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SINGLETON EDIT

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SINGLETON
COUNCIL



Mayor's Message

Cr Sue Moore
MAYOR

Military pageantry will again march through the streets of Singleton on Friday 17 March. The Freedom of Entry is a special event for everyone to honour the unique relationship between the Lone Pine Barracks and our community, but this time we're also celebrating 50 years since the School of Infantry was established in Singleton.

People think of Singleton as a mining town, but we were a military town long before that. The first Freedom of Entry was held in 1966, and as Mayor, it's a privilege to play an important role in the ceremony of this event. More importantly, I hope as many people as possible will turn out in acknowledgement of the connection between our community and the Army.

As we head onto the NSW election, the Deputy Mayor and I are also meeting with the candidates for the seat of the Upper to highlight the important connection between Singleton and Macquarie Street.

Our focus is on future proofing and enhancing livability for the people of Singleton now, and for generations to come.

Council has been proactive in developing the programs, strategies and infrastructure we need to ensure a vibrant future for our community.

It's important to note that a total of \$12million worth of tenders opened and closed in the past month for a range of projects, including the new \$1.6million athletics amenities building at Rose Point Park, tiered seating at Cook Park, and a long list of road rehabilitations.

But we need the support of all levels of government, and a tangible commitment from all the candidates for the seat of Upper Hunter and the major parties, to achieve our community's vision and create the Singleton we want to see into the future.



POWERFUL SAVINGS

A new tool kit available to borrow from Singleton Public Library allows people to monitor their power consumption, identify ways to reduce energy bills and reduce emissions at the same time.

The Save Power Kit is designed to help local households identify issues that may be affecting energy and water efficiency at home.

The kit contains a detailed instruction guide, and tools including:

- **Thermal imaging camera:** to find where heat is lost or gained in your home
- **Power-mate lite:** to measure the energy consumption and running costs of your appliances
- **Optimal temperature thermometer:** to ensure your fridge, freezer and hot water temperatures are set correctly
- **Stopwatch:** to time the flow rates of your showerhead and taps to make sure they are running efficiently
- **Light metre:** to identify wasteful lighting and save energy

Mary-Anne Crawford, Council's Manager Development and Environmental Services

said with power prices and interest rates driving even more pressure on local families, the kit was a free and easy tool for households to assess their energy usage, reduce consumption and save money at the same time.

"If you've ever wondered why your power bills are so high but feel powerless to change it, the Save Power Kit is for you," she said

"The Save Power Kit will help you identify the biggest energy users in your home — plus it's an excellent activity to get the kids involved and understand more about sustainability and energy use.

"Making small changes to how you use your appliances or control the temperature of your home can make a big difference. Not only is it better for your bank account, but it reduces our impact on the environment."

The Save Power Kit is available from Singleton Library for one-week loans.

Image: Coordinator Environmental Services Peter Brennan, Environmental Projects Officer Lexi Crouch and Sustainability Projects Officer Bonnie Wilson



FREEDOM OF ENTRY

Singleton Council has joined forces with the Lone Pine Barracks School of Infantry for a Freedom of Entry parade on Friday 17 March, when hundreds of uniformed soldiers from the Lone Pine Barracks School of Infantry will march through Singleton Town Centre.

Stemming from medieval times, the granting of the Freedom of Entry is the highest civic honour a city can confer on a military unit. It is restricted to Australian military units which have, through their command, a significant attachment to the city.

This year's Freedom of Entry in Singleton is an extra special celebration of the 55th anniversary since the first granting of Freedom of Entry to the Singleton Military Area in 1966 (postponed from 2021 due to COVID-19) and the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the School of Infantry in Singleton in 2023.

Image: Lt Col Richard Thapthimthong, CSC, Commanding Officer, School of Infantry and Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore

Up to 300 uniformed personnel will be involved in the parade, led by Senior Australian Defence Force Officer Singleton Military Area and Parade Commander LtCol Richard Thapthimthong CSC, stepping off from Hunter Street at 11am and continuing on John Street.

