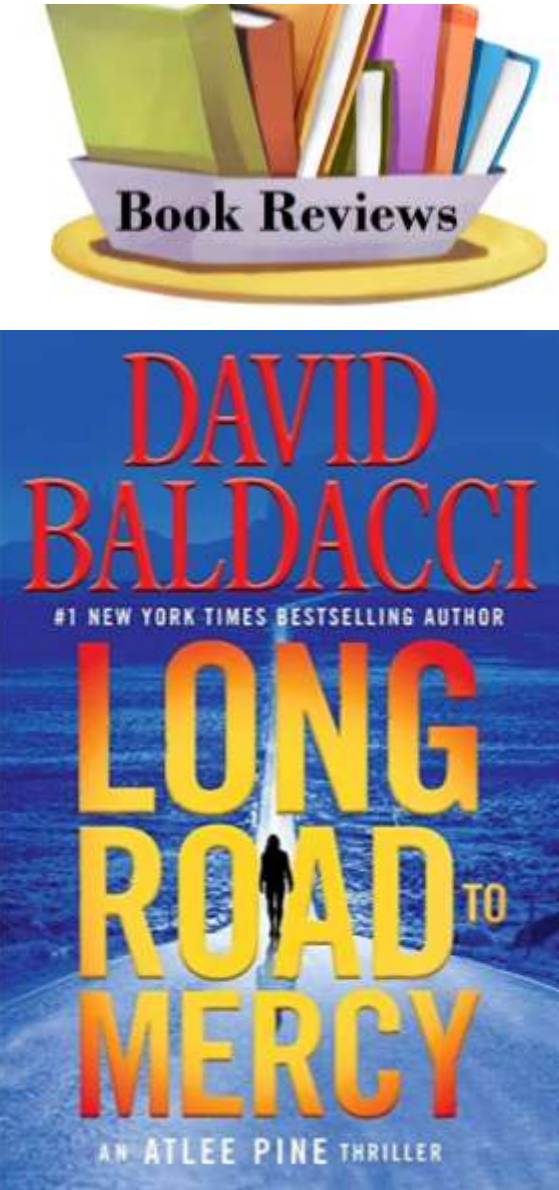
SERVICING BOTH CLUB PREMISES



**Thursdays
&
Sundays**

WATCH THIS SPACE
NEW CATERERS Coming Soon





David Baldacci introduces readers to FBI Special Agent Atlee Pine in his latest thriller, "Long Road to Mercy," that hopefully is the start of a new series featuring her adventures. Atlee Pine has a tumultuous past, but the memories of a particular day when she was 6 years old have not only isolated her from trusting people, but have also given her the strength to become an excellent agent. She has taken the most remote assignment imaginable, running the Shattered Rock, Ariz., office of the FBI. Part of its

jurisdiction involves working with National Park rangers to protect the Grand Canyon. When one of the mules used to transport riders down the canyon is found stabbed to death, Atlee is called in to investigate. For what should have been a loud incident, nobody in the nearby camp heard anything. The man who rode the mule down to the bottom has vanished. When she starts questioning the campers and the rangers in the area, Atlee is removed from any further inquiry. Two potential

ranger witnesses are suddenly transferred to another park. It becomes clear that if she continues to pursue the truth, her career will be over. Her supervisors don't know Atlee Pine at all. She has to overcome her loner mentality and work with others to stop a horrible conspiracy. Hopefully she has the time. Baldacci excels as a storyteller when it comes to FBI agents with baggage. He also knows how to craft a complex and compelling case for his stellar heroes to solve. Baldacci is at the top of his game here. The final reveal is both exciting and shocking. Readers will fall in love with Atlee, and hopefully Baldacci will bring her back soon. *Associated Press*

ABOUT



David Baldacci was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia. He graduated from Henrico High School and earned a B.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University and a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, after which he practiced law for nine years in Washington, D.C. He is of Italian descent from Barga, in Tuscany. **Career** Richmond, Virginia, hometown of Baldacci ... Baldacci began writing stories as a child, when his

mother gave him a notebook in which to record them. He wrote for more than two decades, penning short stories and later screenplays without much success. While practicing law, he turned to novel writing, taking three years to write *Absolute Power*. Published in 1996, it was an international best seller. To date, Baldacci has published 36 best-selling novels for adults as well as six novels for younger readers.

Personal life and charities Baldacci resides in Fairfax County, Virginia, with his family. Baldacci and his wife, Michelle, are the co-founders of the Wish You Well Foundation, which works to combat illiteracy in the United States. Baldacci became involved with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society after his sister, author Sharon Baldacci, was diagnosed with MS.

Works Baldacci's first novel, *Absolute Power*, tells the story of a fictional American president and his Secret Service agents who are willing to commit murder in order to cover up the accidental death of a woman with whom the President was having an affair. It was adapted as a film, *Absolute Power* (1997), starring Clint Eastwood and Gene Hackman. Baldacci wrote the screenplay for the film adaptation of his novel *Wish You Well*; the movie was shot on location in southwest Virginia with Academy Award winner Ellen Burstyn, Josh Lucas, and Mackenzie Foy in the lead roles. Baldacci was a consulting producer on *King & Maxwell*, a TNT

television series based on his characters Sean King and Michelle Maxwell. Jon Tenney and Rebecca Romijn starred. *The Christmas Train*, Baldacci's eighth novel, was adapted in 2017 by

Hallmark Channel as a Hallmark Hall of Fame feature presentation. The TV movie starred Dermot Mulroney, Kimberly Williams-Paisley, Danny Glover and Joan Cusack and was directed by Ron

Oliver. Baldacci's novels have been published in over 45 languages and in more than 80 countries, with over 130 million worldwide sales as of 2018.

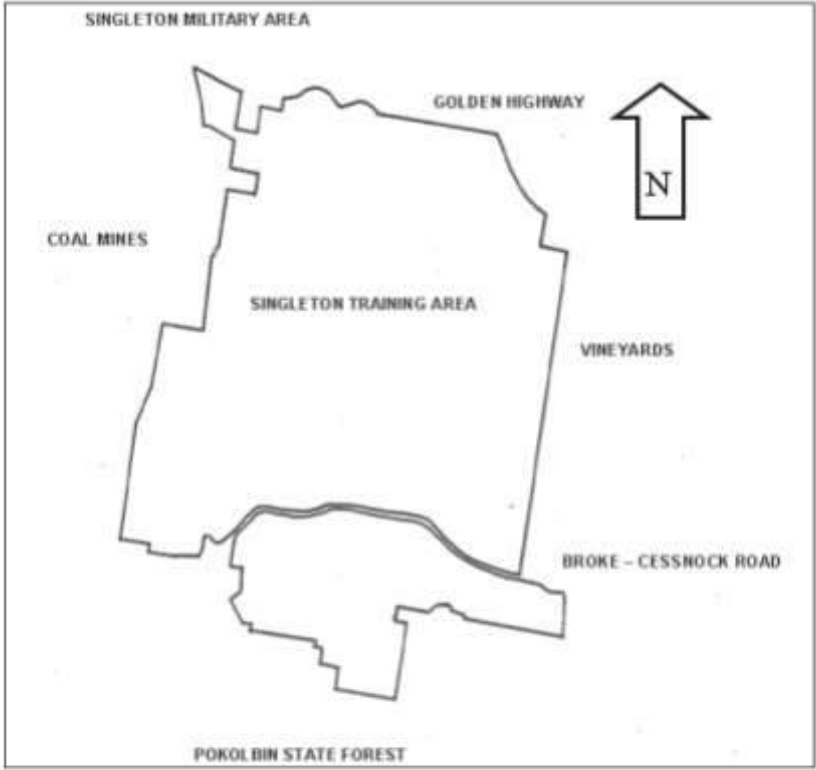
The New York Times Best Sellers Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (2 Dec 2018)

