



Council News

Summer 2007 Community Report from Cessnock City Council



Cleaning up Cessnock City

Clean Up Australia Day will be held on Sunday 4 March this year and once again Council is urging residents to lend a hand.

“Last year, with the help of our volunteers, we managed to collect over 9.5 tonnes of rubbish,” said Council’s Sustainability Projects Officer, Tricia Donnelly. “We hope this year we get as many volunteers again, armed with their gloves, closed in shoes and sun protection.”

Roadsides, parks and waterways are cleaned up throughout Australia each year on Clean Up Australia Day. On Friday 2 March, schools also participate in the clean up.

“It’s a great way for residents to clean up their own communities and the difference this one day of concerted effort makes is amazing,” Ms Donnelly said.

- This year collection sites will be at:
- Royal Federal Hotel carpark, Branxton, 7am - 11am
 - Camp Road, Greta, 7am - 10am
 - Congewai Tennis Courts, 9am - 11am
 - Coventary Park, Cessnock, 10am - 12pm
 - Jefferies Park, Abermain, 8am - 12pm
 - Rural Fire Service, Kearsley, 8am - 11am
 - Wollombi Road (near the pinch), Bellbird, 8.30am - 11.30am
 - Hetton Street, Bellbird, 7am - 9am

For further information please contact Ms Donnelly on 4993 4236.

Support for community development and services

Community welfare, social and health service and employment assistance activities within our Local Government Area are able to gain funding under the state-wide Community Development and Support Expenditure Scheme from 12 March until 27 April 2007.

“The Scheme was introduced under the Gaming Machine Tax Act 2001, to ensure that larger registered clubs with gaming machines contribute 1.5 per cent of their profits over \$1 million to the provision of front line services in the community,” explained Council’s Social Planner, Glynis McClymont.

“Funding under the scheme is allocated to services and projects which assist disadvantaged groups in our community.

A Committee, coordinated by Council and with representatives of each of the clubs involved and the Department of Community Services, has been established and all applications will be assessed by the Committee.

There are two categories which cover specific community welfare and social services, community development, community health services and employment assistance activities.

Funding applications for other community development and support services will also be considered. There is no restriction to the number of applications individuals, groups and organisations can submit, however all applicants must complete an application form to be eligible for assessment.

Application forms will be available from the Clubs NSW website, www.clubsnsw.org.au from 12 March. Applications received on any other form will not be considered for funding.

All applications must be addressed to Cessnock City Council’s Social Planner, Glynis McClymont, and be received at the Council’s Administration Building by close of business on 27 April.

This year Seniors Week in the Cessnock Local Government Area has a packed program of events and there’s something for everyone - from an afternoon at the football to exercise activities, art, cinema and performances.

For the full program please see the back page of this edition of Council News.

Programs are also available at the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries.



Celebrating Australia Day



Large crowds gathered at East Cessnock Bowling Club on Australia Day to take part in Cessnock's Australia Day celebrations. A musical tribute to the history of the Coalfields "Mines, Wines and People", was performed by local talented artists.

"Australia Day is a day to show appreciation to our many quiet achievers who volunteer their time and talents to assist our community," Cessnock Mayor Councillor John Clarence said. "It is also a day to welcome our newest citizens to our community."

"John Sattler was our Australia Day Ambassador and he delivered an inspiring address about what it means to be an Australian. It was very uplifting."

Cessnock's Citizen of the Year was awarded to Margaret Albury for her dedication, commitment and outstanding contribution to Cessnock and, in particular, as Musical Director for the numerous city events held within the LGA.

Vineyard Grove proving popular

Since the first blocks of land at Vineyard Grove residential estate were released in 1993, more than 160 blocks have been sold.

"It really has become an established community now and has proved to be a worthwhile investment for those who bought there in the early stages," explained Council's Marketing and Economic Development Manager, Peter Gogarty.

"With the average price for vacant land still around the \$160,000 mark, the value, in today's market, is remarkable particularly given that the average block size is 850 square metres," he said.

The majority of buyers in the estate have been locals wanting to build their first home, upgrade to a larger home or develop an investment property.

"We have released the land in stages over the years and presently have about 19 blocks for sale in the current stages."

Above: A stirring rendition of "Working Class Man" was a part of the musical celebration.

