

October 2007

Awards recognise Council's excellence!

For the second year in a row Council has been awarded a Gold Award for Management Excellence in the Rural Council Category at the Local Government Managers Association Management Excellence Awards. At this year's presentation ceremony, held in Sydney on 27 September, Council's innovative Human Resources Strategy was recognised as being at the forefront of workforce planning in local government.

Through this strategy, introduced two years ago, Council has saved more than \$2 million and reduced staff turnover by a remarkable margin - from 21.7 per cent in 2004-05 to 4.75 per cent at the end of 2006-07.

This tangible result plus another \$450,000 saved in the area of workers compensation through effective injury prevention and management measures and staff commitment to Occupational Health and Safety means that your Council is leading the way in effective resource management.

StateCover, the local government industry's major insurer with 90% local government authorities in NSW insured, is so impressed with Council's safety results that its procedures are being promoted throughout the industry as better practice.

ESD Strategy also a winner

At the same ceremony Council's Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) Strategy won a prestigious merit award. The ESD strategy was developed after extensive community consultation and is winning accolades across the local government industry.

In early September it also won an award at the nationally recognised Sustainability Leadership Awards Dinner hosted by Environs Australia (a Local Government Environment Network). Up against all other rural local government areas in Australia, Council's ESD Strategy took out the Rural Achievement Award Category for Outstanding Achievement in Sustainability.



Council formally adopted the ESD Strategy at its meeting on 10 July 2007, and will begin implementing a number of high priority projects in this financial year.

Left to right: Gerald Hoskins, Mayor Councillor Betty Green, Roger Gammon, Nathan Hegerty (Council's Environmental Officer), Jenny Sproule and Barry Ramke were part of the ESD Committee which helped develop Council's award-winning strategy. Other committee members who contributed to the development of the strategy included Councillor John Howell, Douglas Head, Robert Barnett, Riitta Kytola, Alison Brown, John Jeayes and Kevin Hill.



Above: Mayor Councillor Betty Green and Peter Garven, Manager Human Resources, proudly show off the LGMA Gold Award Council won for its Human Resource Strategy.

Stuarts Point Community Consultation Update

Congratulations to the Stuarts Point community on the seven interesting and varied ideas submitted to Council for future uses of the land adjoining the Community Hall. Some responses included detailed drawings that show residents have given the matter a good deal of thought. More ideas were generated by a community meeting facilitated by the Stuarts Point and District Community Organisation (SPADCO) on 12 September 2007.

Suggestions included:

- Expanding the existing building to house a tourism facility, exhibition area for arts/crafts/historical items, community house, café/eatery/ internet
- Garden area on the western side
- Community food garden
- Area for indigenous artwork/culture
- Community markets and outdoor entertainment
- Skate park/bike track
- Linkage to walking track already existing at the northern end of Marine Parade
- Improved aesthetics and public use in the short term such as fundraising for works, landscaping, outdoor artworks and car parking.

It is important for residents to understand that implementation of a Plan of Management developed from these ideas would be staged over a number of years and is subject to funding availability. Such a Plan of Management could be used to support grant applications from Council and community groups and future budget proposals. It will also assist in guiding community contributions in the way of volunteer labour, professional expertise or material contributions. Another outcome from the SPADCO meeting was that the community is keen to have an active role in developing the design concept for the area. To this end Council will invite further community involvement as the process continues.

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

In brief...

Council has produced a newsletter about what has been achieved through its Environmental Levy and is asking residents to participate in a survey to help Council determine future projects to be funded under this type of levy. You should have received a copy of both the survey and newsletter with your rates notice; if not, copies are available at all branches of the Shire Library, at the Customer First Centre at 22 Tozer Street West Kempsey or on the Council's website at www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au. The survey closes on 27 November 2007.

Parents, grandparents or carers, did you know that Kempsey Toy Library has a wonderful range of games, puzzles and toys that can be borrowed to keep the kids amused? Items can be borrowed free of charge but you will need to become a member of Kempsey Library to access this service. For more details about joining the Library or the Toy Library's opening hours and borrowing conditions please phone 65 663211.

Council has received word from our material recycling facility at Cairncross that there is an increasing number of plastic bags showing up in the recycling service pickups. Please DO NOT put any plastic bags in your yellow-lidded recycling bin as they are not recyclable items.

YOUR COUNCILLORS

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Mayor Betty Green | 6562 8938 |
| | 0427 419302 |
| Deputy Mayor Janet Hayes | 65617188 |
| | 0427 804956 |
| Councillor John Bowell | 65625122 |
| | 0438 625 122 |
| Councillor Terry Hunt | 6561 7157 |
| | 0414 356 197 |
| Councillor Jim Gribbin | 6566 6907 |
| Councillor Bob McWilliam | 65665465 |
| | 0402 134040 |
| Councillor Dean Saul | 65674682 |
| | 0419 639943 |
| Councillor Brian Sowter | 6567 4281 |
| Councillor Ellis Walker | 6562 2119 |

Signs for Horse Owners

Further to Council's commitment to supporting the NSW Department of Primary Industries in its efforts to control Equine Influenza Council has undertaken to provide (free of charge) to Kempsey Shire horse owners, a sign for placement on the entry gates to their property to indicate that there are horses on the property.

The sign, which says "Stop, Horses, Equine Influenza Precautions, Entry by prior arrangement only. Contact Ph: ****" is designed to help keep horses on that property free from possible infection. The signs are available, one per property, from Council's Customer First Centre in Tozer Street.

Right: Jade, from Customer First, with Equine Influenza signs available to horse owners.



Light Bulb & Tube Recycling

As part of working towards a sustainable environment, Council is trialling a recycling service for used light bulbs and tubes at the Civic Centre and Depot. A company called 'Lamp Recyclers' is responsible for this service and it collects the old bulbs and tubes in boxes provided by the company to recover the material which often contains mercury thus minimising waste to landfill and saving the environment.

Improper disposal of lamps (breaking) causes mercury to be released into the environment. Mercury is highly toxic in both human and natural systems.

When recycled properly, the components of lamps are 99% recyclable, (glass, aluminium, copper, mercury and phosphor powder) which in turn reduces the demands placed on our natural resources.

Kempsey Shire Council is the first council in this region to trial this program which is sanctioned by Midwaste. Once the trial period is complete the results will be reviewed to see if the program can be expanded to include the community.

Community invited to Stuarts Point Library's 10th Anniversary Celebrations

The staff and volunteers of Stuarts Point Library invite all members of the Stuarts Point community and surrounding areas to help celebrate the Library's 10th Anniversary on Tuesday 20 November 2007 in the Community Hall next to the Library in Marine Parade from 2pm.

Celebrations will begin with a musical performance by children from Stuarts Point Primary school. This will be followed by the official welcome, and speeches by active members of the Library.



Everyone is welcome to stay and enjoy the refreshments at 3pm, which will include a light afternoon tea and a sausage sizzle. A local youth rock band will play from 3.30pm to entertain those people who wish to stay on and continue the festivities.

If you would like to know more about this special event, you can phone Stuarts Point Library on 65690 289.

How can we help you?
Please contact us

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