New this week **1.** LOOK ALIVE TWENTY-FIVE by Janet Evanovich
The 25th book in the Stephanie Plum series. When several managers of a deli in Trenton disappear, a bounty hunter and her detective boyfriend look for clues.
New this week **2.** LONG ROAD TO MERCY by David Baldacci
Atlee Pine, an F.B.I. agent who is haunted by the childhood kidnapping of her twin sister, must choose between protecting her career or the United States' democracy
2 weeks on the list **3.** PAST TENSE by Lee Child
Jack Reacher explores the New England town where his father was born and a Canadian couple now find themselves stranded
4 weeks on the list **4.** THE RECKONING by John Grisham
A decorated World War II veteran shoots and kills a pastor inside a Mississippi church
2 weeks on the list **5.** NINE PERFECT STRANGERS by Liane Moriarty
A romance writer becomes fascinated by the owner and director of a health resort.
3 weeks on the list **6.** DARK SACRED NIGHT by Michael Connelly
Detective Renée Ballard teams up with the retired detective Harry Bosch, who is working on a cold case.
5 weeks on the list **7.** EVERY BREATH by Nicholas Sparks
Difficult choices surface when Hope Anderson and Tru Walls meet in a North Carolina seaside town.
10 weeks on the list **8.** WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING by Delia Owens
In a quiet town on the North Carolina coast in 1969, a young woman who survived alone in the marsh becomes a murder suspect.
3 weeks on the list **9.** ELEVATION by Stephen King
A man who is losing weight without getting thinner forms an unlikely alliance with his neighbors who are dealing with prejudices.
11 weeks on the list **10.** THE TATTOOIST OF AUSCHWITZ by Heather Morris
A concentration camp detainee tasked with permanently marking fellow prisoners falls in love with one of them.



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.

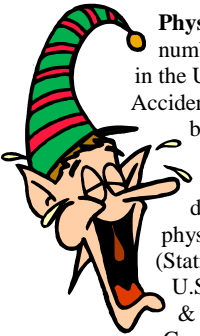
Death or serious injury may result from being struck by a projectile. Eye damage may occur when viewing laser beams from within the training area boundary.

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



Physicians: a. The number of physicians in the U.S. is 700,000. b. Accidental deaths caused by Physicians per year are 120,000. c. Accidental deaths per physician is 0.171. (Statistics courtesy of U.S.Dept. of Health & Human Services)
Guns: a. The number of gun owners in the U.S. is 80,000,000. b. The number of accidental gun deaths per year (all age groups) is 1,500. c. The number of accidental deaths per gun owner is 0.000188.

Statistically, doctors are approximately 9,000 times more dangerous than gun owners. Remember, "Guns don't kill people, doctors do". **FACT: NOT EVERYONE HAS A GUN, BUT ALMOST EVERYONE HAS AT LEAST ONE DOCTOR.** Please alert your friends to this alarming threat. We must ban doctors before this gets completely out of hand!!!!!! Out of concern for the public at large, I have withheld the statistics on lawyers for fear the shock would cause people to panic and seek medical attention.

St. Peter is very busy in Heaven, so he leaves a sign by the Pearly Gates: "For Service Ring Bell." Away he

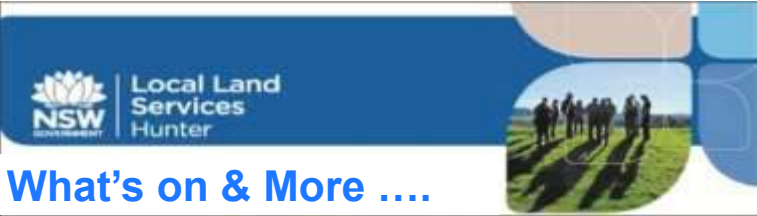
goes; he barely gets started when BING! the bell rings. He rushes back to the gates, but no one's there. St. Peter goes back to work when suddenly BING! the bell rings again. He rushes back to the gates, but no one's there. A little annoyed, St. Peter goes back to work. Suddenly, BING! the bell rings again. St. Peter goes back; again, no one's there. "Okay, that's it," St. Peter says. "I'm going to hide and watch to see what's going on." So St. Peter hides, and a moment later, a little old man walks up and rings the bell. St. Peter jumps out and yells, "Aha! Are you the guy who keeps ringing the bell?" "Yes, that's me," the little old man says. "Well, why do you keep ringing the bell and going away?" St. Peter asks. "They keep resuscitating me," he replies.

Murphy drops a slice buttered toast on the kitchen floor and it lands butter-side-up. He looks down in astonishment, for he knows that it's a law of nature of the universe that buttered toast always falls butter-down. So he rushes round to the church to fetch Father Flanagan. He tells the priest that a miracle has occurred in his kitchen. He won't say what it is, so he asks Father Flanagan to come and see it with his own eyes. He leads Father Flanagan into the kitchen and asks him what he sees on the floor.

"Well," says the priest, "it's pretty obvious. Someone has dropped some buttered toast on the floor and then they flipped it over so that the butter was on top."
"No, Father, I dropped it and it landed like that!" exclaimed Murphy
"Oh my," says Father Flanagan, "dropped toast never falls with the butter side up. It must be miracle. Wait... it's not for me to say it's a miracle. I'll have to report this matter to the Bishop and he'll have to deal with it.
He'll send some people round; to interview you, take photos, etc."
After 8 long weeks and with great fanfare, the Bishop announces the final ruling.
"It is certain that some kind of an extraordinary event took place in Murphy's kitchen, quite outside the natural laws of the universe. Yet the Holy Ones must be very cautious before ruling a miracle. All other explanations must be ruled out. Unfortunately, in this case, it has been declared that it is '**No Miracle**'



toast on the wrong side.



Q Fever vaccination opportunity for Hunter producers

Hunter Local Land Services is working with local health providers to help producers access Q Fever vaccinations. Q fever is one of the most prevalent diseases spread from animals to people in Australia with around 500 human cases per year, caused by the bacterium *Coxiella burnetii*. District Vet Kylie Greentree is concerned livestock producers and their families might not be aware of the risks caused by this illness. “Some people show no symptoms but others with Q-fever may develop flu like symptoms, headaches, muscle aches, fever, sweating, endocarditis,” said Dr Greentree. “Up to 15-20% of sufferers’ progress to a chronic illness with chronic fatigue that can be debilitating for years, muscle pain, depression, hepatitis, pneumonia and heart failure which can be fatal.” Q Fever can spread from any animal including cattle, sheep, goats, wildlife and even dogs and cats. The bacteria can survive in the environment for years and with current dusty drought conditions the organism could be stirred up and spread kilometres in the wind. Human infection usually occurs by

inhaling the organism, but infection also occurs with direct contact with infected animals or drinking unpasteurised milk. “In recent weeks we have heard of new cases of local producers being affected by Q Fever, and we want to encourage landholders to consider vaccination,” said Dr Greentree. “Farming is one of the occupations with a high risk of contracting Q fever. “We are the only country in the world with a vaccination available to prevent Q fever in humans and the vaccination is safe and the most effective way to prevent Q fever infection in high-risk occupations.” To be vaccinated is a two-step process involving pre-screening and vaccination. Hunter Local Land Services has been in discussion with several doctors surgeries around the region to get reduced vaccination costs for local producers. Some initial pre-screening clinic dates were made available last week in Wingham and Maitland. Please contact Kylie Greentree via email kylie.greentree@lls.nsw.gov.au or phone Jacqueline Myhill on 02 4938 4900 to register your interest and to find out more about the clinic and costs involved.

Rain and soil moisture

Rain events have been patchy across the Hunter Local Land Services region over the past few weeks, with parts of the Manning Great Lakes and Lower Hunter receiving good falls. Inconsistent rain falls in the Upper Hunter have resulted in a mixed response. Lighter soil country has responded slightly to minimal rainfall, whereas there have been limited changes to heavier black soil country. Producers had hoped for a Spring break, which hasn’t eventuated for many, and with current BOM outlooks for November through to January showing dryer than average predictions, ongoing drought conditions across parts of the state are likely to continue. Current observations also indicate that the likelihood of an El Nino have increased, with the ENSO Outlook being raised from El Nino Watch to El Nino Alert. In summary summer pasture growth in some areas has been good, but without follow up rain to build soil moisture stores, we may be looking at a false recovery situation.