Right: Australia Day Ambassador, John Sattler with Citizen of the Year, Margaret Albury and her husband, John Albury.



Rebecca Fowles was awarded Young Citizen of the Year for her outstanding commitment and dedication in working with young people.

The Community Event of the Year award went to Kurri Kurri High School 50th Anniversary, celebrating 50 years of education.

Council's Sports Award was awarded to Bellbird Bowling Club No.3 Pennants Side – State Champions 2006, winning the No.3 Pennants State Championship.

The Heritage Award was awarded to the Restoration of Sawyers Gully Memorial Gates for the preservation and restoration of the Sawyers Gully World War 1 Memorial Gates.



Over the coming weeks, Council's agent for the estate, LJ Hooker, will be undertaking a marketing campaign for Vineyard Grove in the lead up to the next release of blocks.

"Across the remainder of the estate yet to be released, there are another 50 blocks of land. These blocks will be released in stages over the coming years."

Please contact LJ Hooker, Cessnock, for further information about land and homes for sale at Vineyard Grove estate.

Council's Environmental Award went to Ken Gill for his dedication in preserving the environment throughout the Weston area and in particular Chinamans Hollow/Peace Park.

The Achievement Awards went to Elsie Doyle and Brian Howe for their contribution and service to the community.

Appreciation Awards went to Judy Duffy, Pam Bothwell and Leslie and Alanna Norley for their outstanding service to the community.

Eleven new citizens were welcomed to the Cessnock LGA during the Naturalisation Ceremony.

Cessnock's first baby for 2007 was a baby boy, Kyle Ian Fairlie, who took the attention in his stride during the Australia Day celebrations.

The many winners of the colouring competition and window dressing received congratulations for their efforts.

Cessnock City Council would like to thank our major sponsor Hunter Valley Gardens – Harrigans Irish Pub and sponsors Cessnock Achievement Centre, Cessnock Advertiser, Cessnock BPW, Cessnock Toyota, East Cessnock Bowling Club, Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri Pty Ltd, KFC Cessnock, McGuigan's Simeon Wines Ltd, Priceline Pharmacy Cessnock City Centre and the Roche Group for contributing to the success of the 2007 Australia Day celebrations.

You're invited

Community Forums are an excellent way for you to express your suggestions and concerns to Council.

The purpose of the Forums is not to discuss individual issues or complaints but to provide an opportunity for residents and community organisations to discuss issues that affect their community as a whole.

The 2007 Forums will be held as follows:

Wollombi
28 March 2007, 7.00pm
Wollombi Community Hall

Branxton/Greta
11 April 2007, 7.30pm
Branxton Community Hall

Mulbring
16 May 2007, 7.00pm
Mulbring Public School Library

Pokolbin and surrounds
13 June 2007, 7.00pm
Pokolbin Community Hall

For enquiries and information please contact Louise Bell on 4993 4208 or email louise.bell@cessnock.nsw.gov.au



Inductees into the Hall of Fame, family members and friends gathered in Council Chambers for the official launch

City of Cessnock Hall of Fame

Authors, musicians, scientists, business people, vigneron and sports people together with those who have made an outstanding contribution to serving the public were honoured in Cessnock City Council's Hall of Fame launched on 6 December 2006.

"2006 marked the centenary of local government in Cessnock and we thought it appropriate to institute the Hall of Fame to recognise our outstanding citizens," said Mayor, Councillor John Clarence.

"This area has been the birth place of some exceptional individuals who have gone on to

rise to the top of their professions and it is only fitting that we, as a community, recognise their achievements."

Bronze plaques, in recognition of each inductee, have been placed in townships throughout the Cessnock LGA.

The Council's website includes the achievements of each of those inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Council will call for nominations of people to be considered for induction into the Hall of Fame each year.

The inaugural list of inductees includes:

- author John Hughes
- musician and educator Ernest Llewellyn
- Archbishop of Adelaide Philip Wilson
- marine scientist Robert Endean
- soccer player Percy Lennard
- global business leader Douglas Daft
- miner, unionist & politician Harry Cockerill
- swimmer Stewart Pike
- scientist Robert Hunter
- former diplomat & business leader Meg McDonald
- vigneron, the Tyrrell family
- vigneron, the Drayton family

Have you visited your library lately?

The Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries held the annual Summer Reading program over the school break. Over 90 people aged up to 16 signed up to read just for fun – the program had no reading lists, just a sheet which could be filled in when the family read together or one person read alone for 15 minute sessions. Participants were able to read graphic novels, books, newspapers, magazines - just something!

Cessnock Council's Children's and Special Programs Officer, Rebecca Holmes said "It was a wonderful opportunity to encourage families with kids of all ages to share reading as a common hobby over summer, we had lots of great feedback from parents as well as the participants."

With some wonderful sponsorship from businesses in the community each participant was rewarded with a prize, along with weekly incentives, which were also provided by businesses in the community.

Thanks to our major sponsors of the Summer Reading program including: Majors Lane Winery, Wandin Valley Winery, Blockbuster Video, Video Ezy Cessnock, Video Ezy Kurri Kurri and Cessnock RSL.

If you missed the Summer Reading program, there are plenty of other exciting activities to enjoy at the libraries throughout the year.

For information about activity programs, please contact Cessnock Library on 4993 4399 or Kurri Kurri Library on 4937 1638.

Rhyme Time 0-3 years

Monday 10.30-11.00am

Our newest program is aimed at the very young and their parents. The child sits on the lap of the parent for 30 minutes while we share rhymes, use instruments and have loads of fun.

Babies and young children feel secure with their parent and they enjoy making and hearing noises— early introduction to rhymes and song may help build confidence, language skills and relationships.

KIDZ Club 8-12 years

Tuesday* 4.00-5.00pm

Kidz Club is a 60 minute session just for kids which may include games, competitions, science, craft and friendly fun. Each session is different to the next, so kids won't know what to expect, except fun!

*Meetings occur on the third Tuesday of the month, except during school holidays.

Holiday Activities 0-16 years

Every school holidays we have a jam packed activity plan to keep the kids amused and entertained. The holiday activities include craft (really messy stuff), parties, extra Storytime sessions, movies and a professional performer or exhibitor usually visits with something extra— amazing for kids.

Book Chat Groups

Cessnock Library runs two book groups for people interested in coming along and joining in conversation about books. Daytime 'BookChat' is seeking new members. The evening 'Books and Bubbles' is great for those with commitments during the day. Contact the library for the next meeting date and the book to be discussed!

Displays, Talks and everything else!

Throughout the year there are displays and exhibitions ranging from local artists and poets to travelling exhibitions.

There are always interesting things happening such as author talks, special interest talks, chocolate testing, internet training sessions, surfing senior sessions, book week competitions, summer reading, not to mention the constant flow of new and interesting items to borrow!



Summer Reading program participants (from left to right): Ryan Tomlinson, Charnye Tomlinson, Taylah Gilmore, Liz Lewis, Connor Westbury, Jesse Gilmore, Ella Hugo, Amy Lewis, Bailey Willis, Lucy Willis and Charlie Willis

Storytime 0-5 years

Tuesday or Wednesday 11.00am-12.00noon

Cessnock Library holds weekly Storytime sessions, alternating Tuesday and Wednesday mornings to fit in with all the other commitments parents have with this age group!

Storytime sessions go for 60 minutes, including 2-3 stories, hand rhymes and a craft activity. Kids truly love interacting with the stories and each other in these sessions and always look forward to the craft!

Seniors Week

Saturday 10 March

2.30pm **Jim Beam Rugby League Cup** between Cessnock and Mount Pritchard. Three games at Baddeley Park Sportsground. **FREE**

Sunday 11 March

10.00am **Richmond Vale Steam Trains.** Entry discounted for Seniors and includes a free cup of tea or coffee. Free rides all day for Seniors. **\$5.00**

Monday 12 March

8.00am **Healthy Heart Walk** at Kurri Kurri District Hospital followed by a morning tea. **FREE**

10.00am **Book Chat at Kurri Kurri Library on 'Shadow of the Wind'.** **FREE**

11.00am **Come and Try - Adult Learn to Swim** at Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre with Phil Baird and his team of experienced adult learn to swim coaches. These lessons will continue each day up to and including Friday. **FREE**

Tuesday 13 March

Various **Cessnock Cinema 3 will offer discounted admission to Seniors** all day. Call the Cinema on 4991 4555 for movie details. **\$2.00**

11.00am **Come and Try - Painting for Pleasure** 79 Aberdare Rd, Aberdare. Learn how to paint for relaxation in a real artist's studio, all equipment provided. **FREE**

