

## Leading the Way



Weston's Hayden Gray, a Kurri Kurri High School student, represented the Cessnock Electorate in the YMCA NSW Youth Parliament for the second time.

The event was held in NSW Parliament Sydney, with 160 aspiring politicians aged between 14 & 18 years.

Cessnock MP Clayton Barr was very impressed by Hayden's performance and was pleased to see a strong focus on regional issues in the debates.

Photo: YMCA Youth Parliament/The Advertiser, Cessnock

## 'Final' Resting Place ?



Those coping with grief can take comfort in visiting a place dedicated to their loved one. But the O'Farrell Government has changed the **tenure of graves from 'eternity' to 25 years or 10 years for cremation sites**. The State Labor Opposition, including Clayton Barr, spoke up against the vile changes, but the Government secured the votes required to do it.

Whilst those already deceased won't be affected, it impacts those alive today and our families. **After the first set period in a grave or memorial wall/garden, a payment will be due every 5 years**. Otherwise, our families will have to collect the stone or plaque and our remains will go to an ossuary (mass grave). Only those able to afford it can stay put.

Many of the new rules are still unclear. What happens if you have bought a grave beside a loved one? Does the 'ownership' period start when you first buy the plot or only after you die? Do you actually 'buy' the plot or just rent it?

Questions and concerns about the major changes should be directed to local MPs listed on [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au). Ask them to tell you how they voted on the Cemeteries and Crematoria Bill 2013.



# From Macquarie Street

As the MP for Cessnock, Clayton Barr speaks up about achievements and challenges of the many different communities in his electorate. To read Clayton's speeches in State Parliament, please visit [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Clayton also serves on Parliamentary committees, including Legal Affairs. His work on this committee helped achieve a statewide ban on the synthetic drugs that had been legally sold right across our region. Synthetic drugs can mimic the effects of cannabis, cocaine and hallucinogens with potentially fatal consequences.

A delegation from Hawkins Masonic Village Men's Shed received a 2013 Seniors Week award in the Supporting Working Seniors Category at NSW Parliament House, Macquarie St Sydney. This Men's Shed is located in the retirement village owned by the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution at Northville Drive, Edgeworth. Shed members and friends are pictured below with Cessnock MP Clayton Barr.



Women over 40 yrs can have a mammogram (breast x-ray) **free of charge** at the mobile BreastScreen clinic located at:

**Cessnock District Hospital  
Jurd Street Entrance  
Cessnock (parking is available)**

**Please note that the mobile BreastScreen clinic will only be in Cessnock until the end of March 2014.**

BreastScreen clinics have female radiographers and receptionists. State of the art equipment can find cancers before they can be felt or noticed. The early detection of breast cancer through regular mammograms is the best protection! **You don't need a doctor's referral, simply call 13 20 50 to make an appointment.**

# BreastScreen

NEW SOUTH WALES

For assistance with any State Government matter, please contact Clayton's Electorate Office.

## Clayton Barr MP

118 Vincent Street CESSNOCK 2325

Phone: 4991 1466 or 1300 550 114 Fax: 4991 1103

Email: [cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Authorised by Clayton Barr MP  
Printed by blink creative Shop 1, 10-14 North Ave Cessnock 2325  
using Parliamentary entitlements



## Clayton Barr MP



## Community News

January 2014

118 Vincent St CESSNOCK 2325 • Phone 4991 1466 or 1300 550 114

### A Message from Clayton

**It is an honour to represent this area in the NSW Parliament.**

Our residents absolutely deserve the best possible services and facilities, so I'll always fight to have **local priorities** delivered by the State Government.

To help me stay in touch with the many different communities in this large electorate, I'll continue to hold local (pardon the pun) **'Barr-b-ques'**.

**Please come along to a Barr-b-que, enjoy a free sausage sandwich and tell me about important issues facing you and your family.**



Marie Foster was born into a very different world before WW1 and the Great Depression. Local MP Clayton Barr was delighted to meet Marie **at a special celebration for her 100th birthday**. Her family moved to Cessnock in 1964.

Photo: The Advertiser, Cessnock

### Requests for Congratulatory Messages

Clayton Barr can help arrange Congratulatory Messages for **50th, 60th and 70th Wedding Anniversaries** and **80th, 90th and 100th Birthdays**.

Messages can be sent as a special surprise for the recipients. Please contact Clayton's electorate office on **4991 1466** for further information.

## Clayton's Barr-b-ques

Time / Date	11.30 am -1.00 pm	4.30 pm - 6.00 pm
February 5	Wollombi - Negro Street Tennis Courts	Greta - RFS carpark, Nelson Street
February 12	Beresfield - cnr Addison and Milton Sts	Heddon Greta - car park opposite the Hotel
February 19	Seahampton - at the RFS car park	Edgeworth - park in Johnson Street
March 11	Cameron Park - Community Centre, 107 Northlakes Dr	Millfield - Crawfordville Park, Bennett St
March 13	Kurri Kurri - Rotary Park	Minmi - the park next to the Hall
April 2	Branxton - car park at Miller Park	Tarro - Tarro Recreation Area car park
April 9	Paxton - Park, cnr Anderson & McDonald Ave	Barnsley - Taylor Park, Appletree Road

## TAFE - too good to lose!

The O'Farrell Government's commitment to TAFE NSW is **very unclear**. The IPART review of TAFE fees and charges still hasn't been released. It is concerning that the draft report recommended a **substantial increase in student fees**.

TAFE courses are already being cut. Quite unbelievably in our area, there have been cuts to Hospitality courses, cuts to Welding and Metal Fabrication courses and cuts to Business and Administration courses.

