

DECEMBER 2022



Spring + Summer 2022

# SINGLETON EDIT

[W singleton.nsw.gov.au](http://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au)



**SINGLETON**  
COUNCIL





FROM THE  
**MAYOR**  
Cr Sue Moore

After another year of significant challenges for many in our community, the festive season is a timely opportunity for everyone to come together to reflect, give thanks, and yes, celebrate.

Because regardless of storms, floods and the ongoing consequences of such disasters, what we have shown – yet again – is just how special our community is through our ever-willingness to help each other and keep going.

With that in mind, 2022 has seen an even greater focus on inclusivity, enhancing Singleton's wide reputation as a welcoming community for all.

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan, which works towards accessibility as well as inclusivity for all, was adopted earlier this year, while the Draft Community Development Strategy 2022-2026, publicly exhibited recently, addresses current and likely future issues affecting the social and cultural wellbeing of the Singleton community.

While these are formal documents with detailed action plans that will be measured over the coming year, the intent is simple: to ensure everyone, regardless of cultural background, circumstances or ability, has the same access to opportunities and inclusivity in our rich community life.

And there's no better time than Christmas to bring everyone together, and no better way than a wide range of community events to be part of in Singleton this summer that are welcome and accessible to all.

With lights installed at the beautiful Baileys Union Park and Christmas on John Street on the way on Friday 9 December, it is truly the season to be merry and bright. I wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you out across Singleton soon.



FROM THE  
**GENERAL  
MANAGER**  
Jason Linnane

If this year has taught us anything, it's that even the best laid plans can be blown off course — quite literally.

Council has been extremely proactive in recent years to "future-proof" our local government area through a range of measures, notably efficiencies in our operations, better use of funds to ensure our ongoing prosperity, and a strategic approach to assets. We are already seeing the benefits to our community.

However, as well planned as we can be, four flood events in 12 months have had economic costs on Council's budget and resources, as well as long-term impacts on community assets. As a case in point, Council recently estimated the value of the ongoing wet weather impact on the local road network alone at \$15 million and climbing.

On the flip side, the events of the past year have reinforced that we are on the right track with our approach, and we are achieving significant results despite challenging circumstances.

I'm particularly proud of the achievements we have made in sustainability, which has also been a considerable focus over the past few years.

This was a particularly successful year as we completed a major project to install solar panels across 12 key Council facilities, which will further contribute to our efforts to reduce energy consumption that has more than halved our greenhouse gas emissions between 2020 and 2022.

As the countdown has begun to the festive season, these results are a wonderful symbol of the spirit of hope – not just for this Christmas, but for the Christmases of future generations.

On behalf of all of us at Singleton Council, I also hope everyone has a merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2023.



The spirit of the season has officially been turned on with the Singleton Christmas Tree and Walk of Light now illuminating the newly-beautified Baileys Union Park on John Street, Singleton.

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore teamed up with Federal Member for Hunter Dan Repacholi MP, Member for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell MP and Laura Kelly from Business Singleton on 3 November 2022 to officially flick the switch on an extra special 10-week pop-up event, launching the most wonderful time of the year with an unforgettable lighting experience.

It's the perfect lead-in to an even bigger Christmas on John Street event on Friday 9 December, which has been boosted with a \$75,000 NSW Government Reconnecting NSW Communities Grant to deliver a sleigh of festivities and activities, including free professional Santa photos.

The Singleton Christmas Tree and Walk of Light will also activate Baileys Union Park every night in the lead up to Christmas and New Year's Eve.

The Park was transformed with new landscaping, plantings and street furniture thanks to a \$440,000 from the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program.

Cr Moore said the Singleton Christmas Tree and Walk of Light was another great reason to head into town to experience the magic of Yuletide as well as shop locally for Christmas gifts.

"The new-look Baileys Union Park is the perfect footnote for the John Street Stage 2 Upgrade last year, and this mesmerising lighting installation combines the success of the Firewalk Festival and our ever-popular Christmas on John Street for an unforgettable experience," she said.

"Our Town Centre is proving yet again to be an ideal location for boutique shopping and dining, events and festivities, not to mention the magic of Christmas.

"I thank the Australian and NSW governments for their support to bring these projects together and look forward to everyone enjoying an extra-special Christmastime in Singleton this year."





# COMMUNITY SPIRIT THRIVES IN REBUILD

Since floodwaters inundated parts of the Singleton local government area (LGA) in the first week of July, Singleton Council staff have been on the ground in the immediate response to the emergency, and in the months that have followed as recovery efforts began. Singleton has faced every possible natural disaster in the last two years – including floods, bushfires, severe drought, and a pandemic – but the community of Singleton have dug their heels in, committed to working together to rebuild and become even more resilient.