2.00pm **Come and Try - Line Dancing** with Christine Marko and her In Step Line Dancers at Weston Workers Club. **FREE**

Wednesday 14 March

10.30am **Come and Try - Line Dancing** with Christine Marko and her In Step Line Dancers, at East Cessnock Bowling Club. **FREE**

10.30am **Mural Tour.** Rover Motors will pick up at various locations, contact Jessica Forbes at Cessnock City Council on 4993 4287 by 5 March to book your seat on the tour or for more information. **FREE**

11.00am **Come and Try - Pilates Program** at Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre. Come and tone, tighten and trim down your body in a fun way to exercise. **FREE**

2.00pm **Roy Cooper concert at 3.00pm** after afternoon tea at Kurri Kurri Workers Club. **FREE**

Thursday 15 March

10.00am **Internet for Seniors - Researching on the Internet.** Cessnock Library. **FREE**

10.30am **Presentation of Senior Citizen of the Year and the Premier's Achievement Award** at Hunter Valley Gardens including a light morning tea and a chance to see the Gardens. For tickets to the event please contact Jessica Forbes at Cessnock City Council on 4993 4287 by 9 March 2007. **FREE**

11.00am **Come and Try - Active Over 50s light exercise program** at Cessnock Total Fitness Gymnasium, where you will be introduced to low impact exercises that will improve your physical wellbeing. **FREE**

1.30pm **Internet for Seniors - Email and Communicating.** Cessnock Library. **FREE**

Friday 16 March

9.00am **Come and Try - Bowling** at East Cessnock Bowling Club. Come and make new friends while you enjoy this gentle sport, bowls and equipment supplied. **FREE**

9.30am **Come and Try - Water Aerobics** at Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre. You don't have to swim, just come along and enjoy this low impact exercise. **FREE**

10.00am **Morning tea at Kurri Kurri Library.** **FREE**

10.00am **Internet for Seniors - Researching on the Internet.** Cessnock Library. **FREE**

1.30pm **Internet for Seniors - Email and Communicating.** Cessnock Library **FREE**

Saturday 17 March

8.00pm **Pixie Jenkins** at Cessnock Supporters Club. Show your Seniors Card for half price entry. **\$5.00**

Sunday 18 March

12.00pm **The Coalfields Heritage Group will be holding an Open Day** at Edgeworth David Museum. Come and find out about the Lower Hunter Valley's history. Corner of Deakin and Greta Streets, Kurri Kurri. Picnic facilities available. For enquiries please phone 4937 4418. **FREE**

Anyone wishing to participate in the Come and Try Days needs to leave their name and contact number with Phil Baird on 4990 1295.

Visit the University of the Third Age at Cessnock Library or contact Cessnock City U3A Inc, PO Box 712, Cessnock 2325.

HUNTER VALLEY

Gardens

LIVE LIFE NSW Seniors Week 11-18 MARCH 2007

Draft masterplan on display

A draft masterplan for Peace Park/Chinamans Hollow at Weston has been placed on public exhibition by Council.

"The plan details a number of works which are proposed for the next three to five years," explained Council's Community Facilities Planner, Kate Harris.

"The area has become an extremely popular recreation area and is used throughout the year. It is vital that Council forward plan for the sporting and recreation needs of the local community as the area becomes even more popular."

Proposed works for the area include the installation of a water wheel, an upgrade to the play equipment and increased barbecue and picnic facilities as well as improved car parking.

Copies of the plan are available at Council's Administration Building, Kurri Kurri and Cessnock Libraries and from Council's website.

Written submissions regarding the plan must be lodged with Council by 27 March 2007.

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

Corporate and Regulatory Services

Director: Robert Gallagher

Strategic and Community Services

Director: Joseph Lantz

Works and Services

Director: Lewis Oldfield

Councillors

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

Mayor: Councillor John Clarence

Ward A

Robert Bedford

Alison Davey

Rachel Main

Ward B

Ian Olsen

Bob Pynsent

Bruce Scott

Ward C

Catherine Parsons

Jeff Maybury

Dale Troy

Ward D

Ron Besoff (*Deputy Mayor*)

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.

Upcoming Council meetings: 7 and 21 March, 4 and 18 April, 9 and 23 May, 6 and 20 June.