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WEDNESDAY
19 December 2018

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Members say...



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Well Done Not So Well Done



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School NEWS



Welcome Rev. Nicole Baldwin

ON Friday evening, 7th December 2018, a commissioning service was held at St John's Anglican Church in Branxton to install & welcome their new Parish Priest for Branxton Greta Lochinvar, Rev. Nicole Baldwin.

Special guests, including Rev. Nicole's mother, visitors & the parish congregation filled the church to overflowing. It is the practice in the Anglican Church that a member of the clergy receives a licence from the Bishop to undertake their ministry. The licence confirms the priests

authority and ongoing relationship with the Bishop & before receiving their licence, the priest makes oaths and affirmations confirming their commitment to observe the doctrine & order of the Anglican Church of Australia, to exercise canonical obedience to the Bishop and to abide by the code of conduct for clergy & church workers.

After the commissioning service & Holy Communion the special guests, invited clergy, visitors & congregation enjoyed

a beautiful supper provided by the parish. Rev. Nicole was born in Sydney & grew up on farms in the Taree & Cundletown areas. As a 16 year old she completed an international student exchange program for 12 months in Basile Louisiana USA & during that year she discovered that she felt 'at home' in a church & has taken that to be ordained an Anglican priest.

In her free time she enjoys movies, walking, spending time with friends & enjoying my daughters company

"I have two daughters who are growing into beautiful, passionate & independent young women.

"Both Catherine & Rebecca support me as I follow God's call and they encourage me to remember that God has a plan for each of our lives," said Rev. Nicole.

"I am passionate about sharing the Gospel with people of all ages & have a special passion for teaching Scripture in schools & being involved in youth & childrens' ministries.

"I love being able to minister in my community and with my community. "I believe that reaching out to the wider community & building relationships is critical to our Christian witness & I am honoured and excited to be a part of this wonderful congregation and the families that call it home."

"Most of my time will be given to serving. I will be called upon to help to make the wheels run smoothly and try continuously to bring the greatest good to the largest number of my congregation," said Rev. Nicole.

■ At Right: (L-R): the newly commissioned Parish Priest the Rev, Nicole Baldwin, The Bishop of Newcastle, the Rt Rev'd Dr. Peter Stuart & the Assistant Bishop Venerable Canon Sonia Roulston.



CONT. PAGE 3



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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





**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS
HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS 2018/19**

Council offices and facilities will be closed between Christmas and the New Year. In case of an emergency phone 4993 4100. The following arrangements will apply over the holiday period:

Administration Centre, Vincent Street, Cessnock

- Closed from 12.00pm, Friday 21 December 2018 until 9.00am Wednesday 2 January 2019.

Libraries at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri

- Closed from 12.00pm, Friday 21 December 2018 until 9.00am until Wednesday 2 January 2019.

Swimming Pools at Cessnock and Branxton

- Pools will close at 12.00pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Closed Christmas Day only. On Public Holidays, pools will be open from 7.00am to 6.00pm.

Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre

- Christmas Eve open 5.30am to 12 noon
- Closed on Christmas Day
- Boxing Day open 10.00am to 4.00pm
- New Year's Eve open 5.30am to 12 noon
- New Year's Day open 10.00am to 4.00pm

Cessnock Waste Management Centre

- Closed Christmas Day only, open as normal on other Public Holidays.

Greta Transfer Station

- Closed Christmas Day only, open as normal on other Public Holidays.

Kerbside Collections

There will be no waste collection on Christmas day Tuesday 25 December 2018. Collection operations will be one (1) day behind, with Tuesday's collections being completed on Wednesday and Wednesday's on Thursday, etc resulting in Friday's collections being carried out on Saturday 29 December 2018. Normal collection service will resume from Monday 31 December 2018.

Ranger Services

- A Ranger will be on-call during the Christmas period. In an emergency please call the Police.

Cessnock Performing Arts Centre

- Closed from 12.00pm, Friday 21 December 2018 until 9.00am on Monday 7 January 2019.

Hunter Valley Visitors Centre

- Closed Christmas Day only, Public Holidays 9.00am – 4.00pm. All other days normal.

Cessnock Airport

For all enquiries regarding Cessnock Airport please contact the Airport Operations Co-Ordinator on 0401 107 557.

**Cessnock City Council wishes all in our community
a safe and happy holiday season.**

**DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS
"NOMINATED INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENTS"**

PROPOSAL: Proposed Construction Of Eight (8) Water Reservoirs And Associated Works

LAND: LOT: 471 DP: 1201681 57 Washery Road NORTH ROTHBURY and adjoining Crown Road Reserve

APPLICANT: Huntlee Pty Ltd

APPLICATION NO.: 8/2018/853/1

CONSENT AUTHORITY: Cessnock City Council.

The proposal is also defined as "Nominated Integrated Development". This means that additional approvals, required under other legislation, are being considered as part of the current Development Application. The other approvals are as follows:

| Type of Approval | Approval Agency |
|---------------------------|--|
| Water Management Act 2000 | Department of Primary Industries - Water |

**DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS
"NOMINATED INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENTS" CONTINUED**

PROPOSAL: Subdivision of Land to Create Twelve (12) Lots, Road Construction and Associated Works

LAND: LOT: 104 DP: 1245920, LOT: 103 DP: 1245920, 1432 and 1434 Wine Country Drive ROTHBURY

APPLICANT: Mr A Currall

APPLICATION NO.: 8/2018/862/1

CONSENT AUTHORITY: Cessnock City Council.

The proposal is also defined as "Nominated Integrated Development". This means that additional approvals, required under other legislation, are being considered as part of the current Development Application. The other approvals are as follows:

| Type of Approval | Approval Agency |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Rural Fires Act 1997 – Section 100B | NSW Rural Fire Service |
| Water Management Act 2000 | Department of Primary Industries - Water |

Council is in receipt of Applications for the abovementioned properties. For your convenience a locality map and details of the development proposals, as specified above, can be viewed utilising Council's online enquiry system, called 'Application Tracker'. 'Application Tracker' can be accessed through Council's website on <http://datracker.cessnock.nsw.gov.au> and using the above application numbers and then clicking on the 'Documents' view link; or alternatively:

- utilising free internet at either Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries to view electronic documents; or
- inspecting hardcopy documents at Council's Customer Service Counter, between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Before determining the Applications, Council is inviting the public to make a submission/s in relation to the proposal/s. **The notification period commences on 12 December 2018 and will conclude on 5 February 2019.**

Where a submission/s is made by way of an objection, the objection must be in writing and the grounds for objection must be clearly specified. The views expressed in written submissions will be considered by Council before a determination is/are made. All comments or objections should be made by utilising Council's 'Application Tracker' 'Make a Submission' link which is located under the 'Exhibition Details/Make a Submission' Tab. Once you have submitted your submission/s you will automatically receive a confirmation and copy of your submission/s via reply email.

During the notification period, any person may make a written submission/s in relation to the Development Applications. **Submissions are NOT kept confidential.** Council releases submissions when a request is made in accordance with Privacy Laws and the relevant provisions under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009. When a submission/s is released by law, Council routinely withholds contact numbers, email addresses and signatures. **Should you wish for all personal details or any information that may identify you to be withheld from the public, please advise Council of this in your submission/s.**

Should you intend to make a submission/s to Council your attention is drawn to your statutory obligations under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 regarding disclosure of political donations and gifts. You are required to complete a Political Donation and Gifts Declaration if you or an associate made any political donations or gifts to a Councillor or Council employee during the two (2) years prior to the submission/s.

Please also note that should you make a donation or gift to a Councillor or Council Employee in the period between the date of your submission/s and the determination of the Application/s, you are required to submit a Declaration within seven (7) days of the donation.

Further information regarding Political Donation and Gift Declarations including the Declaration Form can be obtained from Council's website or from Council's Customer Service Centre.

If you have any enquiries in relation to the Application (8/2018/853/1) please contact Mrs Donna Watson of Council's Planning and Environment on 4993 4331.

If you have any enquiries in relation to the Application (8/2018/862/1) please contact Mrs Kerry Porter of Council's Planning and Environment on 4993 4115.

Welcome Rev. Nicole Baldwin



■ Above: The Bishop of Newcastle, the Rt Rev'd Dr. Peter Stuart (far right) leads members of parish council & Rev Nicole in prayer



■ Above: The newly commissioned Parish Priest the Rev. Nicole Baldwin, at front, & the Bishop of Newcastle, the Rt Rev'd Dr. Peter Stuart after the commissioning service



■ At right: Crucifer, Barbara Randall, leads Acolytes, Clergy & pastors for the entry procession

BRANXTON NEWSAGENCY

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* We will be OPEN Boxing Day 5am ~ 12noon

We wish all our valued clients a Merry Christmas & a Safe & Prosperous New Year.
Dave, Shannon & Staff

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Maitland Road, Branxton NSW 2335



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29 High Street Greta NSW2334

Ph 49387303 fax 49387800

Dr Jiwan Jyoti Dr Maninder Deep Dr Azhar Shabbir
Dr Indra Nanda Dr Bara Qattan And Dr Rahul Mehrotra
X-Mas and New Year Trading Hours

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 24/12/2018 | Monday | Open 9-2pm |
| 25/12/2018 | Tuesday (Xmas Day) | Closed |
| 26/12/2018 | Wednesday (Boxing day) | Closed |
| 27/12/2018 | Thursday | Open 9-3PM |
| 28/12/2018 | Friday | Open 9-3PM |
| 29/12/2018 | Saturday | Closed |
| 30/12/2018 | Sunday | Closed |
| 31/12/2018 | Monday (New Year Eve) | Closed |
| 01/01/2019 | Tuesday (New Year's Day) | Closed |
| 02/01/2019 | Wednesday | Normal Trading |

Can you please ring

GP Access on 1300 130147 or

Maitland Hospital 550 High Street, Maitland - (02) 4939 2000 OR

in Emergency Please ring 000

All Staff would like to wish you all a safe, Merry Christmas and Happy New year

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STEVE'S RANT

A prophecy for the end of this century

As I write this it is pouring with rain and Zeus is throwing his lightning bolts all around the place. Seems we will be having a wet Christmas which is becoming the norm. i.e., the wet season. Since this is the last rant for 2018, I feel it is timely to go out on a limb and make a prophecy for the end of this century. By way of justification I must start by going back to the middle of the last century to optimistic 1950s when nuclear power and technical advances promised a great future for mankind, unless you were born black of behind the Iron Curtain I remember being told at secondary school that since man has split the atom, nothing much remained to be discovered apart from medical problems. That certainly has not changed but as we delve into the wonders of theoretical physics and quantum physics, we increasingly understand the limits to our knowledge and the extent of what we do not know. Yes, as we learn more the prospects of new discoveries extend ever onwards. In the 1960's that iconic German wilderness called the Black Forest began to die. It was acid rain, caused by the burning of poor-quality fossil fuels which had a high sulphur content. The resultant sulphur dioxide

(SO2) released into the atmosphere mixed with water to form sulfuric acid. It was the kind of event that lead the western world to understand the relationship between concentrated industrial activity and the environment. In the west of Germany, the world's first Green political party was formed as a result of this awakening. In 1967 a river in Massachusetts in the USA burst into flames. This was not an unusual occurrence apparently and was a bit of a sight seeing event. What had happened was that so much poo and other effluent was allowed to be discharged into the river that the rivers' natural oxygen levels virtually disappeared. When you have great amounts of effluent and no oxygen the microbes which feed on this soup are called ANEROBIC. This means they can exist without oxygen. Anaerobic bacteria, because they exist without oxygen, produce methane gas as a by-product of their metabolism. This happens in the gut of ruminant animals as well, hence the stupid idea that we must all become vegetarians and kill all our domestic livestock to save the planet. Methane gas is produced whenever anaerobic bacterial activity is present. This can be in swamps, animal guts, any concentration of effluent (poo) and multitudes of

other circumstances. It is a natural product of life and death. As a result of one specific river combustion, the US Government cried enough and the *US Clean Water and Clean Air Acts* were passed in congress. What had happened in the US spawned other clean up attempts throughout the western world.

A consciousness of the fragility of our environment was suddenly more important than the Cold War, 'Mutually Assured Destruction' (MAD) and space ships to the moon. Albeit these remain of concern.

We then had Greenpeace, the World Wild Life Fund et al and Richard Attenborough, not to mention our Australian of the year 'Tim Flannery' who championed the protection of our environment. This I wholeheartedly agree with. Protecting wilderness and the maintenance of forest is key to the balance and stability of chemical, oxygen and daily cycles of humidity and temperature. With these things we can all agree, for we can see it happening in our own gardens and farms and the countryside. We rejoice in the rain storm we just had an hour or so ago and we delight in the effect it has on our own trees, shrubs, livestock and the air we breathe.

So, with this awareness of our world and the education to understand basic geography and the cause and effect when the natural order of things, as we understand them, are changed by human activities, we become acute to the new problems endangering the environment that we depend on for our survival. Along come Al Gore with his film and lecture tour entitled "An inconvenient truth" with a cherry-picked list of evidence to support his theory of Climate Change he has managed to engender a worldwide panic about the effect that CO2 and methane emissions may have on the planet... earth will become like Venus, a cloud enveloped hot house with no life.

For COAG, drought won't be amongst the eight topics listed for discussion. What this shows once again is that Scott Morrison is a man of hollow words who does not understand or value our agriculture sector and farming communities.

We all remember when Scott Morrison listed the drought as his highest priority in his first public statement as Prime Minister. Yet just four months on, it's already fallen off his agenda. In 2013 the



Yes! It's time to lead by example. So*... no more TV, no more internet, no more mobile phone, no heating, no fridge, no medicines, no car, no flying, no asphalt roads. Now ... don't you feel good?

*All made from or dependent on fossil fuels

Now Al Gore is most likely a very genuine person, he would not have been the Vice President of the USA or the Democratic nominee for President if he wasn't. But what he has most assuredly done is made the debate on Global Warming (Climate Change) totally lopsided. Public entities such as the BBC, the ABC and the collective press of the western world champion this ideology without question and without the

facts.
 * The seas are not rising.
 * The temperature is not rising except on some days in summer.
 * The incidence of extreme weather has not changed in recorded history and
 * the Vikings are not coming.
 With that in mind this is my Prophecy:-
 Ideologies that Al Gore has so successfully propagated on Climate Change will turn out to be a bigger threat to

the future of mankind than the likes of Adolf Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Pol Pot, or Donald Trump. And here is a thought for the year:
 As Joel Fitzgibbon has written, in his post to this paper, renewable energy will create cheaper power prices. This is an oxymoron; renewable energy is not compatible with cheap energy.
 Here is a feel good report to soothe your trouble hearts...

5 Nov 2018. A new assessment of the ozone hole, published by the UN, shows it to be recovering faster than previously thought. At projected rates, the Northern Hemisphere and mid-latitude ozone is expected to heal completely by the 2030s, followed by the Southern Hemisphere in the 2050s and polar regions by 2060. May you have a tranquil festive season. *Steve.*



Drought missing from Morrison's COAG agenda
 In the wake of the October Drought Summit the Prime Minister made a commitment to progress the stalled InterGovernmental Agree-

ment (IGA) on Drought Reform at the December Council of Australian Governments (CoAG) meeting. But when Scott Morrison meets with Australia's Premiers and Chief Ministers

Commonwealth and the States signed an historic InterGovernmental Agreement on Drought policy reform. They resolved Drought policy reform must be consistent with the IGA's objectives. But following the 2013 election the Abbott Government abolished the COAG committee and the reform progress stalled. After five years of Coalition Government the InterGovernmental Agreement on Drought Reform has lapsed with no replacement. In October the Morrison Government finally accepted it was critical that

governments collectively plan for a hotter and drier future and belatedly, agreed to discuss a new IGA on Drought Reform at the December COAG meeting. We now know this will not happen. A Shorten Labor Government has already announced it will restore the COAG process to ensure a coordinated approach to agriculture policy. It seems the Prime Minister is only interested in agriculture in times of crisis when the television cameras are at the ready. *Joel Fitzgibbon MP*

The News prior to Christmas it would be remiss of me not to mention the enormous contribution the sporting club secretaries & publicity officers of all our community organisations make to our publication. Club reports & results are critical to the dissemination of club news & individual achievements. Again, it would be remiss of me not to mention all our other contributors who diligently provide articles for our readers. To mention just a few; Lester Bootes & Mark Bercini, Annaleize Hambling at Cessnock City Council, Daryl Sheppard from Branxton Golf Club, Karen Quilty from Branxton Public School, Shelley Mitchell from Kirkton Public School, David & Sue Peel from HVGC, Anne Lomas & Perri from Clayton Barrs'

office, Emily Dowswell from Joel Fitzgibbons' office, Denise McGoldrick from the Branxton Greta CWA, Judy Spillard from the VIEW Club, Briony O'Hara from Singleton Council & last, but by no means least, all our local members & mayors. To all of you 'thank you'. A very special mention to all our advertisers who, have again, made our publication possible this year. The Branxton Greta Vineyards News will be having a short break over the Christmas and New Year period and will return early in the new year. We will notify our advertisers early in the new year as to the date.

Have a great Christmas & may all you wish for in the New Year be yours. Cheers, Mike

Emergency Phone Numbers

| | | |
|--|-----------|---------|
| Dial 000 | | |
| 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 | | |
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| Lochinvar..... | 4930 7209 | |
| Ambulance..... | 131 233 | |
| NSW Fire Brigade | | |
| Branxton..... | 4938 3396 | |
| Rural Fire Brigades | | |
| Belford..... | 6574 7149 | |
| Broke..... | 6579 1491 | |
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| Maitland... | 4939 2000 | |
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Submit a letter to the editor

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

or

emailed to thenews@hotkey.net.au

What's Happening & other

with **Mike Lowing**

IT being the last issue of



Christmas Service Times

Blue Christmas
A reflective quiet service that honors the changes and losses of life that do not bring joy, but rather makes us feel "blue" particularly at Christmas time.
19th December
6.00pm
Holy Trinity

Midnight Mass
24th December
11.30pm
St John's

Family Christmas
24th December
6.00pm
St John's

Christmas Day
25th December
8.00am
Holy Trinity

Christmas Day
25th December
10.00am
St John's



A Happy & Holy Christmas

Before Jesus was born into the world, whenever God spoke to His people, He spoke through the prophets. But now that the Word of God has been given to us, the truth, the way and the life has been revealed to us through Jesus Christ.