As Council staff continue to total the cost of targeted recovery activities since the event, including damage to road and water infrastructure, recreational facilities and the local environment and working through the scope of repairs, focus has also moved to future disaster events. A key action is to build capacity across the LGA through the formation of Community Emergency Response Teams, thanks to funding from the Preparing Australian Communities Program.

Damian Morris, Council's Manager Infrastructure Services / Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO) said the people of Singleton are determined to look out for

each other, united to come out the other side stronger.

"We've been working to establish Community Emergency Response Teams since the 2019/2020 Black Summer Bushfires in the strategic locations of Bulga, Whittingham, Putty, Broke, Mt Royal, Goorangoola, Lambs Valley and Jerrys Plains," he said.

"Working alongside Council and combat agencies and armed with the learnings from July's flooding event, these teams will build capacity within our rural areas, promote preparedness, and develop disaster readiness plans. They will also receive specialised training including traditional first aid and mental first aid, as well as chainsaw training.

"Locals know their history, risks, people, resources, capacity and location better than anyone, and we've seen firsthand how these community-led teams can improve disaster preparedness and resilience and provide new ways for communities to support each other."

Broke Residents Community Association president Mick McCardle said the community continued to rally around each other, especially

those families who still couldn't move back into their homes due to flood damage.

"It's just pulled people together and that community spirit has really shone through with people helping each other out," he said. "We're working together to put together a community resilience team so people can have better contacts and we can better manage when this happens again. It might not be for 10 years, but we've got bushfire season coming up and it's all about letting people know that we're there to help."

Mr Morris said Council played an important role during natural disasters, from preparedness and preparation through to emergency response and recovery, alongside the Local Emergency Management Committee, combat agencies and government departments.

"We understand this is an extremely difficult time for residents as recovery efforts continue. Council will continue to work closely with those most affected across our LGA as we move through the recovery phase until all actions are completed," he said.

"We're not just here for emergency response and immediate recovery – there is a lot more that goes on than that – including the ongoing education of our community to get ready for future disaster events.

"This means ensuring our community is both physically and mentally prepared. With the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters, every Singleton resident needs to have an emergency plan, and especially if you live in a flood or bushfire zone.

"Council takes great pride in being an organisation driven by people who are passionate about their work and are committed to our community. This dedication has been demonstrated time and again during disaster response and recovery phases, working side-by-side our community.

"Resilience goes to the heart of the community, and that's what we're here for."

For more information about disaster preparedness, including the Singleton Local Emergency Management Plan and floodplain risk management information, visit [W singleton.nsw.gov.au](http://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au)



# MEET OUR COUNCILLORS

## 2022 - 2024



**Cr Sue Moore** (Mayor)

Lives: Elderslie | First elected to Council in 1999

The best thing about Singleton has to be our community and the country feel; even though we continue to grow, this remains constant.



**Cr Tony Jarrett** (Deputy Mayor)

Lives: Singleton | First elected to Council in 2016

The best thing about Singleton is the opportunity that the city provides for people, and that people can recognise the diversity Singleton has to offer. The economic opportunities, social diversity and the unique sporting and recreational experiences we have to offer. It is a city that looks after all of its community that is constantly looking at ways to make our town a destination others want to visit and make Singleton their home.



**Cr Godfrey Adamthwaite**

Lives: Hunterview | First elected to Council in 2008

The best things about Singleton have always been its people and its location, but if you look at an economic and a sustainable future, it's the fact that Singleton can adapt to change and run with it for the betterment of all.



**Cr Sue George**

Lives: Singleton | First elected to Council in 2016

The best thing about Singleton is the people and sense of community, and it is a great place to live.



**Cr Hollee Jenkins**

Lives: Hunterview | First elected to Council in 2012

The best thing about Singleton is the people! The community spirit is so strong and the sense of belonging is something that we all should be very proud of. I have seen it time and again that when chips are down you can always rely on the sensational people of this wonderful community to roll up their sleeves and get the job done. New people to town comment at how easy it is to live here and how great the community sentiment is here and I for one am proud to call Singleton home.



**Cr Sarah Johnstone**

Lives: Singleton | First term on Council

The best thing about Singleton is the community. It's gone from being a small farming community to being a bigger town and area. Even with all the changes with the army and the mines, it's still got that small town feel. Everyone rolls up their sleeves and jumps in to help each other.



