



Council News

Spring 2008 Community Report from Cessnock City Council

Our new Council **Ward A**



Mayor of the City of Cessnock, Clr Alison Davey. An excerpt of the Mayor's inaugural speech to Council is reproduced below.

I am deeply honoured to be elected as Mayor of this great City. It is the beginning of a new era and a new Council.

I am privileged by your support, your confidence and by your expectations. I am also filled with a sense of excitement and optimism as we begin managing our magnificent City for the next four years. I know our new team of Councillors are very aware of the serious responsibility which has been bestowed upon us and we accept this responsibility willingly.

Our vision is simple: Our residents deserve to live in the best City in Australia and we as your team will work with Council staff and the community to achieve this vision.

That means strong schools, safe streets, clean communities, affordable housing and reliable transportation. It means access to health care. It means quality services for seniors. It means a rich social and cultural life. It means a vibrant economy. It means true inclusion - a seat at the table for all. It means taking advantage of our truly unique assets - tourism that is second to none, unique partnerships with local agencies and a strong local economy.

In no way do I consider these accomplishments as being achieved exclusively by Council.

Rather, these accomplishments can be achieved also by all the residents who give us their time and talent to serve on committees; by all of the residents who provide their input; and by our very talented Council staff who provide guidance as well as implementing our decisions with excellence.

I look forward to serving and working with our community and Councillors to address the challenges that face our great City.

Councillor Alison Davey



Clr Cordelia Burcham



Clr James Hawkins



Clr Rachel Main

Ward B



Clr Ian Olsen



Clr Bob Pynsent



**Clr Dale Troy
Deputy Mayor**

Ward C



Clr Jeff Maybury



Clr Allan McCudden



Clr Chris Parker

Ward D



Clr Neil Gorman



Clr James Ryan



Clr Graham Smith



Proud parents, Arthur and Phyllis, with their son Robert Thompson and former Mayor, Councillor John Clarence OAM

Local hero recognised

Cessnock resident and jockey, Robert Thompson was honoured at a civic reception on 8 September 2008.

In July this year, Mr Thompson rode the winning horse, *Promised*, at Port Macquarie to become the most successful Australian jockey in history. During his 35 year career, Mr Thompson has won 3,323 races.

He rode his first winner on his eighth ride in 1973 at Wyong and he has had more than 20,000 races since that time. After suffering a serious injury in a Warwick Farm fall in 2004, Mr Thompson was kept out of his saddle for two years, only to return to the track on a winner on his first day back in 2006.

Local racing identities joined with family and friends in paying tribute to Mr Thompson.



Public meeting to discuss future of Branxton Town Centre

Cessnock City Council in conjunction with Andrews Neil Urban Design Group will be conducting a Community Consultation Workshop about Branxton Town Centre on Wednesday 17 December at 5.30pm.

According to Council's Director City Planning, Darryl Fitzgerald the workshop is being held to gather residents' ideas about their town centre and its future.

"We are preparing an Urban Design Strategy and Framework for the Branxton Town Centre which will identify development

Apply now for a \$Scholarship

Cessnock City Council is calling for applications for its 2009 Mayoral Academic Awards.

The scholarships, to the value of \$2,500 for one year, are open to students from Year 10 through to TAFE and University providing they are from the Cessnock LGA:

Cessnock Rugby League Supporters Club - Incentive Scholarship - This is available to Students at either University or TAFE who would not be able to continue further education without financial assistance.

Cypress Lakes Group Ltd. - Hospitality and Tourism Scholarship - Available to students pursuing their first year of study at TAFE or University in this field.

Donaldson Job Creation Trust - Mining Scholarship - Available to Pre and Post HSC students attending TAFE or University; or students pursuing their second year of study at University.

Donaldson Job Creation Trust - Medical and Health Scholarship - Available to Post HSC students attending University or students completing their degree in this field at University.

Hardie Holdings Pty Ltd - Local Government Scholarship - To assist a Post HSC student or Undergraduate student to pursue academic excellence relating to a Local Government discipline in University.

Hunter Resource Recovery - Post HSC Scholarship - for a student leaving high school and entering first year studies at either University or TAFE.

Hunter Resource Recovery - University Scholarship - for a student who has completed first/second/third year University and is continuing their studies at University.

Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri Pty Ltd - Communications or Related Disciplines - Available to Post HSC students pursuing their first year of study or students pursuing their second year of study at University or TAFE in Communications or a related discipline.

Regional Land Pty Ltd - International Tourism and Marketing Scholarship - Available to Post HSC students attending TAFE or University or students pursuing their second year of study at TAFE or University in this field.

Solo Resource Recovery - TAFE Scholarship - for a student who has completed first year at TAFE and is continuing in to second year.

Telstra Country Wide - Information Technology Scholarship - Available to Pre or Post HSC students pursuing a career in the field of IT.

The Rotary Club Cessnock Inc. - Building and Associated Trades Scholarship - Available to students Pre or Post HSC or undergraduate students in this field attending either TAFE or University.

Application forms are available from Council's website, www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au or by contacting Ms Pauline Ross on 4993 4210 or email pauline.ross@cessnock.nsw.gov.au.

Applications close on 27 February 2009.

opportunities to strengthen and secure Branxton's economic, social and environmental future," Mr Fitzgerald said.

"A strategy for urban design is needed to inform developers in advance of the community's expectations and objectives for the development of the Town Centre."

"I would urge all those who have strong ideas to come to the meeting and help establish the vision for Branxton to ensure that it evolves into a thriving and sustainable town centre."