Deer control a priority in the Hunter

Hunter Local Land Services Biosecurity team have removed nearly 2,000 more deer from the Upper Hunter, as the invasive species continues to impact farms and native habitats in the drought hit district. A targeted aerial program recently controlled 1938 Fallow and Red deer. The program was initiated after increasing reports from the community about the impacts of deer on farmland and deer even straying closer to urban areas. “Deer are very destructive, eating pastures and crops, damaging native habitats and now with the drought they are desperately in search of food and water,” said Biosecurity team leader Luke Booth. Hunter Local Land Services is prioritising our pest species control programs to assist drought affected landholders across our region. This year has been disastrous for many local producers, and reducing the number of feral species competing for limited feed and water supplies is crucial.” This brings the total number of pest animals controlled in the Upper Hunter through strategic aerial programs this year to more than 6730 animals, including 4235 deer and 2434 pigs. Murrurundi producer Mark Wylie said the program has had outstanding results. “Before the program it was nothing to go out at night and see mobs of 150-200 deer on my pasture, but the culling has dramatically reduced the numbers,” said Mark. “It’s astonishing to see the impact already, the

control programs have made a huge difference for us and now it’s important to keep the pressure up so the deer don’t rebuild in our area. We are also putting up an exclusion fence, and we just received a few showers of rain so it’s exciting to see some oats finally coming through, and not getting decimated by deer.” Hunter Local Land Services is now working on plans for follow up control programs in the district. “We know pest animals are one of the biggest concerns for local landholders regardless of the season, but the drought has really exacerbated these issues, and by undertaking targeted strategic programs in known hotspots we are getting some really good results,” said Luke. “This is the second aerial campaign in the Upper Hunter since winter and encouragingly we noticed deer had not returned in large numbers to the properties we had previously targeted. We urge all landholders to report sightings of deer to Local Land Services, as well as any other pest species impacting their livestock or properties, so we can continue to target these pest populations.” The NSW Government recently made changes to deer hunting rules in the state, lifting a number of regulations to help licenced hunters to assist farmers to manage the impacts of wild deer. Interested parties must register with the DPI Game Licensing Unit.



Saleyard report - cattle

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 27th November 2018

Consignments doubled, while the quality was mixed, with the majority in the penning entering the younger categories. There were approximately 112 cows offered, with most weights and grades represented. The market trend overall was close to firm, with breed and quality in places contributing to some price variations. Calves to the restockers sold from 86c to 300c/kg, depending on breed. The over 200kg vealer steers made from 250c to 308c, as the same weight heifer portion sold from 218c to 270c/kg. The medium weight yearling steers to the lot feeders fought to remain firm, in the end easing 5c to make from 266c to 289c/kg. Yearling heifers to the same orders made from 255c to 284c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers topped at 320c/kg. Cows sold to a mixed trend, with the plainer conditioned 1 scores decreasing 10c to be sold from 168c to 185c/kg. The better covered cows improved 6c, with the heavy weights making from 215c to 225c/kg. The best heavy weight bulls topped at 245c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Singleton

Last reported 21st November 2018

Numbers increased marginally and the quality remained fair to good. On average, there were heavier cattle, with greater percentages showing extra teeth. Vealers were reduced in number, as approximately 90 cows were in the penning. The usual buyers competed in a firm to dearer market. The medium weight vealer steers to the restocking orders increased 5c/kg, however average prices were lower due to greater percentages of the mixed breed presented at this sale. The popular breeds topped at 320c, averaging 284c/kg. The same weight vealer heifers, also to the restockers, lifted 15c, making from 230c to 276c/kg. Yearling steers to feed lifted 15c, with breed contributing in places, as prices for the medium weights sold from 252c to 314c/kg. Medium weight yearling heifers returning to the paddock gained 8c, as a pen of the popular breeds sold for 284c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers sold close to firm, with the higher yielding pens making approximately 324c/kg. The limited supply of grown steers to processors reached 274c, however the majority sold to the lot feeder orders at firm prices to average 261c and reach 270c/kg. The grown heifers to the processors trended dearer, making from 226c to 278c/kg. Cows maintained firm prices, with the plainer 1 and 2 fat scores receiving from 160c to 220c, depending on weight, while the better covered heavy weights made from 218c to 240c/kg, the latter for the high yielding C muscles.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 26th November 2018

Tamworth numbers increased, with young cattle numbers rising, while there were a few less cows offered. Quite a number of grain assisted cattle in both steer yearling and cow offerings came forward. Both these categories generally saw dearer trends. All the regular processors were present, along with restocker and backgrounder interest. Light veal to the trade saw dearer tends, although with only limited numbers. Yearling steers saw dearer trends of 6c to restocker and background interests, while feeders also saw increases of 6c/kg. Medium weight steers saw firm trends, however, the plainer drafts of that category saw decreases of 4c/kg. Heavy feeders sold to dearer trends of 3c, with the heavy trade steers seeing increases of 12c/kg. Secondary quality light heifers saw cheaper trends of 20c, however, background competition saw rising trends of 7c/kg, for the better types. Grown heifers saw cheaper trends of 15c/kg. All cow categories sold to dearer trends. Light cows sold to 18c better, with medium weights making over 20c/kg dearer. The best cows, some being grain assisted, sold to dearer trends of 5c to 13c/kg. A solid bull market saw the best bulls make 9c/kg better.

Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 27th November 2018

Despite some of the better rainfall seen across the drawing area for some time, numbers lifted by 2,090 head. Producers opting to offload in the hope of growing feed for remaining stock. Young cattle and cows made up the bulk of the offering. There were large numbers of yearlings and increased supplies of young calves. The overall quality of the offering was mixed, while condition was on the lower end of the spectrum for the most part. There were a few pens of better condition cattle that had been given access to a grain ration. The usual buyers attended and there was increased restocker activity. Market trends were mostly cheaper through the young cattle, with both the increased supplies and quality variations affecting price change. The quality of the young calves decreased significantly and this was reflected in prices. Light weight yearling steers to restockers sold to cheaper trends, with a large variation in both breed and quality. Medium weight yearling steers bought by feed lotters sold on a firm to slightly dearer market trend, while, despite strong competition, the heavy weight feeders sold to a slightly cheaper trend, again there was some quality related price change. The gap between the secondary and good quality yearling heifers was not as great as it has been, with increased restocker competition a contributing factor. The plainer quality heifers sold to dearer trends and substantially so in places. The better quality feeder heifers attracted less competition, with this resulting in cheaper trends. There were too few heavy grown steers to quote. Processor competition for well finished grown heifers was strong, with the market for 3 scores showing a dearer trend. The plainer condition cows sold on a primarily firm market trend, despite large numbers available. The well finished heavy weight cows sold to cheaper trends, with demand not as great. Overall, the quality of the 3 and 4 score cows was below the previous week.



Derby and Arc winner Sinndar dies aged 21

Sinndar, the winner of two Derbys and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at three, has died aged 21. He won seven of his eight starts including the Irish and Epsom Derbys in 2000 and capped his career with victory in the Arc for trainer John Oxx and his owner/breeder, the Aga Khan.

Sinndar was retired from stud duties at Haras d'Ouilly at the end of the 2017 breeding season.

"It is with great sadness that the Aga Khan Studs announce the passing of Sinndar at the age of 21," a statement on agakhanstuds.com said.

"A Group One winner at two and crowned European Champion Three-Year-Old in 2000, Sinndar remains the



only horse to have won the Derby, the Irish Derby and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at the age of three."

During his career at stud, Sinndar sired Group I winners Rosanara, Shareta, Shawanda and Youmzain, who was runner-up in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe for three consecutive years.

Sinndar's last crop of foals were born this year.