Jesus "is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being." [Heb. 1:3] As Jesus said, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." [Jn. 14:9]

To have a general perception of the mystery of the Blessed Trinity, we have to think of the spiritual gift of bilocation. According to Church history, when a Saint bilocated such as St. Francis did, his two identical bodies (presences) were seen in two different locations during the same time frame. In such instances, while enjoying two presences, his physical and his bilocating form, these being separated by a distance, sometimes thousands of miles, yet, there still was only one Saint Francis who had been created by God. While we can say through the gift of bilocation that there were two persons in St. Francis, yet he was one.

When it is said that Jesus is a perfect reflection of God the Father, this is similar to the spiritual gift of bilocation. While the Heavenly Father and Jesus are two separate Persons in the Divine Trinity, yet there is One God. While God the Father is formless, He has manifested Himself through Jesus Christ through Who the fullness of God was pleased to dwell bodily. [Col. 1:19, 2:9] Truly, those who have seen Jesus, they have seen the glory of God. When we look at baby Jesus in the manger, or when we look at a holy picture of our Lord, or even when we look at Jesus on the Holy Cross, in each case, through the physical form of Jesus that we see, we see the glory of God manifested in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is God! All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. When Jesus came into the world, He was a Light that shined in the darkness, in a world that was called to die because sin had entered into it. But darkness did not overcome Jesus. He overcame sin as the perfect atoning sacrifice for the redemption of mankind.

When Jesus came into the world, many did not know Him because they had hardened their hearts. His own people rejected Him and crucified Him as the worst of criminals. But some believed because they had opened their hearts to the grace and truth of God. Those who believed, Jesus gave them the power to become children of God through faith and the Church Sacraments of Baptism, Confession and the Holy Eucharist that is the Bread of Life. Through Jesus, we have come to know the love and goodness of God. We have come to know the forgiveness and mercy of a God who has never forgotten His people, a God who welcomes us all to be adopted as His children through the Sacrament of Baptism and our perseverance in living faith.

Today, we have gathered here to give thanks to Jesus for having come into the world. Through our praise and worship, we glorify the Lord Jesus. And by glorifying the Lord, we see His glory all around us. Christmas day is a special time of the year. It is a time when our spirits, bursting with joy, are uplifted towards God. It is a day when the glory of God manifests itself very clearly in each and everyone of us who are celebrating the coming of Jesus into the world.

As we continue with the celebration of the Holy Mass, let us pray that this glory of the Lord will be with us throughout the coming year so that we may always shine as bright stars in the love of Jesus. May the joy and peace of the Lord always be with you.



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

Like us on Facebook: Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton

Green energy funding for Commercial Hotel Branxton

The Commercial Hotel in Branxton will receive a \$90,364 Heritage Near Me Green Energy Grant to improve energy efficiency and reduce power bills, Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Hon. Scot MacDonald MLC announced last week. The funding will contribute towards new air



conditioning, a new exhaust fan in the kitchen and 16kW roof top solar system to increase energy efficiency. Mr MacDonald said the project is one of 24 projects across NSW that will share \$1.5 million in grants from the state government to provide for energy efficiencies in state and locally listed heritage items. "These Green Energy Grants recognise that energy efficiency can be challenging for heritage items because building age, materials, type of construction, size, shape and site orientation all play a role in how heritage buildings perform," Mr MacDonald said. "These energy efficiency upgrades will enhance the current adaptive reuse of the building as a heritage business hub, café, museum, gallery and community space." Cessnock City councillor John Fagg said he was pleased to see further investment in the premises, following a \$97,740 Heritage Near Me Activation Grant in August. "It's great to see additional funds going towards the redevelopment of the Commercial Hotel, the redevelopment of the Hotel will create a vibrant community hub and conserve the heritage of this important building," Mr Fagg said. "We want to thank the NSW Department of Environment and Heritage for this opportunity to ensure a sustainable energy future for the Commercial Hotel Branxton," owner Kim Barnes said. "These energy efficiency upgrades will form the final piece of the puzzle in giving this building back to our regional community for public usage. These are exciting times for Branxton as the Commercial Hotel will become once again a functioning part of a beautiful Hunter Valley country town." To be eligible for the grant, applicants were required to complete a training program and develop a tailored business case, including professionally verified anticipated savings. Heritage items involved in the grant must be listed on a local council's local environment plan (LEP) and/or the State Heritage Register. To read more about the Heritage Near Me program go to www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritage-near-me and to find out how recipients of previous Heritage Near Me grants have been protecting, sharing, and celebrating their unique local heritage, go to www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritage-heroes

Photo above: (L-R) Cessnock Councillor Rod Doherty, Secretary for the Hunter Hon. Scot MacDonald MLC & Kim & David Barnes

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

The public are hereby notified pursuant to Section 101 of the Environmental Planning Assessment Act, 1979 (as amended) that the following applications have been granted consent during the period from 1 November 2018 to 30 November 2018.

| Locality | Reference | Decision Date | Property Address | Application Description |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|---|
| GRETA | 008/2018/00000724/001 | 1-Nov-2018 | 8 Laetitia CL | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| GRETA | 008/2018/00000745/001 | 7-Nov-2018 | 39 York ST | Shed |
| GRETA | 008/2018/00000756/001 | 7-Nov-2018 | 52 Popham ST | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| GRETA | 008/2018/00000697/001 | 21-Nov-2018 | 17 Popham ST | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2018/00000747/001 | 7-Nov-2018 | 16 Chapell ST | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2018/00000749/001 | 7-Nov-2018 | 45 Kesterton RISE | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2018/00000590/001 | 16-Nov-2018 | 122 Washery RD | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2018/00000774/001 | 19-Nov-2018 | 7 Judge RD | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2018/00000755/001 | 19-Nov-2018 | 21 Reid ST | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2018/00000757/001 | 19-Nov-2018 | 95 Triton BLVD | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2018/00000784/001 | 19-Nov-2018 | 5 Emerton RD | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2018/00000758/001 | 29-Nov-2018 | 73 Tooze CCT | Two (2) Storey Dwelling & Attached Garage |
| NORTH ROTHBURY | 008/2018/00000792/001 | 30-Nov-2018 | 87 Tooze CCT | Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage |
| POKOLBIN | 008/2018/00000449/001 | 5-Nov-2018 | 455 Wine Country DR | Construction of New Aircraft Hanger |
| POKOLBIN | 008/2018/00000629/001 | 5-Nov-2018 | 88 Casuarina DR | Single Storey Dwelling |

Members say



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

As 2018 draws to a close it is the perfect opportunity to reflect on the last 12 months. It has been a wonderful year with many highlights and also some challenges for our community.

I was reminded of our community spirit and the unity we have here in the Cessnock Local Government Area many times this year. Particularly with the threat posed to some of our local churches, with a united voice we were able to see these important community hubs saved. This is a good example of the importance of community spirit.

This year we have marked a number of important milestones including one year of operating the Cessnock Waste Management Centre and celebrating one year of the Garden Organics Kerbside Collection Service.

Over the last twelve months Council has been acknowledged and received national, state and regional recognition. Council accepted an impressive 14 awards for programs and services. Last week we received another two awards at the Local Government NSW Excellence in Environment Awards. The Cessnock Waste Management Centre took out the Resource Recovery category and the illegal dumping campaign 'Better not mess with Cessnock' took out the Behaviour Change category.

Another huge highlight for Council this year was being named NSW Tidiest Town in the iconic Keep Australia Beautiful NSW 2018 Sustainable Communities Awards. Our Seniors Festival also took out an award for the second year running at the RH Dougherty Awards, winning the Innovation in Special Events category. Our Economic Development team took home a national award at the National Economic Development Awards for our Cessnock City Youth First Employment Project and National Toolkit.

These are just some of the incredible achievements for our community this year. A reflection of an enormous amount of hard work happening across Council. We are truly committed to delivering for our community.

At this time of year we all need to be thinking about those more vulnerable people

in our community. It is a time we support and show generosity to those who need it most. It was certainly the case at the Kelman Estate, it was wonderful to see so much community giving, with all donations to be given to The Smith Family. Thank you to everyone in the community who has donated to Cessnock City Council's Christmas Gift and Food Appeal.

This year all donations have gone to the Samaritans Information and Neighbourhood Centre (Cessnock). Christmas can be a challenging time for some and these donations will bring a smile to a family who is doing it tough this festive season. On behalf of Cessnock City Council I wish you a very Merry Christmas. May it be safe and full of joy shared between family and friends. *Cheers, Bob*



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

It might be a long wish list for the things we'd like to see in Singleton in the lead up to the March 23 election. But our job over the next three months is to make sure no one from any side of politics forgets what's on it. Better yet, we're hoping to see more things crossed off. It was a good start to the festive season with the Member for Upper Hunter, Michael Johnsen MP's announcement of \$2,787,000 for an arts and cultural centre in Townhead Park, and there have been very positive conversations with the Minister for Transport Andrew Constance and senior Transport for NSW representatives about increased passenger trains between the Upper Hunter and Maitland. But there's still more to do – and a long way to go until we see a return in keeping with the approximately \$340 million in mining royalties from our region that are delivered to Macquarie Street each year.

Which is a point we have raised with the Deputy Premier John Barilaro particularly in relation to issues with the Resources for Regions program, most notably because mining and resource-rich communities must compete for a slice of the funds available. In addition, funding allocations to date have failed to give due consideration to the degree of mining impacts for particular areas.

Our alternative is for 4 per cent of mining royalties to be returned to the LGA where the minerals were mined. In Singleton, that means \$12 million would be guaranteed every year for programs, infrastructure and facilities to support mineworkers and the broader community. Further, given the opportunity to present a wish list to the powers-that-be in Macquarie Street in the lead up to 23 March 2019, Council would request the Roads Minister Melinda Pavey to fast track the Government's \$92 million commitment to the New England Highway bypass and seek the additional funds required to make it a reality. While we're knocking on doors, we'd call on the Minister for Police Troy Grant to look at police numbers to support 24-hour policing in Singleton (whether in an improved building or a new purpose-built station) and the Minister for Education Rob Stokes to address the pressure on Singleton High School because of the growing number of students. Short of that, we're taking our list to all the candidates for the Upper Hunter in the hope they'll check it twice and commit to delivering for the people who live and work in the Singleton LGA.

Because we're the people who literally put the coal in the stockings for everyone - naughty or nice - in NSW. *Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a safe, healthy and prosperous 2019.*

Cheers, Sue



Cr Ben Mitchell - Maitland City Council-West Ward

Thank you

This September marked one year since this Maitland council was elected. I was one of the new crop. I went to that election chosen as a candidate for a ward which many thought I couldn't possibly win. I was in a contest with three existing councillors with much larger campaign funds and many more years in council behind them.

It was a very hard slog, I took leave from my day job for the final three weeks of the campaign, I had limited funds and underestimated the job ahead of me. I very consciously made the decision that, given I had been entrusted with my endorsement from my local party members, that I would give it all I could and hope for a good result. I wore out two pairs of shoes door knocking, letterboxing and

meeting with constituents and had many friends, family and volunteers who helped me (many of whom aren't even Liberal party members). This really meant the world to me. They assisted by letterboxing, putting signs on their fences and manning polling booths on election day. Going into the election I was concerned about how my comparatively young age would be perceived by the public (I was 25 at the time). To my pleasant surprise I encountered only two people who reacted negatively about it, the vast bulk of people were very supportive with comments like "it's about time they got some new blood."

Council has been a big learning curve and something which I greatly enjoy. It means a lot to me that people (many of whom I don't even know) put their trust in me when they went in to vote. My family and friends didn't choose to have the impacts of me being on council foisted upon them but I appreciate their patience and understanding. Council meetings, reading of material and functions take up many hours each week which I would otherwise be spending with them.

I also have to thank council employees and my council colleagues, one of whom was an opponent in the election and took me to lunch with his family afterwards to congratulate me. Many others have helped me along the way with advice and guidance. I was also appointed to a number of council committees where I have been lucky enough to work with many dedicated members of the wider community who volunteer their time, in some cases for decades to assist their respective club or issue. Your expertise and perspective are an important input to council and community outcomes.

Most of all though I must thank the people of Maitland. You have always made me feel welcome. Your messages of support and your invitations to events are encouraging and gratefully received. I may not always agree with you but I will always hear you out. Some decisions are very difficult to make but I do so because I want to do what is best for this city in the long term. *I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable Christmas break and I look forward to meeting and hearing from you in 2019.*

Cheers, Ben



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Member for Hunter

So now we know: the Prime Minister plans to hold a federal election in May. That's if his Government survives that long. With diminishing numbers in

the House of Representatives and ongoing internal divisions, there is serious doubt they can. Scott Morrison has attempted to manage that risk by reducing the number of days the Parliament sits next year. Governments can only lose power on the floor of the Chamber when the House is in session. So minimising our get-togethers slightly improves the odds for survival. The situation grew much worse for the Government last week when it became clear it was about to lose a legislative vote on the floor of the House of Representatives. To avoid the loss the Prime Minister closed the House down. The Problem for him is: the vote will be the first order of business for the House when it comes back next year. So brace yourself for either one of the longest of election campaigns or an early election in late February or early March to avoid the return of the House and a loss for the Government on the floor is the House. Adding to your pain will be the NSW election which will be held on March 23!

In my more than 22 years in the Parliament I've never seen anything like what I saw the last week of sitting. The Government and the Opposition had reached agreement on the terms of the so-called "encryption" bill but the Government wouldn't let the Parliament make the changes because of the risk of losing a vote on an unrelated matter if the House of Representatives kept sitting into the night. So the Prime Minister shut the House down. Extraordinary!

2019 marks the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the Greta Army Camp in the Hunter electorate. It also marks the 70th anniversary of its transformation into a Migrant Camp.

To recognise these important milestones there are a range of exciting events and activities planned throughout the year. Cessnock Library has launched a website featuring a schedule of the anniversary events, kicking off in February with a screening of the film 'Eureka', a history exhibition in April and May and presentations from authors and historians.

Our local communities remain enriched by the ongoing presence of many of the new arrivals and their children and grandchildren. It's pleasing to know people who have an affinity with the former camp have an opportunity to engage with its history and legacy during such a significant year. For more information visit - www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/greta-camp-anniversaries-2019

This is my last column for the year and I thank the Branxton Greta News for continuing to provide me with the opportunity to share my thoughts and to let people about what's happening in Canberra and in our electorate. I also thank all those who have made positive contributions to the

community throughout the year, particularly those who did so on a voluntary basis. We are blessed with great community spirit in the Hunter and I'm grateful for it.

I wish all readers a safe, happy and restful Christmas. I also thank in advance our emergency services personnel who will continue to keep us safe over the period when most of us will be taking a break. I fear our firefighters will be busy this summer and I also thank them in advance and ask them to keep safe. Merry Christmas.. *Cheers, Joel*



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR OUR WONDERFUL SCHOOLS AND THE SUCCESS OF GIRLS

I have spent most of the past two weeks in our schools, attending end of year presentation days. It is a superb time to be in our schools. There is so much pride and excitement about the year that has been completed and the holiday season ahead.

Students take their place on stage to receive their various awards, from sport through to citizenship and of course the academics, while parents snap the shutter on their various cameras and the school community at large sing school songs and wish one another a safe and merry Christmas.

As has been my experience in recent years, at most schools, girls after girl after girl has the opportunity to walk across that stage and be recognised for their wonderful work, their efforts and their successes.

Occasionally a boy will join the throng. At some schools there are 8 girls receiving awards, for every 2 boys. Indeed, almost every "top of class" academic award went to our female students this year while the boys, on almost every occasion, had their success in math and sport.

This is all obviously a sign that the decades of work to ensure that girls have just as much opportunity as boys, in the classroom, has been a wonderful success. But where have all the boys gone.

So I pose these two questions: is it time to target some boy focused strategies for teaching and learning; and, do we need to have "targets" for awards to ensure balance? If we don't ask these questions we might end up with a generation of boys lost to education. As one young lad said to me after his school presentation day: "the awards are for the girls". That simple comment should alarm all of us.

OUR WONDERFUL TEACHERS WHO GIVE AND GIVE AND GIVE OF THEMSELVES

At the school presentation days, I was also struck by the extra, additional, optional and volunteered efforts of our teaching staff. You see in the world of teaching, our teachers choose to do extra work for the "company" free of charge and for no self-gain.

Imagine if you can, your own workplace where the needs of the company and your customers might mean that you come to work early to help someone who couldn't quite understand their work; or that you spent weekends doing the extra little bits and pieces that the company needed so that things would be ready for Monday; or that you spend your own money so that you have the resources that you need to do your job; all at no expense or cost to the company.

In our schools, sporting teams and choirs and excursions don't take place unless a teacher volunteers to give up their own time and to take on extra work, all for no bonus or additional pay. In our schools, teachers are asked to do 55 hours per week of work, when their actual employment conditions limit their work to 38 hours and everyone just turns a blind eye.

Who does this in their own workplace? Who works their normal shift/roster and then "gives" to the company an extra 50% more for no extra pay and no complaints to the company? Who goes to work and says "boss, I know we are already going above and beyond, but I was thinking of some other extra stuff we can do, at no cost to you or the company"?

Thank you teachers. *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*

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News
P: 4938 1773

Pharmacist Advice

Child Development

Definition
Just as every child will have its own unique personality, every child will develop differently, influenced by a variety of individual and environmental factors. Mostly, these differences are minor. Assessing a child's development is important not only to provide reassurance where the child is found to be normal, but also to enable early intervention and improve the outcome where development is abnormal.

