

## Huntlee New Town

Huntlee New Town is a proposed mixed use urban area to be located adjacent to Branxton and North Rothbury. This project has been under discussion for some years and was previously known as 'Sweetwater'. It is proposed to develop the subject site over an 18 to 20 year period, which will create an urban centre in the Lower Hunter with a population of approximately 20,000.

The Huntlee New Town development was recently under the spotlight with the approval of the Concept Plan by the Planning Minister, Kristina Keneally, on 9 February 2009. The Concept Plan will become the planning documents that guide landuse planning decisions.

Previous to this, the Huntlee New Town Site was declared a State Significant Site by the Planning Minister in January this year allowing for:

- Residential development covering up to 600 hectares to achieve 7,200 lots;
- Nearly 5,900 hectares of land for conservation purposes including 803 hectares on the site itself;
- Rural residential development covering up to 93 hectares to achieve 300 lots; and
- Commercial and employment lands covering up to 160 hectares.

A Project Application for Stage 1A & Stage 1B for Huntlee New Town were exhibited by the Department of Planning from 19 November 2008 until 16 January 2009. Stages 1A & 1B propose the following:

- 2,000 residential dwellings of varying sizes;
- rural residential development of 200 lots in Cessnock LGA, 90 lots in Singleton LGA and 10 lots located in both LGAs (ie. straddling the boundary);
- employment lands totalling 40 hectares; and
- associated infrastructure including upgrades to local roads (staged), sewerage and water infrastructure and the dedication of land for open space and community facilities.

Council resolved in August last year to formally enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) for Stage 1 of the Huntlee New Town development and commence formal negotiations on the final content and makeup of this document.

Discussions have been ongoing with the proponent including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- land valuations;
- community facilities;
- local roadworks; and
- recreation facilities.

Council is concerned that an increase in population in an area which has limited community facilities and services would have a detrimental effect upon its ability to service such developments at this time.

Generally, the implications relative to the recently approved Concept Plan and the Project Applications under consideration by the Department of Planning are to ensure the timely provision of services and infrastructure, planning for suitable access and adequate provision for community facilities, including sporting ovals.

The offer made for the Stage 1 VPA identifies various local infrastructure provisions and requirements. This must now be written into a formal and legally binding document. Once completed, the VPA will be notified by Council for public comment. A further report will then be presented for Council's consideration before the VPA can be formally agreed to.

Ongoing discussions with the proponent and the Department of Planning on the VPA and the Project Application for Stage 1 of the Huntlee New Town development are being undertaken. Council will endeavour to keep the community informed through a further report which will be presented to Council following the conclusion of these negotiations.



## Upcoming events

15 - 22 March

### Seniors Week

Please see back page for program of activities

21 March

### Harmony Day

28 March - 5 April

### Youth Week

Please see article page 2

2 April

### Lower Hunter Urban Design Awards launch

10 - 26 April

### School holiday activities at Kurri Kurri and Cessnock Libraries

Please check our website for further details



## Branxton committee to form

Council conducted a community consultation workshop in Branxton in December last year as the first step towards establishing an Urban Design Framework. Further community consultation is proposed during March and April this year.

Urban Design Frameworks are strategic planning tools that establish an integrated design vision for the desired future development of urban places.

They involve the generation of ideas and the preparation of design concepts based on consultation, research and analysis.

Andrews Neil Urban Design Group has been engaged by Council to prepare the Branxton Urban Design Framework.

Beginning in November last year, the consultation strategy proposes significant community involvement, a key element of



which is the establishment of a Branxton Vision Working Group.

This group, with an anticipated membership of six to eight, will play an active role in the development of the Urban Design Framework. There will also be key stakeholder meetings and community workshops.

The Branxton Urban Design Framework is proposed to be completed by 30 April this year.

The Branxton Urban Design Framework is being trialled as a model for the creation of urban policy and providing strategic direction to guide the development of townships in the LGA. Council can use this model to engage with residents in the development of their communities with the objective of creating dynamic and attractive places to live.

A comprehensive consideration and analysis of urban design issues together with extensive community consultation is a fundamental requirement of this model. It is intended to include the preparation of urban design frameworks for other towns and villages within the City Planning work program during the next two years.

If you are interested in being involved please contact Council's City Planning Department on 4993 4300.

## Youth Week action

Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service (CYCOS) is currently gearing up for National Youth Week which will be held 28 March until 5 April this year.

On Saturday 4 April 2009, CYCOS will host one of its very popular Bike and Skate Competitions, this time at the East Cessnock Skate Park (Bridges Hill) Cessnock. The competition has FREE entry and there will be great prizes up for grabs.

Both the Bike and Skate competitions have beginner, intermediate and advance categories. Cessnock Lions Club will be selling barbecue food as well as cold drinks on the day. All CYCOS events are drug and alcohol free.