Windows 10 release date, features, devices and free upgrade: Microsoft resumes rollout of ill-fated October 2018 Update

Redmond makes version 1809 available for advanced users after fixing file-deletion bug

Windows 10 launched globally on 29 July 2015 and was touted as "the last version of Windows", marking the end of decades of occasional heavy duty OS updates in favour of a more incremental approach. Here's our round-up of everything you need to know about Windows 10. Microsoft resumes rollout of ill-fated October 2018 Update Microsoft has resumed the rollout of its October 2018 Update six weeks after it was first made available and subsequently pulled due to a number of serious flaws. Version 1809, released on 3 October, was pulled just a few days later after reports of incompatibility issues with drivers, reduced battery life, and a file-deletion bug. Subsequent testing by Windows Insiders uncovered a series of further glitches, including a ZIP file-deletion bug. The firm has assured users any document-deletion errors, in which entire folders were wiped in the most extreme cases, were resolved following extensive user-testing by Windows

Insiders, and data analysis from "millions of devices". "Based on this data, today we are beginning the re-release of the October Update by making it available via media and to advanced users who seek to manually check for updates," said Microsoft's partner director of program management John Cable. "As with all Windows releases, we will continue to carefully study the results, feedback and diagnostic data before we begin offering the update in phases to more devices in the coming weeks and months." With this year's April Update seeing a very quick rollout, Cable added, the company decided to take a more measured approach in releasing its October package to consumer and business users. Microsoft is advising users to wait for version 1809 to be made available to their machines as part of a phased approach, with the option still there to manually download via "Check for Updates". This is so the company can study device health data and release quick fixes. "For those advanced users seeking to install the update early by manually using

"Check for updates" in settings," Cable added, "know that we are slowly throttling up this availability, while we carefully monitor data and feedback." Microsoft says it can establish whether a user's device has any driver incompatibility issues prior to downloading the October Update, and automatically block installation until the issue is resolved. The company has also promised a status dashboard within the next year that will provide more information on any issues that lead to update blocks. The 30-month support lifecycle for the Education and Enterprise iterations of version 1809 will begin from 13 November, meanwhile, as will Windows 10 Pro's 18-month support lifecycle. Microsoft has also released several tools for enterprises including an assessment and deployment kit (Windows ADK) for large-scale Windows deployment, and a 90-day enterprise evaluation kit for users to test Windows 10 Enterprise in their environments. **01/11/2018: Windows 10 October Update fixes compressed file-deletion bug**

Microsoft has released a fix for a bug found in the Windows 10 October Update that led to users to inadvertently overwriting files when moving them from compressed folders. Redmond yesterday released a cumulative update to the maligned version 1809, currently just available for Windows Insiders, that fixed the compressed files bug, as well as a separate issue that caused roaming profiles to not work correctly. The bug affected the built-in ZIP tool in Windows File Explorer when users moved files from a compressed folder, to another folder containing files with the same name. A dialogue box asking users whether they wish to replace an identical file, skip, or compare information failed to show, and skipped these files by default. Because files would 'skip', cutting-and-pasting them meant users would have inadvertently deleted the files they had wished to move across. Users who copy-and-pasted compressed files could have been given the impression their files were seamlessly copied over, before subsequently deleting the compressed folder.

Windows 10 quick tips: some ways to speed up your PC

1. Change your power settings

If you're using Windows 10's Power saver plan, you're slowing down your PC. That plan reduces your PC's performance in order to save energy. (Even desktop PCs typically have a Power saver plan.) Changing your power plan from Power saver to High performance or Balanced will give you an instant performance boost. To do it, launch Control Panel, then select Hardware and Sound > Power Options. You'll typically see two options: Balanced (recommended) and Power saver. (Depending on your make and model, you might see other plans here as well, including some branded by the manufacturer.) To see the High performance setting, click the down arrow by Show additional plans. To change your power setting, simply choose the one you want, then exit Control Panel. High performance gives you the most oomph, but uses the most power; Balanced finds a median between power use and better performance; and Power saver does everything it can to give you as much battery life as possible. Desktop

users have no reason to choose Power saver, and even laptop users should consider the Balanced option when unplugged -- and High performance when connected to a power source. **2. Disable programs that run on startup** One reason your Windows 10 PC may feel sluggish is you've got too many programs running in the background -- programs that you may never use, or only rarely use. Stop them from running, and your PC will run more smoothly. Start by launching the Task Manager: Press Ctrl-Shift-Esc or right-click the lower-right corner of your screen and select Task Manager. If the Task Manager launches as a compact app with no tabs, click "More details" at the bottom of your screen. The Task Manager will then appear in all of its full-tabbed glory. There's plenty you can do with it, but we're going to focus only on killing unnecessary programs that run at startup. Click the Startup tab. You'll see a list of the programs and services that launch when you start Windows. Included on the list is each program's name as well as its publisher,

whether it's enabled to run on startup, and its "Startup impact," which is how much it slows down Windows 10 when the system starts up. To stop a program or service from launching at startup, right-click it and select "Disable." This doesn't disable the program entirely; it only prevents it from launching at startup -- you can always run the application after launch. Also, if you later decide you want it to launch at startup, you can just return to this area of the Task Manager, right-click the application and select "Enable." Many of the programs and services that run on startup may be familiar to you, like OneDrive or Evernote Clipper. But you may not recognize many of them. (Anyone who immediately knows what "bzbui.exe" is, please raise your hand. No fair Googling it first.) The Task Manager helps you get information about unfamiliar programs. Right-click an item and select Properties for more information about it, including its location on your hard disk, whether it has a digital signature, and other information such as the

version number, the file size and the last time it was modified. You can also right-click the item and select "Open file location." That opens File Explorer and takes it to the folder where the file is located, which may give you another clue about the program's purpose. Finally, and most helpfully, you can select "Search online" after you right-click. Bing will then launch with links to sites with information about the program or service. If you're really nervous about one of the listed applications, you can go to a site run by Reason Software called Should I Block It? and search for the file name. You'll usually find very solid information about the program or service. Now that you've selected all the programs that you want to disable at startup, the next time you restart your computer, the system will be a lot less concerned with unnecessary program.



OLD MAN AND THE GUN

OLD MAN AND THE GUN is based on the true story of Forrest Tucker (Robert Redford), from his audacious escape from San Quentin at the age of 70 to an unprecedented string of heists that confounded authorities and enchanted the public. Wrapped up in the pursuit are detective John Hunt (Casey Affleck), who becomes captivated with Forrest's commitment to his craft, and a woman (Sissy Spacek), who loves him in spite of his chosen profession.



'Old Man & the Gun' is vintage Robert Redford

There's a fine romantic buzz between Sissy Spacek and Robert Redford in "The Old Man & the Gun." It's quite fitting that what Robert Redford has been billing as his farewell to acting comes in the amiable crime comedy "The Old Man & the Gun." It feels both timeless and old-fashioned, genial and soft, safe and intensely enjoyable. Adapted from David Grann's delightful, novella-style 2003 New Yorker article, it's the somewhat-true story of Forrest Tucker, a gentleman bank robber and prison escape artist who enjoyed his calling long past a sensible retirement age. The story is set in the early '80s during one of Tucker's last crime sprees across the Southwest. What keeps Forrest going is that he's doing what he loves, which is what the movie is all about. He can't let go because his sneaky little make-believe dramas feed his ego. No one is hurt in any of his robberies. The staff at the banks he robs tell police afterward that the most important thing they recall about the magnetic Forrest is that he's remarkably polite. It's a view shared by Jewel (Sissy Spacek), a widow he meets while on a low-key getaway car chase and begins courting. He even develops an unlikely fan in John Hunt (Casey Affleck), a Texas detective who starts chasing Forrest around the country after his small-time heists fail to interest the FBI. Jewel and John both find Forrest admirable because who wouldn't? Writer/director David Lowrey, who directed