Description
Parents naturally have an interest in their child's development. Witnessing a child reach standard developmental milestones, such as walking and talking, in the expected timeframe, brings both satisfaction and reassurance. On the other hand, concerns about delayed or abnormal develop-

their hands, turn to a voice.

●**9 months:** sit without support, feed themselves a biscuit, repeat syllables (e.g. Dada).

●**1 year:** walk holding on to furniture, understand several words.

●**1.5 years:** walk steadily, drink from a cup, use 5 words.

●**2 years:** scribble, point to one named body part, feed themselves with a spoon.

●**3 years:** pedal a tricycle, use 3 word sentences, put on clothes.

●**4 years:** copy a square, give their first and last name.

●**5 years:** hop on one foot, know some colours and their age, draw a person.

It is worth remembering several facts - most children will not be average in all respects, slow development is not necessarily abnormal and fast development does not

● Understands what you say?

● Talks and makes speech sounds?

● Uses his or her hands and fingers to do things?

● Uses his or her arms and legs?

● Behaves?

● Gets along with others?

● Is learning to do things for himself or herself?

● Is learning preschool and school skills?

In some cases parental concerns will be significant and in other cases your child will be developing normally. If you have any concerns about your child's development - especially concerns about vision and hearing, or if there has been a loss of previously attained skills - then you should consult your Doctor or Maternal and Child Health Care Nurse for further advice.

Treatment Options



ment can be very worrying. An estimated 3-5% of children will at some stage exhibit significant developmental delay. The assessment of a child's development takes several forms. Parents make informal assessments of their child's development everyday. These are largely based on comparisons with older siblings or other people's children. Maternal and Child Health Care Nurses, GPs and Paediatricians make more formal assessments of development. Medical professionals tend to assess development across a number of areas, including gross motor skills (e.g. crawling, walking, jumping), fine motor skills (e.g. holding and picking up objects, drawing), vision, hearing, language, and social skills (e.g. smiling, feeding, dressing). As an example of developmental milestones, 90% of children will by:

●**1 month:** watch a face, lift their head momentarily when lying on their belly.

●**3 months:** follow objects with their eyes, laugh.

●**6 months:** roll over, reach for an object with

necessarily indicate that a child is gifted. Also, it is important to remember that while medical professionals can perform developmental screening tests based upon expected milestones, evaluations tend to be one-off snapshots of a child's performance and may therefore not accurately reflect a child's true status. Parents are therefore better-placed to monitor their child's development. They are usually the first to suspect that there may be a problem with their child's development. Where parental concerns exist, they tend to be highly sensitive predictors of an underlying developmental problem, a fact that holds true regardless of a parent's background and of whether or not he or she is caring for their first child. The Parents' Evaluations of Developmental Status (PEDS) questionnaire is a validated way of determining parental concerns, designed as a screening tool to detect children with possible developmental problems. It asks you to list any specific issues you may have regarding your child's development and if you have any concerns about how your child:

Where there are significant concerns about a child's development, formal developmental testing and management can be carried out. This will usually be conducted in a specialist clinic setting and may involve a multidisciplinary team of professionals including Paediatricians, Speech Pathologists, Physiotherapists, Psychologists, Audiologists, Ophthalmologists and Occupational Therapists. Unlike screening assessments which simply determine whether or not a developmental problem is likely or not, formal developmental testing not only determines if there is a problem, but also characterises the nature of the problem. It not only provides parents with an understanding of their child's strengths and weaknesses, but also allows for the planning of strategies to best manage a child's problem in the clinic, at home and at school. In the end, it gives a child the best chance of optimising his or her future development.

Note
This article was written by Dr Ken Pang, Paediatric Registrar at Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, Victoria.

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Consultation towards a Branxton suburb Emblem for Signage

Cessnock City Council has been rolling out new signage across the region per some successful grant funding. It was identified that some signs could be allocated for Branxton and North Rothbury in this rollout.

Council needs your assistance as part of the Branxton-Greta community, to help decide on an appropriate EMBLEM for the equivalent Branxton suburb entry signs.

The Suburb Entry Signs are not to include commercial or marketing logos and the intent is to avoid symbolism that could be confusing.

This is an exciting opportunity; we seek your input on the possible natural or cultural emblem that could be selected for Branxton suburb entry signs. Examples that have been discussed have been the Bronze Horse, the Rotunda, Black Creek (the original township name) or a specific heritage building. If you like any of these, or have ideas of your own, nominate at the link below!

<https://advancecessnock.com.au/branxton-emblem-sign/>

You can also view the proposed design and an example has been provided for reference at the link. Response needed by 7 January 2019.



Honey and pecan-crusted baked ham

Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon finely grated orange rind
- 3/4 cup orange juice
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 2/3 cup honey
- 8kg cooked leg ham
- 1 3/4 cups (250g) pecans

Method

- Step 1
- Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C fan-forced.
- Step 2
- Combine orange rind, orange juice, sugar and half the honey in a small saucepan over medium-high heat. Bring to the boil. Reduce heat to low. Simmer for 8 to 10 minutes or until reduced by half.
- Step 3
- Meanwhile, using a small, sharp knife, cut through ham rind 8cm from shank. Run thumb underneath rind to separate from fat. Peel back and remove rind. Score the fat



in a diamond pattern. Wrap shank end in foil. Place ham on a wire rack in a large roasting pan.

- Step 4
- Brush ham with half the glaze. Reserve 2 tablespoons of remaining glaze. Bake, basting with remaining glaze occasionally, for 40 minutes.
- Step 5
- Meanwhile, place pecans in a food processor. Process until finely chopped. Add reserved glaze. Pulse until combined. Remove ham from oven. Drizzle ham with half the remaining honey. Press pecan mixture over ham. Drizzle with remaining honey. Bake for a further 40 minutes or until pecans are golden and ham is heated through. Serve.

JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR HUNTER

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WISHING YOU A

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

My office at 3 Edward Street Cessnock will be closed from Monday December 24 and will re-open Monday January 14.



and healthy Christmas and New Year and 2019. Also THANK YOU to all who supported our functions during the year and also THANK YOU to Mike Lowing at The Branxton Greta Vineyards News. Looking forward to seeing you all in 2019. *President, members and families Branxton/Greta CWA.*

Branxton/Greta CWA members held their final meeting for the year on Tuesday, 11th December, and afterwards enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch together at the Royal Federal Hotel.

With Christmas and New Year nearly here, we would like to wish all in the community a safe, happy



• A lovely Christmas lunch together at the Royal Federal Hotel



Branxton VIEW club has had a wonderful year thanks always to our many loyal supporters attending our functions and thanks especially to Mike for publishing our reports.

This year saw another successful donna-lou Fashion Parade that was so well supported we decided to hold a Winter Fashion parade 12th April next year. Mark this in your new 2019 diaries !

We were invited by the Branxton Greta Memorial Cycleway project organiser, Mr Brett Wild to help prepare and serve morning tea with the local CWA for the visit by His Excellency General, the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retired), Governor of New South Wales and his wife Mrs Linda Hurley. Our state VIEW Matters magazine published a photo and report of this occasion, thanks to our National Councillor, Anne Louise O'Connor.

In September we had a stall at the Central Hunter Business Community Expo which proved to be a valuable public relations exercise as we told people

about the work of VIEW Clubs who support disadvantaged Australian school children through the Smith Family Learning for Life program. Throughout the year our fundraising occasions help to finance the students that we sponsor through this program.

Our last meeting for the year was a more relaxed day, fun and friendship abounded with our many friends and supporters. Thanks go to the everyone who helps us, especially Hunter Laundry & Dry Cleaning Pty Ltd, Richardson and Wrench, The Oaks Restaurant, Greta, and Greta Workers Club and the Branxton Greta Vineyard News. February, 14th is our first meeting in 2019. New members always welcome. Have a chat with our friendly secretary, Bethany on 0419 429 364 for further details.

May everyone share the joys of the Christmas season and may you all have good health and happiness in 2019.

*Peace and love to everyone
Judy Spillard*

WE'RE POWERING FORWARD MAKING ENERGY MORE AFFORDABLE

The Australian Government is powering forward to reduce energy costs.

We're enforcing fairer rules to better protect you, keeping pressure on energy retailers and increasing penalties for overcharging. We're also ensuring households on high priced standing offers have lower electricity bills.

Visit our website to find out more about how you can save.

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Australian Government

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.



WITH

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

SHAW & BUNNER

LEGAL **P: (02) 4046 1805 | F: (02) 4017 0646**



What is 'Total and Permanent Disability' (TPD) Cover?

You may have heard of the term 'Total and Permanent Disability'. Or perhaps you have heard the acronym "TPD"? But what exactly is TPD and are you covered? Total and permanent disability (TPD) insurance provides cover if you are totally and permanently disabled. Most people have a basic TPD coverage attached to their superannuation fund however other people may hold a separate stand alone policy outside of their super. Many people who have a policy within their super fund may not even be aware that it exists or what level of coverage they may have.

There are a few key things to consider:-

1. A TPD policy will contain a definition of what it means to be totally and permanently disabled. The relevant insurer will require a minimum level of disability and will also look at the likelihood of a person recovering from a disability.
2. Whether the TPD cover falls under either an

'Own - Occupation' cover of 'Any - Occupation' cover.

'Own - Occupation' is when you are unlikely to ever return to full time work in your previous job whereas 'Any - Occupation' is when you are unlikely to ever be able to engage in any job suited to your education or experience. Generally a TPD policy inside a superannuation fund will only cover an 'Any - Occupation' disability which is a broad definition that can be hard to prove.

3. What is the relevant waiting period? Most policies apply a minimum waiting period from the time you make a claim to when you are paid and these can vary between insurers. A common waiting period is 6 months continuous absence from work however some policies have no waiting period for serious incident such as a major head trauma.
4. Some insurers require you to meet a minimum level of work before you are eligible to claim TPD cover. They may require you to have



performed a minimum length of employment or minimum hours of work per week in order to be eligible.

5. An insurer may look at your loss of independence and require you to show that you are unable to perform 2 to 3 daily living activities.
6. Your ongoing medical care may also be a consideration in some policies. An insurer may require you to demonstrate ongoing medical care to improve your condition or to prevent further illness i.e. rehabilitation and regular appointments.

If you are unsure whether you may have a default level of coverage in your super fund, you can review your recent member statement or contact your fund to confirm. One thing to be aware of is that TPD cover can decrease with age.

If you are considering a policy outside of your super fund, there are number of options available and you should seek some advice from an insurance broker as to what option may be most suitable to your circumstances.

Cheers, Gemma



and a

Happy New Year



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all! Rest up, eat heartily and enjoy the company of the ones that you love.

The Cessnock Electorate Office will close at 5pm on Wednesday 19 December, 2018 and will re-open at 9am on Wednesday 9 January, 2019.

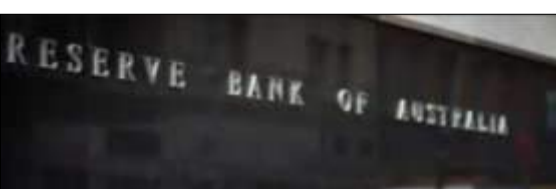
Here's where to find us should you need help in 2019: phone 4991-1466, email cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325.

You also follow me on my Facebook page "www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp" or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au

CLAYTON BARR MP Member for Cessnock



Year ends with no interest rate movement



The Reserve Bank of Australia has kept interest rates on hold for the whole of 2018, following the decision to keep rates at 1.50 per cent at its December meeting, according to the Real Estate Institute of NSW. REINSW President Leanne Pilkington said she expects to see the official cash rate remain at its current level through the first half of 2019. "Subdued housing transaction activity and price declines in some markets make an interest

rate increase in the near term an unnecessary risk," Ms Pilkington said. "A strong labour market will be a key factor supporting the economy as we look to the new year." The RBA cut interest rates by 25 basis points in August 2016, as well as May 2016. There were no changes to interest rates in 2017 and 2018. The RBA will next meet on Tuesday, 5 February 2019.

Harsh consequences for underquoting

In a recent underquoting blitz, NSW Fair Trading fined 89 real estate agents. The maximum penalty for this crime is \$22,000. Peter Moran from Colin Biggers & Paisley Lawyers says a recent decision made by the Federal Court of Australia in a case against an agent for underquoting is an important reminder of the consequences of engaging in this illegal practice. In the decision, the court found that a selling agent had (in property magazines and on websites) made various representations to potential purchasers about a number of properties they were marketing. Specifically, the agent had represented that:

- # The vendors were prepared to sell for the price range advertised
- # The vendors had instructed the agent to sell for a price in the range advertised
- # The agent was of the opinion the properties would be sold at the price range given
- # The likely selling price,

or market value, of the properties was within the advertised range. However, prior to making these advertised representations, the agent had completed appraisals for the properties at substantially more than the price ranges advertised. As well, it was found that, prior to the advertisements being placed, the agent had received:

- # Interest from potential buyers for prices substantially more than the ranges advertised
 - # An offer by a potential purchaser of one of the properties at a price substantially more than the range advertised
 - # Instructions from vendors not to sell the properties below a price that was itself substantially more than the advertised price range
 - # A signed authority from the vendors to this effect
- Serious contravening conduct**
- Justice Murphy found that the agent's conduct was "plainly deliberate". "It advised vendors that underquoting was a strategy to heighten buyer interest and it deliberately provided false price estimates in the authorities so as to provide cover for itself against a charge of underquoting," His Honour explained. "It was intended and was apt to create the illusion of a bargain. It involved the deliberate creation of an enticing, but illusory and misleading, marketing web

for the sale of nine homes." The judge recognised that, by now, potential property buyers should be taken to be aware that it is illegal for real estate agents to underquote in the residential property market. "This will affect their reaction to price representations made to them. The practice of underquoting may significantly inconvenience, disappoint and deceive prospective buyers," he said. "The practice of underquoting also affects the interests of other vendors and real estate agents who comply with the law and do not engage in underquoting. They suffer unfair and improper competition and may miss out on getting prospective buyers to purchase their properties as a result."

Legal compliance comes first. One of the arguments raised by the agent in the case was that it was their responsibility to obtain the best result for their vendor clients, and this created a tension with its obligations under the legislation. Justice Murphy rejected the agent's submission saying that while agents have an obligation to endeavour to obtain the highest possible price for vendors, they must operate in accordance with the law. His Honour went on to say that he didn't accept that it was likely that the agent had engaged in

underquoting only for the benefit of vendors. "I infer that [the agent] was well aware that [they] stood to commercially benefit from the contravening conduct," he said. The result The case serves as a timely reminder of the severe consequences that may potentially flow from engaging in underquoting. Here, the Court restrained the agent from advertising in a manner that misled and directed them to publish corrective advertisements. The agent also received a pecuniary penalty of \$160,000 and was ordered to pay legal costs



Drowning is a leading cause of preventable death in children under 5 years of age. In 2012, the *Swimming Pools Act 1992* was amended to improve the safety of children around swimming pools in NSW. The changes include:

- swimming pool owners must register their swimming pool or spa pool on the NSW Swimming Pool Register
- accredited certifiers registered with the

Building Professionals Board and local councils can carry out inspections of swimming pools

- from 29 April 2016 and unless exempted, a copy of the valid certificate of compliance or non-compliance or relevant occupation certificate (as the case may be) must be attached to the sale contract for any property with a swimming pool or spa pool to be sold and, to rent a property with a swimming pool or spa pool, a copy of the valid compliance certificate or relevant occupation certificate (as the case may be) must be given to the tenant at the time of entering into the residential tenancy agreement.



Helen Lowing, Licence-in-Charge with 30 years Real Estate experience in the local area.

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Branxtons' Mini Trotters



■ Mini-Trotters Ashton at left & brother Zach at right last Sunday on their trek into Branxton from Wentworth Avenue

TWO members of the Newcastle & Maitland Mini Trots, and their mum & dad, went on a 'Sunday Excursion' last Sunday.

Brothers Ashton & Zach Wiggins, from Wentworth Avenue Branxton, ventured into the Branxton CBD to visit the Branxton Pet World with both drivers & miniature ponies behaving impeccably.

Until last Sunday I was unaware that the junior sport existed let alone their club, Newcastle & Maitland Mini Trots, having 32 active members, aged from 5 years to 17 years, who regularly compete in three different categories, midget shetland & pony, at mostly harness racing venues. Their next met will be this Saturday at Maitland Harness Racing meeting in Maitland.

"With Maitland racing on Saturday close to Christmas, I thought it would be good for competitors to get in the Christmas spirit and dress their charges in Christmas attire. There will be no parade but a visitor from North Pole will be there. All decorations will be secure and will be inspected prior to the start," said Mrs. Wiggins. The Mini Trotters will be competing between the Maitland Harness Racing events. Sounds like a fun night out.



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



Warm wishes for a wonderful holiday season from the Mayor, Councillors and staff of Singleton Council

SINGLETON COUNCIL singleton.nsw.gov.au

Local sport defibrillator grant program applications now open

Local sporting clubs across the Cessnock Electorate are encouraged to submit an application for the Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program.

The program provides funding to incorporated, not-for-profit grassroots sport clubs, with the program aiming to assist sporting clubs in NSW in the purchase and maintenance of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

Several sporting groups across the Cessnock Electorate have been successful in receiving defibrillator funding to improve the emergency equipment at their respective clubs.

The successful recipients for the 2017/18 Local Sport Grant Program were:

- * Branxton Croquet Club to receive \$1,250, to purchase a defibrillator for use at the Croquet Club Grounds;
- * Branxton Golf Club to receive \$1,250, to purchase a defibrillator for use at the Golf Club; and
- * Cessnock Clay Target Club to receive \$1,250, to purchase a defibrillator for use at the Club.

"Last year Cessnock Clay Target Club received \$1,250 to purchase a defibrillator for use at the Club. This funding was crucial for the club in purchasing this piece of potentially lifesaving equipment." Mr Barr said.