CYCOS will also offer a range of artistic workshops during Youth Week. Please contact the Centre for further information by phoning 4991 5372 or 0401 107 413.

## Have your say - we want to know what you think

Cessnock City Council is undertaking a survey into the social needs of our community.

To enable us to continue meeting the needs of our residents, we require a snapshot of the social and community issues of concern. Your assistance in completing the survey is appreciated and will provide Council and other local services with valuable information in planning for our future.

### When will the survey be available?

The survey will be available from 1 February to 31 March 2009.

### Where can I get a copy of the survey?

The survey can be accessed in the following ways -

- Cessnock City Council's Administration Building
- Cessnock Library
- Kurri Kurri Library
- Cessnock City Council's website, [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)
- Telephoning Council's Social Planner on 4993 4118

### Where can I get more information about the survey?

For more information about the survey, please contact Council's Social Planner on 4993 4118.



## Australia Day for everyone

Nine new citizens heralding from the Netherlands, Philippines, UK, Ireland, Britain and New Zealand were naturalised at Cessnock's 2009 Australia Day celebrations.

Congratulations to the following Australia Day Award recipients:

**Citizen of the Year**  
Phillip Baird

**Young Citizen of the Year**  
Garreth Robbs

**Community Event of the Year**  
Relay for Life 2008 - established by Ian & Sue Howson

**Sports Award**  
East Cessnock Bowling Club No 1 - Pennant Team

**Environment Award**  
Ken Victor

**Heritage Award**  
Towns with Heart Inc Murals Project - Preservation of our Cultural Heritage

**Achievement Awards**  
Liz Mullinar, Kristie Boyd, Cessnock Tennis Club, Cessnock Youth Entertainment Committee

**Appreciation Awards**  
Basil Woods, Jamie Sams, Peter Torenbeek, Brian Witherspoon, John Burke and Peta Jackson



Cessnock's Citizen of the Year, Mr Phillip Baird

*Cessnock City Council would like to thank our major sponsor, Harrigan's Irish Pub - Hunter Valley Gardens, contributing sponsors Cessnock Hunter Radio - 2CHR.FM, Cessnock Achievement Centre, Cessnock Advertiser, Cessnock Business & Professional Women's Club, Cessnock Ex-Services Club Ltd, East Cessnock Bowling Club, Jennifer Williams Photography, KFC Cessnock, McDonalds Cessnock, McGuigan's Simeon Wines Ltd, Priceline Pharmacy - Cessnock, The Roche Group and Woolworths Limited for contributing to the success of the 2009 Australia Day.*

## Urban Design Awards

The Lower Hunter Urban Design Awards are an initiative of the five Lower Hunter Councils, Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, Maitland, Newcastle and Cessnock.

The Awards aim to identify and acknowledge civic design projects that demonstrate outstanding planning, design and environmental management.

Cessnock City Council will host this year's Awards.

There are special categories in the areas of smaller and larger scale developments, residential and commercial developments, heritage, sustainable development and access.

Winners receive a prestigious plaque to be attached to the building, and a trophy is awarded to the architect or designer. The Landcom Award for Excellence in Urban Design is presented to the overall winner.

The official launch of the Awards will take place at the Cessnock Community Performing Arts Centre on Tuesday 2 April.

Nomination forms will be available to download from Council's website [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au) by the end of May.

## Department's report welcomed

Mayor of Cessnock Alison Davey has welcomed the Report on the Section 430 Investigation into Council conducted by the Department of Local Government.

"Council has a clear path ahead in fully implementing all the recommendations contained within the report," she said.

According to General Manager Bernie Mortomore, Council has already addressed several of the 16 recommendations and has almost completed implementing many procedures which will address many of the others.

"I emphasise that Council will adhere to all the recommendations made in the report and that each and every one will be acted upon in full," he said.

Council must and will respond to the Department of Local Government within 40 days detailing its strategy and timeframe for the implementation of the recommendations.

A Council report providing this information will be considered at the Council meeting to be held on 18 March prior to it being forwarded to the Department.

The Department of Local Government's report can be viewed by following the link on Council's home web page.

Hard copies of the report are available from Customer Service in the Administration Building and copies are also available in the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries.

CESSNOCK COMMUNITY	
PERFORMING	
ARTS	
CENTRE	
5th March 2009	<b>Danny Bhoj</b> "This is a show you could see time and time again. Exceptional." <i>The Sunday Mail</i> "He had the crowd on side from the beginning and never let go. No surprise he got a standing O." <i>Montreal Gazette</i> Adult \$34.90 Concession \$31.90
6th March 2009	<b>The Vagina Monologues</b> By Eve Ensler "Spellbinding, funny, and almost unbearably moving... it is both a work of art and an incisive piece of cultural history, a poem and a polemic, a performance and a balm and a benediction." <i>Variety</i> Adult \$25.00 Concession \$20.00
The Centre is available for hire and includes function and meeting rooms as well as the 466 seat state-of-the-art theatre.	
<b>For bookings please phone 02 4990 7134.</b>	

## Contact Council

### Administration Building

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: Lewis Oldfield

### Councillors

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

### Mayor:

Councillor Alison Davey

### Ward A

Cordelia Burcham  
James Hawkins  
Rachel Main

### Ward B

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

### Ward C

Jeff Maybury  
Allan McCudden  
Christopher Parker

### Ward D

Neil Gorman  
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.