TAFE cannot survive if the State Government keeps cutting funding across the board, axes the courses needed locally and dramatically increases existing course fees. Generations of our community have built their lives and careers from TAFE's high quality, industry-accredited training. **TAFE is far too important to lose!**

# SAVE our TAFE

## Are you fire-ready?

Last year bushfires raged locally and across NSW. We appreciate the dedicated efforts of the firefighters and other emergency workers who help protect our communities.

**Whether we live near bushland or in town, there are things we can do to reduce the risk of a devastating loss of life or cherished possessions in a fire emergency.**

Be very, very careful with all naked flames, fires and cigarette butts. Clean roof gutters keep yards clear of vegetation build-up and install smoke alarms inside your home.

Prepare an emergency evacuation plan. Some fire-ready families have scanned and saved important documents such as birth certificates, insurance papers and family photos onto a portable computer hard drive. Others keep their 'essentials' in a file or box that can be quickly picked up and taken.

**Remember, home and bush fires happen at any time of year so it's vital to be well prepared. When fire takes hold every second counts!** For fire-safety tips visit [www.fire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au)





# Community Spirit

Cessnock Rotaract's inaugural Masquerade Ball attended by more than 140 guests, **raised \$9,700 for Carrie's Place**, a refuge and support centre for women and children experiencing domestic violence and homelessness in the Hunter Valley.

Cessnock's **2013 Relay For Life** raised more than **\$133,000 for Cancer Council NSW**. The highest fundraising team award went to The Dumbelles whose efforts included bingo days, a shopping trip, a high tea, pie drive, raffles, selling homemade goods and flowers.

The hardworking organisers of these two successful events, as well as the generosity and support of local businesses and all participants, were acknowledged by Clayton Barr MP in the NSW Parliament.

## 2013 – A big year for Kurri Kurri

**Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival** - a colourful event everyone can enjoy - celebrated its **10th anniversary** attracting over 40,000 people to our region. Mark your diary for the **2014 Nostalgia Festival, 28-30 March 2014**. For more information visit [www.kurrikurrinostalgiafestival.com.au](http://www.kurrikurrinostalgiafestival.com.au)

**Centenary of the Kurri Kurri District Business Chamber** – descendants of the inaugural Committee joined the celebrations.

The Rotary Club of Kurri Kurri hosted the **Billy Cart Derby** in October's **Kurri Kurri Community Festival**. Hamden Street was closed to traffic during the big event. Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent and local MP Clayton Barr joined in the fun for a re-match of their race in the 2012 billy cart derby!

The **Hunter Expressway Festival Ball** was organised by the Kurri Kurri Community Festival committee. More than 120 people enjoyed the evening's dinner, dancing and entertainment at the Kurri Kurri Bowling Club in November.



**CESSNOCK RELAY FOR LIFE 2013: Nell Thompson cuts the ribbon with Cessnock Mayor, Cr Bob Pynsent and Relay patron, Cessnock MP Clayton Barr.** Photo: The Advertiser, Cessnock



In State Parliament, Clayton Barr paid tribute to the Kurri Kurri District Business Chamber on its Centenary. He also praised the town's mural No. 52 – 'Preschool Puzzle' (pictured above), created by artist Sandii Walker & children from Kurri Kurri & District Preschool Kindergarten.

## CFMEU Miners Memorial Day

The **Jim Comerford Memorial Wall** at Federation House in Cessnock recognises **more than 1,800 men and boys who have lost their lives in the mining activities of this region since 1801**.

The moving Service held in September each year is a vital opportunity for family, friends and the wider community to pay their respects.

The Memorial Wall and annual Service also highlight the continued need for workplace safety to be paramount in the coalmining industry.



# Community Connections

Clayton Barr believes in hard work, both on Parliamentary sitting days in Macquarie Street and also on non-sitting days around the large electorate of 1484 sq km. Clayton and his office staff help local residents, as well as support the schools, police, housing and health services, sporting and other groups that do so much for us all, year after year.

This map shows some of the ways that Clayton has been able to assist our communities as the local MP. By continuing to work together, it's possible to make this area an even better place to live and raise our families. Come along to an upcoming **Barr-b-que** and let Clayton know about your local issues (*dates/venues listed on pg 1*).



Photo: The Advertiser, Cessnock

Cessnock Electorate includes:

Aberdare  
Abermain  
Abernethy  
Allandale  
Barnsley  
Belford  
Bellbird  
Bellbird Heights  
Beresfield  
Bishops Bridge  
Black Hill  
Branxton  
Brunkerville  
Buchanan  
Buttai  
Cameron Park  
Cedar Creek  
Cessnock  
Cliffleigh  
Congewai  
Dalwood  
East Branxton  
Edgeworth  
Ellalong  
Elrington  
Greta  
Greta Main  
Heddon Greta  
Holmesville  
Kearsley  
Keinbah  
Kitchener  
Kurri Kurri  
Laguna  
Leconfield  
Lenaghan  
Lovedale  
Lower Belford  
Loxford  
Millfield  
Minni  
Mount View  
Mount Vincent  
Mulbring  
Neath  
North Rothbury  
Nulkaba  
Paxton  
Paynes Crossing  
Pelaw Main  
Pelton  
Pokolbin  
Quorrobolong  
Richmond Vale  
Rothbury  
Sawyers Gully  
Seahampton  
Stanford Merthyr  
Stockington  
Sweetmans Creek  
Tarro  
West Wallsend  
Weston  
Wollombi