

Singleton

NEW SOUTH WALES

New South Wales' 2005 Tidiest Town & National finalist 2006

Location: Hunter Valley
Population: Approximately 21 000



Singleton is situated in the geographic heart of the Hunter Valley region. Located on the Hunter River, it features a host of historic homes and buildings, land devoted to agriculture and grazing together with a more than active Tidy Towns community. Singleton's Tidy Towns Committee is a well established group that has gained a high profile due to the dedication and hard work of its members which gets duly recognised. The committee, a sub-committee of Council, plays a coordinating role for numerous other voluntary groups within the community.



King Street Public School's EWOKS (Environmental Workers Of King Street) are key characters of the school's environmental education program. They assist in extending the awareness levels and understanding of protecting the environment. The program aims at involving children within the school community to participate in both school beautification and improvement projects as well as in external community initiatives. The school's Sensory Garden project is an ideal example of students, parents, teachers and the community working together to provide a wonderful passive as well as active area for children to learn and recreate within.



Singleton's Mercy Catholic Convent exemplifies the preservation of Catholic heritage within the region. Restoration initiatives within the Convent's chapel are leading examples of the dedication of all those involved, particularly given the fact that over a metre of water flowed through the building during a past flood event. The Convent, Chapel and School are jewels in Singleton's cultural crown.



Important significance has been placed on Baiame Cave. According to Aboriginal traditions of the Wanaruah Aboriginal descendants, living in Singleton, the figure within the Milbrodale art site is the figure of Baiame, the creator of all things and keeper of the Hunter Valley who watches over it. The identification of the figure as a Dreamtime spirit is significant to local Aboriginal communities with the site used by them for educational purposes.



Col Fisher Park is a great example of thoughtful planning with extensive reserve systems situated throughout Singleton's urban areas. Besides being used as open space for the community to enjoy, these reserves also are important areas for Council's stormwater retention initiatives. Stormwater is effectively collected, stored and then used to tender local reserves, parks and public facilities during drought periods.



Singleton's Rural Museum, situated in Burdekin Park is a great example of a group of volunteers with the foresight to collect, restore and share the delights of times gone by. The Museum houses an extensive collection of memorabilia from Singleton's proud rural, agricultural and urban heritage. The Mechanic's Institute is also another great example of the numerous heritage restoration programs coordinated by the community. The extensive restoration of the Institute's Grand Hall is to be commended. Living home to numerous arts groups as well as the Family History Society, the building is a significant example of maintaining a community's proud culture.



Further community action

The Huntview Gully Restoration project involves broad cross sections of the community, local Landcare groups and Council working together to install river bed structures to prevent erosion as well as establishing riparian vegetation. The project has become a model for others to follow.

Singleton's Adopt-a-spot program enables signs to be erected and promote the specific group responsible

for maintaining the area as well as demonstrating the partnership between group, Council and Singleton Tidy Towns.

The Tidy Towns Committee is keen to recognise community contributions to keep Singleton neat and tidy. As a result, appreciation certificates are presented to residents who maintain and keep their property tidy. A host of other awards are also

presented to recognise business, environmental and rural community contributions.

Singleton – Heart of the Hunter. Jewel of the State. Spirit of the Nation.

