CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL

Council News

August 2010

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Debate signals an exciting future

Winners are grinners

The winning debating team from Cessnock High School: Researcher, Shae Breen; first speaker, Sam Harwood; third speaker, Matthew Abbott; and second speaker, Natalie Paynter; with Cessnock Mayor Alison Davey.

Cessnock City Council also wishes to thank students Glen Atkinson and David Cook from Mount View High School for their technical expertise and Adjudicator, Janette Jackson; Timer, Judy Clark and Masters of Ceremony, Tom Hannah and David Clark.

Thanks also to sponsors of the event: Cessnock Achievement Centre and Rover Motors Pty Ltd.

Congratulations to Cessnock High School for their win in the inaugural Mayoral Academic High School Debate!

Our four local government high schools participated in the debate held over two days at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre and the skill demonstrated by all teams astounded all the adults in the audiences.

During the heats, the Year 9 and 10 students spoke to topics which were relevant to their lives - the school leaving age being raised to 17 years is great, and the Hunter would be a better place because of Gen Y.

The final debate held on 28 July saw Cessnock and Kurri Kurri High debating teams argue the topic, that the age to get a driving licence should be 21 years.

Quite apart from the public speaking skills shown by all speakers, the research and the mounting of arguments belied the students' ages.

The Debate adds to the initiatives Cessnock City Council has introduced to promote the academic excellence of our local students: the Mayoral Academic Scholarships are now in their ninth year and the Mayoral Academic Challenge has been running since 2006.

The 2010 Mayoral Academic Challenge will be held on 10, 11 and 12 August at Cessnock Community Performing Arts Centre.

This year there will be 18 primary schools competing for the prize money of first - $3,000. second - $2,000 and third - $1,500.

Residents of Cessnock LGA now have free access to Power Usage Meters so they can calculate how much energy each appliance in their house actually consumes.

By better understanding energy consumption residents can learn to make simple changes potentially saving several hundred dollars a year and tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Energy Reduction Kits include a Power Usage Meter, which calculates the power consumed by each appliance and a booklet containing advice and tips on how to make simple changes in behaviour, which will save money and help the environment. The Kits are available to borrow from Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries.

Think before you park

Parking on footpaths and in or across driveways

You cannot park on a nature strip, even if two wheels are on the road and whether or not there is a footpath or kerb and guttering. This is for pedestrian access safety. **Penalty $86.00**

You cannot park on the road blocking a driveway or on the driveway (even your own) outside the property boundary. This is for pedestrian safety.
Penalty $86.00

Parking parallel to road side

When you parallel park, you must park your vehicle pointing in the same direction as the flow of traffic closest to your vehicle. This is for traffic flow safety.
Penalty $143.00

Parking on the footpath/footway

Under the Australian Road Rules 2008, a driver must not stop on a footpath or nature strip adjacent to a length of road. To do so is an offence.

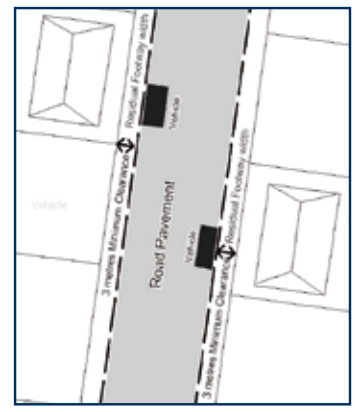
Cessnock City Council has adopted a Parking Policy to address pedestrian safety and the needs of **all** footway and road users.

The following policy guideline has been produced to clarify parking on roads **where there is no kerb and guttering**.

1. Motor vehicles must park parallel to the road in the direction of travel.

2. Vehicles must not Double Park.

3. Sufficient residual footway width must be provided between the parked vehicle and the road boundary (front boundary of property) for footway use. A minimum of three (3) metres must be provided between the road boundary and any vehicles parked parallel to the road.



4. Proposed residual footway widths must have full width clearance of three (3) metres for a minimum height of 2.0 metres at all times.

5. The entire width of residual footway (full three (3) metres) must be trafficable for all footway users under all normal circumstances. This width must not include areas that cannot be trafficked by footway users.

Double Parking

You cannot stop on a road next to other parked cars (even if you have your hazard lights on) unless you are about to park your vehicle. This is for traffic flow safety.

Penalty $201.00

Disabled Parking

When the wheelchair logo is on a sign or on a roadway, only vehicles displaying a valid mobility parking scheme authority issued by the Roads and Traffic Authority may park on a length of road or in spaces indicated by the sign.

Penalty $430.00

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Cessnock City Council is developing a long-term 10-year plan for the future growth and prosperity of the Cessnock local government area.

The aim of the Plan is to identify the major social, environmental, economic and leadership challenges facing our community over the next 10 years, and outline the strategies that will be pursued to meet those challenges.

To find out the views of our community, Council has undertaken an extensive program of consultation activities including a community survey of 500 residents in July 2009, a public debate, 16 workshops held across the LGA, a survey, online discussion forum, a school art project and a telephone hotline.