Applications close at on Monday, 6 May 2019. For more information, or to apply, please visit <https://sport.nsw.gov.au/clubs/grants/defibrillator>



Lyn, John and Staff of Branxton IGA would like to wish all their valued customers a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Safe New Year.

TRADING HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS

Monday 24th December - 7am till 6pm
 Tuesday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY- CLOSED
 Wednesday 26th BOXING DAY- CLOSED
 Thursday 27th December - 7am till 7pm
 Friday 28th December - 7am till 7pm
 Saturday 29th December - 7am till 7pm
 Sunday 30th December - 7am till 7pm

Monday 31st December - 7am till 6pm
 NEW YEAR'S DAY - CLOSED
 Wednesday 2nd January - 7am till 7pm
 Tuesday 3rd January - 7am till 7pm

LAST DAY FOR ORDERS FOR CHICKENS AND BAGGED SALADS 18TH DECEMBER
 52 Maitland Road, Branxton - Phone 49382028

IGA plus LIQUOR

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 undercover 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

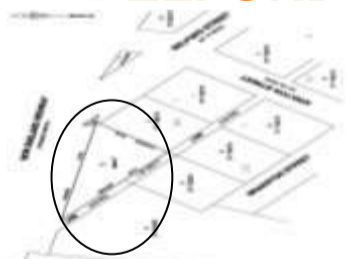


Low Maintenance 2 Bedroom Unit

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

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

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

Holiday Fun at the Library!

The Christmas holidays are fast approaching and once again, Cessnock City Library has a great range of fun and programs on offer, with something for everyone!

The Summer Reading Club is once again in full swing read for your chance to win prizes, it is as easy as that! Come on in to register and find out how to get started.

These holidays we'll be building amazing cubbies from newspaper, exploring coding with motion sensors and upcycling old t-shirts into funky tote bags. Our resident Grossologist will be investigating how our amazing bodies work and recreating food's journey down our digestive system (making poo) and also delicious skin layer cake!

In the lead-up to Christmas, watch out for a special visitor from the North Pole at library Storytime and come along to our Christmas Craft sessions to make your own beautiful cards and decorations.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent is encouraging local parents, carers and children to get involved in activities in our libraries this school holidays.

"Our libraries are a fantastic place for children to learn a new skill, have fun and make new friends and there's also plenty

on offer for local parents too." For a full program of what's happening at your library these holidays, drop into Cessnock or Kurri Kurri Library and pick up a flyer. It can also be downloaded it online at libraries.cessnock.nsw.gov.au, or check the event listings on the Cessnock City Library Facebook page.

Numbers are limited and bookings are essential. We have just made it easier by offering online bookings, so don't miss out - come and find out what's happening at your library over the holidays now.

Here's their New Year School Holiday activities:-

Build a Cubby - Cessnock Library
Build a kid sized cubby with a pile of old newspapers - we'll show you how!

Monday 7 January | 2pm - 3pm | Kurri Kurri Library | FREE | ages 5-12

Build a Cubby - Kurri Kurri Library
Build a kid sized cubby with a pile of old newspapers - we'll show you how!

Tuesday 8 January | 2pm - 3pm | Cessnock Library | FREE | ages 5-12

Virtual Reality Pop up sessions - ages 10+

Swim with the sharks, soar like an eagle or blast off into outer space - make a booking, pop on the headset and explore new worlds.

Wednesday 9 January (15 minute bookings) | 2pm- 4pm | Kurri Kurri Library | FREE | To book, phone 4937 1638.

Thursday 10 January (15 minute bookings) | 2pm- 4pm | Cessnock Library | FREE | To book, phone 4993 4399.

Upcycled T-Shirt Tote Bag -

Cessnock Library

Bring an old t-shirt to this no-sew workshop and make yourself a funky new bag!

Friday 11 January | 10am - 11am | Cessnock Library | FREE | ages 10+

Upcycled T-Shirt Tote Bag - Kurri Kurri Library
Bring an old t-shirt to this no-sew workshop and make yourself a funky new bag!

Friday 11 January | 2pm - 3pm | Kurri Kurri Library | FREE | ages 10+

Film and Craft - Cessnock Library
Enjoy an afternoon at the movies, followed by craft.

Monday 14 January | 2pm - 4pm | Cessnock Library | FREE | ages 5-12

Film and Craft - Kurri Kurri Library
Enjoy an afternoon at the movies, followed by craft.

Friday 18 January | 2pm - 4pm | Kurri Kurri Library | FREE | ages 5-12

Game On! - ages 8+

Make a booking and challenge your friends on the library Wii or PS3 - or battle it out over your favourite board game.

Tuesday 15 and 22 January (15 minute bookings) | Kurri Kurri Library | 2pm - 4pm | FREE | To book, phone 4937 1638.

Thursday 17 and 24 January (15 minute bookings) | Cessnock Library | 2pm - 4pm | FREE | To book, phone 4993 4399.

Coding Meetup - Cessnock Library
Fine tune your coding skills at this special on-off workshop - bring along a USB to save your work.

Thursday 17 January | 10am - 11am | FREE | ages 10+

Coding Meetup - Kurri Kurri Library
Fine tune your coding skills at this special on-off workshop - bring along a USB to save your work.

Wednesday 16 January | 2pm

- 3pm | FREE | ages 10+

That's Gross! Poo science Workshop - Cessnock Library

Ever wondered how poo is made? We'll be recreating the digestive system in this informative and hands-on workshop.

Wear old clothes - it could get messy! Monday 21 January | 2pm -3pm | FREE | ages 7+

That's Gross! Poo science Workshop - Kurri Library

Ever wondered how poo is made? We'll be recreating the digestive system in this informative and hands-on workshop.

Wear old clothes - it could get messy! Wednesday 23 January | 2pm - 3pm | FREE | ages 7+


That's Gross! Body Science Workshop -Cessnock Library
Explore how our amazing bodies work, mix up some pretend snot, and take home a piece of delicious edible skin layer cake!

Friday 25 January | 10am - 11am | FREE | ages 7+

That's Gross! Body Science Workshop - Kurri Kurri Library
Explore how our amazing bodies work, mix up some pretend snot, and take home a piece of delicious edible skin layer cake!

Friday 25 January | 2pm - 3pm | FREE | ages 7+

Book your tickets via Eventbrite, visit one of our branches or phone 4937 1638.



From the Paddock to the plate...

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


Chemical & Pesticide FREE!

- * Sample some produce, enjoy the store and what it has to offer.
- * Ready-to-go Fruit and Vegetable boxes, readymade healthy meals and salads & organic groceries, vegan & gluten free products.

Come in and Enjoy ~ Lisa and Michael

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
enquiries@wollombiroadprovidore.com.au
 Contact use for orders & enquiries

80 Wollombi Rd Cessnock
49902468






The Crib Box Café Branxton

OPERATING HOURS OVER THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

We will be **CLOSED** from the 25th
December 2018 until 28th December 2018

We will **RE-OPEN** from 7am ~ 12pm on the
29th & 30th December 2018 & the 1st January
2019

We will return to normal trading hours 2/1/19




You'll like this one! It's made from an anti-diuretic hybrid grape and reduces the number of trips people your age go to the toilet during the night. It's called **PINO MORE!**

=== Daily Thoughts ===

"Always and never are two words you should always remember never to use." ~
Wendell Johnson

"One man with courage makes a majority." ~ *Andrew Jackson*
 If you've ever wondered how
 people could spend \$3.00 on a little bottle of Evian water, just spell Evian
 backwards!!!!!!!!!!!!



SUNDAY 13TH JANUARY

8AM - 3PM

700 DALWOOD ROAD, DALWOOD

Featuring bespoke fashion, food, homewares and more

Accolades for Cessnock Council at Local Government NSW Excellence in Environment Awards



introduction of the Garden Organics Kerbside collection service and the opening of the CWMC complement the existing kerbside recycling service. These changes are all delivering a more sustainable and environmentally responsible approach to waste management.” The CWMC has also been recognised with the Waste Less Recycle More Waste Minimisation Award in the iconic Keep Australia Beautiful NSW 2018 Sustainable Communities Awards and with a highly commended award in the Institute of Public Works Engineers Association’s Excellence Awards. The second award recognised Council’s hard hitting illegal dumping campaign, “Better not mess with Cessnock” taking out the Behaviour Change in Waste award. This is the second time the targeted media campaign has been recognised for excellence, after receiving a highly commended at the RH

Dougherty awards. These awards are reflection of the commitment of both staff and Council towards delivering a modern and more sustainable Cessnock.

• Photo at left: Cessnock City Council’s, Manager of Environment and Waste, Michael Alexander and Carmen Dwyer from the NSW Environment and Protection Authority.

Cessnock City Council has again been recognised for its achievements with two awards at the Local Government NSW Excellence in Environment Awards 2018 last week. The awards ceremony saw Council take the stage twice, with the Cessnock Waste Management Centre (CWMC) named the overall

winner for the Resource Recovery category and another award for Council’s illegal dumping campaign “Better not mess with Cessnock. The design of the waste transfer station was recognised for its excellence in environmental sustainability and resource

recovery. Data examined during the first nine months of the operation of the centre indicated an increase of 690 tonnes of materials separated for resource recovery. This is an increase of 40% of materials separated by customers at the site and resulted in \$280,000 annual savings in the waste levy and

\$400,000 in landfill space savings. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this is a fantastic result for Council and the community. “We are committed to minimising the amount of waste that ends up in landfill. In the last couple of years the changes we have made have achieved these results. The

FROM PAGE 23

The final round of matches before the Christmas/New Year break were washed out. **Points Tables**
First Grade Greta/Branxton 63, Mulbring 56, Bellbird 48, Supporters 42, Wine Country 40, Peden’s Hotel 37.
Second Grade Bellbird 60, Chelmsford Hotel 55, Greta/Branxton 48, Peden’s Hotel 48, Supporters 40, Wine Country 39.
Third Grade Bellbird 53, Mulbring 49, Greta/Branxton White 46, Wine Country 44, Greta/Branxton Blue 41, Laguna 31.
Fourth Grade Chelmsford Hotel 64, Greta/Branxton 56, Bellbird 52, Wine Country 45, Peden’s Hotel White 44, Cessnock Hotel 42, Peden’s Hotel Blue 37, Supporters 28.
Club Championship Greta/Branxton 483.35, Bellbird 478.95, Wine Country 369.28, Supporters 307.30, Peden’s Hotel 300.28, Mulbring 294.82.



with Mark Bercini

Open 7 days
8am - 8pm
4990 3485
 202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock
 (opposite ALDI)

Wishing all a Safe & Happy Christmas & New year

*Hon. Scott MacDonald M.P.
 Parliamentary Secretary
 for the Hunter*

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Good Practice (GP) Surgery

We are closed from 24/12/2018 (Monday) to 4/01/2019(Friday). We will be back on Saturday 05/01/2019 at 8:00 am.

Our last working day for this year is 22/12/2018 (Saturday) from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm.

In case of emergency, please contact 000 or GP access on 1300 130 147.

Thank you
 Staff
 Good Practice (GP) Surgery

Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate

We would like to wish all a Happy, Holy Christmas & a wonderful New Year.

Our office will be closed Friday 21st December 2018 & will re-open on Monday 14th January 2019

For all emergencies or enquiries please call

0412 566 041 or 0414 727 826

“Quotable Quotes”

If thou art a master, be sometimes blind; if a servant, sometimes deaf. --Thomas Fuller

I am still determined to be cheerful and happy in whatever situation I may be. For I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions and not upon our circumstances. --Martha Washington

Accomplishing the impossible means only that the boss will add it to your regular duties. --Doug Larson

The trouble with learning from experience is that you never graduate. --Doug Larson

You can stand tall without standing on someone. You can be a victor without having victims. --Harriet Woods

"I can't do it" never yet accomplished anything. "I will try" has accomplished wonders. --George P. Burnham

Being defeated is often only a temporary condition. Giving up is what makes it permanent. --Marilyn vos Savant

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For all your tiling needs, call the professionals ~ No job too big or too small ~ We do all aspects of tiling including Renovations, large floor specialist, water proofing, pool tiling & concreting and paving

Contact Matt 0421 574 592

Licence number 109548C

Greta Workers Sports & Rec Club Ltd

2 West Street Greta Ph 4938 7325

On behalf of the Directors, Management & Staff of Greta Workers & Miller Park Sports Club, We would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas & a Happy & prosperous New Year.

WHAT'S ON



Friday 21st Dec
Pat V's Cat



Friday 28th Dec
Karaoke



Raffles



Fridays & Sundays

Sun 16th TOYS/Hams/Meat

Sun 23rd Seafood/Hams/Meat



HAPPY HOUR

Thursdays 4pm—6pm



Every Wednesday
& Sunday

Jackpots \$100 EACH DRAW

Miller Park Sports Club

6 Maitland Street East Branxton Ph 49381226



Thursday & Sundays

Jackpots \$100 EACH DRAW



Courtesy Bus



Wednesdays, Fridays & Sundays

Call Greta for details 4938 7325

SERVICING BOTH CLUB PREMISES

Miller Park will be CLOSED

Mon 24th Dec, Tues 25th Dec

& Wed 26th Dec also 30th

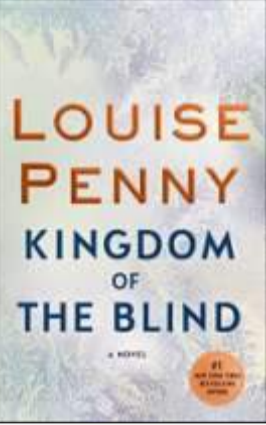
Dec & 1st Jan 2019

Raffles

Fridays & Sundays

TUK TUK Thai & Aussie Restaurant

OPENING January 16th at Miller Park Sports Club, East Branxton



protege and son-in-law, Jean-Guy Beauvoir, and his dear friends in Three Pines — particularly the overwhelming fan favourite, that mad, duck-toting poet, Ruth Zardo. Only the late Robert B. Parker's Spenser series (still ongoing thanks to a talented group of ghostwriters) can be said to have generated such an intense level of readerly interest in the detective's widely assorted clan. That's not to belittle the mystery tale here. "Kingdom of the Blind" is yet another outstanding Gamache adventure. In her by-now-characteristic fashion, Penny simultaneously unspools several suspense narratives, each of them accruing power and threat, faster and faster, until the novel closes in a crescendo of violence, unmasking and regret. Whew. The eerie opening scene riffs on the classic "dark and stormy night" formula: Penny conjures up a dark and snowy morning when the air is thick with menace. Gamache has just parked outside an old farmhouse in a locale even more isolated than his beloved village of Three Pines. Crooked, rotting and evidently abandoned, the farmhouse also seems to be waiting for him. Gamache notices that "one of the upper windows was boarded up, so that it looked like the place was winking at him." It was, he

comments, "as though it knew something he did not." And, as if the atmosphere alone weren't macabre enough, the reason Gamache is freezing the pompoms off his French Canadian tuque in an approaching blizzard is because he's been summoned there via letter by a solicitor he knows to be dead.

Gamache turns out to be one of three people invited to that spooky farmhouse (another is Myrna Landers, who runs the bookstore in Three Pines). The late owner, a woman named Bertha Baumgartner, worked as a cleaning lady but was called the Baroness because of her somewhat suspect claim of a connection to European aristocracy. Neither Gamache nor Myrna, nor the third person summoned to the farmhouse (a young construction worker) knew the Baroness, but her lawyer gives all three the bizarre news that they've all been designated as the executors of her will. This possibly delusional document turns out to have the power to kill. Meanwhile, there are some dirty loose ends dangling from the ragged conclusion of Gamache's last outing — one that ended in his suspension from the police force Surete du Quebec. In "Glass Houses," Gamache brought down a giant drug cartel, but to do so, he deliberately had to allow some lethally potent opioids to slip through the hands of the police. Most of the drugs have been rounded up since then, but one shipment remains out there, prompting Gamache, with scant backup, to venture into the drug-riddled underworld of Montreal. The scenery there is a far cry from the winter

wonderland loveliness of Three Pines: "The streets of inner-city Montreal had changed. Never safe. Never clean. Never fun, now they were many degrees worse." There Gamache "saw the dealers and addicts and prostitutes going about their business in broad daylight. Knowing no cop would stop them. This part of Rue Ste.-Catherine wasn't so much an artery as an intestine."

Gamache's most trusted ally, Jean-Guy, is oddly absent from this endeavour. Instead he's fighting off pressure from politicians and slimy superiors at the Surete to betray Gamache by signing a statement that attests to Gamache's recklessness in allowing the opioids to be dispersed. If Jean-Guy doesn't cooperate, his own career as a police detective is curtains. As always, Penny's moral vision and evident love for her own characters imbue all these situations with emotional depth. Over the course of this series, that love has proved to be contagious. (Full disclosure: I witnessed this adulation in person at the National Book Festival in September when I interviewed Penny about her work.) "Kingdom of the Blind" is an ingenious mystery that follows a thoughtful group of beloved characters navigating their way through a fallen world. What more could a mystery reader — or any reader, for that matter — want?

Maureen Corrigan, who is the book critic for the NPR program "Fresh Air," teaches literature at Georgetown University.



start of her broadcasting career, Penny took postings at locations far from friends and family, and to help deal with feelings of loneliness

and isolation, she increasingly turned to alcohol. At age 35, she admitted to an alcohol problem, and has been sober since. Shortly afterward, she met her future husband, Michael Whitehead, head of hematology at Montreal Children's Hospital, on a blind date. **Literary career** After her marriage, Penny left the CBC to take up writing. She started a historical novel but had difficulty finishing it, and eventually switched to mystery writing. She entered her first novel, *Still Life*, in the "Debut Dagger" competition in the United Kingdom, placing second out of 800 entries. The novel won other awards, including the "New Blood" Dagger award in the United Kingdom, the Arthur Ellis Award in Canada for best first crime novel, the Dilys Award, the Anthony Award and the Barry Award for Best First Novel in the United States.

