



Council News

Autumn 2007 Community Report from Cessnock City Council

Farewell to Freeman of the City

A huge crowd gathered to bid a final farewell to Coogan Frame on 3 April.

Coogan Frame - third generation miner, tireless fundraiser for his community, Retired Mineworkers Association president, recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2005 and granted Freeman of the City of Cessnock in 1994 - died after a brief illness at the age of 89.

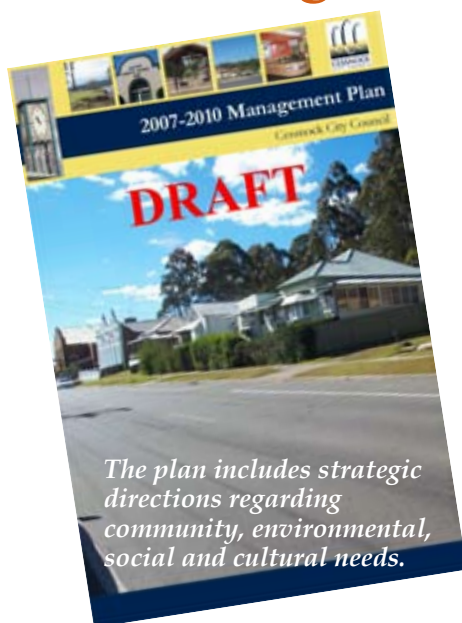
“Coogan epitomised everything great about the people of our community,” Mayor, Councillor John Clarence said. “He worked hard all his life, fought for what he believed in, supported and cherished his own community and had a generous spirit that embraced everything he did and everyone he met.”

“Coogan was always ready to help where help was needed. He was and remains an integral part of our community and its history.”



Edward “Coogan” John Frame (1918 - 2007)
Photo courtesy of *The Advertiser*

Last days to comment on Council’s Draft Management Plan 2007- 2010



Time is running out if you wish to provide comments or a submission regarding Council’s Draft Management Plan 2007 - 2010. Comments and submissions must be submitted to Council in writing by **8 June 2007**.

The Draft Plan provides a summary of Council’s proposed activities, principle policies and revenue raising proposals, and sets strategies and performance targets for the next three years.

“Our Management Plan is produced for a three year period and is updated annually,” explained General Manager, Bernie Mortomore.

“It is vitally important for our residents to provide feedback to Council about the Management Plan.”

Hall of Fame nominations

Do you know anyone who you think should be inducted into the City of Cessnock Hall of Fame?

Last year, Council launched our own Hall of Fame to recognise those from our Local Government Area who have reached the top of their chosen profession.

“We have many outstanding individuals who call our LGA home,” Mayor, Councillor John Clarence said. “The Hall of Fame is our way of paying tribute to those people and recognising their achievements.”

The Hall of Fame is not a building; rather, Council has placed bronze plaques in townships across the LGA so our community can share the recognition of those who have been inducted. In addition, details of the inductees and their achievements are included on Council’s website.

There are six categories in which nominations can be made:

- the Arts,
- Business,
- Public Service,
- Science,
- Sport, and
- Meritorious Families.

Council will officially call for nominations in late June/early July this year. Local newspapers will include details of closing dates well in advance to allow everyone time to make a nomination.

“The City of Cessnock Hall of Fame not only pays tribute to those who have achieved prominence in their chosen field of endeavour,” the Mayor said. “It also provides encouragement to the young people of our community in particular - showing them that if they strive for something, they can achieve great things.”

\$30,000 in scholarships awarded

Scholarships with a total value of \$30,000 were awarded under the 2007 Coca-Cola Mayoral Academic Awards on 22 March at Cessnock Rugby League Supporters Club.

"It was a wonderful night which showcased the breadth of talent, both academic and performing, we have in our Local Government Area," said Mayor, Councillor John Clarence. "According to our interviewing panels, it was very difficult to single out the individuals who were awarded scholarships because of the high quality of the candidates."

Sixty two applications were received for the 12 scholarships of \$2,500 each which are now in their sixth year. The scholarships are offered to students residing in the Cessnock LGA who have completed their HSC, first year or second year of TAFE or university study.

"I would like to formally thank our sponsors – without whom these scholarships would not be possible," Councillor Clarence said. "It is vital to our community that we can acknowledge and celebrate the academic achievements of our young people and help them achieve their goals."

