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 subsurface 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 Methyr Infants: Highly Commended Category 5 Schools Environment Award
- Bush Spirit Award: Winner Category D Nostalgia Festival Wollombi - 3rd Overall Town Category A

Our parks are looking brand new

In recent months two of our parks have had major makeovers 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, twistas, two spring rockers and a village play unit.

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

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.

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 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 Hepplie 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 those who are interested should contact a librarian for a username and password,” Mr Hepplie explained.

“We imagine that this service will be very useful for senior 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.

PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

2011 PROGRAM AVAILABLE SOON
More inducted into Hall of Fame
This year four individuals were inducted into the Cessnock City 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, achievements can be recognised, shared and celebrated by their communities.

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 tool for Cessnock. It provides free 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 roads, 98 kilometres of roads, 98 kilometres of roads, 98 kilometres of roads, 98 kilometres of roads, 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, improving and expanding the network. So far this year, we have completed:

Recreational Facilities
• Upgrading and installation of picnic furniture in several parks in Weston including Weston Memorial Park, George Smith Reserve and Bluery Frame Park as well as planting of advanced stock trees in Station Street.
• The redevelopment and expansion of the sporting amenities 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 Brunker 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 Ramsays Leap
• Reconstruction of bridge approaches and road realignment adjacent to Cunneens Bridge Wollombi
• Widening and sealing of Paynes Crossing Road north of Wollombi

The following projects are in progress:

Recreational Facilities
Upgrades and installation of picnic furniture in several parks in Weston including Weston Memorial Park, George Smith Reserve and Bluery Frame Park as well as planting of advanced stock trees in Station Street.

Roads and Drainage Facilities
• Drainage works in Whitburn Street Greta
• Kerb and gutter in pavement rehabilitation in Brunker 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 Ramsays Leap
• Reconstruction of bridge approaches and road realignment adjacent to Cunneens Bridge Wollombi
• Widening and sealing of Paynes Crossing Road north of Wollombi

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

December 2010

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; Jan Mackey, Creating Growth; Anne Pitchers, Manager Enterprise Regions Program, Industry & Investment NSW.

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 barcode 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 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