Redford in the 2016 Disney fantasy "Pete's Dragon," knows how to use his star's charm. Filming in period-appropriate small-town locations, Lowrey frames Redford in a story that has no violence but never feels passive. There are plenty of twists and turns in the plot to keep the story from being oppressively schematic. Spacek and Redford have a wonderful lightly romantic relationship here. There's a fine buzz between them when, in an early coffee shop date, Forrest tells Jewel he's a bank robber, and she laughs him off. He keeps to the story, both of them smiling as he talks her through the procedure. He explains that to talk to the teller, "You say, 'I wouldn't want you to go and get hurt, 'cause I like you, I like you a lot. So don't go breaking my heart now, OK?'" She's still not convinced, but such is the nature of movie-watching that you want him to commit more crimes with his sidekicks (Danny Glover and Tom Waits), whom the media dub "The Over the Hill Gang." Redford, 82 and sharp as a samurai sword, plays Forrest as a sly scalawag. He's no smash-and-grab hooligan, but a calm pro who executes his beloved con acts with craftsmanship, intelligence and integrity. It's hard to keep Redford entirely outside of his performance. Both the bank robber and the actor embrace a thoughtful step-by-step approach to their professions. Every cashier or bank manager gets a performance from Forrest. It's easy does it, nothing too forced, with no more

camouflage than an occasional mustache. He's a robber who can't be resisted because he underplays his part so meticulously. Further blurring the lines between the performer and the character, the film traces the path of Forrest's career through snippets of vintage footage and photos drawn from Redford's early days. As you look at those doctored images of the young matinee idol, the rising star and the legend, all edited to look like old mugshots, memories and family pictures, you can't help but recognize chapters of Redford's life story. His eyes still shine the exact same way. Lowrey focuses the camera on unexpected, random acts of moviemaking beauty along the way. There's a happy moment when our gaze leaves Forrest's big 1970s sedan straining to outrun the cops and follows a group of kids wandering down the street to whitewash a fence like characters in "Tom Sawyer." When attention snaps back to the not-quite-roaring chase, it's like we've witnessed a sneaky magic trick. None of this would work without the color and warmth of Redford and Spacek. Their timing is ideal for this sort of short-story comedy, and when they reach for moments that are caring, anxious or worrisome, it's well within their grasp. I hope Redford changes his mind and this is not his final moment in the limelight, but if it is, what a lovely swan song, what a gorgeous swan. **By Colin Covert** Star Tribune **★★★★★ out of 4 stars**



Critical incident investigation launched following single-vehicle crash – Cessnock
Thursday, 29 November 2018 03:59:49 PM
A critical incident investigation has been launched following a single-vehicle crash in Cessnock. During Thursday 29 November 2018, officers from Hunter Valley Police District were making inquiries to locate a 60-year-old man. About midday, it’s believed the man driving a Nissan Navara, saw police on Richmond Vale Road, Cessnock, and drove off at speed, before hitting a tree. Officers commenced CPR on the driver – and sole -occupant of the vehicle – until the arrival of NSW Ambulance paramedics, but he died at the scene. A crime scene was established and will be forensically examined by Crash Investigation Unit officers. Newcastle City Police District officers will investigate the circumstances surrounding the

incident. That investigation will be subject to an independent review and will be monitored by the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission. Anyone that has information that may assist is urged to come forward. A report will be prepared for the information of the Coroner.

Three charged with commercial drug supply – Cessnock
Friday, 23 November 2018 10:06:49 AM
Three people have been charged with commercial drug supply following a vehicle stop in the state’s Hunter Region yesterday. About 6.40pm (Thursday 22 November 2018), police approached a vehicle at the Freemans Waterhole rest area. The vehicle attempted to drive off, allegedly reversing into a police vehicle before coming to a stop. Officers from Hunter Valley Police District arrested the occupants of the vehicle, two women and one man. They were taken to Cessnock Police Station to be charged. A vehicle search was conducted and more than 250grams of methylamphetamine was seized. A 56-year-old woman and 46-year-old woman were charged with supply prohibited drug (commercial quantity). A 24-year-old man was charged with supply prohibited drug (commercial quantity), use offensive weapon to prevent lawful detention, resist arrest, possess prohibited drug and drive whilst unlicensed. All three were refused bail and appeared at Cessnock Local Court on Friday 23 November 2018.

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.

Strike Force Raptor charge Comanchero OMCG members over alleged extortion

Thursday, 29 November 2018 09:58:10 AM
Strike Force Raptor have charged five members and associates of the Comanchero outlaw motorcycle gang (OMCG) across the state’s west following an investigation into an alleged extortion attempt. In August, the Criminal Groups Squad’s Strike Force Raptor North commenced an investigation following reports a 51-year-old man had been seriously assaulted and his house set on fire as part of an alleged extortion. Following inquiries, Raptor North, with the assistance of officers from Orana Mid-Western Police District, Western Region Operational Support Group, and Hunter Valley Police District, executed 10 search warrants at properties across Mudgee, Dubbo, Gulgong, Yarrawonga, and Muswellbrook, just after 7am yesterday (Wednesday 28 November 2018). Investigators seized several items from these locations, including 14 firearms, of which three were allegedly stolen from a home in Ruse in December 2017, ammunition, prohibited drugs, mobile phones, and OMCG paraphernalia. A 37-year-old Putta Bucca man was charged with 16 firearms offences, robbery, and detain for advantage. He was refused bail to appeared at Mudgee Local Court on Thursday 29 November 2018. A 35-year-old Mudgee man was charged with demand money with menaces with intent to steal, assault occasioning actual bodily harm in company, and participate in criminal group contribute criminal activity. He was granted strict conditional bail and is due to appear at Mudgee Local Court on Wednesday 9 January 2019. A 32-year-old Mudgee man was charged with demand property with menaces with intent to steal, assault occasioning actual bodily harm in company of others, participate criminal group contribute criminal activity, and unsafe storage of ammunition. He was granted strict conditional bail and is due to appear at Mudgee Local Court on Wednesday 9 January 2019. His firearms licence was also suspended.


Police will allege in court the men, all members of the Comanchero OMCG, assaulted the man after demanding a large amount of cash in July 2018. A 47-year-old Muscle Creek man was charged with possess ammunition without holding licence/ permit and acquire ammunition subject to prohibition order. He was granted strict conditional bail and is due to appear at Muswellbrook Local Court on Monday 7 January 2019. A 27-year-old Dubbo man was charged with possess prohibited drug. He was granted conditional bail and is due to appear at Dubbo Local Court on Wednesday 23 January 2019. Criminal Groups Squad Commander, Detective Superintendent Deborah Wallace, praised the work of officers. “Strike Force Raptor is relentless in its pursuit to disrupt the activities of OMCG members that pose a risk to the community at large,” Det Supt Wallace said. “We will not tolerate any form of thuggery and will continue to knock on their doors and put them in the back of police cars until these criminal groups are dismantled. “Anyone in the community who has information on organised criminal activity across the state, we want to hear from you.” Investigations are continuing. Strike Force Raptor was established in 2009 and conducts proactive investigations and Intelligence-based, high-impact policing operations to prevent and disrupt conflicts, and dismantle any network engaged in serious organised criminal activity.

Anyone with information, including relevant photos and videos, that may assist Strike Force Raptor can report it directly to investigators via the Strike Force Raptor online reporting page: <https://www1.police.nsw.gov.au/Default.aspx?id=49> or call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. Information provided to investigators will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

The common factor in rugby league atrocities is plain to see By Peter FitzSimons

But, I repeat, who actually thinks it is a real problem for the NRL, more than it is for the rest of society? Thank you. I can report not a single hand has gone up. But grog is, and it is getting worse. Sometime soon the league must act to protect the game, to protect the players, and most importantly of all to protect vulnerable women and men who cross the paths of drunken league players. Seriously, is it not time for the NRL to shout this from the rooftops, to hand out booklets to every player on their roster, listing all the players they’ve ever had who have completely destroyed their lives by shocking decisions taken while drunk? I know, I know, “education programs” sounds so damn earnest, and so damn DULL, that I can already hear the groaning. But, find a way to make it interesting and compelling. Get NRL Commissioner Wayne Pearce on the road – a man’s man like they don’t make them any more, who has never drunk – going from club to club saying it is quite possible to be respected in league while being a teetotaler. And he can take with him some of the players above, who used to have it all, right up until the point they blew it all away on a drunken Saturday night. The NRL has a duty of care to their players to do something of this kind, and a duty of care to protect the public from their players. If it is not obvious by now, just what will it take?



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Do you REMEMBER when....

The news Issue No. 42 6th May 1999 Page 40

Local greyhound owners show excellent results



Above: Kenny Cheetham (centre front) holding champion greyhound, 'John's Fury' with owner Dave Cornes (far right) & Freddy Robinson (far left). Ian Darcy is standing next to Dave. Belinda Green from 'Dollar Save Pet & Produce' is next to Ken.