Penny continues to write, garnering major crime novel award nominations for almost every one of her novels and subsequently winning several of those awards. Her work features Chief Inspector Armand Gamache, head of the homicide department of the Sûreté du Québec. The novels are set in the province of Quebec but feature many hallmarks of the British whodunit genre, including murders by unconventional means, bucolic villages, large casts of suspects, red herrings, and a dramatic disclosure of the murderer in the last few pages of the book. In 2009, Penny helped to launch a new award for aspiring Canadian mystery writers, the Unhanged Arthur for Best Unpublished First Novel. Penny currently lives in Knowlton, a small village in Quebec's Eastern Townships about 100 km from Montreal, Quebec. Her husband Michael died on September 18, 2016. McGill University's obituary of Dr. Whitehead described him as "a superb clinician, clinician-scientist and administrator," who "was loved by children, their families and his colleagues. His warmth, kindness and generosity of spirit will be greatly missed by all who respected and loved him".

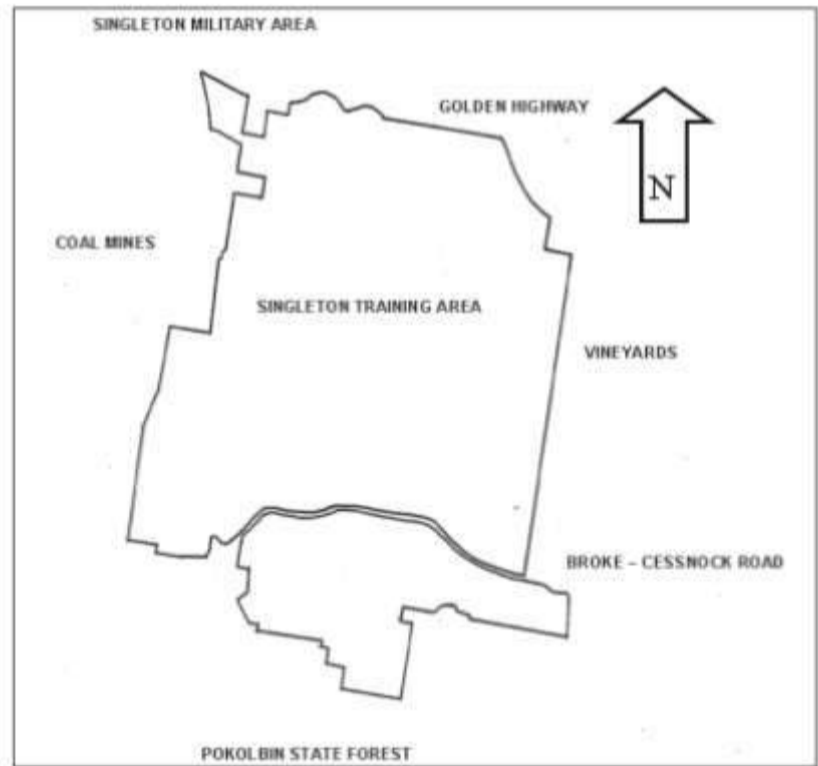
The New York Times Best Sellers Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (16 Dec 2018)

- 1 - *New this week*
KINGDOM OF THE BLIND by Louise Penny
While on suspension, Chief Inspector Armand Gamache is made an executor of a stranger's will and tries to keep a deadly narcotic off Montreal's streets.
- 2 - 7 weeks on the list
EVERY BREATH by Nicholas Sparks
Difficult choices surface when Hope Anderson and Tru Walls meet in a North Carolina seaside town.
- 3 - 6 weeks on the list
THE RECKONING by John Grisham
A decorated World War II veteran shoots and kills a pastor inside a Mississippi church.
- 4 - 17 weeks on the list
THE GREAT ALONE by Kristin Hannah
A former prisoner of war returns from Vietnam and moves his family to Alaska, where they face tough conditions.
- 5 - 2 weeks on the list
TARGET: ALEX CROSS by James Patterson
Alex Cross returns for the 26th book in the series bearing his name.
- 6 - 2 weeks on the list
FIRE AND BLOOD by George R.R. Martin
Set 300 years before the events of "A Game of Thrones," this is the first volume of the two-part history of the Targaryens in Westeros.
- 7 - 4 weeks on the list
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.
- 8 - *New this week*
TOM CLANCY: OATH OF OFFICE by Marc Cameron
President Jack Ryan must contain the fallout of a flu epidemic, an undermining senator and two hijacked Russian nuclear missiles.
- 9 - 3 weeks on the list
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.
- 10 - 3 weeks on the list
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.



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.

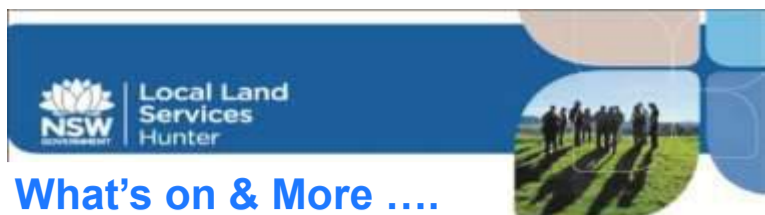
Death or serious injury may result from being struck by a projectile. Eye damage may occur when viewing laser beams from within the training area boundary.

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



What's on & More



Kangaroo Management

Background

The NSW Government has approved changes to licences to harm kangaroos to reduce kangaroo numbers as a part of a package of drought relief measures. The changes came into effect on 8 August 2018.

What has changed?

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

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

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

Register of kangaroo shooters

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

For shooters

Licenced commercial harvesters, professional and experienced volunteer recreational kangaroo shooters who hold

a NSW Firearms licence and would like to assist landholders manage kangaroos can register their interest.

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

For landholders

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

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

Non-commercial kangaroo shooters best practice guide

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

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

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

Saleyard report - cattle

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 11th December 2018

Numbers nearly halved and the quality in the penning was mixed. The majority were younger cattle, with percentages in prime condition and suitable for the butcher orders. Cows dominated the older export categories, with approximately 112 offered. The market trend was variable, as the younger well-bred cattle sold well, although cheaper overall, while the cows sold to a cheaper trend, as processors acquired adequate numbers leading up to the holiday break. Calves trended cheaper, making from 116c to 248c/kg. Vealer steers to the restocker orders improved in breed and muscle score this week, as the lighter weights topped at 374c, while the medium weights received from 270c to 318c/kg. The heifer portion to the restockers eased 8c, making from 246c to 260c/kg. The yearling steers to the lot feeders declined 9c, as prices sold from 238c to 308c/kg. Yearling heifers trended 14c cheaper, with the restockers and lot feeders paying from 220c to 260c/kg to secure their selections. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers decreased 7c, as the best reached 312c/kg. Cows trended 5c to 12c cheaper, as the poorer light weights sold from 80c to 140c, while the over 400kg pens received from 100c to 170c/kg. The medium weight 2 scores sold from 170c to 182c, as the heavy weights made from 175c to 195c/kg. Cow and calf units sold from \$1,100 to \$1,375/unit, with the majority younger drafts rearing their third calf. The best heavy weight bull topped at 230c/kg

Detailed Cattle report for Singleton

Last reported 12th December 2018

With the supply area receiving rainfall throughout the week, numbers were reduced compared to the expected draw. Quality was mixed, with the majority suitable for the restockers and feeder orders, while there were also numbers of prime conditioned younger cattle purchased by the local butchers in the penning. There were approximately 27 cows offered and the usual orders competed in the competition. The vealers to the restockers sold to solid competition, as the steers improved 15c, with the better bred pens reaching 320c, averaging 308c/kg. The heifer portion also to the restockers lifted 8c, making from 222c to 266c/kg. The light weight yearling steers trended dearer, while the heavier drafts to the lot feeders remained firm, receiving from 280c to 288c/kg. Yearling heifers to the restockers and feeder orders remained firm, with breed and quality in places contributing to some price variations. The lighter end received from 214c to 260c, as the heavier drafts made from 240c to 294c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers trended close to firm, with some yield and quality changes evident. The better yielding pens sold over 300c, as the best topped at 320c/kg. The grown steers to feed were on average older this week and prices sold from 194c to 264c/kg. Cows trended 5c cheaper, with the plainer drafts making from 75c to 150c, while the 2 scores received from 155c to 200c, as the better covered medium weights made 180c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 10th December 2018

It was a reduced penning that saw a very mixed quality offering. Highlighted by the number of small lots. There were some pens of very good quality yearlings and some very well finished older bullocks. Most of the usual buyers attended, however once again not all the regular feed lotters operated. Market trends through the young cattle saw yearling steers sell to cheaper trends of 2c to 10c/kg, however some averages improved with quality and breed. Light weight yearling heifers to restock and feed sold to dearer trends. The medium and heavy weight feeder heifers also sold to dearer trends of 2c to 11c/kg. There were very few heifers suitable to the higher end of the trade market. The heavy grown steers, along with the older manufacturing steers sold to cheaper trends, dentition being a factor. Well finished grown heifers sold to a dearer trend and carried more weight than the previous week. The penning comprised primarily secondary quality and plainer condition lots. The cow market saw the plainest condition heifers sell much cheaper. The 2 score medium weights saw little change in the trend. The well finished heavy weights were 5c to 7c/kg cheaper and more in places where quality was a factor

Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 11th December 2018

There was a reduction in numbers, while a feature of the offering was a line of 400 young Angus calves. Yearlings and cows were also well represented. There was a very small number of heavy grown steers, while most of the grown heifers were in plain condition. Overall, the quality and condition was very mixed, with trade buyers struggling to secure requirements. The full field of buyers attended, however not all feed lotters operated. Restocker activity was strong throughout. There was keen demand for the light weight calves, with the steer portion sold in one line, whilst there was little to compare to last week the price was well above recent levels. The heifer portion also attracted strong competition, selling above recent levels. Light weight yearling steers to restockers sold to dearer trends, with buyers banking on the forecast rain. Medium and heavy weight feeder steers experienced little change in market trends. Light weight yearling heifers sold to dearer trends of 10c to 20c/kg with the greatest improvement in some of the plainest cattle. There were very few feeder weights available. Most of the grown steers went to restocker and feedlot interests. Well finished grown heifers remained mainly firm, with some quality related price change. The plainer conditioned heifers attracted both restocker and feedlot competition and sold to dearer trends. The cow market saw a firm to slightly dearer trend through all classes, with some of the plainer cows experiencing strong gains. There was a large penning of heavy bulls and the market trend was generally cheaper

Australian Thoroughbred

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Leading sprinter a Nathan Tinkler legacy

Santa Ana Lane's victory in the \$1million VRC Sprint Classic (1200m) at the 2018 Flemington carnival, the 6-year-old gelding's fourth Group 1 success, confirmed him as a leading sprinter of this time and also that it was a pity that his sire Lope de Vega only paid four visits for southern hemisphere sire use.

Those visits, all to Nathan Tinkler's short lived Patinack Farm at Sandy Hollow west Hunter Valley in the period 2011 - 2014, have resulted in 124 winners of 325 races and \$20million. Among the winners have been ten successful in stakes winners and seven others stakes placed.

Besides Santa Ana Lane, now successful in nine of 31 outings and earner of over \$3.4million, good

contributors by Lope de Vega in Australia have included Vega Magic (gelding, dam by Magic Albert; 13 sprint wins, two G1, the Goodwood in Adelaide and Memsie in Melbourne), Spanish Reef (filly, Lemon Drop King (USA); 5 wins to 1600m, G2 and 3 winner Melbourne), Spanish Whisper (filly, Encosta de Lago; G2 winner and G1 3rd NZ), Man Of His Word (gelding, Fasliyev (USA); 6 sprint wins to Listed), French Fern (filly, Strategic; G2 winner Sydney at 2) and Lope de Capio (gelding, Danzero; 7 wins to 1200m, 2 LR Adelaide). England bred Divine Unicorn (gelding, Barathea (Ire) won 5 races to 2200m, including the G3 Queensland Tattersalls Cup).

Santa Ana Lane, Spanish Reef, French Fern, Lope de Capio and Man of His Word were all bred by Tinkler under the banner of Patinack Farm.

Five Group 1 winners sired by Lope de Vega in Ireland have been Belardo (colt, Danehill (USA), 5 wins to 1600m GB-Ire, 5 G1 cheques inc. 2 wins, European Champion at 2, Leading Miler at 4; stands Darley Ireland and visits Haunui Stud NZ), Newspaperofrecord (filly, Holy Roman Emperor (Ire); won American Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies), The Right Man (gelding, Warning; 10 wins to 1400m, Dubai Meydan Al Quoz Sprint), Jemayel (filly, Homme de Loi (Ire); G1 winner 2000m France) and Capla Temptress (f, Dansili; won G1 Canada, 4th French One Thousand Guineas).

Himself a good 2yo in France and their champion at 3, a year he emulated his sire by taking their Guineas and Derby (2000m), the 2007 foaled showy chestnut Lope De Vega is a resident at the Ballylinch Stud in Ireland. He is inbred 3x3 to Machiavellian, a

Mr. Prospector close relation to Danehill and Northern Dancer, and has a pedigree with five sires in the first four generations used in Australia.

On top, they are his sire Shamardal (USA) (five visits 2005 - 010) and his sire Giant's Causeway (Storm Cat) (three 2002 - 2004) and maternally Vettori (Ire) (5, 1996 - 2000), Kendor (Fr) (one season, 1990) and his sire Kenmare (Fr).

A Darley Ireland based sire, Shamardal resulted from the mating of Giant's Causeway, one of America's top sires of this century, with a Helsinki (GB), a sister to Winx's sire Street Cry (Ire). Both Giant's Causeway and Street Cry are deceased.



A claimant to the title of being Lope de Vega's best performer, his recent Flemington star, Santa Ana Lane, is an \$80,000 purchase for Flemington Bloodstock produced by

Fast Fleet, minor winner by Fastnet Rock and from Fleet Marguerite (USA), a sprint winner by the Mr. Prospector sire Gulch. Santa Anna Lane is trained by Anthony

Freedman at Mornington for the William Street Syndicate (Mgr. M A Ramsden).

• Photo above: Dean Yendall celebrates winning the Rupert Clarke on Santa Ana Lane



McAfee releases 2019 Threat Predictions Report

McAfee has released its annual Threat Predictions Report, which outlines predictions for the cybersecurity landscape in 2019. In 2019, McAfee expects a significant increase in data exfiltration attacks that target the cloud.

With a 33% increase in users collaborating on this data during the past year, cybercriminals are using various methods to seek more targets in the coming year, particularly by targeting weak APIs or ungoverned API endpoints. "Australia has always been one of the fastest growing 'cloud' countries in the world per capita, and we'll jump at any opportunity to become more efficient and advanced in our approach to the cloud," said Gary Denman, McAfee Vice President, Australia and New Zealand.

"However, as we see from the Threat Predictions Report, corporate data residing on the cloud will be a major target in the coming year. As much as 21% of content now managed on the cloud contain sensitive materials, and once information is accessed within the right regulations, it becomes a matter how it's being used. Someone down the stream can become a target, and the data gets exfiltrated through a long pipe. Cloud-native attacks will soon become the launchpad for cryptojacking and ransomware attacks, which is why now, more than ever before, cyber resilience will become key, thwarting these types of attacks to the cloud."

The report also predicts that 2019 will see the use of multifaceted, synergistic threats. This means the use of several different kinds of cyber threats such as phishing, ransomware, cryptojacking in tandem. The report found that attackers will employ AI to help them avoid detection by security software, particularly to automate target selection, or to check infected environments before deploying later stages and avoiding detection. Identity platforms and IoT edge devices will also be under siege as more criminals leverage them to mount attacks on industrial control systems, according to McAfee.

Online security predictions for 2019: From cryptojacking to MiTB attacks

Pedro Fortuna, CTO and founder of Jscrambler, provides his online security predictions for 2019 — can it get any worse?

The breach of the personal accounts of Marriott International Hotel customers, as well as the data breach of Question & Answer site Quora, has meant that 2018 really will end on a sour note as far as cybersecurity is concerned. Some say that as many as 34% of US consumers experienced a compromise of their personal information over the last year. And when you consider (according to Gemalto) that a majority of consumers are willing to walk away from businesses entirely if they suffer a data breach, then online businesses need to get ship shape in 2019.

So what exactly does 2019 hold in store? How big are the data breaches going to be? What new threats can we expect to see?

Cryptojacking

The growth spurt of cryptocurrencies opened the door to new, highly valuable exploits. Cryptojacking has for long been one of the most notorious forms of attacks. Such attacks consist of gaining unauthorised access to users' computers and using their processing power to mine cryptocurrency, which becomes attackers' property. It seems common consensus that crypto miners are still in early growth phase. In 2019, we can expect to see new, diverse crypto miners, especially if the "bear market" ends. The technology is very easy to set up — complete cryptojacking "kits" are found for sale on the dark web for little over £20 — and the profits can be immense, given the ease of exploiting websites' security vulnerabilities.

Cryptocurrencies: Ripe for the picking?

The cryptocurrency fever generated an unprecedented volume of transactions over a short time. At their peak, crypto exchanges reached a daily trading volume of £52b (January 4th, 2018, according to CoinMarketCap data). Major exchanges such as Binance and Coinbase were trading £170b and £35b respectively in Q1 2018.

Supply Chain Attacks have been successful in targeting crypto exchanges. In November 2018, StatCounter, a popular analytics service, suffered an attack where hackers injected malicious JavaScript code into the StatCounter tool. Since this tool was being directly loaded by 2 million websites, all of them started serving the malicious code to visitors. The code was able to check if a website

user was in a crypto exchange and, that being the case, it sent Bitcoin transactions to hacker-controlled wallets. At least one exchange was found to be affected by the hack, Gate.io, while the hack's outcome remains unknown. While the trading volume of crypto exchanges has been decreasing in 2018, recent estimates point to 50% growth in crypto trading volume for 2019. All past attacks show that any point of weakness in crypto exchanges' security systems can result in massive losses. With these exchanges becoming high-profile targets, it's highly likely that we will see a surge in attacks targeting them in 2019 as hackers look to reap huge rewards.