More than 1000 people have directly participated in the consultation activities that have provided information to develop the draft Community Plan.

The draft Cessnock 2020 Community Plan is now on public exhibition and we are seeking your feedback.

There are a number of ways you can provide your feedback and views on the draft plan. You can:

- Write to: General Manager Cessnock City Council PO Box 152 Cessnock 2325 or email: cessnock2020@cessnock.nsw.gov.au
- Participate in the online forum at www.focusonourfuture.com.au
- Attend one of the community workshops being held on:

Monday 16 August 2010
6pm – 8pm
Kurri Kurri Community Centre
245 Lang St, Kurri Kurri

Tuesday 17 August 2010
1.00pm - 3.00pm
Cessnock Performing Arts Centre

Tuesday 17 August 2010
5.30pm - 7.30pm
Cessnock Performing Arts Centre

The workshops will be interactive sessions run by independent facilitators.

If you would like to attend one of the workshops, please confirm your attendance by phoning Sara Neville on 1800 252 040 or emailing s.neville@kjassoc.com.au

This is an important plan that will set the future direction for Cessnock. We look forward to working with you to make Cessnock a prosperous, sustainable and inviting place for residents and visitors into the future.

Dollars for dollars

Cessnock City Council has $35,000 in the Community Facilities Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme and $35,000 available within the Sporting Facility and Equipment Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme to distribute to local community and sporting groups this financial year.

Community groups and sporting bodies are invited to apply for funds through either one of these grant schemes. Grants will be provided on a dollar for dollar basis, that is to a maximum of 50 per cent of the cost of the project or item of equipment.

The Community Facilities Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme is aimed at assisting community facility management committees and associated user groups in developing Council's general purpose community assets and their environs.

The intention of the grant scheme is to assist in completing minor capital works and for the purchase of equipment for Council's community assets, subsequently improving the use of the facilities by user groups and the general public.

The target facilities are Council community halls and buildings which cater for a broad range of users.

The Sporting Facilities and Equipment Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme targets local sporting and community groups whose projects aim to improve or refurbish Council owned sporting facilities as well as for the purchase of equipment, which has long term benefits to the club and Council.

Application forms and grant guidelines are available from Council's Customer Service Centre and Council's website, www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au. Completed application forms must be returned no later than 5pm on Friday 27 August 2010.

Council will assess applications and allocate grants in line with preset selection criteria and all projects must be completed by 30 June 2011.

It is recommended that prior to lodging your application, you contact Council's Recreation and Community Services Officer on 4993 4234.

Don't waste your say

Council is currently reviewing part of our domestic waste service and is investigating the options relating to the four waste vouchers system or a bulky waste collection.

We would appreciate your opinion and service preference. You can register your opinion and preference on your preferred service by either:

- Completing the online survey on Council's website. Please note this closes on the 20 August 2010.
- Registering via phone on 4993 4220.
- Completing the questionnaire which has been printed in the newspaper in past weeks and returning it to Council's Administration Centre, Cessnock or Kurri Kurri Library.

Meet your Councillors

Building a Brighter Future

Local Government Week 2010

To celebrate Local Government Week, we invite you to meet your Councillors and have a one-on-one chat about any topic you like.

Our draft Cessnock 2020 Community Plan has just been placed on public exhibition and you may have some views about that. Or maybe you just want to get to know your Councillors a little better and find out their ideas for the future of our LGA.

Saturday 7 August 2010

10am - 12 noon

Council Chambers

Administration Building

(Cumberland Street entrance)

Tea & coffee will be available.

CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Councillor Alison Davey

Ward A
Cordelia Burcham
James Hawkins
Rachel Main

Ward B
Ian Olsen *(Deputy Mayor)*
Bob Pynsent
Dale Troy

Ward C
Jeff Maybury
Allan McCudden
Christopher Parker

Ward D
Neil Gorman
James Ryan
Graham Smith

Contact Council

Administration Centre
62 - 78 Vincent Street Cessnock

Postal Address:
PO Box 152 Cessnock NSW 2325

Phone 02 4993 4100
Fax 02 4993 2500
Email council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au
Web www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

General Manager
Bernie Mortomore

Council Departments

City Planning
Director: Darryl Fitzgerald

Corporate and Community
Director: Craig Bennett

Infrastructure and Services
Director: David Pavey

Council meetings
Council meetings are open to the public and all are welcome. Meetings start at 6.30pm in the Council Chambers.

Council meeting dates
4 and 18 August 2010
1 and 15 September 2010
6 and 20 October 2010

Councillors
To contact Councillors, please phone Council's Administration Centre on 02 4993 4100 or view their contact details on Council's website.

Mayor: Councillor Alison Davey

Ward A
Cordelia Burcham
James Hawkins
Rachel Main

Ward B
Ian Olsen *(Deputy Mayor)*
Bob Pynsent
Dale Troy

Ward C
Jeff Maybury
Allan McCudden
Christopher Parker

Ward D
Neil Gorman
James Ryan
Graham Smith