



DREAM COME TRUE: At just nine years old, Beau Heffernan started a petition to get a skatepark for Millfield, and he was there to cut the ribbon at the official opening.

January 2023



Cessnock City News

A message from your Mayor



CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL MAYOR
Jay Suvaal

It has been an absolute honour to serve the Cessnock City community as Mayor for the past 12 months, and I would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support.

While we've had our share of challenges, including two flooding disasters that significantly impacted our road network, Council and the community achieved a great deal together in 2022.

We've seen many exciting projects come to life, including the Cessnock Pool Splash Pad, Millfield Skatepark, the inclusive McFarlane Street Playground and the new leash-free dog area at Manning Park.

It was also fantastic to see the return of many wonderful community events after previous interruptions due to COVID-19, bushfires and floods. These included the Postie Bike Grand Prix, STOMP Festival and Carols in the Park. These events do a wonderful job of bringing people together to celebrate the things that make our region so special.

Development expectations were exceeded massively in the 21/22 financial year. Council approved 934 new dwellings, almost tripling our forecast of 318, and development was worth a total of \$352 million. This is extremely promising for the economic development of our region.

With all that under our belt in 2022, I am very much looking forward to continuing to deliver for our community in 2023. There are many exciting events coming up including Seniors Festival, the Hunter Valley Air Show, Youth Week and NAIDOC Week. I also look forward to seeing many projects come to life as we continue to deliver our \$59.8 million Capital Works Program. These include the Kurri Kurri Town Centre upgrade, new sporting facilities at Carmichael Park and completion of the Maybury Peace Park playground upgrade.

I look forward to what we can achieve together in 2023 and sharing the progress of our projects with you all.

Since joining Cessnock City Council in September 2022, I have been focused on better understanding the Cessnock Local Government Area and Council's operations.

It is clear that our road infrastructure network must be a priority for Council over the coming years. I am currently putting in place a plan to prioritise local road repairs, which I know is of great concern to the community. This is in addition to what is to be delivered under the 2022-26 Delivery Program.

Council is also progressing plans for recovery works following the two majoring flooding events our community experienced in 2022. The recovery will be staged and I encourage you to visit the Council's Major Works section of the website to follow the progress of these projects.

There has been progress on the South Cessnock Bundwall. Works are expected to commence in the first half of 2023. Council has partnered with the Public Works Authority to deliver this project which will see construction of a large detention basin, formed by an earth bund wall; raising of Quorrobolong Street, including a small earth embankment levee, Kearsley Creek channel diversion and voluntary house raising.

There are many challenges we face. However, it is my intention to forge a clear and positive pathway ahead.



GENERAL MANAGER
Ken Liddell



Capital Works Program Update



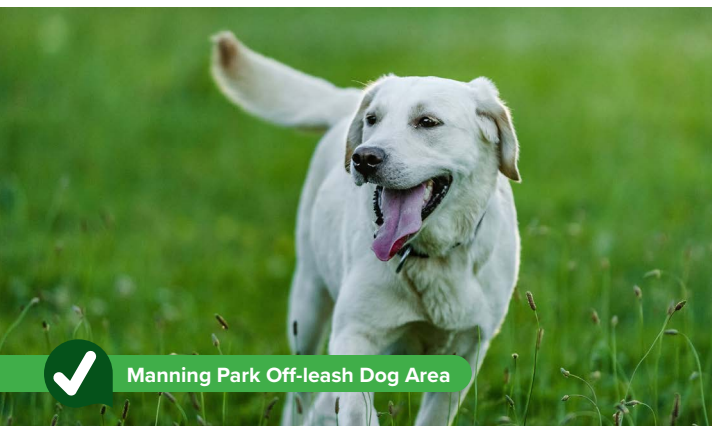
Cessnock Pool Splash Pad



Millfield Skatepark Stage 2



McFarlane Street Playground



Manning Park Off-leash Dog Area

RECENTLY COMPLETED

- Safety upgrades Oakey Creek Road, Pokolbin
- Pavement upgrade Congewai Road, Paxton
- Shared pathway Branxton to Greta Cycleway Stage 2
- Pavement reconstruction Wollombi Road, Millfield Stage 7.2
- Road upgrade South Avenue, Cessnock
- Road upgrade Henderson Avenue, Cessnock
- Road upgrade / Black Spot works Sandy Creek Road, Quorrobolong
- Safety upgrades Great North Road, Laguna
- Shared zone construction Church Street, Branxton
- Millfield Skatepark construction Stage 2
- Playspace upgrade McFarlane Street Playground, Cessnock
- Fenced off-leash dog area Manning Park, Cessnock
- New children's bike circuit Miller Park, Branxton
- Installation of splash pad at Cessnock Pool
- Floodlighting upgrade on rugby league field Greta Central Park

CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

- Stormwater drainage upgrades Thomas Street, North Rothbury
- Road and drainage upgrade Old Maitland Road, Cessnock
- Bridge reconstruction Yango Creek Bridge, Wollombi
- Pathway construction Bridges Hill Park to Wine Country Drive
- Town Centre upgrades Kurri Kurri
- Flood mitigation construction South Cessnock Bund Wall
- New kerb and gutter, pavement rehabilitation and surface resealing Cessnock Road, Weston
- Bus stop upgrades at 26 locations and installation of five new shelters
- Construction of new tennis and netball courts Miller Park, Branxton
- New sporting facilities at Carmichael Park, Bellbird
- Lighting upgrade at Baddeley Park, Cessnock
- Inclusive playspace upgrade at Maybury Peace Park, Weston
- School zone infrastructure, road safety program at six local schools

UPCOMING PROJECTS

- Shared pathway Branxton to Greta Cycleway Stage 3
- Road upgrade Camp Road / Mansfield Street, Greta
- Road upgrade Quorrobolong Road, Kitchener
- Shared pathway between Greta Train Station and High Street
- Pathway Construction Crawfordville Park, Millfield
- Road upgrade Kerlew Street, Nulkaba
- Pavement rehabilitation Sandy Creek Road, Quorrobolong
- Bridge Replacement Kline Street, Weston
- Bridge replacement Westcott Street, Cessnock
- Upgraded BMX Track Cessnock Regional BMX Facility
- Court renewal to two tennis courts Kurri Kurri



You can keep up-to-date with Council's works at cessnock.nsw.gov.au/works

Accessibility to reach new heights in the Hunter



We're pleased to announce a wheelchair accessible hot air balloon will soon grace the skies above Cessnock LGA.

The first of its kind in NSW, the hot air balloon will provide wheelchair users and those with reduced mobility the opportunity to experience ballooning in the picturesque Hunter Valley.

The specifically designed balloon basket has an access door, seat, and harness to ensure patrons with various mobility considerations are safe and secure during the flight.

To ensure the experience is inclusive at every point, a wheelchair accessible mini bus will transport passengers directly to their accessible hot air balloon flight.

The accessible hot air balloon flights will be operated by Balloon Aloft, an iconic Hunter Valley experience operator who has been delivering Australia's best balloon flights for over 40 years.

The idea behind this project is to increase the number of inclusive adventure tourism options on offer in the Cessnock LGA.

This project was made possible with a \$341,249 grant under the Regional Tourism Activation Fund (RTAF).

Fenced park to delight local dogs

The newly fenced leash-free dog area at Manning Park in Cessnock is now complete and ready for locals to enjoy with their furry friends.

The completion of this project has seen the existing leash-free dog area become fully fenced with a new shelter, accessible picnic setting, water fountain, bins, landscaping and pathway connections.

This project forms part of Council's Off Leash Dog Exercise Area Plan which was adopted by Council in September 2021. This plan aims to ensure dogs can play, exercise and socialise with their owners in a safe and accessible way in designated areas across the Cessnock LGA.

This is the first fully fenced dog area in the Cessnock LGA, allowing local dogs to exercise and socialise in a safe environment. Along with Manning Park, Council provides a number of off leash areas across the Cessnock LGA, including Greta Central Park, Hall Park in Cessnock, Miller Park in Branxton, Stanford Merthyr Park, and Varty Park in Weston.

This project was made possible with a \$140,000 grant under the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund.



Local volunteer Ken Victor receives top honour

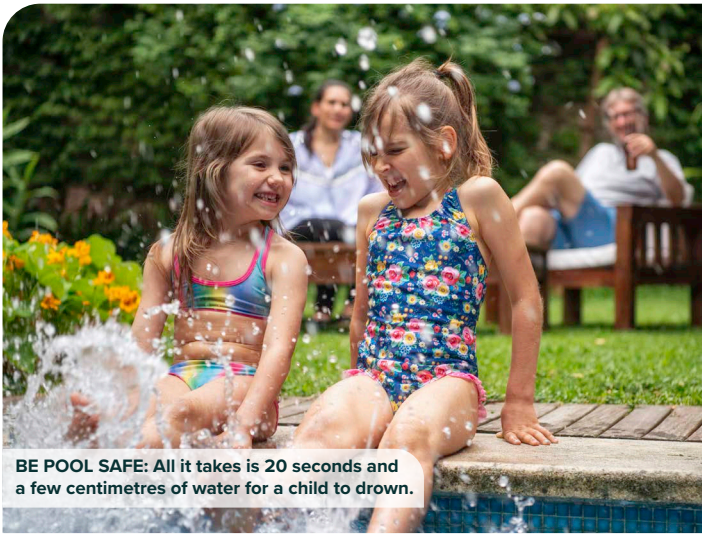


Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal presented local hero Ken Victor with the prestigious Keep Australia Beautiful Lifetime Achievement Award late last year.