The Coca-Cola Mayoral Academic Awards are made possible by the following sponsors: Cessnock City Council, Coca-Cola Australia, Cessnock Rugby League Supporters Club, Hunter Resource Recovery, Telstra Country Wide, Hardie Holdings Pty Ltd, Cypress Lakes Group Ltd, Branxton Greta Vineyards News, Hightrade Company Pty Ltd, Hunter Valley Golf and Country Club, and Hightrade WuHan China.



The smile says it all - Kerry Derricott at the Awards night

Recipients of the awards for 2007 were:

Jari Mowatt-Penna, Cessnock
– Building and Associated Trades

Sophie Andrews, Cessnock
– Hospitality and Tourism

Matilda Craig, Wollombi
– Medical and Health

Kristin Prebble, Kurri Kurri
– Undergraduate

Sharan Main, Cessnock
– Information Technology

Rhiannon Stevens, Cessnock –
International Tourism and Marketing

Kerryn Derricott, Cessnock –
Journalism

James Matthews, Pokolbin – Local
Government

Todd Fuller, Branxton – Post Higher
School Certificate

Maggie McKay, Cessnock – Incentive

Alan Provenzano, Cessnock – TAFE

Michelle Harris, Congewai –
Vigneron and Horticulture



Naming of suburbs and localities

There are a number of areas within the Cessnock Local Government Area which have not been formally named and, as a result, cause confusion when land is listed for sale, or when owners try to get goods and services delivered.

Over a number of years Council, in conjunction with the Geographic Names Board (GNB), has undertaken to determine definitive boundaries and subsequently name all suburbs (urban areas) and localities (rural areas) within the Cessnock LGA.

There has been some concern in the community in regard to two particular areas which are currently being considered for formal naming through the Geographic Names Board. They are generally described as Laguna and the Pokolbin/Rothbury areas.

The draft boundaries for the Laguna area include the localities of Murray's Run, Dairy Arm, Fernances Crossing and Bucketty. These suggested localities attempt to ensure that historical boundaries and local identities are retained.

The other area of Pokolbin/Rothbury is more complicated. Historically, the area of Pokolbin was bounded on the north by the Broke Road, with the area north of this being known as Rothbury.

With the increase in tourism and viticultural activities and subsequent development within the vineyards area, the use of the name Pokolbin has been used to describe properties north of Broke Road. To further impact on this, an area within the Singleton LGA has been formally gazetted as Pokolbin.

Council has submitted proposed boundaries to the GNB to allow them to be publicly exhibited and to seek comment on them.

The maps will be on display at the following locations:

- Council's Administration Building
- Cessnock Library
- Greta Post Office
- Kurri Kurri Library
- Laguna General Store
- Mulbring General Store
- Paxton General Store
- Pokolbin General Store
- Wollombi General Store

The maps may also be viewed on Council's web page at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au by clicking on 'Online Mapping'.

The maps will be on public exhibition from **2 July 2007 until 10 August 2007**. Submissions regarding the proposed boundaries will be received until **17 August 2007**, and should be clearly marked "Cessnock" and sent to:

The Secretary
Geographic Names Board
PO Box 143
BATHURST NSW 2795

Track your DA - online soon

By the end of this year, Council will have introduced a new online service for small business and members of the community to help them keep track of their development applications.

"The online DA tracking will mean that our customers will no longer have to phone the Council or visit the Administration Building to find out how their applications are going," explained Acting Director Corporate and Regulatory Services, Darryl Fitzgerald.

"We understand that once a development application has been lodged with Council, the applicants are very keen to know what is happening and when they can expect a response. Once the online tracking is available, applicants will be able to check the status and progress of their applications 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Application details will be able to be accessed by individual application number; by specific address; or street or suburb; or by a date range. The details which will be provided will include the status of the application and the events or milestones that have been reached in the application process, a map showing the property to be developed and plans and documents relating to the development.

"Towards the end of last year, Council introduced a new range of easy-to-use application forms and a series of guides for different types of development, from swimming pools, garages and dwellings to commercial vineyards," Mr Fitzgerald said.

Each guide contains frequently asked questions, step by step instructions on how to fill out the form and a checklist of exactly what documents need to be submitted to Council.

"By introducing these guides, the new application forms and the soon to be implemented online tracking, Council is significantly improving the whole development application process for our customers."

The new application forms, information booklets and guides can be found on the Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Recreation roundup

\$170,000 for Miller Park

The advanced regional sports facility, Miller Park at Branxton, will be further developed thanks to a grant of \$170,000 from the New South Wales Department of Sport and Recreation.

