

High fronted gutters may cause problems



High fronted gutters are popular with builders and home owners alike because they hide the lower edge of tiles or roof cladding, giving a 'neater' appearance to homes and other buildings but they can cause long term problems if they are not installed correctly.

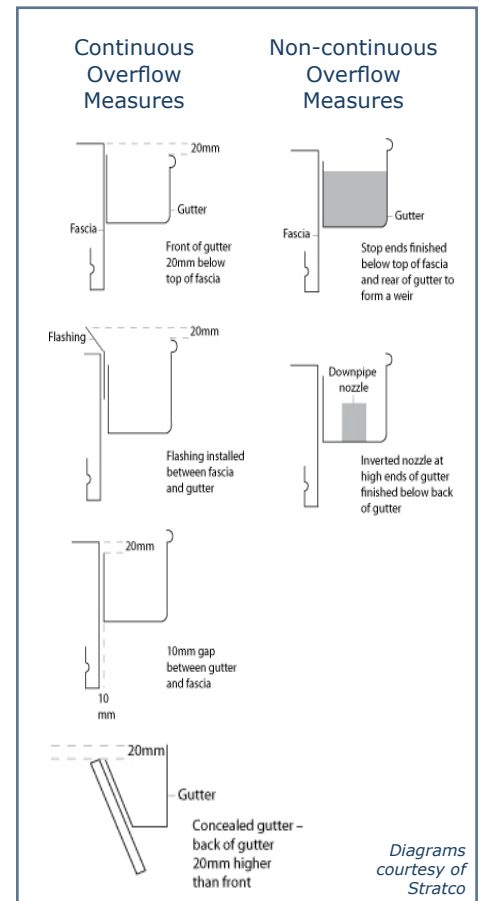
Importantly, this damage can be well hidden from view until it is too late to rectify the damage.

The problem arises when water which is overflowing from the gutter is not directed away from the building. It can, instead, flow back into the roof or wall cavity, exposing electrical wiring to moisture and eventually rotting timber frames and plaster lining boards.

It can also cause health problems as mould develops.

All guttering must be installed in accordance with the Building Code of Australia and overflow measures should be included to avoid the possibility of the problems mentioned above.

Council has developed a fact sheet regarding high fronted gutters which can be found on our website, www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au or alternatively please contact our Building Surveyors on 4993 4300 who will be able to assist you.



Indoor Sports Centre right on target

Cessnock Target Archers will host the NSW State and National Indoor Championships here in Cessnock at the Civic Indoor Sports Centre on the weekend of 25 and 26 July. This is the first time this event has ever been held outside Sydney and highlights the Indoor Sports Centre as a truly multi sports complex.

Between 100 and 150 archers from around the state are expected to compete in the event in July. Most of the archers are at the top of their age groups and some have even competed at international and Olympic level.

The age of the archers competing range from juniors of eight to 18 years, the open seniors from 19 to 49 years, masters from 50 to 59 years and veterans 60 years and over.

Cessnock Target Archers will have top local juniors, Ella Hugo and Matt MacDougall, competing, and open men's competitors in Brian Hugo, Jared Donnelly and Jason Spurway. According to those who should know, these archers have a very good chance of taking out a medal in their divisions.

Ella Hugo was named the most improved archer in NSW at this year's State Awards Dinner; she had to compete against all archers in all age groups in NSW for this award. She finished the year in second place in the State in her age group and is currently ranked fourth in Australia in her division.

All are expected to shoot well in their various age divisions and hopefully the home court advantage will help.

The Cessnock Civic Indoor Sports Centre underwent a major transformation at the end of last year to improve facilities and to broaden its ability to meet the needs of different sports.





Mayor Alison Davey with Mrs Wotherspoon and Mr Sternbeck and nominees, Mrs Marie Main and Mr Kevin Walters

Our super seniors

Mrs Marjory Wotherspoon and Mr Harold Sternbeck have been awarded the honour of being chosen as Cessnock Senior Citizens of the Year for 2009.

