



Community newsletter

September 2007

We will work with the community to provide high quality services and facilities through excellence in leadership and with consideration for the needs of the environment and of future generations

National Saleyards Conference for Kempsey in 2008

Kempsey Shire Council has been successful in its bid to host the National Saleyard Operators conference at Kempsey in July 2008.

Next year a hundred and twenty delegates, some with their families, are expected to come to Kempsey from as far a field as Western Australia, South Australia Victoria, and Queensland, as well as all over rural New South Wales for the conference. Preliminary figures indicate that the conference will bring around \$100,000 into the Shire. Through this conference Council is keen to showcase the Macleay Valley and to share with other saleyard operators the improvements made at the Kempsey Regional Saleyards over the past couple of years which has seen its position on the NSW Saleyards rankings improve from 28 in 2002-03 up to 22 in 2005-06.



Left to Right: Steve Read (Business Manager), Councillor Brian Sowter and Bruce Snape (Director Corporate & Community Services) are pictured with the Len Anderson Memorial Shield which they secured with Council's successful bid for the 2008 Saleyards Conference.

Financial assistance for low-lying rural homes under House Raising Scheme

Following the flood in March 2001, a number of enquiries were received by Council regarding the possibility of financial assistance towards the cost of raising dwellings in flood prone areas. After conducting extensive research, Council adopted a recommendation at its August 2007 meeting to participate in a voluntary house raising scheme for eligible rural properties. The scheme will be implemented per the guidelines formulated and endorsed by the Macleay Floodplain Risk Management Committee. Under the scheme, grant funding will provide two thirds of the cost of raising the dwelling up to a maximum grant of \$40,000. Council will meet the cost of administering the program.

Flood damage assessment research indicated that of the 715 rural dwellings surveyed on the floodplain 278 are affected by a one in 100 year flood and of these 213 have homes with the potential to be raised. The scheme will be offered progressively as funds are available - first to homes on rural properties which are affected by a one in 5 year flood.

Council will write to every ratepayer who owns a rural dwelling on the floodplain which may be eligible for financial assistance under this scheme.

Gallery available for hire

The Macleay Valley Community Art Gallery, an initiative of Kempsey Shire Council, is managed by a committee made up of members nominated from the community and Council.

The gallery, located at 5 Kinchela Street Gladstone, is available for hire by artists for exhibitions. Artists may combine with others to have group exhibitions or decide on a one person exhibition. Community groups are also encouraged to hire the gallery to promote or celebrate their services and activities. Gallery hire is \$100 per week with no commission taken on sales of art work.

Artists may choose to have the gallery open each day while their exhibition is on or opt for opening on the usual gallery days, Thursday to Sunday 10.30am to 4pm. Monday is the usual set up day for exhibitions.

Upcoming Exhibitions

- **Artists Exhibition & Sale of Art Work**
(Open to all local artists)
13- 23 September
- **International Year of the Surf Life Saver**
(Combined exhibition with local Surf Lifesaving Clubs & the Macleay River Historical Society)
26 September - 14 October
- **"Waste into Art" Exhibition**
(Art using recycled materials - Open to all schools in the Macleay)
1-11 November
- **2007 HSC Art Exhibition**
(Artwork by Year 12 students from Macleay Valley high schools) Opens mid November 2007

Planning renovations or additions?

If you are planning a simple home addition, such as a sunroom or a patio, or if you are thinking about building a carport, shed or pool, Council can speed up the approval process of your Development Application.



Development applications that meet pre-set standards can be turned around in 7 days, saving you both time and processing costs.

Council's Customer First Officers welcome your enquiries on complying development on 6566 3200.

In Brief...

Council's Open Space and Recreation team is undertaking some vegetation control work on Stuarts Point Road. They removed some small trees, shrubs and overhanging limbs to improve line of sight for motorists using the road.

If you think an individual member of Council's staff, a team of Council workers or an entire Council Department has provided excellent service to the community in some way please consider nominating them for the Council's quarterly Staff Excellence Award.

Nominations for this Award must be made in writing. You can send a letter marked to the attention of 'Staff Excellence Awards' or a nomination form is available at the Customer First reception desk at the Civic Centre in Elbow Street, West Kempsey or on online at Council's website www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au under 'Communications', under 'S' in the Forms Index. Once you have written your letter, or completed the form, drop it in to the Customer First Centre or post it to Kempsey Shire Council, PO Box 78, West Kempsey, 2440.

