

Hornets buzzing

They're the envy of clubs around the region and beyond, they're saving both water and money and they've also been recognised for their great work. It's the Cessnock City Hornets Football Club and they have just received their Tidy Town Award.

This year the Club installed a sub-surface irrigation system on their main playing field that incorporated 'intelligent' water saving solutions. It's resulted in a lush green ground using less water for maintenance.

The NSW Annual Tidy Town Awards announced recently have proven once again the value and benefit our extraordinary volunteers provide our community.

The Tidy Town Awards is the Keep Australia Beautiful flagship program which has come a long way since its inception in 1981. The awards encourage, motivate and celebrate the environmental achievements of rural and regional communities.

These fantastic results reflect the community spirit and interest in their local community that exists across the local government area, and the support given by Council.

All Tidy Town Committees, members and community groups are to be congratulated for the tireless work and commitment they volunteer to the local area.

Community members wanting to become involved in the Tidy Town movement in their local area should contact Council to be directed to their nearest group.

Please phone Council on 4993 4100 and ask for the Sustainability Projects Officer.

The Cessnock local government area received six awards in the following categories:

Bucketty - Winner Category A Cultural Heritage Award - Convict Wall Project

Cessnock - Turner Park Water Conservation: Highly Commended Category E

Kurri Kurri - Kurri Kurri High School: Highly Commended School Environment Award Category 1

Stanford Merthyr Infants: Highly Commended Category 5 Schools Environment Award

Bush Spirit Award: Winner Category D Nostalgia Festival

Wollombi - 3rd Overall Town Category A



On the green, green grass: Secretary of the Hornets, Warren Jeffery and President, Neville Chapman with Council's Director of Infrastructure and Services, David Pavey, Sustainability Projects Officer, Tricia Donnelly, Mayor Alison Davey and Recreation and Community Facilities Planner, Brendan Callander.

Thank you to our volunteers

Each year, hundreds of volunteers across Cessnock LGA donate thousands of hours - beautifying our part of the world, helping out others and offering their expertise to the community for free.

Recently, Council invited more than 50 volunteers to Cessnock Shed and Community Garden to celebrate their achievements and to say thank you on behalf of our community.

AT RIGHT Enjoying Cessnock Shed and Community Garden: Beryl Richards, Kurri Kurri Tidy Towns; Gillian James, Wollombi Tidy Valley; Bernice Brown, Environment Committee Member; Jim Kerr, Woodturner at the Shed; Councillor Bob Pynsent and Pat Evans, Wollombi Tidy Valley.



Our parks are looking brand new

In recent months two of our parks have had major makeovers and thanks to community consultation with local residents, the results are amazing.

Miller Park at Branxton (pictured below) had new play equipment installed as well as some of the old equipment being rehabilitated.

The end result is a great facility which includes a double swing set, two 'Twista' spinning poles, two spring rockers and a 'Challenger' play unit. Two, three metre high Wildnets, were also installed and have proved very popular with the young playground users.

Slacks Park at Wollombi (pictured

at right) has recently received an entirely new play area, themed on a farm shed. It is the first themed play unit in the LGA incorporating climbing features and slide, swings, twista, two spring rockers and a village play unit.

Miller Park cost approximately \$85,000 which included grant funding from NSW Sport and Recreation

and Slacks Park play equipment cost \$123,000 and was funded through a Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program grant.



Wi-Fi expands

In the March edition of Council News earlier this year, we let you know about the newly installed free wireless internet access available in the centre of the Cessnock central business district.

Initiated and organised by Council, the access is available within 100 metres of the junction of Cooper and Vincent Streets.

"The internet access cost Council just under \$8,000 to set up and we have a monthly fee to maintain the service," Council's Information Services Manager, Mr Steve Hepple said.

"It is becoming commonplace for even small regional towns to have a free internet service and we believe it will be a useful service not only for residents but also for those who are visiting the Cessnock local government area."

Local businesses are able to advertise on the homepage of the internet service for a small fee and those who are interested should contact Council's Customer Service Centre on 4993 4300 to get the contact details of the provider.

