



Council News

Summer 2008 Community Report from Cessnock City Council

Aquatic Centre turns 5 years old

There was a cake, a barbecue, an inflatable island, face painting, a jumping castle, Dorothy the Dinosaur, Tilly the Turtle and of course Philbert the Frog. And the rain held off!

Over 400 people joined in the fifth birthday party of the Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre on 19 January, thoroughly enjoying what has become one of the LGA's most popular community facilities.

The Centre, which was constructed and is owned by Cessnock City Council, is operated by the YMCA and offers a range of aquatic, health and recreation programs and services to cater for diverse ages, interests and abilities. The programs and the fact that it is an indoor, all year facility has also attracted people from outside the area with about 50 per cent of regular patrons being from other LGAs.

Most recently the Aquatic Centre and Cessnock Pool were chosen as the venues for the Special Olympics NSW State Long and Short Course Swimming Meet. More than 300 competitors, ranging in age from 7 - 70, participated in the meet.

"The Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre has certainly proved that well developed and operated community facilities which cater to the needs of residents can become popular and successful," Council's General Manager, Bernie Mortomore explained. "I understand that there are several other councils looking at our experience as an example of how to introduce similar facilities in their own areas."

For information about programs and entry costs, please contact Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre on telephone 4937 1362.

Opening hours are

Monday - Tuesday	6.00am - 8.00pm
Wednesday - Thursday	6.00am - 7.00pm
Friday	6.00am - 6.00pm
Saturday	7.30am - 5.00pm
Sunday	8.00am - 5.00pm



Aquatic Centre Customer Service Officer, Melanie Chapple with Philbert

Cleaning up Cessnock City

It's that time of year again when we grab our hats and gloves and clean up our local area. Clean Up Australia Day will be held on Sunday 2 March this year.

A couple of hours of your time can make a huge difference.

Please meet at the following locations:

Aberdare Cnr Greta St & Aberdare Rd	8am-10am
Abermain Jefferies Park Carpark	5.30pm-7.30pm
Branxton Royal Federal Hotel Carpark	7am-11am
Bucketty Fire Station	9am-12pm
Cessnock Duffie Drive	7am-9am
Cessnock Front Gate Cessnock Shed & Com Garden	8am-9am
Congewai Congewai Public School	9.30am-11am
Ellalong Ellalong Bus Shelter	8am-11am
Greta Near Railway Station	8am-10am
Kurri Kurri Stanford Merthyr Service Station	9am-12pm
Lovedale Cnr Wilderness & Lovedale Rds	8am-12pm
Millfield Crawfield Millfield Hall	10am-1pm
Paxton Cnr Millfield & Middle Rds	8am-2pm

LIVE LIFE NSW Seniors Week
6-13 APRIL 2008
nswseniorsweek.com.au

For details about the events scheduled for Seniors Week, please turn to the back page

Celebrating Australia Day



Cessnock Citizens of the Year, Roger and Emma Neville with Leo Sayer

Large crowds gathered at East Cessnock Bowling Club to take part in Cessnock's Australia Day celebrations this year.

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

"We were also pleased to welcome Leo Sayer as our Australia Day Ambassador, who delivered an inspiring speech on his thoughts about Australia and its people. Leo also performed many of his greatest hits and his performance was enjoyed by all."

Cessnock's Citizen of the Year was awarded to Emma and Roger Neville for their dedication, commitment and outstanding contribution to the City of Cessnock by supporting the community through the devastating floods of 8-9 June 2007.

Matt Petherbridge was awarded Young Citizen of the Year for his outstanding commitment and dedication in working with young people in the Cessnock LGA.

The Community Event of the Year award went to Mt View High School – Battle of the Bands for showcasing the skills of the students from High Schools in the City of Cessnock.

Council's Sports Award was awarded to Jake Gordon for his outstanding achievement in the sport of cricket, representing Bellbird Bowling Club No.3 Pennants Side – State Champions 2006 and for winning the No.3 Pennants State Championship.

The Heritage Award was awarded to Jack Delaney for a lifetime of recording the history of the Hunter; researching and documenting Australian history at a localised level.

Council awarded an Achievement Award to Kurri Kurri Community Wall – Kurri Kurri Towns with Heart Project for raising public awareness of the contribution of individuals, families and groups to the history of the Kurri Kurri area and its cultural diversity.

Appreciation Awards were awarded to Peter Hodges, Patricia Black and Cessnock Community Transport for their outstanding service and contribution to the community.

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

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, East Cessnock Bowling Club, Hunter Family Jewellers - Cessnock, Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri Pty Ltd, KFC Cessnock, McDonalds Cessnock, McGuigan's Simeon Wines Ltd, O'Neill's Tyres - Cessnock, Priceline Pharmacy - Cessnock and The Roche Group for contributing to the success of the 2008 Australia Day celebrations.

