



Cartoon: Fletcher King

John Street chaos after its upgrade

EDITORIAL

By TALIA MACKENZIE and KATIE MCKAY

WHY is the Singleton community so divided on the John Street upgrade?

People are saying its great while others are saying it's horrible.

There are many negative reasons. Car parking has been reduced with wider footpaths. Because of loss of car spaces many businesses have lost customers as they cannot park outside the shops. Many customers were not able to park during the chaotic and disruptive construction stages and went elsewhere to shop, even out of town. Will they come back?

The road has been narrowed and speed bumps are a distraction.

There are also no bins near the benches and the street signs are small and hard to read. People sit on those benches very rarely. Have you even seen anyone sitting on those benches? They are uncomfortable, wide and hard to sit on. They are also placed too close to the traffic and in the summer the benches will get extremely hot.

Another reason people are unhappy is that the modern street fixtures and the old fashioned buildings don't go well together. The modern red and the irregular lamp posts look like bug antennas and belong in an abstract painting.

A massive amount of money has been spent on benches, lights, gardens and speed bumps. The bubblers are quite odd. Would you like to drink out of a bubbler that has been used by everyone?

This money could have been spent on more important needs in Singleton like buildings homes for homeless people.

Many established beautiful trees were destroyed. We know more have been planted but they will take a long time to grow.

Many people feel the upgrade has been positive. The town is more colourful and modern. The added seats and benches have allowed people to sit and chat near the lovely garden beds.

We surveyed 4/50 and 2C to see how many liked the change to John Street. We put both classes' answers together and 16 out of 44 disagreed with the change while 28 out of 44 agreed with the change. Personally we disagree with the change. We think it was just a waste of money.

This upgrade has caused division in the Singleton community.

Main Singleton road has received facelift

By EMILY BALDWIN and GRACE MULREADY

ON August 1, John Street reopened to all traffic after a significant revitalisation of the main street.

The Singleton Town Centre Revitalisation was brought about in October 2013 when the NSW Government awarded a \$9 million grant to Singleton Council. This grant was from Resources to Regions.

The Singleton Council had already committed \$2 million to the project for planning and design.

The revitalisation would be from John Street to Hunter Street and Gowrie Street. It combined civil, electrical, architectural, landscaping and mechanical elements.

The works included many changes to John Street including raised pedestrian crossings, plus new pavement and extended footpaths were put in.

More than 2000 plants and over 70 trees were planted. The water system for the plants will come from storm water.

New modern LED street lights were provided.

Modern street furniture, drinking fountains and bike racks were installed.

The speed limit was reduced to 40 km/h.

Finally parking for disabled people was provided.

Display maps of the town centre to



John Street's new look after the multi-million dollar upgrade.

assist pedestrians and motorists were installed.

The contract for the revitalisation was awarded to Diona Pty Ltd and on January 19, 2015 the temporary road closure began.

The Town Revitalisation Project will have many benefits for the future. Singleton will be positioned as a major tourist and shopping destination.

The Singleton mayor, John Martin, said, "This is an important project in the town history and will serve

generations now and in the future. It is about the long term sustainability of our community. For a long time Singleton Council has been planning for the future and this will certainly be part of that program."

Gill Eason from the Singleton Chamber of Commerce said she was excited for the project to be finished. "The main street of any town is its beating heart and needs to be vibrant and alive," she said.

The official opening was October 7, 2015.

A playground for puppies to have some fun

By ALEX MULHOLLAND and KIRRA PEARCE

THE Singleton community has been desperate for a fenced off leash area for dogs. The Singleton Dog Park has been built between the Hunter River and Darlington Road by the Singleton Council. It has a double gated fence installed to provide additional safety for much loved pets.

Singleton Heights students, Grace Mulready, Sophia Lawrence and Alana Cox regularly take their dogs to the park.

Grace said "It's a great area, very spacious. My dog Harry loves to run around." Sophia said, "It's very well thought out. My dog Zhary loves to frolic around and make friends."

Alana said, "I went to the doggy day, I loved it. My dog Douglas loved being around other dogs."

And if your dog does a doo-doo there will be bag dispensers and bins available at the park for free. It was built so dogs were free to run around and have fun.

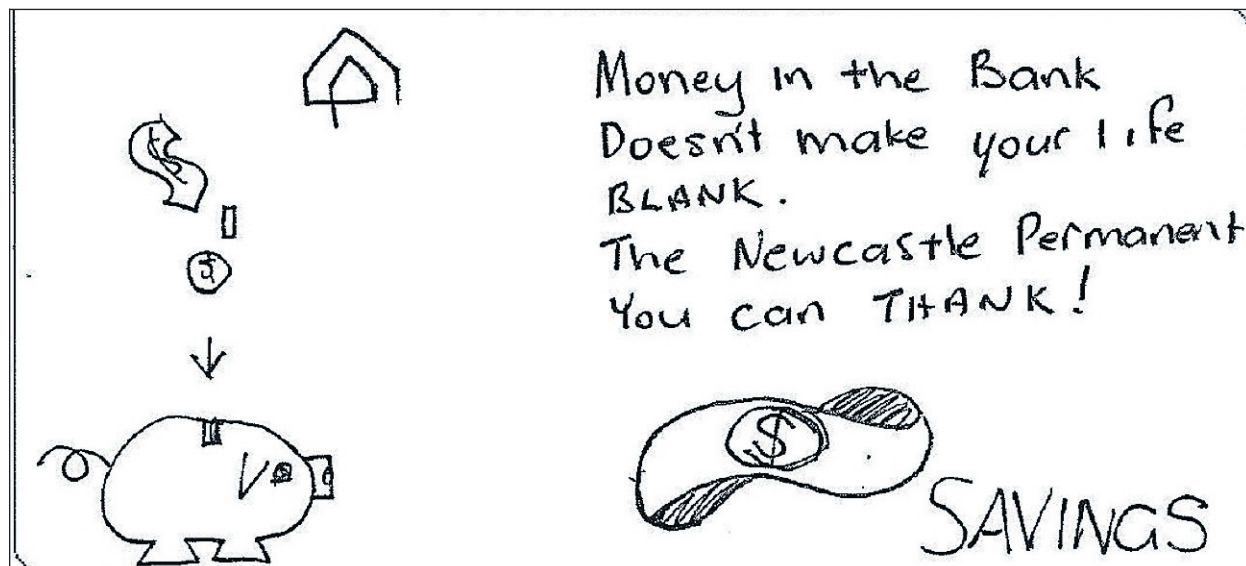


Dogs having fun at the dog park.

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