### Council meeting dates:

4 and 18 March 2009  
1 and 15 April 2009  
6 and 20 May 2009  
3 and 17 June 2009

# Seniors Week activities

## Sunday 15 March

Various	Hunter Valley Gardens will be offering \$12.00 entry for seniors all week (normally \$15.50). This includes daily entertainment and a free morning or afternoon Devonshire tea. Don't miss the Warren Fahey concert on Wednesday 18 March at 12.30pm and the Irish Singing Chef at 11am on Thursday 19 to Saturday 21 March. For further details on what is happening at Hunter Valley Gardens during Seniors Week please contact 4998 4000.	\$12.00
Gates open at 10.00am	Richmond Vale Railway Museum. Reduced entry at \$6.00 and a cup of tea/coffee free on production of a Seniors Card. For further information please contact 4937 5344.	\$6.00

## Monday 16 March

9.00am	Computer Pals information session at Abermain Plaza Hall, Bathurst Street. Please contact 4937 2501.	FREE
10.00am	Trivia Quiz (lots of prizes) and morning tea at Kurri Kurri Library. For details please contact the Library on 4937 1638.	FREE
10.00am	<b>Come &amp; Try</b> Some of the Hunter's finest chocolates and cheeses in the heart of Wine Country, a truly tasty experience. Free transport available and bookings are essential, please phone 4990 1295.	FREE

## Tuesday 17 March

9.00am	Computer Pals information session at Abermain Plaza Hall, Bathurst Street. Please contact 4937 2501.	FREE
9.30am & 2.00pm	Introduction to the Internet classes at Cessnock Library. For details please contact the Library on 4993 4399.	FREE
10.00am	<b>Come &amp; Try</b> A delightful wine tasting adventure, courtesy of Monahan's Estate & local wineries. Free transport available and bookings are essential, please phone 4990 1295.	FREE
11.00am	Samaritans Information & Neighbourhood Centre is presenting a Law Talk on Wills & Power of Attorney at their new location, the Cessnock Community Performing Arts Centre. Bookings are essential, please phone 4993 3400.	FREE
Various	Cessnock Cinema will offer \$2.00 movie tickets to holders of a Seniors Card. Please call the Cinema on 4991 4999.	\$2.00

## Wednesday 18 March

8.00am	Kurri Kurri Healthy Heart Walk. Morning tea will be provided after the walk. Please contact Mr Noel Rose on 4990 9120.	FREE
9.00am	Computer Pals information session at Abermain Plaza Hall, Bathurst Street. Please contact 4937 2501.	FREE
Pick-up from 9.20am	Mural Tour of Kurri Kurri. The day will include a tour of the Sir Edgeworth David Museum and the Kurri Kurri Murals. Morning tea and lunch will be provided by the Kurri Kurri Bowling Club. To book your seat, please contact Jessica Forbes at Cessnock City Council on 4993 4287.	FREE
10.00am	Seniors Morning Tea and information expo with special guest Comedian and Impressions Artist, Greg Hayes at Cessnock Library. Bookings are essential, please phone 4993 4399.	FREE
10.00am	<b>Come &amp; Try</b> Painting for Pleasure. A unique opportunity to be introduced to the joys of painting by renowned local artist, Les Elvin. Bookings are essential, please phone 4990 1295.	FREE

## Thursday 19 March

9.30am & 2.00pm	Introduction to the Internet classes at Kurri Kurri Library. For details contact the Library on 4937 1638.	FREE
10.00am	Introduction to Art at the Cessnock Regional Art Gallery, 16 Vincent Street, Cessnock. Engage in a practical introduction to painting and drawing. Materials are provided but an apron is required. Bookings are essential, please phone 4991 6619.	\$15.00
10.30am	Presentation of Senior Citizen of the Year at the Cessnock Community Performing Arts Centre, Vincent Street Cessnock. For tickets please contact Jessica Forbes at Cessnock City Council on 4993 4287.	FREE

## Friday 20 March

10.00am	<b>Come &amp; Try</b> Scrapbooking at Cessnock Library. Your chance to learn how to commence this fascinating hobby and get all your photographic memories organised. Bookings are essential. For details please contact the Library on 4993 4399.	FREE
4.00pm	Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service (CYCOS), 49 Aberdare Road, Aberdare will be holding an open day. All senior citizens are welcome to drop in and see what CYCOS does as well as meet the young people who attend the Centre. A light afternoon tea will be provided. For further information please contact 4991 5372.	FREE