Keeping our part of the world beautiful

Congratulations to all our environmental volunteers - again. As in previous years, Cessnock LGA Tidy Towns groups were very successful in the 2007 Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns Awards bringing home seven awards as listed below:

Overall Category - **Abermain-Neath** received a Highly Commended in population category C.

Cultural Heritage Award – **Abermain-Neath** won population category C with the Abermain Eisteddfod and **Wollombi** received a Highly Commended in population category A for their Millpond Walkway.

Litter Prevention and Waste Minimisation Award – **Kurri Kurri** won population category D with their entry for Council's Waste and Reuse Centre.

Congratulations to our own Mayor Councillor John Clarence who was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia on Australia Day for his service to local government and the community of Cessnock.

Energy Innovation Award – **Kurri Kurri** received a Highly Commended in population category D for their entry on behalf of the Kurri Kurri TAFE Campus – 'Managing their Environment with innovation'.

Civic Partnership Award – **Cessnock** won population category E for their entry of the Walking Trail Booklet.

Friendly Town Award – **Cessnock** won population Category E for the second year in a row.



Council's Sustainability Programs Officer, Tricia Donnelly, with Kurri Kurri Tidy Towns - Lyndon Clark, Bob Burns, Beryl Richards, Elaine Beattie, Beth Masterman, Allan Masterman, Zac the dog. Front: Pam Way, Bill Way

City of Cessnock Hall of Fame

Ten individuals and two families were inducted into the City of Cessnock Hall of Fame at the end of November last year. 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.

"Nominations were submitted for each of the six categories of the Arts, Business, Public Service, Science, Sport and Meritorious Families and were then assessed by our committee," explained the Mayor of Cessnock, Councillor John Clarence OAM. "It never ceases to amaze me just how much people from our community can achieve in their lifetime and the breadth of their endeavours is astounding."

"Some of the names people will recognise immediately but I'm also happy to note that there were some quiet but very high achievers among our inductees. We include the achievements of all members of the Cessnock City Hall of Fame on Council's website and I urge people to go to the website just to see the significance of what our inductees have achieved."

As well as being recognised during the induction ceremony 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.

Mr and Mrs Fogg were extremely proud that their son, Anthony, was inducted into the City of Cessnock Hall of Fame



Hall of Fame 2007 inductees:
 Griffith Duncan – Educator & Administrator
 Len Evans – Business Leader
 John Falk – Scientist (Biochemist)
 Anthony Fogg – Musician & Arts Administrator
 Clarence Jeffries VC – Soldier
 John McDonald – Art Critic & Author
 The McGuigan Family – Winemakers
 Kevin O'Neill – Sportsman (Soccer)
 James Pendlebury – Scientist (Chemist)
 Glen Renfrew – Business Leader
 Robert Thompson – Sportsman (Jockey)
 The Tulloch Family – Winemakers

Animal Shelter goes cash free

Cessnock City Council's Animal Shelter at Kurri Kurri will become cash free from Monday 3 March this year in response to overwhelming demand for eftpos facilities.

In addition, the animal shelter is quite isolated from other buildings and to have cash on the premises, even only during operating hours, poses a great risk to the security of staff and the animals kept on site.

For customers who prefer to continue using traditional payment methods, cash payments will still be accepted at Council's Administration Building. The receipts can then be taken to the Animal Shelter.

The Animal Shelter eftpos facility will accept savings and cheque account payments and all credit card transactions with the exception of American Express and Diners.

Contact the Animal Shelter on telephone 4937 5033.

In brief.....

Environmental audit assistance for schools

Council's Sustainability Programs Officer, Tricia Donnelly, can conduct environmental audits of schools which provide useful information about water, energy, stormwater and biodiversity. All programs involve students undertaking investigations of their school on the topic of choice and coming up with an action plan to make improvements and/or savings.

Council's recycling contractor can also assist with waste audits.

For further information please contact Ms Donnelly on 4993 4236.

2007 Long Weekend Storm memories to be published

A collection of short stories and poems about and photography of the June Long Weekend 2007 disaster and its aftermath as experienced in South Cessnock will be published.

The community of the storm affected suburb will come together to create the historical timepiece following a funding grant from the Hunter Community Recovery Fund.

Each household in South Cessnock will receive a copy of the book as will each school in the LGA. Copies of the publication will also be at the libraries.

Community forums - you're invited

Community Forums are an excellent opportunity for residents and community organisations to discuss with Council issues that affect their community.