Local Branxton butcher & greyhound owner Dave Cornes has taken out the '1999 Singleton Gold Cup' with his champion dog 'John's Fury'. In winning the final, run on Monday 26th April & starting at 2/1on, 'Johns Fury' went very close to breaking his own track record which he had set by winning his heat for the 'Gold Cup' the previous Monday Night. In accepting the trophy Dave gave full credit to his trainer Ken Cheetham for having his dog superbly turned out for the final. David also thanked the sponsors Dollar Save Pet & Produce of Warners Bay who had so generously supported the Singleton Club. Dave & Ken also combined to win, in the best time of the night, the 'Best Eight' with Dave's dog 'Nurswa'. Sue Smith of Branxton had the second place with her dog 'Ninjutsu'. Sue also had a very successful night taking out the 'Jason Croese Superfecta' with her bitch 'Solitary Miss', second with 'Soshihan' & third with 'Russe's Rebel'. It is great to see our local owners & trainers doing so well ~ may their efforts be continually rewarded!!



Above: Dave proudly holding the trophy won by 'John's Fury'.

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Merry entertainment is on Santa's list for an even bigger and better Christmas

The decorations are going up as Singleton prepares for the Hunter's biggest community Christmas party with Christmas on John Street to have jingle bells ringing on Friday 7 December 2019. A big night of entertainment, music, food and fireworks is on everyone's list, and Santa will be checking it twice with free photos at a special "Santa's grotto" in a new addition to the program for this year. The big unwrapping of Riverside Park at 4.30pm will kick off the merriment. Then the Singleton Town Band will lead a procession to the live stage area (featuring performances by St Catherine's School choir, dance groups and local bands) roving performers, market stalls, food trucks and children's entertainment including a jumping castle, face painting, animals from Oakvale Farm and activities by Singleton Youth Venue and OOSH as the event gets underway at 5pm. Fireworks will have everything merry and bright to cap off the night at 8.30pm. Road closures will be in place to facilitate the event at:


- John Street between York Street and William Street
- Pitt Street between John Street and Laurel Lane
- Castlereagh Street between John Street and Laurel Lane
- Burns Lane between John Street and the mall access road
- John Street between William Street and Elizabeth Street – for 15 minutes from 5pm to 5.30pm



Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore and General Manager Jason Linnane check out the decorations ahead of Christmas on John Street.


Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said Christmas on John Street was one of the highlights of the year. "I'd go so far to say there isn't any other community Christmas party that can match the spirit of Singleton," she said. "It's often hard to build on successful events, but Council's events team has outdone itself this year with some fabulous new initiatives including free Santa photos at Santa's grotto near Pitt Street – thanks of course to the Rotary Club of Singleton. "I love seeing people come out for Christmas on John Street, and especially the smiles on everyone's faces. It's a great occasion for people to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year, as well as everything that's great about Singleton." General Manager Jason Linnane said events such as Christmas on John Street epitomised Council's role in the community. "People told us they wanted a community that is vibrant and connected and nothing demonstrates that better than Christmas on John Street," he said.

Greta Museum



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Knights and Sharks in pre-season hitout at no 1 Sportsground



Sharks and Maitland City Council. Maitland Mayor Loretta Baker says, ‘We had a wonderful time in February this year when we hosted the Knights to launch the new Maitland No.1 Sportsground. It was an easy decision to invite the team back and work with the Knights again to bring first class rugby league to Maitland. ‘February’s game had a fantastic community feel about the occasion. We’re very excited to host the game and I’m hoping local fans come out in numbers to

support our very own Hunter based team and the Sharks.’ The Knights have made steady improvements in the last few years, recruiting well and building a solid platform to launch another tilt at the NRL Premiership. Expectations are high around the club and supporters are looking forward to some stand out performances from the team across the 2019 season. For the Sharks, their biggest challenge in 2018 was keeping their key players on the field, but if they can turn this around then another solid run into the finals could be on the cards for the 2019 season. Locals

can expect to see some of the competition’s biggest stars take the field at No. 1 in what will be a blockbuster pre-season match. Knights CEO Philip Gardner said ‘Last year the Knights played a trial in Maitland and attracted a sell out crowd. When the opportunity to venture out there in 2019 was presented, we jumped at it. ‘The people of Maitland love their rugby league and with a host of new recruits joining the Club this season, this trial match will be a great opportunity for our fans to see those players in action before the season proper’.

General sale tickets for the match will go on sale at 10.00am on Monday 3 December and can be purchased online at maitlandevents.com.au or over the counter at the Maitland Visitor Information Centre. Tickets are \$20 for grandstand seating, while general admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Kids tickets cannot be purchased separately and will need to be bought with adult tickets. Follow Maitland City Council on Facebook for more information leading up to the event.

Some of the National Rugby League’s finest will face off against each other as Maitland welcomes back the Newcastle Knights as they take on the Cronulla

Sharks at Maitland No. 1 Sportsground on Saturday 2 March 2019. The nib Newcastle Knights and Cronulla Sharks will battle it out in front of local

footy fans, thanks to a partnership between the Hunter based club, Cronulla

excited to host the game and I’m hoping local fans come out in numbers to

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Branxton Lady Golfers

14 November 2018 – 3 clubs and a putter

Winner: Kerrie O’Connell with 38 points
Runner-up: Carol Miller with 33 points
Nearest to the pin: Trish McMillan – 2m
21 November 2018 - Stableford
Winner: Kerrie O’Connell on 33 points
Runner-up: Trish McMillan on 32 points
Nearest to the pin: Carol Miller

Hunter Valley Golf Club

Sunday 17th November The Weekly Challenge has been won by Stroud GC's Brant Job with 43 points from sibling Dean Job in 2nd with 42 points, Brad Hoolahan claimed 3rd with 37 points. No other details have been released at this time.
Tuesday 20th November American Stableford was played for the first time on a Tuesday with Mark Makin taking top spot on countback after he and Arthur Cuttriss both returned 60 points, 3rd went to Anthony Mudd with 59 also on countback. Ball winners were: Col Bradley 59, Brad Hoolahan 59, Bryan Stevenson 59, Rick Turmchini 58, Chris Taggart 57, Paul Nuess 55, Brendan Connor 55, Dan Taylor 54 and Gary Arnold 54 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Kane Stevens (3rd) David Peel (10th) and Mark Makin (17th)
Wednesday 21st November The Ladies American Stableford event has gone to Robyn Dunlop with 60 points from Melita Watson 58 with Jill Ramsden 3rd with 54 points. Ball winners were: Molly Hamilton

53, Sue Peel 53 and Brenda Mannix 52. Next week the Ladies will play individual Stableford
Thursday 22nd November Tough wind conditions greeted the Vets field but did not take the edge of the scoring with many handing in below Par cards in the American Stableford event. Rex Talbot did best with 60 points from Wayne Burgess 56 and Michael Watson in 3rd with 55 on countback. Ball winners were: Steve Piggott 55, Ken Wright 55, John Pascoe 54, John Harrison 54, Peter Munro 53, David Blackburn 53, Bruce Chambers 53, David Peel 53 and John Carmody 51. Nearest-the-Pins went to John Harrison (3rd) Bruce Chambers (8th) and John Carmody (10th & 17th). The raffle was won by Steve Rawlings. Next week the Vets will play a 4 Person Ambrose.
Saturday 24th November To round out 'Thanksgiving' the Saturday field also played American Stableford with A Grade going to Wayne Barber with 58 points from Glenn Mann 57on countback, B Grade to Michael Stewart with 57 from John Parish 56 and C Grade to Kevin Smith with 55 points from Dean Blair 54. Ball winners were: David Matt 57, Steve Piggott 57, Ken Harris 56, Adrian Kent 55, Shawn Parish 55, Wayne Hedley v54, Andrew Edwards v54, Phil Randall v53, Peter Milas 53, Chris Lawson 53, Scott Jones 53, David Peel 53 and Luke Johnston 53 c/b. Nearest-the_pins went to Garry Marsden (3rd) Mathew Delforce (4th) Steve Piggott (10th) and Luke Johnston (17th). Next week's event will be Monthly Stroke rounds.
Sunday 25th November Justin Ely has won the Weekly Challenge with 39 points on countback to Ashley Cameron of the Waratah GC in 2nd spot also on countback. Ball winners were: Grant Edwards v39, Craig Smith 38 and Nathan Pearson 37 c/b
Tuesday 27th November Geoff Grayson from Maclean GC found the course to his liking with a solid 43 point return to win the Tuesday Stableford from Col Bradley with 40 points on countback to Gary Arnold