**Cr Mel McLachlan**

Lives: Singleton | First term on Council

The best thing about Singleton is location: we have great infrastructure connecting us an easy drive from facilities in Newcastle and Sydney, airports, beaches, restaurants and vineyards whilst maintaining a country town feel. Singleton is fortunate enough to have a diverse range of industries and businesses located in its LGA, many of these businesses have real potential to diversify and grow to meet changing markets that will sustain our community for generations to come.



**Cr Tony McNamara**

Lives: Broke | First elected to Council in 1999

The best thing about Singleton are the happy citizens who demonstrate pride in their town and interest and support for their community.



**Cr Val Scott**

Lives: Singleton | First elected to Council in 2004

The best attribute Singleton has is its residents, who contribute in any way they can and always care for their fellow man.



**Cr Dan Thompson**

Lives: Glenridding | First elected to Council in 2013

The best thing about Singleton is that it is the "complete package". We have great community-minded people living in a country environment. We have facilities that are the envy of other country towns. We are close enough to enjoy all the things that Sydney and Newcastle have to offer.



# RENEWABLE REWARDS

With solar panels at 12 key facilities on track for potential greenhouse gas reductions of up to 50 per cent, Singleton Council’s sustainability team is now working to help residents also reap the rewards of renewables.

Working across Council’s four sustainable development goals identified in the Singleton Sustainability Strategy (Affordable and Clean Energy, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, and Life on the Land), a range of events and programs have been run in 2022, including:

- a Solar Buddy workshop, where people of all ages built 50 solar lights for children living without electricity overseas
- a sustainable living workshop to help people reduce waste and be more energy efficient at home with lots of quick tips to help save the planet and money
- introduction of a Save Power Kit to borrow from Singleton Public Library, which is a box of tools to help identify a household’s biggest energy users and ways to cut energy bills

This year’s Clean Up Australia Day and National Tree Planting Day were also focused on the triple bottom line, considering the economic and social benefits in addition to the environment

through social engagement and Spend in Singleton gift cards for people who got involved.

Next, Council is tackling the barriers around the uptake of renewable energy, as well as the creation of an evolving energy fund for future initiatives, particularly those that are identified in the Emissions Reduction Action Plan that is in development for both Council and the community.

“We know that sustainability is important to our community, but as well as considering sustainability in all of Council’s operations, we want to lead by example to help the community as well,” Council’s Director Infrastructure and Planning Group Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr said.

“We’ve started with a barriers project that asked residents about the uptake of renewable energy in our community, and it came back with some really interesting results about what the barriers are for people taking up renewables.

“The key barrier was concerns about un reputable service providers. So, we’re working on initiatives to help our community get used to the idea of renewable energy and to make residents feel more confident about installing this infrastructure at their place.”

## A sustainable year

Council’s \$1 million solar panels project was a key sustainability milestone for 2022, introducing renewable energy to some of Council’s biggest energy users including water and sewer infrastructure and key community facilities such as the Administration Building, Library, and Singleton Gym + Swim.

The project was also a significant tick in Singleton’s pledges under the Cities Power Partnership, and is contributing to a range of measures that have cut Council’s total emissions by more than half since 2020.

And Mr Fitzpatrick-Barr said that wasn’t all.

“2022 has been a very successful year for sustainability, demonstrating the importance of the actions in our Sustainability Strategy and the focus on sustainability generally right across the organisation,” he said.

“We’re now looking at how we can enhance the solar panels project through our own reporting of our emissions reductions, and how we can continue to monitor and understand Council’s resource use, such as fuel, and emissions through a sustainability data platform called Kinesis.

“As well as energy, biodiversity is also coming up as a focus area for us.

“Following on from the Biodiversity Policy, we’re working on mapping to help us understand where our high biodiversity values are. This will identify biodiversity corridors within the LGA as well as where our biodiversity risk profile lies, which will help us with making planning decisions at both local and strategic levels.”



# WAMBO COAL INDUCTEES

**Fellowes Family**  
Meritorious Family

**Singleton Lioness Club**  
Community Service

**John McAleer**  
Community Service  
(Posthumous)

**Bruce Merrick**  
Community Service





# ON GROUND RESILIENCE ACTION BOOSTED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Singleton’s preparedness and capacity to respond to natural disasters has been boosted by a \$650,000 Australian Government grant following the devastating 2019/2020 Black Summer bushfires, droughts and most recently, floods.

Council’s Director Infrastructure and Planning Services Justin Fitzpatrick Barr said with the Singleton local government area having been declared a natural disaster zone 16 times in the last 10 years, the project was critically important in reducing the social and economic impact of these events on the local community.

The three-year project would continue to support the formation and ongoing education of Community-led Resilience Teams (CRT), engage the wider community through events, and work with the Local Emergency Management Committee and state agencies to develop emergency response and recovery plans.