Branxton/Greta
 9 April 2008, 7.00pm
 Branxton Community Hall

Wollombi
 23 April 2008, 7.00pm
 Wollombi Community Hall

Mulbring
 14 May 2008, 7.00pm
 Mulbring School Library

Pokolbin and surrounds
 11 June 2008, 7.00pm
 Pokolbin Community Hall

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

Seniors Week

Saturday 5 April

4.30pm First Grade football. Cessnock Goannas vs Nelson Bay, Cessnock Sportsground. Other grades from 12pm. Free Entry to holders of a Seniors Card. **FREE**

Monday 7 April

Come & Try Chocolate Tasting at The Hunter Valley Chocolate Factory, Lovedale. Bookings essential, transport provided. **FREE**

Tuesday 8 April

9.30am Cessnock Library will be holding Introduction to the Internet classes. For details contact the Library on 4993 4399. **FREE**

Come & Try Active Over 50s at Total Fitness, Cessnock. A light gym workout for the over 50s. Bookings essential. **FREE**

Various Cessnock Cinema will offer \$2.00 movie tickets to holders of a Seniors Card. Call the Cinema on 4991 4999. **\$2.00**

Various Cessnock Pizza Hut will offer Pizzas from \$4.95 to holders of a Seniors Card. **VARIOUS**

Wednesday 9 April

8.00am Kurri Kurri Heart Walkers Walking Program. Morning tea will be provided after the walk. Contact Jessica Forbes at Cessnock City Council on 4993 4287. **FREE**

9.00am Abermain Heritage & Preservation Society Photographic Display at Abermain Plaza Hall, Bathurst Street until 2.00pm. **FREE**

9.30am Kurri Kurri Library will be holding Introduction to the Internet classes. For details contact the Library on 4937 1638. **FREE**

10.00am Variety Concert at Abermain Plaza Hall, Bathurst Street 10.00am to 12.00pm. Acts include the Cessnock Pensioner and Senior Citizen Choir, duets, dancers and recitals. Morning tea will be provided. **FREE**

12.00pm Computer Pals information session at Abermain Plaza Hall, Bathurst Street 12.00pm - 2.00pm **FREE**

Come & Try Wine Appreciation. A wine appreciation experience courtesy of Monahan Estate and Caldwell Wines. Bookings essential, transport provided. **FREE**

2.00pm Kurri Kurri Workers Club 2pm to 4pm. Elvis impersonator Norm Bakker will be performing. Everyone is welcome to this free event. An afternoon tea will be provided. **FREE**

Thursday 10 April

10.30am Presentation of Senior Citizen of the Year at Hunter Valley Gardens. For tickets please contact Jessica Forbes at Cessnock City Council on 4993 4287. **FREE**

Friday 11 April

10.00am Celebrating Our Cultural Heritage - Bus tour to Wollombi. This event is funded by DADHC. Lunch will be provided. For tickets please contact Jessica Forbes at Cessnock City Council on 4993 4287. **FREE**

Come & Try Painting for Pleasure. Learn the secrets of painting for relaxation with renowned local artist Les Elvin in his studio at 79 Aberdare Road Aberdare. Bookings essential, all equipment supplied. **FREE**

Please Note:

Anyone wishing to participate in the Come and Try Days needs to leave their name and contact number with Phil Baird on 4990 1295. Times will be advised when bookings are made.

HUNTER VALLEY

Gardens

LIVE LIFE NSW Seniors Week 6-13 APRIL 2008

Cessnock Local Environment Plan

A Local Environment Plan is the tool used to identify what developments or activities are permissible with or without Council consent or prohibited in particular land use zones.

The draft Cessnock LEP 2008 is currently with the Department of Planning. Following the Department issuing an exhibition certificate (anticipated in the next month) Council will exhibit the draft LEP, including the draft City Wide Settlement Strategy and the draft Development Control Plan 2008, for a period 10 weeks.

It is during the exhibition period that Council will encourage you to provide comments in writing regarding these draft documents.

Extensive community consultation throughout the LGA will also be undertaken during the exhibition period.

Council contacts

Administration Building

62 - 78 Vincent Street, Cessnock

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Web: www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

General Manager: Bernie Mortomore

Council Departments

Corporate and Regulatory Services

Acting Director: Darryl Fitzgerald

Strategic and Community Services

Acting Director: Simon Eade

Works and Services

Director: Lewis Oldfield

Councillors

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

Mayor: Councillor John Clarence OAM

Ward A

Robert Bedford

Alison Davey

Rachel Main

Ward B

Ian Olsen

Bob Pynsent (*Deputy Mayor*)

Bruce Scott

Ward C

Catherine Parsons

Jeff Maybury

Dale Troy

Ward D

Ron Besoff

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: 5 and 19 March, 2 and 16 April, 7 and 21 May, 4 and 18 June.