NOW free wireless internet is available at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries for those who wish to take their own laptop computers to the Libraries for research purposes.

"There will be a connection limit of one hour within a 24 hour period for individual users and to access the wireless internet, they will need to ask a librarian for a username and password," Mr Hepple explained.

"We imagine that this service will be very useful for senior high school students and tertiary students as well as people who, for example, may be researching their family history."

Mayoral Academic Scholarships - apply now

This year there are 18 Mayoral Academic Scholarships worth \$2,500 each. Applications need to be received at Council by 26 February 2011.

Details of the scholarships and application forms are available on Council's website.

The scholarships continue to grow each year and we thank our sponsors for their commitment to the young people of our community: Austar Coal Mine, Business and Professional Women's Association, Cessnock Achievement Centre, Cessnock Liquor Accord, Cessnock Rugby League Supporters Club, Donaldson Coal, East Cessnock Bowling Club, Energy Australia, Hope Estate, Hunter Resource Recovery, Kurri Kurri Retired Mineworkers, Kurri Used Building Supplies and Demolition, Orica Mining Services, Solo Resource Recovery, Rotary Club Cessnock Inc, and Weston Aluminium Pty Ltd.

CESSNOCK COMMUNITY

PERFORMING

ARTS

CENTRE

2011 PROGRAM

AVAILABLE SOON

BOX OFFICE 4990 7134

More inducted into our Hall of Fame

This year four individuals were inducted into the City of Cessnock Hall of Fame:

Soccer player, Jack Lennard,
Opera singer, Kenneth Neate,
Scientist, Frank Rickwood OBE, and
Rugby League player, Don Schofield

The Hall of Fame was established in 2006 to recognise people who have a strong association with the communities of the Cessnock Local Government Area and who have achieved prominence in their chosen field.

As well as being recognised during the induction ceremony, in the Wall of Fame within the Cessnock Community Performing Arts Centre and on the Council's website, bronze plaques are placed in the town or village with which the inductee is most strongly associated. In this way, their achievements can be recognised, shared and celebrated by their communities.

DAs and personal information on the web

The Office of the Information Commissioner is asking all councils in NSW to provide it with details about how information regarding development applications (DAs) is published on websites. The Office will develop guidelines on how local councils should publish online open access information that contains personal or sensitive information, with specific relevance to DAs. It is anticipated that the guidelines will be published early next year.

Council would like to include your opinions in our response. Please let us know:

- whether the information on council websites about DAs is adequate and appropriate;
- what type of information, if any, should not be published about DAs; and
- whether councils should consult individuals if they plan to publish their personal information on council websites.

For further information please phone 4993 4100 and ask for the Corporate Projects Manager.



Key stakeholders come together

Council and Cessnock Chamber of Commerce have been supported by Key Chambers and Industry Associations in their bid for the 2012 Community Economic Development Conference. The Conference would bring more than 300 delegates from across NSW to our LGA to learn about

grass roots economic development projects.

Our bid was one of two finalists and site visits have been conducted as part of the assessment process in order to decide on the preferred location.

The successful location will be announced before the end of the year.

Pictured above: Rod Doherty, President Kurri Kurri Chamber of Commerce; Kavita Payall, Economic Development Manager Cessnock City Council; Mary Wotherspoon, Chair of Kurri Kurri Main Street Project; Mayor Alison Davey; Lea Rosser, General Manager Cessnock City Council; Geoff Kreiger, President Hunter Valley Wine Industry Association; Ali Malone, General Manager Sebel Kirkton Park Hunter Valley; Tracey Cooper, Board Director Hunter Valley Wine Country Tourism; Geoff Walker, President Cessnock Wine Country Chamber of Commerce; Susan Rowe, Assistant Regional Director Industry & Investment NSW; Ian Mackey, Cre8ing Growth; Anne Pitchers, Manager Enterprising Regions Program, Industry & Investment NSW.

