Council happenings . . .

Local litter - blight on the Landscape

In last week's Chronicle, an article was published under the heading "Local Litter - a blight on the Landscape" written by Wendy Trevethan, a final year student in Environmental Science and Management Degree at the University of Newcastle.

One part of the article which deserves special attention says "It isn't only up to the local authorities or government bodies to regulate the laws and policies surrounding environmental issues, we can all protect our environment in our everyday lives".

I have written before about the waste levy this shire has to pay to the State Government for every tonne of waste that goes into our own landfill and about the new higher target for the percentage of recyclables that will have to be extracted from our waste stream.

There is still way too much material going to landfill that is capable of being redirected, particularly green waste that can be used for composting or mulching the garden.

If we as a community do not make these activities part of our everyday lives and we do not reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, we will pay the price not only environmentally, but in dollars.

Bridges for the bush

State Member for Upper Hunter George Souris has announced that the Brig O'Johnston Bridge at Clarence Town has been included in the NSW Government's Bridges for the Bush program.

This will mean spending $14 million on this bridge.

The initiative is applauded by Dungog Shire Council.

With development and more families living on the eastern side of the bridge and having to cross the bridge to get to town and school, the upgrading of the current bridge is long overdue.

This bridge has been identified as a bridge of heritage value, largely because of its design type.

In the longer term however, but not much longer, it is reasonable to expect that another bridge will be required to accommodate increased traffic in a safe manner.

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