“Singleton has copped disaster after disaster, particularly in the last three years, which has at

times left pockets of our community reeling,” Mr Fitzpatrick-Barr said.

“Recovery is ongoing, and while we will continue to support those efforts, it’s equally important to ensure we are investing in risk reduction projects for future disasters. We can’t completely disaster-proof our area, but we can reduce the impact.

“This funding will allow us to empower our community, especially our most at-risk areas, to better prepare for the threat of natural disasters – we want to build a greater sense of responsibility and capacity to respond at the community level, because it takes a community to protect a community from a natural disaster.”

“The project will also work to streamline what the multi-agency response to a natural disaster in Singleton looks like in the future, working with other levels of government and stakeholders to ensure we’re proactive and prepared to support people before and after an emergency event.”



## MATTRESS MUSTER

Saturday 21 January 2022  
10am - 2pm

Drop off your unwanted mattresses  
FREE for Singleton residents

Singleton Waste Management Facility  
Dyrring Road, Fern Gully

- Limit 4 mattresses per customer
- Proof of address required



## TYRE DROP OFF DAY

Saturday 22 April 2023  
10am - 2pm

Drop off up to four motorbike, car, 4WD or light truck tyres for FREE for Singleton residents

Singleton Waste Management Facility  
Dyrring Road, Fern Gully

- Truck and heavy vehicle tyres will not be accepted
- Proof of address required



# Christmas

ON JOHN<sup>ST</sup> FRIDAY 9  
DECEMBER  
6-9<sup>PM</sup>

Santa Claus is coming to town as the Singleton community wraps up for the town's biggest Christmas party on Friday 9 December. Bringing all the magic of the festive season, the much-loved annual event brings more than 5,000 people into Singleton's town centre, and Mayor of Singleton Cr Sue Moore said this year's event would be boosted even further by a \$75,000 NSW Government Reconnecting NSW Communities Grant to deliver a sleigh of festivities and activities, including free professional Santa photos.

In keeping with tradition, Singleton firefighters will chauffeur Santa to the event in their 1960s Bedford vintage truck, plus there'll be live music and entertainment, food trucks, local wine and beer stalls, late night shopping and market stalls alongside Maker's Alley with kids' activities including yuletide and circus-inspired street performers, face painting, balloonist, jumping castles and free gingerbread and fairy floss.

To cap off festivities, an epic fireworks display – supported by Yancoal – will go off with a bang at 9pm from Rose Point Park.

"Preparations are in full swing for a massive evening of music, food and festive cheer, but the best thing about this event is the wonderful festive spirit and the sense of community that really takes over the entire town centre," Cr Moore said.

"John Street will be transformed into Santa Claus Lane and overrun with jolly circus-style street performers including acrobats, a contortionist and bouncing elves plus performances from Singleton Town Band and local dance groups, and retailers will be open for late night shopping so you can check off all the items on your Christmas list.

"There will also be free professional photos with St Nick to capture the spirit of the season at Santa's North Pole grotto, all thanks to Singleton Rotary.

"Christmas on John Street really goes to the heart of community with people coming together to celebrate the season, and I can't wait to see as many people as possible from 6pm on Friday 9 December."



**Christmas on John Street is a FREE, accessible, family-friendly event. Scan the QR code to book your FREE ticket**



**SINGLETON**  
COUNCIL





# REST HERE

Christopher  
Dewar

Main Gallery  
1 October - 15 January 2022  
Singleton Arts + Cultural Centre

IMAGE: © Christopher Dewar



SINGLETON  
ARTS + CULTURAL CENTRE

# AUSTRALIA DAY EVE TWILIGHT

## TOWNHEAD PARK

WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY  
FROM 6.30PM

Outdoor Cinema. Live Music. Roving  
Entertainment. Food Trucks.  
Slip + Slide. Obstacle Course. Jumping  
Castles. Reptile Display. Giant Outdoor  
Games. Face Painting. Sensory Area.



SINGLETON  
COUNCIL



# ACCESS SUMMER EVENT GUIDE

## EVENTS SCHEDULE

09  
DEC

CHRISTMAS ON JOHN STREET  
JOHN STREET, SINGLETON

UNTIL  
15  
JAN

CHRISTOPHER DEWAR EXHIBITION  
SINGLETON ARTS + CULTURAL CENTRE

25  
JAN

TWILIGHT | AUSTRALIA DAY EVE  
TOWNHEAD PARK, SINGLETON

26  
JAN

AUSTRALIA DAY OFFICAL CEREMONY  
SINGLETON CIVIC CENTRE

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