"This is the second year in a row when not one but two Cessnock Senior Citizens of the Year have been celebrated for their commitment to our community," Mayor of Cessnock, Councillor Alison Davey said. "This result demonstrates just how fortunate we are to have so many people who are so strongly and unselfishly committed and who work tirelessly for our community, usually behind the scenes without any thought of gaining recognition. The awarding of Senior Citizen of the Year allows us to say thank you."

Mrs Marjory Wotherspoon was awarded joint Senior Citizen of the Year in recognition of her valuable volunteering hours. Mrs Wotherspoon has involvement with many organisations including Kurri Kurri Rugby League, Kurri Kurri High School, Towns with Heart Committee, Kurri Kurri Chamber of Commerce and Hunter Prelude Early Intervention. She has been involved over a number of years in raising much needed funds to assist other organisations within our Local Government Area and beyond.

Mr Harold Sternbeck has provided extraordinary service to the Cessnock community. He has been an active member of Cessnock Lions Club, awarded the Melvin Jones Fellow Award and has played a prominent role in regional matters within the Hunter Valley, in particular Catchment Management and Flood Mitigation issues and as a Trustee on the Hunter Valley Conservation Trust. In 1996, Mr Sternbeck was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of his efforts for the local community, the Hunter Valley and the region.

The Jacaranda Choir and Mrs Margaret Albury entertained the crowd at the celebrations along with didgeridoo player Peter Williams, David Newham and the Binghi Dancers from Cessnock High and the Mulbring Public School Choir. Thanks must go to the hospitality and aged care teachers and students from Northnet who assisted with the proceedings and to the Cessnock City Garden Club Inc which provided beautiful floral decorations.

Regional Achievement & Community Awards

Nominations are now being sought for the NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards. There are six categories:

- The Department of Lands Crown Reserve Trust Award
- The Department of Lands Community of the Year Award
- The Department of State and Regional Development Business Enterprise Award

- The Department of State and Regional Development Events and Tourism Award
- The Kleenheat Gas Environment and Landcare Award and
- The Integral Energy Regional Service Award.

For more information about the Awards or to nominate an individual or organisation please phone the Awards office on 1300 735 445 or visit the website www.awardsaustralia.com

Online tutors just a click away



Free homework and study help is as simple as going online thanks to Cessnock City Library, which is giving local students free access to personal, one-to-one learning help.

yourtutor creates an online classroom where students are connected with qualified, expert tutors for one-to-one help with homework, assignments, exam preparation and study questions.

Many city families organise private tutoring for their children. Cessnock City Library's aim is to make sure local students have equal access to extra learning support.

If students have a question they don't understand, they can go to yourtutor.com.au and select 'I am a student logging in...' and select Cessnock City Library. "We want to support both teachers and kids with this high quality learning service," said Mrs Walters.

The tutor online is a 'real' person - certified teachers, professional tutors, postgraduates and advanced undergraduates from Australian universities. They can review specific homework and assignment questions with students online, using features like controlled chat, an interactive white board and shared web browsing.

Mrs Walters says "It's like having a tutor sitting there in the room with you - but instead of having only an hour of face-to-face tutoring, students can talk to a tutor exactly when they need the help."

"For example, a student could submit their essay as many times as they want to get feedback before submitting it to their teacher. Or another student could log in and simply say they don't know how to work out a chemistry equation."

"The tutors never give answers, but guide students to come to the conclusions on their own."

English, Maths and Science subjects are included and the service is available 4pm-8pm, Sunday-Friday from any computer with an internet connection. Help is immediate, professional and anonymous, and it's free to library members.

"Parents find the service invaluable, particularly those who may not have enough time to help their children with homework, or who studied too long ago to remember advanced content," says Mrs Walters.

"And students can now communicate with tutors the way they love to learn - via any internet connection - which makes the experience enjoyable as well as educational," said Mrs Walters.

From primary school up to university, students access materials online and interact with other students in discussion boards. Virtual worlds, mobiles, iPhones, blogs, YouTube, are all becoming the norm.

yourtutor gives students access to online, qualified teachers during homework, study, and assignment research.