The parade will be halted by a senior police officer under the New England Highway flyover, who will formally grant permission to enter before the procession continues onto Queen Street to Civic Green where the Mayor will inspect the troops.

LtCol Thapthimthong CSC said the Australian Army Banner was also a special inclusion in the parade, which will fly amongst the soldiers as they march through the streets.

“The Freedom of Entry means a lot to us,” he said. “Not only is it historic and not only does it mark the 50th anniversary of the School of Infantry being here in Singleton, but it reconfirms the connection that the Military, and especially the Army, have with the Singleton town – a connection that’s older than 50 years, but is well-versed with the School of Infantry.

“And for these soldiers at the start of their careers, getting to be part of something so significant before they get to their home battalions anywhere around Australia, with that added layer being the 50th anniversary of the School, will just be something extraordinary to hang their hat on as they leave this place as qualified Infantry soldiers.”

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said Singleton held a unique place in Australia as a centre for Infantry training.



Image: Singleton Freedom of Entry 2016

“It’s a privilege to be a stop on the journey for a large number of the men and women who will go on to protect our country and our way of life in conflicts and in peace time,” she said.

“It’s sometimes easy to forget that there could be up to 1,000 people at any one time undergoing their training at the base right here in Singleton, and I hope as many people as possible from our community will line the streets to pay tribute to all of our soldiers and celebrate with the School of Infantry.”

A community gathering will be held after the Freedom of Entry at the Civic Centre forecourt, including refreshments, free icy poles and an Australian Defence Force display. ■



Image: Combined band in John Street 1988

The honour of Freedom of Entry to Singleton has been bestowed on:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 9 September 2016 | 20 October 2001 |
| 27 August 2011 | 10 September 1988 |
| 29 July 2006 | 10 September 1966 |



Image: Singleton Freedom of Entry 1966



Scan the QR code to find out more information



RESOURCES FOR SUCCESS

The announcement of \$12.7million under the NSW Government's Resources For Regions Round Nine in late 2022 has taken Singleton's grand total to more than \$25million in the past three rounds, since improvements Singleton Council advocated for were introduced. The new structure guarantees an allocated amount for mining communities, removes the benefit cost ratio and co-contribution requirement, and allows programs that have supported mental health, skills development and business support along with infrastructure projects. Combined with Council's own improved process to work closely with community groups on our applications, Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore says the continuation of the program is essential and is a key subject of discussions in the lead up to the NSW State election on 25 March.

Above: Singleton Rugby Club Senior Vice President, John Tyne

Right: Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore and Singleton Combined Rural Halls Committee chairperson Cr Sue George with representatives from Broke Hall, Bulga Hall, Elderslie Hall, Glendon Hall, Glendon Brook Hall, Hebden Hall, Mirannie Hall, Mitchell's Flat Hall, Mount Olive Hall, Putty Hall, Warkworth Hall and Whittingham Hall, which will share in \$1,770,000 in improvements under Resources For Regions Round Nine

Round Nine delivered more support for sport and recreational facilities, ever-important roads upgrades, new footpaths and improvements to the historical Singleton Showground, to name a few.

Round Nine also completed the new Singleton Rugby Club grandstand, with a total of \$1.25million received across Rounds Seven, Eight and Nine (in addition to other grants and club funds) to replace seating that was "out of date, old and potentially dangerous" as well as improve facilities.

"Resources For Regions has assisted the club to build a new grandstand and improve our facilities which will help us draw more finals-type football out of the Hunter, including female rugby because we've now got changing rooms dedicated for females," John Tyne, Singleton Rugby Club Senior Vice President said.

"Also, our patrons have great viewing of the games in a facility that's purpose-built. Without Resources for Regions, this facility wouldn't exist."

Cr Moore said the inclusion of community programs under the program, as well as the number of community projects that have been supported, have been "absolutely astounding".

"We're very proud of the approach we've taken to make Resources For Regions about the community by extending the opportunity for funding for a range of projects, and not just Council infrastructure," she said.