"We will combine this funding with Council funding to undertake numerous upgrading works at Miller Park during the next financial year," Council's Community Facilities Planner, Kate Harris explained.

Planned improvements include field renovations on the main soccer oval, installation of an automatic irrigation system, installation of four floodlighting poles, construction of a new amenities building, installation of shade at the cricket amenities, planting of advanced stock trees and staged construction of car parking spaces.

"These improvements were identified in the 2004 Masterplan for Miller Park," said Ms Harris. "It is a very exciting time, to see the planning becoming reality and to see a first class facility being developed."



Over \$200,000 for recreation areas

Council has allocated \$207,100 in its draft 2007/2008 capital works program for upgrades and improvements to recreation areas across the Local Government Area.

Council's budget will be formally adopted as part of the Management Plan process (see story page 1).

Should the draft budget be adopted without alteration:

Recreation areas to receive works include Baddeley Park; Apex Park, Cessnock; Turner Park, Cessnock; Greta Tennis Courts; Margaret Johns Park, Kurri Kurri; Miller Park, Branxton; Jeffries Park, Abermain; Lions Park, Branxton; Bailey Park, Abermain; Mulbring Oval; and, Greta Central Oval. Most of these works are fencing, with some lighting and irrigation works.



Participants and coordinators of the soft skills program with Mayor, Councillor John Clarence

Learning lifeskills

A joint initiative between Council and local Job Network Agencies, made possible with seed funding from the Premier's Department's Cessnock Community Renewal Program, has seen the first soft skills program held in the Cessnock Local Government Area.

The soft skills program offers training to local unemployed people which is designed to increase their prospects of securing employment.

Mayor, Councillor John Clarence took a special interest in the program and personally sought work experience placements for the participants while the Council's General Manager organised five Council staff to mentor and support the participants for a period of eight weeks.

After the success of this program, Council has decided that another soft skills program will be held in 2008.

Business networking a great success

Council co-hosts, with local chambers and business organisations, eight business breakfasts each year in various locations throughout the Cessnock Local Government Area.

"In an area such as ours it is vital that business networks that promote professional development and support are encouraged and maintained," Council's Economic Development Manager Kavita Payall said.

"The number of people attending the networking breakfasts is growing at a rapid rate as local business people recognise the importance of maintaining their networks."

Robyn Drayton was the keynote speaker at the Business Breakfast held on 28 March.

"To mark International Women's Day, which was held on 8 March, Council and Hunter Valley Wine Country Tourism, as co-hosts of the March event, thought it appropriate that our keynote speaker be the first female vigneron in the Hunter Valley," Ms Payall explained.

A workshop was also held at the March function with Penny Crittall advising both the men and women attending on flattering colour choices.



Penny Crittall and Robyn Drayton at the March function which marked International Women's Day

"Council has received support from the State Government to facilitate presentations in the 2007/2008 financial year on issues that are important to the business community," Ms Payall said.

"Participation is the key to the success of the business network functions which help our local business people through the sharing of ideas and innovations."

"I'm very pleased to also announce that Mrs Imelda Roche has accepted an invitation to address the March 2008 function."

For information about the business networking functions, please contact Ms Louise Bell on 4993 4208.

Council contacts

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Web: www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

General Manager:

Bernie Mortomore

Council Departments

Corporate and Regulatory Services

Acting Director: Darryl Fitzgerald

Strategic and Community Services

Acting Director: Simon Eade

Works and Services

Director: Lewis Oldfield

Councillors

To contact Councillors, please phone Council's Administration Office on 02 4993 4100.

Mayor: Councillor John Clarence

Ward A

Robert Bedford

Alison Davey

Rachel Main

Ward B

Ian Olsen

Bob Pynsent (*Deputy Mayor*)

Bruce Scott

Ward C

Catherine Parsons

Jeff Maybury

Dale Troy

Ward D

Ron Besoff

James Ryan

Graham Smith

Council meetings

Council meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Meetings are held in the Council Chambers and start at 6.30pm.

Upcoming Council meetings:

6 and 20 June, 4 and 18 July, 1 and 15 August.

What cost?



This was a garbage bin in a Cessnock park, close to children's play equipment.

You are paying for this.

Vandalism and graffiti cost the Council about \$100,000 every year, which means that our residents are paying for the repairs and replacements.

Council offers a reward of **up to \$1,000** for information which leads to the conviction of people who dump rubbish or vandalise Council property.

Please help us.

Phone: 4993 4100