Please contact the Library for further information on 4993 4399 (Cessnock) or 4937 1638 (Kurri Kurri).

Urban Design Awards

Don't forget to lodge your nomination in the 2009 Landcom Lower Hunter Urban Design Awards by 3 July 2009.

Details about the categories and nomination forms are available on Council's website. For further information, please contact Nicole Masson, Australian Institute of Architects, Newcastle Division Manager on 4960 4200.

Recycle your unwanted electronics

A new, no cost recycling service is set to change the way we dispose of electronic waste. Hunter Resource Recovery is now supplying an E waste recycling service to Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland and Port Stephens Council areas.

The company will collect TVs, DVD and CD players, stereos, microwave ovens, computers, printers, mobile phones, fax machines, kitchen appliances and other portable electrical items like hair dryers and hand tools.

The next two drop off dates for the Cessnock LGA are
13 June 2009 Turner Park, Cessnock
10 October 2009 Margaret Johns Oval, Kurri Kurri.

Please drop your items off between 9am and 12 noon. The service is for residents only and you will need to provide ID to the staff when you make your drop off. Please note that no commercial quantities will be accepted.

Hunter Resource Recovery's Company Manager, Roger Lewis said that the service will aid Council's sustainability programs whilst diverting harmful toxins from landfill. Many people do not realise that most computers are 98% recyclable and 1.6 million were sent to landfill in 2008 when they could have been recycled. A standard ray tube computer monitor contains around two kilos of lead on its own.

Hunter Resource Recovery has enlisted the support of Solo Resource Recovery, Novocastrian Recyclers and the Mai-Wel charity to recycle the E waste products locally in the Hunter Region, establishing a new industry and creating local jobs.

Weed trouble?



Lantana camara

More than 60 per cent of all environmental weeds are garden escapes, which were legally and legitimately introduced to Australia as ornamental species. These plants are grown in many private gardens and provide a seed source for infestation in urban and rural bushland, on roadsides, in wetlands, and creeks and river systems.

Some of these species are extremely hard to control once they become established. Dumped garden refuse is also a major source of seed and propagules in bushland areas.

Environmental weeds threaten the survival of many native plants and animals because they:

- Usually grow faster than native plants and successfully compete for the available nutrients, water, space and light.
- Often survive better than native plants as they may not be affected by the pests or diseases that would normally control them in their natural habitats.
- Reduce natural diversity by smothering native plants or preventing them from growing back after clearing, fire or other disturbances.
- Replace native plants that animals use for shelter, food and nesting.

Please see Council's website for more information and helpful advice about environmental and noxious weeds.

\$30,000 for local students

Twelve deserving students from the Cessnock Local Government Area received a total of \$30,000 worth of scholarships at the end of March during the 2009 Mayoral Academic Awards presentation at Cessnock Community Performing Arts Centre.

More than 90 applications were received for the 12 scholarships worth \$2,500 each. 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," Mayor of Cessnock Councillor Alison Davey 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."

Recipients of the scholarships for 2009 are:

- Nicole Slowik**, Tourism & Hospitality
- Jakeob Brown**, International Tourism & Marketing
- Tara Philpot**, Local Government
- Joshua Phillips**, Mining
- Charlotte Matthews**, Medical & Health
- Ellen Holland**, TAFE
- Kate Paterson**, Post HSC
- Tracey King**, Undergraduate
- Dean Porena**, IT
- Grace Hanly**, Communications or Related Discipline
- David Parr**, Building & Associated Trades
- Zak Caban**, Incentive

The Mayoral Academic Scholarships are made possible by the following sponsors: Cessnock Rugby League Supporters Club; Cypress Lakes Resort Ltd.; Donaldson Job Creation Trust; Hardie Holdings Pty Ltd.; Hunter Resource Recovery; Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri Pty Ltd.; Regional Land Pty Ltd.; Solo Resource Recovery; Telstra Country Wide; The Rotary Club Cessnock Inc. and Videoplus.

