

JANUARY 2006

Macleay Water wins Green Globe Award

The innovative Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy developed by Council's Macleay Water business unit has been recognised for its excellence by the Hon. Carl Scully MP, Minister for Utilities, at the prestigious Green Globe Awards.

The Energy and Water Green Globe Awards honour the contribution and commitment of business, industry and individuals to the sustainable use of energy and urban water in New South Wales. Macleay Water won the Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Award, for demonstrating leadership in integrated water cycle management.

In 2002 Macleay Water began developing an Integrated Water Cycle Management strategy that would deliver sustainable urban water services (including water supply, sewerage and stormwater) and meet the future needs of Kempsey Shire. After three years of detailed study, extensive community consultation and careful assessment a comprehensive 30 year plan was adopted by Kempsey Shire Council earlier this year.

The IWCM strategy is innovative because it seeks to maximise the level of effluent reuse being undertaken across the Shire, with dual reticulation and agricultural irrigation being the main opportunities pursued.

One of the main benefits of the plan for ratepayers, however, is that it ensures effective budgeting so that adequate funding is available for the renewal of the Shire's water and sewer infrastructure well into the future.



Minister for Utilities Carl Scully presents Anne-maree Burke with the Green Globe award for Macleay Water's Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy.

Macleay Valley Community Art Gallery Official Opening

The Macleay Valley Community Art Gallery at Gladstone hall was officially opened on 28 October 2005 by Luke Hartsuyker, Member for Cowper, and Mayor Councillor Janet Hayes.

The project was made possible through the support of the local community and by financial assistance from the New South Wales Ministry for the Arts and the Australian Government's Department of Transport and Regional Services Regional Partnerships program.

The hall has undergone extensive renovation to accommodate the gallery, which has hosted three successful exhibitions since the opening.



It's all go at Council's new Customer First Centre

In the period since opening (17 October - 20 December 2005) the Customer First Centre has:

- taken 9,688 phone calls and
- helped with 2,422 counter enquiries

Of these phone and counter enquiries, the Customer First Centre team has been able to resolve 10,121 enquiries at first contact – that's a great result for our customers!

Remember, the Customer First call centre phone lines (6566 3200) are open from 8am till 5pm Monday to Friday to give you extra time to make your phone enquiries. Counter service is still available from 8.30am-4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Generous Donation to Stuarts Point hall renovations

Towards the end of last year the Stuarts Point & District Senior Citizens Club presented Council with a \$20,000 donation to help fund extensions to Stuarts Point hall. Mayor, Councillor Janet Hayes is pictured here accepting the cheque from Flo Alderman and other representatives of the club.

Thanks to this generous donation and funds already allocated by Council the community at Stuarts Point should be reaping the benefits of the hall renovations before the end of 2006.



OUR VALUES - Trust, Co-operation, Service, Innovation and Pride

Bunya Pines denuded for public safety



In November 2005 Council hired Dunns Cranes, a local firm, to help with denutting some Bunya pines - one in the IGA car park and two at the Sea Street reserve. These three trees were identified as being located where the large fruits MAY be a potential hazard to the public. As a result, it was decided to denut the trees in the interests of public safety.

Local Beaches clean-up

Kempsey Shire Beaches received 14 awards in the Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beaches Challenge for the Mid North Coast region.

Horseshoe Bay at South West Rocks won the Sydney Water Resource Conservation Award and the Local Government Leadership Award. Grassy Head Beach was named the 'Energy Australia Friendly Beach' while Killick Beach Crescent Head, Main Beach South West Rocks, and North and South Smokey Beaches were all highly commended in their categories.

South West Rocks a Tidy Towns Winner

Council's litter prevention strategy at South West Rocks, which involves the community and Council's enthusiastic Civic Maintenance team, has won the 2006 Tidy Towns Litter Prevention Award in Category D (4001 to 10,000 people). South West Rocks was also highly commended in the Friendly Town category.

Roads Information: Understanding Gravel Re-sheeting

Following on from the road ratings poll conducted last year the information below on the maintenance and gravel re-sheeting of Council's unsealed road network is the first in a series of articles explaining the different methods used by Council to maintain the Shire's roads.

It is important to understand that Council is not responsible for every dirt road in the Shire - some are Crown roads, forestry roads and private roads. In fact, Council has responsibility for only 900kms of the Shire's gravel roads. Of this 585kms is normally maintained by Council through maintenance grading and gravel re-sheeting.

Gravel roads need to be resurfaced because, over time, they lose pavement material through the degradation of stone, climatic conditions, scouring and erosion and traffic use.

The difference between maintenance grading and gravel re-sheeting is substantial. Maintenance grading involves placing minimal new gravel on the road and the grader gathers and re-spreads the existing gravel on the road to repair the effects of general wear and tear. Gravel re-

sheeting, on the other hand, involves digging up, adding more gravel, compacting and re-shaping the surface of the gravel road.

In most cases, when you see a grader on a gravel road it will be doing maintenance grading because this type of roadwork is done more often than the re-sheeting.

For example, Council aims to maintain grade heavily trafficked roads three times per year and medium trafficked roads twice per year and to carry out the more substantial gravel re-sheeting on a 10-15 year cycle.

Factors taken into account when determining whether a road requires maintenance grading carried out or needs gravel re-sheeting are:

- Traffic volume determined by average daily traffic count
- School Bus Route/Tourist Route
- Significant maintenance costs
- Significant safety issues
- Dust suppression

If you would like to know more about how Council maintains its gravel road network please contact Tom Vermeulen, Manager Engineering Strategy on 6566 3281.

Disaster Protection: funding to assess risks

Kempsey Shire Council in conjunction with the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) has been successful in obtaining \$13,000 funding under the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program.

This funding will allow Council and the LEMC to research and assess natural disaster risks for the region. The 12 month project, which commenced in December 2005, will also foster closer relationships between the community and emergency services organisations in the area.

If you would like further information contact Project Facilitator, Maria Frazer on 6566 2407.

Grant to upgrade Library's educational resources

The Kempsey Shire Library will share in a \$60,000 grant from the Library Council of NSW awarded to the Mid-North Coast Co-Operative Library Service which comprises the Kempsey and Port Macquarie-Hastings libraries.

Kempsey Library's share of \$30,000 will be spent on non fiction books for adults, some magazines as well as subscriptions to electronic databases to help encourage lifelong learning for all members of our community.

Access to this kind of information through the Shire Libraries will allow the people using it to better their employment prospects and/or to acquire life skills at no cost to themselves.

If you have any suggestions about what items could be purchased from this grant please contact Gabi Brie on 6566 3210.

How can we help you?

Please contact us



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