The Workshop will be at McAuley Hall, Station Street Branxton.

Performing Arts Centre is for our community

Thank you to all those in our community who made the opening program of the Cessnock Community Performing Arts Centre a wonderful success.

With such a range of performances, there was something for everyone with one of the outstanding memories being the looks on young students faces while they sat enthralled with the *Floating on a Sea of Stories* special puppetry program for school children.

Special thanks must go to Vicki Sienczuk who organised the entire opening program.

Forward bookings for the theatre are now being taken for 2009 and Council has even received a booking for 2010.

There's so many other spaces within the Centre which can also be booked for meetings, training programs, presentations and conferences. For details about the rooms and costs, please visit Council's website, www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au. It should be noted that community and educational groups are charged half the hiring rate that commercial and professional groups are charged and that fees start at just \$10.00 for one hour for some spaces.

The Centre can be contacted on phone 4990 7134.

Tidy Towns success again

Cessnock LGA was again successful in this year's Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns Awards which were announced at the beginning of November.

Seven awards were received in the following categories

Third place in Category E - Overall Town - Cessnock

Highly Commended in Category I - Schools Environment - Kurri Kurri Public

Winner in Category 4 - Schools Environment - Greta Public

Winner in Category D - Water Conservation - Kurri Kurri TAFE

Highly Commended in Category D - Overall Town - Kurri Kurri

Highly Commended in Category C - Clubs Partnership - Greta

Winner in Category D - Waste and Reuse Centre

Congratulations and thanks to all involved for your continued commitment to the betterment of our environment.

Aquatic Centre raising funds

Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre is currently raising money to purchase a Defibrillator (Heart Starter) for the Centre by selling First Aid Kits and First Aid Books.

Kits are \$130, saving about \$20 and books are \$20, saving \$10. Please see Irene Ziemba at the Centre to place your order or phone 4937 1362.

Hall and Wall of Fame

Eight individuals were inducted into the City of Cessnock Hall of Fame at the end of November. 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.

This year a "Wall of Fame" has also been established in the foyer of the new Cessnock Community Performing Arts Centre where each of the inductees are listed in their respective fields.

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.



Stiltwalkers, Holly and Toby Woodward, performed at the opening night of the Cessnock Community Performing Arts Centre

2008 inductees

This year those who were inducted into the Hall of Fame are:

Brian Castles-Onion - Arts

Robert Edden - Arts

Maurice O'Shea - Business

Frank Lovett - Public Service

JWC 'Bill' Stephenson - Public Service

Cliff Almond - Sport

Bill Rorke - Sport

James 'Skeeta' Wilkinson - Sport

Grants Workshop very popular

A first for Cessnock, a Grants Workshop was held in November and judging by its success, another may be held early next year.

The purpose of the workshop was to highlight the grants available from the respective public and private sector organisations attending and to encourage community representatives who have never previously written a successful application for funding to attend the workshop.

Presentations were made by Coal & Allied Community Trust, the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation, the Hunter Area Consultative Committee and the Department of State and Regional Development.

Cessnock's community bodies, sporting groups and not-for-profit organisations, as well as small businesses were able to identify possible funding for their local groups.

Sourcing available funding opportunities helps these groups deliver social, cultural and economic benefits to the region.

"This was a great opportunity for the community to gain knowledge on private and public sector funding that is available



Keith Whelan, Grants Officer, Cessnock City Council; Erin Richardson, Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation Coordinator; Stephen Sneddon, Principal Advisor, Community Relations, Coal & Allied; Suzette Gaff, Business Development Manager, Department of State and Regional Development; Martin Mc Kenzie, Project Officer, Hunter Area Consultative Committee.

from the respective organisations present on the day. I would encourage representatives from the community to learn about the grants application process and how it can benefit their individual group," said Mr Whelan.

Future grants workshops will be advertised in the local media and advised by letters to community and business groups but in the meantime if you require further information about funding opportunities, please phone Grants Officer, Keith Whelan on 4993 4215.

Livestock register to help owners

A Livestock List has been initiated by Cessnock City Council to minimise the risk of livestock being impounded and owners incurring penalties/fees and charges if their livestock is impounded.

"We are requesting that all livestock owners contact Council to put their livestock on the new Livestock List," says Council's Senior Ranger, Holley Tapp. "This will enable Council to contact owners if their livestock is reported straying and may also assist owners if livestock goes missing."

Owners are asked to contact Council on 4993 4145 to add their livestock to the list. Details required are:

- What type of livestock, ie horses, cattle, goats, pigs etc;
- Number of livestock, eg 10 head of;
- Owner's name and address;
- Address where livestock is kept, ie Cnr Gully Lane Windy Street;
- Owner's home, mobile or any other contact details that may assist the Rangers in getting livestock back to owners.

Council looks forward to livestock owners' support of this new initiative.

Cessnock Council Christmas Closures

**Closed from 3pm on Wednesday 24 December 2008
until Monday 5 January 2009**

- Administration Building (reopens at 8.45am)
- Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries (reopen at 9am)

Closed Christmas Day Only

- Branxton and Cessnock Pools and the Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre
- Kurri Kurri Animal Shelter
- Cessnock Waste and Reuse Centre

Please note there will be no roadside garbage collection on Christmas Day. Collection days will be one day later until Saturday 27 December, when Friday's collection will be made.

For urgent matters, please contact Council's emergency phone message system on 4940 7816. Calls will be directed to the appropriate Council duty officer for attention.



Council contacts

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: 10 December 2008, 21 January 2009, 4 and 18 February 2009.