Are browser extensions the enemy?

Google tells us that, over the last few years, 1 out of 10 submitted Chrome extensions were malware, despite their efforts to filter them. We have seen cases where hackers manage to publish malicious extensions directly to extension stores, and others where hackers gain control over a legitimate extension with thousands of users, which then becomes compromised and used as an attack vector.

More than a billion people use Google Chrome nowadays and half of them are using extensions to customise their browsing experience. This ubiquity has opened the door to malware, spyware, cryptojacking and other malicious extensions. It's likely that in 2019, using extensions as an attack vector will become a common way to target millions of users at once. Security researchers at Jscrambler have prototyped how credit card skimming attacks can evolve to use a browser extension and steal credit card data on every website that its users visit. The same team of researchers has also warned about a likely new generation Man-in-the-Browser using Chrome extensions.

A new generation of MiTB attacks

Man-in-the-Browser (MiTB) attacks have been around as early as 2007, with the infamous Zeus Trojan which claimed up to \$100m in damages. These attacks are able to sniff and modify transactions while they're happening in the browser, all without the end-user's knowledge. By doing so, they successfully steal credentials and are able to steal funds from infected users' accounts. In 2011, the source code of the Zeus Trojan was released and prompted the rise of several new, sophisticated Trojans. Since then, MiTB attacks have grown stronger and capable of bypassing

mainstream security measures, namely by stripping security headers.

2019 will in all likelihood be a year of new approaches to MiTB attacks, as hackers exploit known client-side vulnerabilities. Security researchers have warned of the danger of an upcoming new generation of MiTB attacks that exploit the weakest links of websites' client-side, such as using browser extensions to gain full control to read and modify web pages.



Getting a human when calling support

When calling technical support or customer service, it can be frustrating having to go through each of the voice prompts just to reach a human who can assist you. Gethuman site is a database of 500 of the top companies, their phone numbers and how to get directly to a human.

For example, when calling Dell Technical Support you would press 3; say "agent" at each additional prompt, ignoring messages to get directly to someone who can assist you with your problem

Tips to follow before calling support

Today, companies can be contacted many different ways. However, when planning to call or e-mail a computer company, keep the below recommendations in mind.

If you are calling about a product have all applicable numbers written down. For example, the Serial Number and model number of the product or computer.

* If you are calling for support for a computer product, make sure you are next to the product in case you need to follow directions.

* Have a piece of paper and pencil prepared ready in case additional information needs to be written down.

* If you have Internet access try searching for an answer to your question before calling or e-mailing support. Many answers are online.

* Make sure you have at least 30 minutes of available time, not only for the wait but the time likely required to troubleshoot the issue.

* If your product is bad or needs replacing have all purchase information available.

* If you are planning on purchasing or the support call is fee-based, have more than one credit card ready. Finally, once you have connected with someone make sure to write down their name in case you need to get back in touch with him or her.

MOVIE REVIEW

BOY ERASED

"Boy Erased" tells the story of Jared (Hedges), the son of a Baptist pastor in a small American town, who is outed to his parents (Kidman and Crowe) at age 19. Jared is faced with an ultimatum: attend a conversion therapy program - or be permanently exiled and shunned by his family, friends, and faith. Boy Erased is the true story of one young man's struggle to find himself while being forced to question every aspect of his identity.



Lucas Hedges Is Remarkable in Boy Erased

By David Edelstein

The tragedy of religious-based gay conversion therapy — "pray away the gay," as it's colloquially known — is that many of the young people who are forced (or, in some cases, who volunteer) to endure it have spent their short lives doubting their natural impulses. They're told that their attraction to members of their own sex is either an active choice or the upshot of turning away from God, the church, and scripture, and letting Satan into their hearts. Really: *Satan*. In many ways, Jared (Lucas Hedges), the teenage boy at the center of the film *Boy Erased* (based on a memoir by Garrard Conley), has it good. His parents may be devastated when he confesses to his attraction to men, but they don't berate or reject him. His father, Marshall (Russell Crowe), is a Baptist preacher with distant ties to people who "minister" to such deviant souls, and he regards his son mournfully, not as evil but as diseased and in need of help. His mother, Nancy (Nicole Kidman), drives him to his outpatient program and stays with him in a motel, cheerfully bucking him up with motherly love. But Jared's life is one of fear. It's as if the world is singing, "Every breath you take, every move you make ... I'll be watching you." And he's watching himself, too. *Boy Erased* is the second feature directed by Australian actor Joel Edgerton, who adapted Conley's memoir and also plays the head of the pray-away-the-gay facility, Victor Sykes. As in his surprisingly potent psycho film manqué, *The Gift* (a fake-out that leaves you feeling enriched rather than cheated), Edgerton proves an incisive filmmaker. Every beat has weight. Every close-up registers. He values silence — he trusts you to feel things along with his characters. After an overture consisting of pictures of Jared as a beautiful little boy (it sounds cheap but tugs at you — you don't even know Jared and already feel the loss of his innocence), the movie proper opens with the teen's arrival at the sterile Church-supported facility, with its

central gymnasium in which young men and women stand and ashamedly read accounts of their so-called sins. Flashbacks cover the main points of Jared's last year, among them a night in which he remains unstirred when his high-school-cheerleader girlfriend puts her hand on his crotch. (Jared's father, despite his traditional religious forbearance, seems fine with the prospect of his son "parking" with a girl. It's what boys do.) The turning point is Jared's increasingly tremulous flirtation with Henry (Joe Alwyn), a handsome, well-built college freshman whose behaviour suggests the worst-case scenario of being gay among the godly: faithful church attendance followed by sexual assault followed by tearful confession — and then lies and betrayal. Henry isn't a boy erased but a boy deformed.

The bulk of *Boy Erased* is set in the gay-conversion center, where the doors are locked and possessions (including a notebook of stories Jared wrote for school) are snatched away and scrutinized for aberrant thoughts. The movie's tone is more solemn than 2018's other pray-away-the-gay film, *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*, which gave you a few laughs at the expense of the pious would-be converters. Here, you wince even during a scene that might have been amusing, in which an ex-military man gives the teens lessons in posture: "Is this a manly shape I'm making or a delicate or feminine one?" You can't laugh: He's a genuinely scary guy. In the most grueling scene, Sykes directs the family of a former football player, Cameron (Britton Sear), to beat the young man with a bible. Even Cameron's little sister has to land her blows — though she does so while plainly sickened, with tears in her eyes. Another "student," played by the platinum-haired Troye Sivan, counsels Jared "to play the part" rather than fight back, but "playing the part" doesn't just mean confession. It means participating in the cruelty. Lucas Hedges has a difficult job — to portray a teenager whose best option is to

reveal nothing of himself. The key is to make that lack of "reveal" an active rather than passive process, and Hedges does it with remarkable intelligence. His indecision is alive and moving. Unlike, say, *Girl, Interrupted*, the title is unapt, given that Hedges's Jared isn't a boy erased but a boy on hold, his paralysis willed: He will not define himself as something he's not, so he won't define himself at all. His scenes with Edgerton's Sykes are all about resistance: Sykes moves in; Jared remains unbuckled. Edgerton plays Sykes as a man with no peripheral vision, so firmly and vigorously set about his task that you wonder what he's hiding.

Boy Erased has an odd opening credit: "With Flea and Russell Crowe." Flea is fine and Crowe is strange. He looks a bit like John Goodman these days, and it's hard to tell if he's being so self-effacing — without his trademark volatility — for the sake of the role or if he's emotionally checked out. Because Crowe is, at his best, a great actor, I'm going to give him the benefit of the doubt and admire him for what he *doesn't* do — score points off the character for having so constricted a worldview. Crowe's Marshall is not a man who will ever make peace with his son's "choice," but his judgment will be tempered by love.

As Nancy, the platinum-blonde, over-accessorized but naturally warm, vivacious mom, Kidman works diligently — as always — to overcome her essential brittleness. It's impressive how often she chooses roles that are so far out of her comfort zone, though doubts remain whether she has one. She's very likable, but I often end up wishing there were someone else in her roles who didn't make so many obvious choices. Ah, well. In contrast, in the small part of a physician who knows how to separate science from religion, Cherry Jones is luminously real. It's almost unnecessary to point out that most physicians these days, even in the Bible Belt, can make that separation. It falls to someone as antediluvian as our current vice-president to believe that one can, indeed, pray away the gay. It's a testament to Garrard Conley's Baptist-preacher father that even if he couldn't fully embrace his son's sexuality, he could at least pray away the stupid.





Malcolm Turnbull's demise is no mystery

Paul Murray, The West Australian
Wednesday, 14 November 2018 5:04AM



Does anyone really believe that Malcolm Turnbull and his erstwhile deputy Julie Bishop don't know why the former prime minister was rejected by his own party room? Bishop was at it again in this newspaper on Saturday (10/11/18), expecting people to believe that she also had no idea why key supporters like Finance Minister Mathias Cormann joined those who had turned against Turnbull.

"I've never been informed by any of the Cabinet as to why they turned on Malcolm," Bishop said. "I still don't know."

The bit about Cormann might be right. They don't seem to like each other and rarely spoke, another part of the Liberal dysfunction. But if the perennial deputy really has never been told by any of her other former Cabinet colleagues about their decision then she can't have been very close to them either. It also questions just how involved the member for Curtin remains in party affairs.

Saturday's article noted the former foreign minister would be in Dubai for the weekend to attend a curtain-raiser for the annual World Economic Forum in Switzerland, which hardly seems to be the role of a humble backbencher who now has time for constituency matters. Her comments followed Turnbull's protestations last Thursday on the ABC's Q&A which ran throughout the program and on which he was never held to account.

While I opposed the sacking of Turnbull and wrote several columns warning about the consequences the Liberals would suffer, I was never in any doubt about the issues that caused their misjudgement.

The very first Q&A audience question was a verbose version of Bill Shorten's repeated barb: "Why aren't you still prime minister?" Turnbull took the candy from the baby: "That's the question I can't answer, of course. The only people that can answer that are the people that engineered the coup."

"They're people like Peter Dutton and Tony Abbott and Greg Hunt and Mathias Cormann, the people who voted for the spill. So, there are 45 of them. Most of them are well known. There are no bones about who they are. They have to answer that question. I can't answer it."

Host Tony Jones at that point might have just seen fit to mention 38 losing Newspolls. "We have lost 30 Newspolls in a row," Turnbull said back in 2015 as he pushed to roll the sitting prime minister. "It is clear that the people have made up their mind about Mr Abbott's leadership."

It wouldn't be stretching credulity to suggest that might have been in the minds of his colleagues, having been the precise yardstick by which he unseated Abbott.

While Turnbull comfortably led Bill Shorten on preferred prime minister ratings, coalition MPs know that what Labor voters tell opinion pollsters about a Liberal leader doesn't mean much on election day.

They remember that the "unelectable" opposition leader Abbott won a 13-seat majority in 2013, which Turnbull then squandered.

That Jones didn't confront Turnbull with that most obvious Newpoll question is peculiar indeed. It might have opened up a useful

conversation about the deleterious effect opinion polling has had on Federal politics, reducing MPs to straws in the wind.

Selecting proposed questions from ABC viewers is probably way below Jones' \$400,000-plus pay scale, but how did the program miss these two from the Q&A website:

"Mr Turnbull do you have any sense of the double standards being applied in that you did to Tony Abbott what others in the party did to you and yet you cry foul." — Kevin Collins.

"History is full of warnings that 'you reap what you sow' and 'what goes around comes around.' With this in mind, why do you think what happened to you was wrong when you believe what you did to Abbott was right?" — Luke Torre.

On Q&A, Turnbull came up with a story about internal party polling — strangely it never leaked — that apparently turned the known opinion polls on their heads and showed him as a marginal seats winner.

Several ministers have denied knowledge of such polling, so if it exists there's no reason to think wavering backbenchers were aware of it. To suggest some ministers were worried Turnbull might win the 2019 election is completely deluded. And it is more than mischievous of Turnbull — and Bishop — to ignore the ructions over energy policy in the months leading up to his demise.

That issue feeds back directly to the reason his colleagues previously rejected him in 2009 when he wanted the party to accept Kevin Rudd's emissions trading scheme.

Maybe Turnbull doesn't know why that sacking happened either?

Turnbull came up with the ill-fated National Energy Guarantee to save his prime ministership. It is as simple as that.

He was prepared to jettison his own belief in the emissions reductions targets to which Abbott had committed Australia in the Paris agreement. That wrecked his credibility.

His internal enemies pounced and a week later Turnbull beat off Dutton's first challenge 48-35. The ABC was in no doubt at that time why Turnbull was being challenged, posting these comments in an analysis piece on its website:

"What's Turnbull's big problem? Put simply, he's not popular enough."

And then the ABC turned its attention to the other issue: "Is it really about energy? These backbench MPs are generally more conservative in their views than Mr Turnbull."

"They consider international emissions targets less important than energy prices, so their opposition to the policy makes sense."

So let's end this fantasy that no one knows why they knocked off Turnbull. The shabby history doesn't need rewriting.

Maybe it should be left to the best submitted question that also wasn't asked last Thursday: "What is the point of having Malcolm Turnbull on Q&A? Very few people were interested in what he had to say when he was in power and his opinions are now irrelevant."

"My question is, however, being a multimillionaire why did you not have the imagination to go off and enjoy the rest of your life?" — Biggles.

My shopping habits help Amazon take over the world. Alexa, this ends now

By Krista Burton

Underneath my glee at the deals and the convenience, I know Amazon is not good. And so, I'm starting with Christmas.

This holiday season, what I'd like is some self-discipline. Not towards cookies or festive cranberry-flavored cocktails — give all those to me — but towards the incredible ease and convenience of buying every last one of my gifts on Amazon.

Last year I did not purchase a single major present that did not come from Amazon. Not one. And while I've been lured in by the reasonable prices and free (for a fee!) Prime shipping for years, it's only in the last 12 months that I've finally realized: the reason Amazon keeps taking over the world, despite having terrible labor practices, is ... me.

It's not faceless hordes that don't shop locally. It's not evil data scientists hell-bent on placing

frightening mini robots that listen to conversations in every household. It's me. And millions of people exactly like me.

I'm sorry, little shops. Like everyone else, I honestly love you.

That's why I'm stopping this Amazon Christmas present habit.

Alexa: this ends now.

It was actual rabbits, in 2011, that led me down the Amazon Prime rabbit-hole in the first place.

At the time, I was living in Chicago with my partner and our two pet rabbits. Now, a rabbit's diet consists mostly of timothy hay — they go through huge amounts of the stuff, devouring strand after strand like miniature wood chipper. Pet stores sell timothy hay, but only in grudging bags that are so expensive they cause you to gasp involuntarily and stagger backwards in the "Small

to the Branxton Greta Business Chamber for helping to fund the lollies to our local fire-fighters for their annual 'Lolly Runs'. All brigades are very appreciative of the Chambers generosity Thank you from the Branxton, Greta & North Rothbury fires.

to Branxton Lions Club for their generosity to the local St Vincent de Paul Society. They donated a box of their delicious Christmas Puddings & Christmas Cakes to be distributed to local families who are not as fortunate as some in our community; a wonderful gesture!

I unfairly blamed the younger set for churning up the off-leash area/cricket pitch in Greta. Today (14/12/18) I watched a women burning & churning around the area in her car with her dogs chasing her; I assume exercising her dogs(?). She is not the only adult to do this. We had over 20mls of rain last night (13/12/18) and now there are deep furrows in the cricket pitch Grrrrrrrrrrrrr....

to all those who waste their time writing Letters to the Editor & wanting a spot in this space knowing they will not be published. Xenophobic rantings WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED nor will private, personal, vengeful, petulant & belligerent ravings. (Ed.)

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Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841

Work Wanted: HAVE UTE WILL CARRY. Need something moved? Phone Phil on 0447 381989

Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292

Work Wanted: Home maintenance. Building repairs, painting, tiling and more. Fully insured. Ph: 0418 982 657. Prompt service to local areas.

Work Wanted: Lawn Mowing; best rates - large or small area. P: 0459 123 397

Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601

Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701

Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567

Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081

Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.

Work Wanted: experienced baby silter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804

Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153

Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989

Work Wanted: Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards - rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538

For Sale: It has a Brocken drive cable and no seats or full tank and is unrefested. But the motor works and no cracks or leaks in it and has a great retro string wheel with is so comfy, And has an anchor. I'm looking to get \$800 but im willing to trade for a drone. If you do not like the price and think it to be un fair please call me and we can negotiate. P 0457112346 (please only call me on week days from 3:00pm till 9:00 and you can call me any time on the weekend). alexanderhughes@gmail.com

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

Dates for your diary >

WED 19 Dec – Branxton Public School last day for students.
TUE 25 Dec – Christmas Day
WED 26 Dec – Boxing Day
SUN 6 JAN 2019 - G.B.O.T.A Branch meeting 7pm GRETA WORKERS CLUB.
SUN 13 JAN 2019 - Dalwood Estate Markets 8am-3pm.
SAT 19 Jan 2019 - N.S.W G.B.O.T.A Gala dinner Wenny Park.
SUN 20 Jan 2019 - Greta branch presentation at East Maitland Bowling Club. (buffet lunch)

SAT 26 Jan 2019 – Australia Day
SUN 27 Jan 2019 - G.B.O.T.A Northern District presentation Bradford Hotel Rutherford.
TUE 29 Jan 2019 - Branxton Public School Staff Development Day
WED 30 Jan 2019 - Branxton Public School First day for Years 1-6
SUN 3 Feb 2019 - G.B.O.T.A Branch meeting and election for 2019 positions. 7pm
MON 4 Feb – Branxton Public School First day for Years 1-6 Kindergarten
TUES 12 Feb - B/G CWA Mithly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am. Morning Tea following.
FRI 15 Feb 2019 - 'Friday arvo at the flicks' 1pm - 3pm
Screening of the film 'Eureka'. Cessnock Library.
SAT 23 Feb – Red Hot Chillii Peppers at Hope Estate
SAT 16 Mar 2019 – Kiely Minoque at Bimbadgen Estate
1 April - 31 May 2019 - Exhibitions on the history of the Greta Army Camp and the history of the Greta Migrant Camp. Cessnock Library. Two exhibitions in the Cessnock Library foyer on the history of the Greta Army Camp and the history of the Greta Migrant Camp. Accessible whenever the Library is open.
THUR 25 Apr 2019 – ANZAC DAY
SUN 12 May 2019 – Mothers Day
FRI 7 Jun 2019 - 'Back to Greta' 'Back to Greta' is an all-day event. Includes: morning tea with the Mayor at the Library, a trip to the camp site and a visit to Greta Museum. For information about the event contact Kimberly O'Sullivan. To RSVP for the event call the Library directly: (02) 4993 4399.
MON 10 June 2019 – Queens Birthday Public Holiday
SUN 1 Sept 2019 – Fathers day

Pets" aisle, clutching your heart.