"Seeing the difference this program has made to people has just been so rewarding. It's a simple message to all the candidates in the upcoming election: we really need Resources For Regions to continue in the same format, so that we can continue to work with the State Government to deliver what our community needs and deserves."



Round Nine Projects + Programs

Singleton Community Art Engagement Program \$400,000

Singleton Community Amenity Program \$4,250,000

Singleton Innovation + Investment Activation Program \$300,000

Singleton Community Rural Halls Upgrade Program \$1,770,000

Singleton Skills + Employment Exchange \$300,000

Singleton Access + Inclusion Enhancement Program \$200,000

Singleton Transport Infrastructure Project \$4,393,850

Singleton Golf Club Drainage + Irrigation Improvements \$450,000

Singleton Rugby Club Grandstand Final Stage \$250,000

Singleton Showground Pavilion + Office Facilities Upgrade \$400,000

Total for Round Nine: \$12,713,850

DIGITAL SWITCH

Businesses across the Singleton local government area are being encouraged to open the portal to the digital world through an innovative, fee-free program designed to help attract new customers and improve their website and online marketing or digital systems.

Developed in partnership by Singleton Council and Business Singleton (formerly Singleton Business Chamber), the Switch Up Your Business program is a response to changing consumer habits as a result of COVID that saw online spending in Singleton increase by 75 per cent in the past two years from \$12 million in January 2019 to \$21 million in November 2022.

The program is designed for businesses that:

- don't have a website or need to improve how their website is found by customers
- aren't sure if their existing social media is hitting the mark

- are interested in finding digital solutions to work smarter and save time
- would like to sell products and services online
- want to drive customer loyalty by better engaging with your customers online.

Participating businesses will work with a business specialist who will provide a digital roadmap report and develop a unique plan to better connect with customers.

Businesses can then apply for funding for their "lighthouse" project recommendation to get underway.

Switch Up Your Business is funded by the NSW Government under Resources For Regions Round Eight and is open to all businesses in the Singleton local government area.



For more information or to submit an Expression of Interest, click the QR code.



NEW PUTTY BRIDGE DELIVERS SAFER JOURNEYS

A new bridge in Putty is being heralded as a game changer in times of emergency.

Gibbs Bride, formerly a narrow timber structure, has been replaced with a robust, reinforced concrete bridge, which will allow safe travel of motorists for years to come.

Justin Fitzpatrick Barr, Council's Director Infrastructure and Planning said the new \$1.3million bridge would not only have a tangible impact on the day-to-day lives of Putty locals but ensure the safety of residents during an emergency.

The alignment of the road and bridgeway has also been changed to make the approach safer.

Mr Fitzpatrick Barr said the new bridge could easily hold NSW Rural Fire Service tankers so crews can now take a direct route when responding to bushfires.

"The new bridge is not only safer for motorist, but also a game changer during an emergency as wider vehicles like Category 1 fire tankers can now cross it, providing crews with reliable and safe access to local communities in times of need and natural disaster," he said.

"The new bridge also allows for a more reliable movement of freight, particularly logging trucks.

"This project, which was funded by the Federal Government's Bridge Renewal Program, NSW Government's Fixing Country Bridges Program and Council, is a great example of all three tiers of Government working together to deliver vital infrastructure for our local community."



Above: Council's Project Officer Marco Cortesi, Project Engineer Mohammad Hasan and Coordinator Capital Works Katie Bell

Left: Council's Industry Development Officer Jelinda Milgate and Business Singleton Danny Eather with local business owners Natasha Nester from Talks Communication and Jenny Seale from the Yoga Shed



**SAVE
THE DATE**

FIRELIGHT FESTIVAL

**John Street, Singleton
6-9pm | 13 May 2023**

Ignite your senses with vibrant fire performers, roaming caricatures, kid and teenage entertainment, and live music.

Plus experience the region's best food trucks and bars serving Hunter Valley wine, beer and spirits.

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singletonfirelightfestival.com.au



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