Ken has poured his heart and soul into the Cessnock region for many years, contributing greatly to the beautification of many local recreational areas.

Ken became a founding member of Cessnock's Tidy Towns Committee in 1968 before transitioning to the presidential role in 1992. The committee delivered a plethora of successful projects under Ken's leadership including planting garden beds along the steps of Covent Hill to Bridges Park, and planting trees adjacent to the flood prone Cessnock Soccer Club. The committee's most remarkable work during Ken's stint as president, however, was the Aberdare Central Colliery restoration project - a site we now know and love as Poppethead Park thanks to Ken and his dedicated team of volunteers.

If you're inspired by Ken's story, Council facilitates a number of community-based volunteer committees to assist with the operation of its facilities, along with Tidy Towns groups. If you're interested in volunteering and would like to join one of these committees, visit cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Volunteer to find out more.



Be pool wise and always supervise

Summer is not over yet and as part of our annual Be Pool Safe campaign, we're promoting the importance of swimming lessons, backyard pool safety, and supervision.

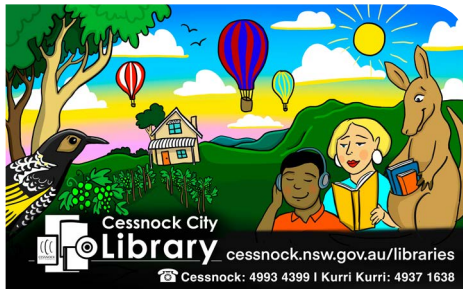
The 2022 Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report found that in 2021/22 most drowning deaths involved children aged between 0-4 years of age in a swimming pool environment.

Sadly, all it takes is 20 seconds and a few centimetres of water for a child to drown, and in the end, nothing can replace the constant supervision of children by a responsible adult.

While there is no substitute for constant supervision, any pool or spa that can hold more than 30cm of water (including inflatable pools) must be surrounded by a four-sided pool fence and self-closing, self-latching gate, just like permanent pools.

Cessnock City Council has a range of information regarding pool safety and fencing on its website at cessnock.nsw.gov.au/BePoolSafe.

BE POOL SAFE: All it takes is 20 seconds and a few centimetres of water for a child to drown.



Join your local library

By joining Cessnock City Library, you'll have unlimited access to free books, magazines, audiobooks, eBooks, eMusic, eFilms, eMags, WiFi, computers, tech help, events, school holiday activities, exhibitions and MORE.

Membership is FREE and there is no overdue fines or reservation fees. It's also never been easier to join - simply sign up online at cessnock.nsw.gov.au/libraries, pop in to Cessnock or Kurri Kurri Libraries, or give the friendly team a call on 4993 4399 (Cessnock) or 4937 1638 (Kurri Kurri).

Get Council news directly to your inbox

If you're wondering what projects we're working on or what events are coming up in your local area, we've got it all wrapped up in our monthly eNewsletter.

Sign up today to get the latest news, and informations about events, projects, consultations, jobs, services and more delivered directly to your inbox!

Simply visit cessnock.nsw.gov.au/subscribe to subscribe today.



A new way to have your say

Cessnock City Council is dedicated to building a thriving, attractive and welcoming community that we can all be proud of. This can only be achieved through the public participation of residents, businesses, visitors and ratepayers.

You can now register to be alerted of opportunities to give feedback through the Together Cessnock website. Together Cessnock is our new online community portal where you can provide real input into the direction of projects and decisions that affect our community.

Scan the QR code to register with Together Cessnock and let us know what really matters most to you.



WHAT'S ON IN 2023



Less is more

Embracing a simpler way of living

JOIN FREE EVENTS

- Low waste lunches
- Fix-it cafes
- Clothing swaps
- Book and toy swaps
- Film nights + MORE!

The 'Less is More' program of events has been created to help the community live better with less – less stuff, less mess and less waste. Visit the website below to find out more and join an event today!

cessnock.nsw.gov.au/LessisMore

TWENTY TWENTY THREE

ACT ONE | JAN - JUN ON SALE NOW!

BOOK NOW AT [MYPACC.COM.AU](https://mypacc.com.au) OR CALL 4993 4266



Seniors tile to come from Tara

MATTRESS DROP-OFF

Drop off your old mattresses and ensembles for FREE

SAT 25 FEB 2023
SAT 22 JULY 2023
SAT 14 OCT 2023

MORE INFO:
cessnock.nsw.gov.au



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www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

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