New family history research tool at our libraries

Cessnock Library is pleased to announce free access to the family history service *Find My Past*.

Andrew Powell, Information Services Librarian at the Library, said that "*Find My Past* is a unique online service which provides access to over 50 million records from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands."

"People doing their family history have always had difficulty obtaining local records. *Find My Past* puts all of these records in one place,

making searching for your ancestors a much simpler process. This service ties in perfectly with the Library's other genealogy service *Ancestry.com* which has a huge selection of overseas historical records."

Find My Past is available for use at both Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries during opening hours, and staff are available to demonstrate the product. For any enquiries please contact Andrew Powell at Cessnock Library on 4993 4392.

Working around the LGA

Did you know Council maintains and operates 990 kilometres of roads, 98 kilometres of stormwater drainage, 253 community buildings and park amenities, 39 active parks and associated facilities and 59 areas of passive open space?

Each year Council spends \$17.8 million on maintaining and improving these facilities. So far this year, we have completed:

Recreational Facilities

- Climbing net and associated playground facilities and seating at Peace Park
- Children's playground Miller Park
- Children's playground at Slacks Park Wollombi comprising new swings, a slide and climbing apparatus, bench seating and a concrete pathway from the car park to the playground
- Advanced trees planted in Lang Street

Roads and Drainage Facilities

- Drainage works in Edgeworth Street Cessnock
- Drainage works in Ann Street Cessnock
- Replacement of Cunneens Bridge at Wollombi
- Replacement of timber bridge at Millfield Bridge
- Replacement of timber on Thompsons Bridge at Laguna
- Kerb and gutter and pavement rehabilitation in Bruncker Street Kurri Kurri (stage 1)

The following projects are in progress:



Recreational Facilities

- Upgrades and installation to picnic furniture in several parks in Weston including Weston Memorial Park, George Smith Reserve and Bluey Frame Park as well as planting of advanced stock trees in Station Street.
- The redevelopment and expansion of the sporting amenity building at Howe Park Abermain. Key components of the redevelopment include two additional change rooms, relocating the kiosk and improvements to the toilets incorporating the installation of a unisex accessible toilet.

Roads and Drainage Facilities

- Drainage works in Whitburn Street Greta
- Kerb and gutter in pavement rehabilitation in Bruncker Street Kurri Kurri (stage 2)
- Rehabilitation of first section of Broke Road west of Wine Country Drive
- Repairs to heritage sandstone wall and associated roadworks at Ramseys Leap
- Reconstruction of bridge approaches and road realignment adjacent to Cunneens Bridge Wollombi
- Widening and sealing of Paynes Crossing Road north of Wollombi

Around (and around) the pools

Council installed turnstiles and an electronic entry system at Cessnock Pool this season to streamline entries to the pool and improve the customer experience. The system gives customers a ticket with a bar code that is scanned at the turnstile to allow entry. Season pass holders have been issued with a card that is scanned, the same as the ticket.

The system collects data such as the number of people using the pool and whether they are swimmers or spectators as well as the time of day the pool is being used. This information can then be used to assist with the rostering of staff, provision of kiosk services and programming of aquatic activities such as learn to swim classes.

The system will be installed at Branxton Pool for the 2011/12 swimming season.



Pool Safety - it's your responsibility

Make sure your fence is in good order
Never prop pool gates open
Ensure parental supervision at all times
for a safe and happy summer season

For more pool safety hints and advice please visit
www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/swimmingpool

Your councillors

ward a

ward b

ward c

ward d



Mayor Alison Davey Cordelia Burcham James Hawkins Rachel Main (Deputy Mayor) Ian Olsen Bob Pynsent Dale Troy Jeff Maybury Allan McCudden Christopher Parker Neil Gorman James Ryan Graham Smith

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General Manager
Lea Rosser
City Planning
Director: Darryl Fitzgerald

Corporate and Community
Director: Craig Bennett
Infrastructure and Services
Director: David Pavey

Council meeting dates
8 December 2010
2 and 16 February 2011
2 March 2011