in 3rd. Ball winners were: Peter Payne 38, Garry Clarke 38, Chris Taggart 38, David Peel 37, Ian Newell 37, Michael Watson 36 and Garry Marsden 36 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Gary Arnold (3rd) Col Bradley (4th) & David Peel (10th)
Wednesday 28th November The much needed rain wiped out the Ladies comp this week, they will resume next Wednesday with the Christmas Dress up Dropout Ambrose with an 8:30 Shotgun
Thursday 29th November The Vets 4 Person Ambrose has been won by the team of Ken Harris, Wayne Barber, Dean Morison & John Carmody with 57 net, from the team of John Stewart, Graeme Flynn, Paul Smith & Rex Talbot with 58 net. Ball winners were: Kevin Smith, David Peel, Ken Wright & Bruce Chambers with 58 1/2 and John Pascoe, Steve Rawlings & Greg Amlöh with 58 5/6. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ian Newell (3rd) David Peel (4th) Graeme Flynn (8th) Wayne Barber (10th) & Wayne Drayton (17th). The raffle has been won by Greg Ireland. Next week the Vets will play a Medley Irish Stableford.
Saturday 1st December Excellent scoring featured in the Monthly Stroke rounds with Andrew Zok leading the way in A Grade with 66 net from Angello Wood with 68, B Grade to Lachlan Peacock with 65 from Nick Looby 69 on countback and C Grade and the Mug to Kevin Smith with 65 net c/b with Peter Milas 2nd with 69 on countback . Ball winners were: John Stewart 69, Michael Hughes 70, David Peel 70, Kerrie-Anne Skinner 71, Adam Pratten 71, Colin Hinshelwood 71, Wayne Barber 72, Wayne Drayton 72 and Bruce Chambers 72 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Simon Nicholson (3rd) John Stewart (4th & 17th) and Ken Harris (10th). Next week will be a Medley Stableford.
Branxton Veteran Golfers
Results 22-11-18
Stableford
Div 1 Winner B Turner 29 pts
R/u R Crooks 28 pts
3rd J Sheedy 27 pts
Div 2 Winner S Condran 31 pts (SOD)
R/u R McMillan 30 pts
3rd R Hebbe 29 pts
Ladies Winner
C Hocking 27 pts
R/u M Hunt 22 pts
3rd T Martin 21 pts
NTPs Ladies T Martin
Gents E Barrett
Members draw - Not won
Results 29-11-18
Stableford
(9 holes)
1st M Ford 20 pts
2nd T Martin 19 pts
(c/b)
3rd R Caldwell 19 pts
(c/b)
4th G Gazzard 19 pts
(c/b)
5th P Tracey 19 pts
The recent rain cleared and the weather for to-day’s event, initially cloudy, cleared to a warm pleasant day, ideal for playing golf. Congratulations to Mike Ford on winning to-day’s activity, from a very tight place field. A well done to the placegetters.
LN Bootes, Hon Sec

single 2nd Robert Brooks 37 pts
single 3rd Greg Gillard 36 pts
single 4th Barry Turner 35 pts c/b
single 5th John Martin 35 pts
single 6th Reece Caldwell 35 pts c/b
ntp’s
2nd/11th 4th 9th 13th
D Hollis S Kearney E Garland K Mather
longest drives
a grade b grade c grade ladies
C Fletcher R Yandle T Partridge K O’Connell

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Mindfulness and Eating

“Mindfulness isn’t difficult. We just need to remember to do it” – Sharon Salzberg

One thing we all sometimes get hung up on is food. Am I eating too much? Am I eating too much of the wrong thing? Should I cut out sugar, or bread, or potato? Maybe I should eat a high protein diet? Or be a vegan?

As the summer holidays and Christmas approach you often face an inevitable glut of food. If you are “lucky” you will have established good healthy eating habits through the year. Inevitably though, if your habits are not rock solid, this is the time of year your good eating intentions will go out the window. You will tell yourself that you will “start the diet in January” and eat until you feel like you are going to explode. You will eat breakfast, lunch and dinner – not to mention morning tea and afternoon tea - as though you are never going to have a delicious meal again. But it doesn’t have to be that way!
One thing I do with all my Fit for Life clients is encourage them to have a healthy relationship with food. Food is not "bad" or "good", it is just food. Some food does good things for your body, some food does bad things. Food itself is neither bad or good. And of course, like most things in life, some food is better for you when taken in moderation, or not at all.

When do you Eat?

Do you eat when you are stressed? Do you eat your breakfast in the car on your way to work, or worse still do you skip breakfast? How about lunch? When you are at work do you take time to go to the lunch room and eat, or are you "too busy" at work so you stay at your desk during your lunch break? Maybe that is the culture in your workplace, and anyone who is seen to be doing otherwise is thought to be not pulling their weight? If you work from home do you take the time to sit down and eat your lunch each day or do you graze straight from the fridge?
Taking notice of when you eat is important, as the time between meals can affect how much you eat and what you eat. Leave it too long and you are likely to overeat, or make poor decisions about what you eat.

How do you Eat?

Do you scoff your food as an afterthought, as if eating is a necessary evil that you just want to get over and done with? Or do you take time to sit down and enjoy the food that you have prepared, or which you are fortunate enough to have enough money to buy? Do you eat your take away food straight out of the plastic container, or do you put it on a plate and eat it sitting at the dinner table?
How many times have you seen someone walking around a shopping centre eating a donut or hot chips straight out of the bag, rather than sitting down and enjoying them?

What is Mindful eating?

Mindfulness is the act of paying attention. It is about knowing where our attention is and being able to direct it back to the “here and now”. Mindfulness can help you reduce stress and anxiety, and help you take control of your thoughts and actions. Practicing mindfulness while you are doing simple every day tasks, such as eating, can help you slow down and pay attention to what you are doing. As well as helping you focus on the “here and now”, mindful eating can help your brain acknowledge that food has entered your stomach.

Over Christmas

Take some time to try the following two exercises, taken from "Mindfulness - A Practical Guide to Finding Peace in a Frantic World" by Mark Williams and Danny Penman.
Preparing food: Any food preparation is an opportunity to practice mindfulness. Vision, hearing, taste, smell, touch. Focus on the feel of your knife as it slices through vegetables of different texture, or the smell released as each vegetable is cut,
Eating: Try having part of a meal in silence or without the distraction of a TV or the radio, or your phone! Really focus on the food. Colours, shapes, perhaps thinking about how this food came to you, the sensations of eating. See how easily you taste the first mouthful. How about the second? What does the fourth mouthful taste like?

The Chocolate Meditation:

Personally I love this practice. It sounds easy but I found it very hard to do the first couple of times I tried it! It is also worthwhile trying it with other types of food. Choose some chocolate - Either a type you've never tried before, or one that you have not eaten recently. It might be dark and flavoursome, organic or fair-trade or, perhaps, cheap and trashy. The important thing is to choose a type you wouldn't normally eat or that you consume only rarely. Here goes:

- Open the packet. Inhale the aroma. Let it sweep over you.
- Break off a piece and look at it. Really let your eyes drink in what it looks like, examining every nook and cranny.
- Pop it in your mouth. See if it's possible to hold it on your tongue and let it melt, noticing any tendency to suck at it. Chocolate has over 300 different flavours. See if you can sense some of them.
- If you notice your mind wandering while you do this, simply notice where it went, then gently escort it back to the present moment.
- After the chocolate has completely melted, swallow it very slowly and deliberately. Let it trickle down your throat.
- Repeat this with one other piece.

How do you feel? Is it different from normal? Did the chocolate taste better than if you'd just eaten it at a normal breakneck pace? Do you feel fuller than normal, more satisfied?
Initially the Chocolate Meditation sounds a little frivolous and self-indulgent. While it is certainly enjoyable, it also has a deeper value. It helps you reconnect with your senses, which is of vital importance in our fast-paced and frantic world. And you can do this practice with all of you snacks and meals - really taste them, be aware of what you have in your mouth, and focus on what you are doing. Reflect on where and when you are eating, and why.
What else is happening at Louise Cairns Fit for Life?
I am building up my training for my next ultra marathon which will be on the south island of New Zealand in February next year. As I am writing this I have only about 12 weeks of training left for this 85km event!