Mr Trevor Hall, Vice President Human Resources and Organisation Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri, presents Grace Hanly with her 2009 Mayoral Academic Award



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General Manager
Bernie Mortomore

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City Planning
Director: Darryl Fitzgerald

Corporate and Community
Director: Craig Bennett

Infrastructure and Services
Director: David Pavey

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:
3 and 17 June 2009
1 and 15 July 2009
5 and 19 August 2009

Crime Prevention Plan on display

The Cessnock Local Government Area Crime Prevention Plan, is now on public exhibition and available for comment.

The Cessnock Local Government Draft Crime Prevention Plan aims to reduce the incidence of malicious property damage within the Cessnock LGA. Based on data obtained from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) and the New South Wales Police Force (NSW Police), malicious property damage was identified as a key crime issue for our community.

The drafting of the Plan has involved accessing and analysing the available crime data, consulting with key stakeholders and researching effective crime prevention strategies. The plan outlines eight strategies to be addressed over three years from July 2009 to June 2012.

Some of the strategies include:

- Prevention of alcohol related malicious property damage
- Community education and safety
- Deliverance of targeted youth crime prevention strategies which aim to promote increased participation within the community and lessen boredom, and
- Community safety audits.

Recently Council became aware of an available funding opportunity from the Australian Government Attorney General's Department. The Crime Prevention and Community Safety funding grant allows groups including local councils to apply for funds for security related infrastructure, which includes Closed Circuit Television (CCTV).

Given this opportunity, a funding application has been submitted by Cessnock City Council for the installation of CCTV in the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Central Business District (CBD) areas.

The Draft Crime Prevention Plan will be on exhibition until 27 May 2009. Please have your say.

Why do you pay rates?

Rates are the major source of income for Council, making up about 40 per cent of the overall budget of Council.

Rates are either a charge levied for a particular service like waste collection or stormwater, or general rates which provide funds for roads, libraries, parks, sporting fields, environmental planning, public health, swimming pools, etc.

General rates are a combination of a base rate and a charge calculated on the land value of a property, which is determined by the State Government's Valuer General.

Before a general rate is levied, each property is classified within a rating category set out in the Local Government Act, being Residential, Farmland, Business or Mining. Council has also elected to use sub-categories of Rural Residential and Farmland Low Intensity for the 2009/10 year.

A number of sub categories have been removed from the rating structure for 2009/10 (e.g. Business Vineyards, Farmland - Business Rural, Farmland - Mixed Use, Business - Golf Courses & Residential Vintage).

All affected ratepayers will be advised by letter of this change and their new category, while Farmland properties will be reviewed to determine their eligibility for a Farmland rate. This will provide a more transparent and equitable rating structure and removes some of the subjectivity in the categorisation process.

The Domestic Waste Collection charge that appears on your rates notice is calculated by dividing the cost of providing the service by the number of properties able to receive the service. The cost of providing the service includes weekly collection costs, fortnightly recycling service, accruals for plant replacement (garbage trucks and landfill compactors), provision for future rehabilitation of the landfill and a NSW State Government levy on disposal at landfill sites.

This levy is based on the number of tonnes of waste disposed at the landfill and is currently \$40/tonne. It is due to increase to approximately \$53/tonne from 1 July 2009. The Domestic Waste Collection charge for 2009/2010 is proposed to be \$362.50 to help meet the increased State levy.

CESSNOCK COMMUNITY

PERFORMING

ARTS

CENTRE

19th and 20th June 2009, 8pm

Ultra Swing Lounge

Adult \$45.00, Concession \$40.00

26th & 27th June 2009, 8pm

The Rock Show

Adult \$45.00, Concession \$40.00, Groups (8+) \$38.00

3rd July 2009, 8pm

The Rhythms of Ireland 2009

Adult \$59.90, Pensioner \$49.90, Children/Students \$44.90,
Group discounts available.

For bookings please phone 02 4990 7134.