One icy January night, I had gotten off work late. Remembering I was out of hay for my bunnies, I dashed off the train and managed to duck inside a pet store as it was closing. I bought the largest bag of hay they had, wrapped my arms around it, and set off for home.

I slipped almost immediately. The hay bag flew into the night sky, and I landed butt-first in a slushy puddle. Still a solid 15-minute walk from my apartment, I waddled sadly and wetly home, where I re-enacted the hay fiasco with dramatic flair for my partner. She handed me a towel.

"Maybe they sell hay on Amazon," she said. She had just gotten a student Prime membership.

We looked. Amazon sold timothy hay. It was cheap – much cheaper than the pet store – and you could get it in ten-pound bales. Ten pounds of hay for \$19.99?! CONT. NEXT PAGE

Branxton Girl Guides get around



Branxton Girl Guides have spent time undertaking the "FAST CATS" (Children's Assertiveness Training Series) Self Defence course with Nick & Jes, from Blue Warrior Fitness, in Kurri Kurri.

Nick showed the girls some very useful moves, with a very informative program taking in bullying, situational awareness and stranger danger. Also included, were practical demonstrations and role plays to help the girls understand how to get themselves out of sticky situations.

Our girls all left the training with much more self-confidence, which showed that the night was a great success. Give it a go!

During the September School Holidays, 6 Guides (Hayley Bolam, Chloe Furner, Lauren Matt, Georgina Palmer, Grace Russell & Megan Tanner) and 2 Leaders (Lynneve Sneddon & Jenny Furner) spent 7 days at an International Guide event called the "Sydney Jamboree 2018" at the Newington Armoury, Silverwater.

There were 2,000 Guides and Leaders from many different countries including the UK, Scotland, Canada, USA, Japan, Malaysia and New Zealand amongst the nations attending.

A very busy program saw the girls enjoy many and varied activities including a Scavenger Hunt in Sydney city, Bridge Climb, helicopter rides, Taronga Zoo adventures, high ropes courses, beach activities, water activities, circus activities and many more fun and exciting adventures on site.

Our girls have made wonderful new friends from all over Australia and the world. They have brought home memories to last them a lifetime.

We were very thankful to **Cessnock Rotary** who gave us a lovely donation to help us pay for our trip.

Guides also participated in the Business Expo at Miller Park with their usual fare of home cooked goodies. Our stall was very successful and a big thanks for all the wonderful cooking and to those who bought our yummy goodies. The girls also taught anyone wanting to learn, how to make Friendship bracelets. This was followed by a Mother and Daughter Sleepover at the Hunter Zoo, which was a fabulous success. It was a fun and very informative stay, during which the animals behaved admirably and allowed us some sleep. I'm sure this fun adventure will be repeated again.

Our girls also packaged up 40 shoe boxes filled with personal items, to help with Drought Relief in the Pilliga area of NSW. All items were supplied by our wonderful parents and our Unit. Our shoe boxes were donated by Spend-less Shoes in Singleton. Thank you to all.

On Tuesday the 4th of December the girls volunteered to help serve at the Lion's Club Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner, which is always a huge success and something the girls look forward to every year.

The girls also spent a night making Christmas goodies for 'Meals on Wheels' and Christmas Bingo will be on our last night.

On our last night the RSL made a presentation to the Unit of a plaque thanking us for our participation during the Armistice Day proceedings and serving at the luncheon at the RSL Hall.

During the year our girls were also involved in Thinking Day celebrations, Clean Up Australia, Anzac Day, the Governor's visit, Armistice Day to name just a few.

The Leaders and girls would like to wish you all a happy and safe holiday, and a very Merry Christmas and New Year.

Anyone interested in joining us and having fun should contact Mrs Christine Bray, Branxton District Manager on 0418 230 305.

We have vacancies in both the Junior Guide (7 - 10 years) and Guide (10 - 14 years) age groups.



• Ready to catch the bus before Sydney Jamboree 2018 are: (L to R): Lauren Matt, Georgina Palmer, Hayley Bolam, Grace Russell, Megan Tanner & Chloe Furner.



• Junior Guide Ginger Dougherty and Chip (the baby Wombat).



• Ready for Pilliga drought relief



• Shoebox gifts for Drought Relief at Pilliga Pub: (L to R): Unknown, Michael Gray and Kylie Gray (Cessnock Guide Leader).



• Ella Knox from North Rothbury with Mick Wyborn

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

My shopping habits help Amazon take over the world. Alexa, this ends now

... I never bought hay in a store again.

It turned out a lot of things were available and cheaper on Amazon – more things than I'd realized.

The face soap I use that's hard to find was on there. The crunchy hippie lotion I like that absorbs immediately and smells like coconut milk and I'd only ever seen at random co-ops? Whoa. It was also on Amazon. The fancy disposable fountain pens I had to special-order from art stores were there, as were newly released books, magazine subscriptions, and shampoo. Socks! Makeup! Software! My use of Amazon just crept up. These were items I was going to buy anyway, and they came right to my door! The future was now, baby, and my god, my lazy ass loved living in it.

And once it dawned on me that you could buy Christmas presents, and get them wrapped, and then shipped – for free – to someone's house ... well, I never really came back from that. Christmas presents were a matter of saving my money for months and then clicking. Done.

But last year, after buying zero presents in a physical store, I didn't feel pleased to have it all done. I felt like Christmas shopping had lost a bit (OK, all) of its magic. And I felt a little ashamed of myself. Because underneath my glee at the deals and the convenience, I know Amazon is not good. My soul knows it. I actually fear Amazon and how it's taking over. I am afraid of Alexa and what she means, and I am creeped out by how easily, how casually, she was embraced by millions of households.

I also know Amazon's track record for labor practices is not good. I know the workers can't form unions to protect themselves. I know the average worker makes \$13.68 an hour and that Amazon is one of the top 20 employers of people dependent on food stamps in several US states. I know the workers are worked until they're physically worn out; they sometimes can't even take bathroom breaks and still meet their productivity quotas. I know Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos makes \$3,182 every second (that's \$191,000 per minute) and that no one – no single person on this earth – should be allowed to be that rich. And what does he use it for? Humanitarian efforts? Eradicating childhood leukemia?

"The only way that I can see to deploy this much financial resource is by converting my Amazon winnings into space travel," Bezos has said.

Space.
Travel.

Amazon thrives and grows off the back of cheap, replaceable labor. And it continues to succeed, because oh my god, it's Tuesday at 6pm and I am exhausted and hungry and the last thing I want to do after work is go to the mall to buy a generic-yet-just-nice-enough Christmas present for the office Secret Santa exchange.

And I'm not alone. As a society, we're all overwhelmed – pressed for time, all the time, and someone has got to do the shopping and wouldn't it be great if we could press a little button and have the things we need and want just appear? That exists now. And it's completely irresistible.

I need to try and resist. Even just a little. Because I know what's behind the blue half-smile of the Amazon Prime symbol. It's a sea of human beings – vastly underpaid human beings who will walk up to 15 miles in a single shift to pick up the Charles Dickens biography I'm buying for my dad. They'll pack it and ship it, and it'll be here tomorrow, because that's convenient for me.

I'm very, very used to this. In fact, I'm coming to expect it. Habits – especially habits of convenience – are hard to break, but I've reached the point where I can't keep pretending I don't know what my little Amazon habit is funding. I could do with a little less convenience, actually. I'm starting with Christmas.

Krista Burton is a writer for the online magazine Rookie



A big congratulations to Wollombi Road Providore who took out the Service Excellence Award in the greengrocer category at the 2018 Sydney

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Branxton Public School

Carols by Torchlight was held in Week 8 and was a lovely, relaxing evening for families and community members. We were delighted to see so many of our Kinder 2019 families there! Santa came for a visit in the Fire Truck and our students enjoyed performing their Christmassy songs on the stage. Thank you to all the P&C helpers and staff members who contributed to the successful event. We especially thank Mrs Goodyer who provided so many photos of the night and many other events throughout the year.

Presentation Day was a true celebration of the achievements of our school and all of our students. Congratulations to every student who has worked hard to achieve their Personal Best in 2018. Well done to **Hannah Enright** who was awarded Dux of Year 6 and Blake Nicholls who received the Citizenship Award. Our school leaders were announced and are ready for their important roles in the new year. The House Captains were announced at the Sports Presentation and are also ready and eager for the challenges of 2019.

Year 6 students are enjoying their final days of Primary School. They recently had a great day at Stockton Beach participating in the Surf Fun Safety program where they learnt some safety tips for swimming in the ocean. The Year 6 dinner was then a chance for students to get dressed up, let their hair down and show off their dance moves. We wish our Year 6 students all the best for their adventures in high school.

Our final PBL Assembly and reward day was held in Week 9, with students enjoying water fun activities or library games. It was so good to see so many students achieving their Power Pup badges. I wonder what colour they will be next year? The P&C held their annual Bunnings BBQ fundraiser at Maitland Bunnings, raising \$1200 to put towards our new pavement art. Lex James has done an amazing job on the colourful games and Power Pups. Come and have a look next time you're at school.

We say farewell to Mrs Taylor who has decided to retire after many years at BPS. Miss Kracyla will also be moving on, to embrace different opportunities. We wish them both good luck and thank them for their contributions to Branxton PS. 2018 has been another wonderful year at Branxton Public School and next year is looking to be even better! On behalf of Branxton Public School, I'd like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a safe, relaxing holiday with your families.



Dates for the Calendar
 Tuesday 18th December – Party Day
 Wednesday 19th December – last day for students
 Tuesday 29th January – Staff Development Day
 Wednesday 30th January – First day for Years 1-6
 Monday 4th February – First day for Kindergarten

■ Year 6 students & teachers



■ Carols



■ Carols



■ Surf Safe



■ Water fun



■ Water fun



■ Water fun



■ Pavement art



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Greta Museum

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[Come in to INSPECT](#)
 what's new in your local museum!



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Greta Historical Museum
 96 High Street Greta
 Open 11am-3pm
 Wednesdays & Saturdays

Cessnock City Council rejects disturbing cemeteries regulation

Cessnock City Council makes its stance known on the NSW Government's decision that allows cemeteries to reuse grave sites just 25 years after the burial. The message was clear, this won't be happening in the Cessnock Local Government Area. Changes introduced in June under the Cemetery and Crematoria Regulation 2018 enables cemetery operators to introduce a system that allows graves to be rented for a period of 25 years to 99 years for people who cannot afford a permanent site. If a relative of the deceased person is unable to continue the fees, there is a possibility the head stone and the human remains will be removed. The plot can then be put up for sale. The changes attracted wide-spread criticism from community members, Church groups and the NSW Aboriginal Council. At the last Council meeting for 2018, Council decided the renewable internment rights will not

be offered at the 10 cemeteries operated by Council. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this is not an option in Cessnock and won't be. "It was great to get strong support for the Mayoral Minute. I was compelled to take action on this matter after hearing and sharing the concerns of many locals." "Our community is home to many families who have been here for generations. Everyone deserves a place to be laid to rest and a place for their loved ones to visit them. One of the most concerning aspects of the changes is that it may create two classes of burial rights in NSW that would see some unable to afford a plot for more than 25 years." Council will write the NSW Government advising that Council opposes the changes that allow for the reuse of burial plots and urging the NSW Government to urgently look for alternate solutions to address the need for more burial space.




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• Photo: Mayor Bob Pynsent says that Cessnock City Council are rejecting the changes to NSW Government's Cemetery and Crematoria Regulation 2018 that allows the reuse of grave sites just 25 years after the burial.

Cessnock City Council welcomes 'Keep it in the Regions' recommendations

Cessnock City Council welcomed recommendations released by the Industry, Innovation, Science and Resources Committee following an inquiry into mining sector support for regional business. Cessnock City Council made a submission to the inquiry, sharing challenges small businesses face in the Cessnock Local Government Area and highlighting how the mining sector can better support business in regional economies. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent was invited to present on the submission and not only advocated for small business but for better outcomes for communities directly impacted by mining. The 21 recommendations made by the Committee in the "Keep it in the regions: Mining and resource industry support for business in regional economies" report have been praised by Council. Mayor Pynsent said the findings are positive and he looks forward to the implementation of the recommendations by the Federal Government's in the short term. "The recommendations are extremely positive for small to medium size businesses working in the mining sector. The tightening up of payment terms, contract terms and increased commitment to local procurement are much needed." "The report also highlights the need for the adoption of funding programs that allows regional areas directly impacted by mining to get their share of royalties from resource extraction locally. I'm sure other communities faced with the impacts of mining legacy will agree that it's about time we see the money returned to our communities through infrastructure." To view this report visit www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Industry_Innovation_Science_and_Resources/MiningSector/Report.



OUTLAW AVE

WITH SPECIAL GUEST • MACKENZIE PRINGLE



**8.30PM
START**

SPORTS RESULTS GOLF

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 6-12-18 Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Gazzard 31 pts (c/b)
R/u L Hunt 31 pts 3rd P Anderson 30 pts (c/b)
Div 2 Winner G Scobie 31 pts (c/b) (SOD) S Condran 31 pts(c/b) 3rd B Ward 31 pts
Ladies - Insufficient numbers to form division.
NTPs Ladies J Harris
Gents K Anderson
Members draw - Not won
A pleasantly warm Summer's day, light cloud cover, greeted our players for to-day's round.
Congratulations to **Graeme Scobie** on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day", particularly in view of the tightly packed finish. And a well done to all other winners and placegetters.

Results 13-12-18 Stableford

Div1 Winner M Ford 32 pts (SOD c/b)
R/u E Barrett 31 pts (c/b)
3rd J Sheedy 31 pts
Div 2 winner R McMillan 32 pts
R/u R Showman 31 pts
3rd A Cannon 30 pts
Ladies Winner T Martin 26 pts R/u J Scobie 24 pts (c/b) 3rd M Hunt 24 pts
NTPs Ladies R Friis
Gents A Cannon
Members draw - Not won
It seems that Summer has really arrived, as our players experienced during the round to-day, with a couple of months to come.
Congratulations to Mike Ford on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day", as we had another tightly packed finish. A well done to all other winners and placegetters.

LN Bootes, Hon Secretary Branxton Ladies

Branxton Ladies Presentation Day 2018
Club Champion - Caren Caldwell
Division 2 Champion - Ruth McCarthy
Nett Division 1 - Toy Martin
Nett Division 2 - Jen Salna
Mabel MacKenzie Brooch Nett - Jen Salna
Senior Vet - Caren Caldwell
18 Hole Eclectic Winner -Carol Miller
Gobbler Winner - Kerrie O'Connell
Birdies Winner - Caren Caldwell
Womens GolfNSW Medal - Trish McMillan
District Medal - Robyn Hoffman
Pauline Thomas Memorial - Kerrie O'Connell
Jill Thomas Memorial - Caren Caldwell
Branxton Cup - Lyn Banks
Greatest Reduction in Handicap - Neridah Busch (5)
Summer Comp Winner - Kerrie O'Connell
Season Trophy - Ruth McCarthy
Golf NSW 2BBB Qualifying Team - Ruth McCarthy & Jan Scobie
Branxton Ladies Golf & Branxton Vets
5th December 2018 - Christmas Ambrose
Winner: The Candy Canes (Neridah Busch Richard Crooks & Al Cannon)
2nd: 3 French Hens/Roosters (Ivan Harris, Jan Harris &)John Atton
3rd: 3 Wise Wo-men (Lee Hunt, Marg Hunt & Caren Caldwell)
NTP Ladies - Jan Harris
Gents - Ivan Harris
Hunter Valley Golf Club
Sunday 2nd December Shawn

Parish has won the Weekly Challenge with a solid 41 point return from Lloyd Barrett runner up with 38 points and Mark Makin 3rd with 34 on countback
Tuesday 4th December Club Champion Angello Wood has cleaned up the Tuesday field with a 45 point round with a scratch 64 which included 8 birdies. While the day produced several great scores nobody could deny this effort from Angello. Geoff Sweetman was second on countback after he and Michael Watson returned 44 points. Ball winners were: Chris Taggart 40, Brand Job v40, Mark Makin 39, David Peel 37, Col Bradley Graeme Flynn 36, Peter Guest v35 and Rick Turnchini 35 on countback. Nearest-the-Pins went to John Stewart (3rd & 4th) Graeme Flynn (10th) and Col Bradley (17th).

Wednesday 5th December The Ladies Dropout Ambrose has been won by Jill Ramsden, Jill Slatter, Isabel Skeates and Mary Fortey from Christine Tancred, Anne-Grace Smith, Crol Horton and Sharon Blackett. The Christmas Dress up winners were: Lorraine Clack, Molly Hamilton, Robyn Dunlop and Julie Van Den Berg. Next week the Ladies will see the start of the Summer Stableford comp.