The news Issue No 72 3rd August 2000 P. 40

Bridgette to Star

Australian Women’s Soccer Team member Bridgette Starr, from North Rothbury, has been once again selected to represent Australia at this years Olympic Games.

The very first event at this years games will see Australia take on Germany. The game will be played two days before the Opening Ceremony.

Bridgette has been based at the AIS since June 1998.

She was working for Australia Post but had to give up work in order to train 6 days a week.

She has sacrificed her working career, close family life & and the companionship of close friends in this area in order to achieve her goal; competing in the Olympics.

In order to be at her very best Bridgette is on a reasonably controlled diet & trains 6 days a week (*Gym, Aerobics, Ball skills, Fitness Testing, Speed and Agility*).

Nestles and Dieticians at the AIS have produced a cook book (*Survival for the Fittest*) of foods the athletes eat. This is a fundraiser for ‘The Matildas’ and \$10 of the \$20 sale price goes to the girls. If you would like to help Bridgette they will be on sale tomorrow, Friday, outside the Branxton Supermarket.

Bridgette started playing soccer at 11 years of age with Branxton - Greta and was the only girl in the team. She has been in the Australian Women's side since she was 16 years old and has travelled to places such as America, China, Japan, England, Ireland, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Denmark, Portugal, North Korea and more. She is passionate about the game and although she has made huge sacrifices, playing for Australia at the Olympics make it all worthwhile.

We wish her all the best at the coming games.

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NewSPORT

Local Cricket Results



with Mark Bercini

Cricket Report - Week 7

Week 7 of District Cricket saw wins to First, Second and Fourth grades, with Third Grade Blue going down and Third Grade White having the bye.

First grade made a massive target look very easy in their 7-wicket victory over Wine Country at Miller 1. The Wood Ducks posted a very healthy 9-256 from their forty overs batting first, with Jake Goodyer (4-59 off 7), Martin Shearer (2-46 off 10) and Pat Andrews (2-39 off 8) picking up the wickets. Greta/Branxton were 1-1 in the very first over in reply,

but co-skipper Nathan Holz steadied a shaky ship with 55 off just 37 balls to continue his stellar form with the blade this season. His dismissal brought the unpredictable Brett Bridge to the crease, and he continued on where Holz left off, smashing 16 boundaries and clearing the fence 4 times, bringing up his maiden top-grade century off a record 46 balls. The text book was thrown out the window, with slog sweeps, reverse sweeps and ramp strokes featuring in an innings that had to be seen to be believed.

He was eventually out for 120 in a match-winning knock. Other co-skipper Joey Butler also continued his good season form with an anchor-role 68no. The Second Grade batsmen also got amongst it in their match against Wine Country at Allandale. They posted their season high total of 5-230, with skipper and opener Trent Fuller scoring his personal career best score of 89no, unfortunately running out of overs to post his maiden century. It was a fine knock, as too was the youthful Connor Thomson's, as he also remained unbeaten at the crease on 73. Anthony Brunson was the



First grade batsman Brett Bridge after his record breaking century off just 46 balls against Wine Country at Miller Park

other main contributor with 23. Wine Country were all out for 158 in reply, with Brunson capping a fine all-round game with 6-15 off 7.3. Veteran Paul Walking also bowled a tidy spell with 2-31 off 8. Third Grade Blue slumped to their fourth straight defeat, this time by 4 wickets at the hands of Wine Country at Jeffery Park. Batting first the Blues posted a competitive 174, with James Shoulder junior smashing an unbeaten 75. He was well supported by Andrew Wright (29), Mal Hedger (19), Matt Lahey (15), and Murray Wilkinson

6) and Sam Hines (3-35 off 8.2) doing the damage. Greta/Branxton took just 13 overs to reel in the target, with Blake Campbell (60no) and Luke Whitaker (30) getting the job done. **Cricket Report - Week 8** Week 8 of District Cricket saw Greta/Branxton claim wins in First, Third Blue and Fourth grades, with Second and Third grade White facing hefty defeats. The First Grade juggernaut continued at Miller 1, with Greta/Branxton making it seven wins on the trot to hold a handy 7-point buffer at the top of the ladder. Sent it to

bat by Supporters, Greta/Branxton managed a healthy 214, with Josh Dagg noodling them around nicely for 66. Darren Thomson timed the ball crisply for 56, Cluffy Newling made 19 in a cameo appearance, while Patrick Andrews (16no) showed up his old man Greg (14). The match appeared evenly balanced at the drinks interval in reply, with Supporters 4-97. But introduced into the attack for the first time of the day, Martin Shearer quickly swung the momentum back in Greta/Branxton's favour with two wickets in his very first over. He was on a hat-trick on two occasions throughout his spell, unfortunately not achieving the rare feat. It was only fitting that he knocked over the last Supporters batsman to finish with 6-36 off 7. Thomson was the other main wicket taker with 3-35 off 10 straight overs in a fine all-round display. Second Grade are locked in a three-way tie for second place at the moment following their 7-wicket loss to Supporters at Baddeley 1. Greta/Branxton managed just 133 batting first, with plenty of batsmen making starts without pushing on. Connor Thomson continued his recent great form with 37, with James Shoulders snr

(20), Anthony Brunson (16), Trent Fuller (14) and Dylan Lipscombe (13) all contributing. Supporters had little trouble reeling in the target in reply, reaching it in the 19th over after losing three wickets. These all belonged to Thomson (3-16 off 6) who like his first grade namesake also completed a fine all-round game. Third Grade Blue broke a four-game losing streak when they trounced Laguna by 190 runs at Laguna. Greta/Branxton amassed 6-276 from their forty overs, with Andrew Wright (102) smashing seventeen boundaries and clearing the fence twice to add to the already healthy list of club centurions this year. He received great support from Ryan O'Donnell who remained unbeaten on 77, with skipper Craig Gillings (34no), Ben Lahey (22) and Sean Wright (18) all keeping the scoreboard ticking over. Laguna were skittled for just 86 in reply, with veteran and club life member Steve Wilkinson (4-7 off 3) and nephew Ayden Wilkinson (2-15 off 6) taking wickets at regular intervals. In complete contrast, Third Grade White broke a four-game winning streak when they were humbled by 10-wickets at the hands of Bellbird at Carmichael 2. Greta/Branxton managed just 85 batting first, with 10-year-old Noah McNamara showing his much older team mates how it's done with 26. Steve Daunt (12no) and Cade Bradley (11) were the only other batsman to reach double figures. Bellbird reached the target in just the

10th over without dropping a wicket. Fourth grade are also sailing along nicely, winning their fifth straight game when they defeated Peden's Hotel Blue by 6 wickets at Miller 2. Peden's batted their forty overs for 9-115, with Sam Hines (3-28 off 10), Correy Stone (3-26 off 10), Doug Engel (2-19 off 8) and Daniel McCann (1-34 off 10) sharing the wickets. Greta/Branxton wasted no time achieving the target in the 17th over after losing four wickets. Blake Campbell led the way at the top of the order with 41, with Luke Whitaker (34no) and Seamus Keegan (17) getting the job done.

Points Tables

First Grade Greta/Branxton 52, Mulbring 45, Bellbird 41, Wine Country 33, Supporters 31, Peden's Hotel 30.

Second Grade Bellbird 49, Chelmsford Hotel 41, Greta/Branxton 41, Peden's Hotel 41, Supporters 33, Wine Country 29.

Third Grade Bellbird 42, Greta/Branxton White 39, Mulbring 38, Wine Country 37, Greta/Branxton Blue 30, Laguna 27.

Fourth Grade Chelmsford Hotel 53, Greta/Branxton 49, Bellbird 45, Cessnock Hotel 35, Peden's Hotel White 33, Wine Country 31, Peden's Hotel Blue 27, Supporters 21.

Club Championship Greta/Branxton 398.18, Bellbird 397.52, Wine Country 292.40, Peden's Hotel 247.05, Supporters 241.38, Mulbring 234.50.



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