Thursday 6th December The Vets Irish Stableford went to Ray Newton with a stand out 89 points from David Blackburn 82 and Ken Harris 81. Ball winners were: John Stewart 80, Wayne Drayton 78, Wayne Barber 77, Dave Fury 77, Ray Boyd 76, Bruce Chambers 75, Wayne Burgess 73, Greg Ireland 73 and John Carmody 72. Nearest-the-Pins went to Kevin Smith (3rd) John Stewart (4th) David Peel (10th) and Ray Hodson (17th). Next week the Vets will have an 8:00am Shotgun start playing 2 Person Stabrose will the AGM to follow. Garry Clarke won this week's raffle

Saturday 8th December Excellent course conditions once again led to great scoring across all grades with Maitland visitor Geoff Stuczko winning A grade with 38 points from Troy Edmonds with 35, B Grade to Paul Davies 41 from John Stewart 40 and C Grade to Tony Butler with the round of the day, 44 points from inform Ray Newton 43. Ball winners were: Dean Blair 39, Clarke Sturman 38, Darrell Preston 38, David Irwin 38, Ian Newell 38, Chad Mitchison v38, Wayne Drayton 37, Chris Lawson 36, Simon Nicholson 36 and Wayne Berry 36. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Berry (3rd) Garry Marsden (4th) Tracy Morison (8th & 10th) and Simon Nicholson (17th).

Sunday 9th December He Weekly Challenge has been won by Everglades GC visitor Jason Clifton with 40 points from Jai Kumar with 38 points on countback. The club held the AGM with the 2019 Committee elected: President : Adrian Kent, Secretary/Treasurer : Chris Taggart, Men's Captain : John Stewart, Committee Members: Wayne Barber, John Carmody, Michael McNab and Christine Tancred. The Nine Hole Dash played after the meeting was won by the team of Dale Hamilton, Kay Dunn, Jenny & Bruce Chambers with 47 points in the 'Best 2 team scores to count' . Their score was boosted by a fine Eagle 3 by Jenny on the 18th, Nearest-the-Pin went to Sue Peel.

Tuesday 11th December Mild overcast conditions led to some excellent scoring in the Tuesday Syableford with Peter Payne leading the way with 43 points from Dean Morison 43 and Michael Ridgeway from Charlestown GC 3rd with 41 points. Ball winners were: Wade Firth v40, Ken Scott-MacKenzie 40, Col Bradley 39, Steven Wright v39, Jason McBeath v38, David Peel 38, Peter Wilson 37 and Paul Smith 37 on countback. Nearest-the-Pins went

to Wade Firth (3rd) Matt Delforce (4th) Jason Cowburn (10th) and Dean Morison (17th)

Wednesday 12th December The Ladies have begun their 'Summer Stableford' rounds with this week's going to Melita Watson with 35 points from Brenda Mannix on 32 points. The Summer Stableford will continue next week.

Thursday 13th December The Vets Stabrose event has been won by the team of Dave Blackburn, John Pascoe and Steve Rawlings with 58 points from John Harrison & Ray Boyd with 54 on countback. Ball winners were: Rex Talbot & Eric Smith 54, Paul Smith & Wayne Burgess 52, Ken Wright & Bruce Chambers 52, Dave Fury & Geoff Sweetman 51, Wayne Barber & Peter Munro 50, Mark Barrow & Paul Bullock 50, Greg Ireland & Doug Wand 50, Wayne Berry & Darrell Preston 50, Kevin Smith & David Peel 48 and John Stewart & Graeme Flynn 44. Nearest-the-Pins went to Paul Smith (3rd) Kevin Smith (4th) Wayne Barber (10th) and Doug Wand (17th). The raffle has been won by Wayne Berry.

Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford
Saturday 15th December The Blue Tee Challenge turned out to be an early Christmas present for the Men with all Tees forward to protect the back teeing area for next week's 'The Jack' celebrity event with scores reflecting the 'leg up'. A Grade went to John Jamieson of the Toukley GC with 43 points from Troy Wallis 40, B Grade to Nick Looby with 42 points from David Irwin 39 and C Grade to Kevin Smith with a staggering 11 under handicap 47 points from Scott Armstrong with 44. Ball winners were: Luke Johnston 41, Simon Nicholson 39, Julie Van Den Berg 38, Coen King 38, Steven Bailey 38, Robert King 37 and Angello Wood 37

Born & bred in Greta FROM BACK PAGE
The Grand Final arrived and a good box was paramount in such a hot field, he drew the box the connections were praying for, BOX ONE. When the lids opened in the final he was third away behind BLAZIN' CARTER (6) and the brilliant PINNY MACK, (2) he followed the pair until the home turn where he railed underneath the pair and went on for a great win defeating DYNA DAVE (4) and BLAZIN' CARTER (6). In the space of eight weeks Dave and Jean Fahey had done a tremendous job with BAGO BYE BYE, 10 starts, 9 wins, an unlucky 3rd at \$1:20 from box 5, a track record and a Group One win in the New Zealand Cup. After a two week break he jumped on a boat and headed to the North Island for a crack at the Group One Spiron Rose at Hatrick. The long trip and the fact he hadn't seen the tricky Hatrick track was a concern for trainers Dave and Jean, no worries. He settled fourth from box 3 and copped a check going into the first turn then balanced in the back straight before rounding up the leaders for a convincing win. (running home in 11:45sec, the best of the four heats) In the final of the Spiron Rose he drew box 7 (not ideal on such a tight track) he copped a nasty check on the first turn which shoved him way too far out the back, all over red rover, still a great record. Unfortunately for Dave and Jean the owner flew the dog back to NSW last weekend. Alwyn's dog OXLEY REBEL spent most of this year in Western Australia and returned to Sydney with the record of 4 wins and 5 placings. Now in the hands of Darren Sultana he was entered at Maitland last week, drawing box 6 with Jonny Sledzianowski's talented DJANGO'S MATE on his outside. After jumping fairly he put a gap in the rest of the field in the home straight winning by 9 lengths in the very slick time of 25.05sec. The four siblings that went to Western Australia are all paying their way with YUNDERUP STAR 5 wins and 2 placings from 8 starts, YUNDERUP TANK 9 wins and 12 placings, his last start was third

countback. Nearest-the-Pins went to Kevin Smith (3rd) Julie Van Den Berg (10th) & Nick Looby (17th). Next week's event will be a Medley Irish Stableford.



with Mark Bercini

Cricket Report - Week 9

Week Nine of District Cricket saw great wins to First and Third Grade Blue, with Second, Third White and Fourth Grade going down in their respective matches.

First grade grade made it eight wins on the trot to remain seven points clear at the top of the ladder following their association record breaking run-chase against Bellbird at Carmichael Park. Bellbird batted first and amassed 7-276 from their forty overs. It wasn't one of Greta/Branxton's better days in the field, but Martin Shearer again was their best with the four-piece, bagging 4-44 off 10, with Dave Condran taking 2-60 off 8. The Blues appeared to be in a spot of bother at 3-66 in reply, but buoyed by their recent form in chasing down hefty totals, they again went to a new level, losing just one more wicket before reaching the target in the 36th over. Skipper Nathan Holz continued his stellar form with the blade this season, smashing 83 from just 56 balls, with his sublime timing off the

back foot a real feature. Opener Darren Thomson got his team off on the correct foot with a rapid 32, with fellow opener Mark Bercini finally finding some form after a pretty dry spell in recent times with an unbeaten 87. In a fitting end to the game Jake Goodyer (52no) brought up his half century when he struck the winning blow down to long on for a boundary.

After a positive start to the season, Second Grade slumped to their fourth loss in the past five games, this time soundly beaten by 8 wickets by Bellbird at Miller 1. Greta/Branxton were skittled for just 81 batting first, with Dylan Lipscombe (20), Cannon Thomson (14) and Andrew Bercini (13) out of retirement being the only batsmen to reach double figures. Bellbird reached the target in the 27th over after losing just the two wickets. These belonged to Jason Varley (1-19 off 5) and Thomson (1-6 off 6). Third Grade Blue made it back-to-back wins following their 6-wicket victory over Wine Country at Miller 2. Wine Country made a healthy 8-177 batting first, with Greta/Branxton's wickets shared between Dave Seabrook (3-32 off 9), Mal Hedger (2-21 off 5), Ayden Wilkinson (1-34 off 7), Ben Lahey (1-32 off 7) and Jarrad Wilkinson (1-37 off 9). The Blues reached the target in the 36th over after losing just the four wickets. Skipper Lahey batted beautifully at the top of the order for an unbeaten 91, receiving good

supporter from Hedger (28) and older brother Matt Lahey (15no).

In contrast Third Grade White unfortunately made it back-to-back losses when they were edged out by 2 wickets at the hands of Mulbring at Jeffery Park. Greta/Branxton posted a healthy 9-183 batting first. Jamie McNamara again led from the front with 49, Neil Bird was next best with 44no, with Brett Stephenson 19, Jason Stephenson (16), Noah McNamara (14) and Aaron Stephenson (13) all contributing. Mulbring achieved the target in 29 overs, with Jamie McNamara capping an excellent all-round game with 3-70 off 10. Dan Minchin (3-28 off 6) also grabbed a treble, with Aaron Stephenson (1-30 off 4) and Steve Daunt (1-12 off 3) grabbing a wicket each. After five straight wins, Fourth Grade finally succumbed to defeat at the hands of Wine Country by 39 runs at St. Phillip's. Wine Country made 5-218 batting first, with Correy Stone (3-35 off 10), Dan McCann (1-49 off 9) and Jeremy Brown (1-69 off 9) claiming wickets. Greta/Branxton were in all sorts of trouble at 6-72 in reply, but they fought back through an excellent 85-run sixth wicket partnership between McCann and skipper Sam Dagg. McCann completed an outstanding all-round performance with an unbeaten 61, with Dagg (57) also notching a neat half century. Stone (16) and Seamus Keegan (12) were the other batsman to make starts. They were eventually all out in the 37th over for 179.

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behind WEST ON AUGIE (National Sprint Champion) in the WA Anniversary Cup final. YUNDERUP KAYLA 5 wins and YUNDERUP LAUREN 2 wins. Remaining home in Greta MIDNIGHT ON FIRE 4 wins, one at Wentworth Park, ROSE OF MIDNIGHT 4 wins and MIDNIGHT JADE having only one start, finishing 4th after sustaining an injury on the first turn, leading by four lengths. All are capable of a lot more wins in 2019 for their proud mum KEIRA'S CHARM. There is sure to be plenty of interest in Sabotic's next litter be it KEIRA'S CHARM or her daughter ROSE OF MIDNIGHT.

WINNERS ARE GRINNERS

Branxton trainer Susan Smith has a lightning fast dog in her kennels named TUNZA THUNDER who has been kicking up a storm. The black bitch by MAGIC SPRITE out of BLUE THUNDER has racked up 6 wins, a second and a third from 8 starts. The cash has been raining down for Susan landing a double at the last two Gosford meetings with TUNZA THUNDER - BUNBAH and TUNZA THUNDER - MORSE, she also won at The Gardens with MIKE MY WAY last Friday night. James Porter has been picking up a few winner's cheques with DOUBLE MACK and MEPUNGA REIGN winning at Maitland, DOUBLE MACK went on to win at Wentworth Park along with ZIPPING ALVIN. James also landed a winning double at Richmond with HARD LEFT and BOWLS AND HOLES, they backed up that form at Gosford when HARD LEFT beat BOWLS AND HOLES by a neck with the quinella paying \$10:30. HARD LEFT continued the winning streak again at Gosford the following week. Greta trainer Michelle Lill's DANA KAZZA put drinks in the fridge for husband Michael with wins at Muswellbrook, Taree, The Gardens and Kempsey, taking her tally to 16 wins. Lochinvar lady Deborah Roach has a lot of new friends and is all cashed up for Christmas after landing a quinella at The Gardens with OVER WATCH and FLYING

FUTURE, paying a whopping \$91. Peter Akers can afford to buy his wife some expensive perfume this Christmas from the Greta Pharmacy after collecting the cash with ZIPPING BURGESS winning two at Maitland and another two at Bulli. The Gardens has been a happy hunting ground for Swan Bay trainer Alan Ivers in the past month, Al has collected a winning cheque on 15 occasions with FAITH IN THEE, (5) SMOKEM JOE, (3) RAGADEEN, (2) ZIPPING ABBOT, (2) SKETCHY FEVER, ASTEROID CHLOE and FIVE EIGHT DOLL. He also banked another 18 placings. Alan told me .. "The reason for my recent run of success is all because of Greta trainer Robbie Neville. Since I enlisted Robbie as my number one handler I started to pick is brain and implement his training methods. I just hope Robbie hangs around for a bit longer because winners are gridders and I'm smiling." Other winners included SAHALEE for Graeme Barnett, ROBBIE KNOWS for Chris Kedwell, BRAEMAN and SCOTT PACE for Garry Kedwell, CHEEKY CHAPTER for Tom Campbell, LAGOON BONNIE for Stephen Keith, MAKOSA for Louise McGee and GAME SET MATCH for Anne Foley.

GRETA GBOTA DIARY

SUNDAY 6TH JANUARY 2019.
Branch meeting 7pm GRETA WORKERS CLUB.
SATURDAY 19TH JANUARY 2019.
N.S.W GBOTA Gala dinner Wentworth Park.
SUNDAY 20TH JANUARY 2019.
Greta branch presentation at East Maitland Bowling Club. (Buffet lunch)
SUNDAY 27TH JANUARY 2019.
GBOTA Northern District presentation Bradford Hotel Rutherford.
SUNDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2019.
Branch meeting and election for 2019 positions. 7pm GRETA WORKERS CLUB.

WISHING EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Cheers, Midnite



The **News** SPORT



Bago Bye Bye winning the group one New Zealand Cup

New beginnings for Colts in 2019



A new look committee, new look coaching staff, and new look roster for the Greta Branxton Colts Rugby League Club have generated plenty of discussion and interest in the community and 2019 hasn't even started!! Under the reign of new President Nathan Smith everything is upbeat for 2019 in the Seniors. The Ladies League Tag are looking to improve from a finals performance this year and there is a pending Ladies tackle team for the winter comp which will draw the

crowds as shown in the recent summer competition being a roaring success for all clubs involved. A key appointment of Matt Fuller as 18s coach and a pending handy squad for 2019 have them looking like being finals contenders. Reserve grade has appointed former barbeque cooker-come reserve grade prop-come first grade prop forward Doug Engel as their Coach for 2019 (we will see how long it takes that position to be a Captain Coach role....). First Grade are looking to resurrect their bad run of

consecutive wooden spoons with the appointment of local boy and former player Steve Nevin as their head coach who is excited about the season ahead and the interest so far regarding player retention and recruitment. There will be more communication to come regarding 2019 player signings so stay tuned..... "Nevo", is looking to be assisted by a various amount of former players and local identities along the 2019 journey as he tries to regain the "old culture" which will hopefully see the crowd

numbers improve and the Win/Loss ratio get back to a level it needs to be in a passionate rugby league loving community.

As mentioned above the new look, hard working committee is fired up for a big season ahead and are looking forward to increased junior registrations and improved results, and they have also fully backed the senior Men's and Women's teams to set a high standard throughout the club on and off the field. The Committee consists of: Secretary-Mandy Tracey, Treasurer-Bec Robinson, Snr Vice President Paul Tracey, Jnr vice president-Sheryn Binnie, Schools boys' Administrator-Doug Engel, Group 21 Administrator-Adam Woodcroft, Jnr Registrar-Terneal King, Snr Registrar-Carissa Norton, Canteen Co-ordinator-Andrew Jacobs, Merchandise Coordinator-Tammy Ware, Sponsorship Co-ordinator-Sean Kowalski and Chris Roberts, Ground Maintenance-Glen George, First Aid Co-ordinator-Jacob Thomas, Web Editor-Carissa Norton, Player Reps-Chris Roberts and Eve Engel, Events Co-ordinator-Eve

Engel and a number of volunteers on the coaching panel.

Please note: There will be a get together for the 18's and senior men's teams on Saturday 15th December at Greta Oval and 10am which will consist of a game of touch, a meet and greet with the coaches followed by a bbq and a few cordials/beers. This is for anyone keen to play in 2019, committee, and anyone generally interested in being a part of the action. We welcome potential new players even just to come up and have a chat and a gallop. Training will officially start Tuesday 29th January 6pm at Greta oval. The Colts will also be putting in a squad for the Berkeley Vale 9's Competition on 23rd Feb as a reward for the top trainers and a good pre-season hit out before the Scanlon Shield. Anyone interested in playing in the Women's teams should contact John Hamson -0407380805, 18's Matt Fuller-0423625710, and Grade Men Steve Nevin-0457547478.

• Pictured above (L to R) First Grade Coach Steve Nevin, Secretary Mandy Tracey, President Nathan Smith and Reserve Grade Coach Doug Engel.

Born & bred in Greta

A fawn dog by Barcia Bale out of Kiera's Charm was whelped in Greta on the 4th February 2016 by Bradley and Carol Sabotic, Bradley's dad called him Tommy because he was as tough as Raudonikus. Six pups were sold in the litter with Tommy being purchased by Greg Watts from Wauchope, his dad Alwyn took Tommy's brother Rusty and four went to Western Australia. Greg named his dog BAGO BYE BYE and sent him to trainer Darren Russell in Queensland. The dog was showing so much promise in his trials that Greg knocked back a three figure sum from a leading trainer in Victoria. He had 7 starts in Queensland for 4 wins and 2 placings and ran 4th in the heat and semi of a feature race in Victoria (The \$210,000 Launching Pad,

won by BEAST UNLEASHED who is owned by ex Greta branch member Dawn Garrett.) before going to New Zealand. In New Zealand he was being trained at Christchurch by leading trainers Dave and Jean Fahey with his goal being the Group One New Zealand Cup mid November. In his first 5 starts at Addington he drew terrible boxes 4, 5 and 6 but overcame the the bad draws to record 4 wins and a third. At his next two starts he drew a little better in box three winning both and smashing the track record in the astonishing time of 29.59sec. He was getting close to his goal being nominated for the New Zealand Cup, back to the bad draws, box 4 in his heat and box 5 in the semi. He overcame the bad draws to win both the heat and semi in the quickest time of the night.

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