Stuart's Point library will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary on November 20. Planning is underway to celebrate this milestone so stay tuned for more details!

The Shire Library's favourite bookwitch, Lavender, continues to delight young folk around the Shire. Earlier this year Lavender 'went mobile' and embarked on a magical journey to spread the joy of reading to preschoolers around the Macleay Valley visiting Daliguir Preschool, The Kindergarten, the Lower Macleay Preschool, South West Rocks Preschool, and the Kids Campus.

Lavender flies in regularly to Kempsey Library for Storytime and Craft sessions for young children. Her next session is scheduled for 14 September. The cost is \$2.50 per child.

Engineering scholarship applications called

Under the University of Newcastle Industry Sponsorship Scheme (UNISS), Council is offering to sponsor a suitable applicant to commence an undergraduate engineering degree, preferably in Civil Engineering, at the University of Newcastle in 2008.

The sponsorship is a five year integrated program combining degree studies with relevant industry experience. Applications will only be considered from students from Kempsey Shire.

Further information can be obtained from Jeff Moore at Council, School Career Advisors or from the UNISS website (www.uniss.newcastle.edu.au). Expressions of interest should be submitted to Council by 28 September 2007.

Macleay River Floodplain Project

The Macleay River Floodplain Project (MRFP) is an initiative of Kempsey Shire Council supported by both the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority and the National Heritage Trust. The specific aims of the MRFP are to improve management of the floodplain and flood control structures, to remediate acid sulfate soil areas, and to improve water quality and habitat in cooperation with landowners, industry, government and the community.

Since January 2000 the MRFP has undertaken many positive environmental projects on the Macleay River and Upper Maria River Floodplains. Recently, the MRFP was successful in attracting grant funding for 2007/8 project works for the Macleay coastal floodplain and acid sulfate soils areas. Sites for the project have been selected and work will commence shortly.

The MRFP remains committed to achieving Win-Win outcomes for both landholders and the environment. For example, floodplain backswamps and wetlands are extremely dynamic and fragile landscapes requiring different management practices for grazing compared to traditional dryland pastures. Wet pasture grazing is becoming the preferred way to manipulate pasture growth in the backswamps. MRFP advised on the strategic use of water retention structures to assist with the management of wet pasture grazing and small in-drain structures for flexible water control, increasing grazing productivity, improving water quality to downstream users, reducing drainage of groundwater to surrounding wetlands and acid sulfate soil areas.

The MRFP relies on grant funding for its operation. Council welcomes input from landowners interested in projects for their properties on the floodplain and nearby watercourses so that it can apply for new sources of grant funding to maintain the program.

Left: Another positive venture undertaken by MRFP - the installation of a fish friendly auto-tidal floodgate in upper Kinchela Creek.

Well done, Kira!



Above: Kira McGoldrick was presented with a Certificate of Merit for her achievements in Cricket by Mayor Councillor Betty Green at the August 2007 meeting of Council.



Recycling reminders...



Congratulations to Shire residents on the low level of contaminated material making its way into the recycling collections. Even though we are doing well, monitoring of the material coming into the Crescent Head landfill site shows that there are still lots of recyclables making their way into the landfill.

Please double check the rubbish that is going into your green general waste bin – can you find any items on the list below that could be recycled?

- Aluminium and tin cans (you can leave the label on)
- Glass bottles and jars (no lids)
- Junk mail and magazines
- Aerosol cans (empty)
- Juice & milk cartons
- Plastic containers (with triangular 1 to 6 code)

For any enquiries about what you can recycle please contact the JR Richards Recycling hotline on 1300 787 223.

waste minimisation & beneficial reuse of materials

Export Seminar in Kempsey

The Department of State and Regional Development is conducting FREE workshops on how to become a successful exporter. An international trade expert takes you through key topics for exporters – Planning, Resourcing, Marketing and Visiting your Target Market.

One of the workshop modules “Export Planning Resourcing for Export” will be held in Kempsey at Macleay Development & Promotion in Council’s Economic Development Office at Shop 3/37 Forth St, Kempsey on Tuesday 18 September from 9am until 1pm.

If you are considering joining the export market this workshop is worth attending.

Expressions of interest will also be taken at that time for running the “Visiting your Target Market” module at a later date.

For more details about this workshop please contact Edwina Brown on 65663100 or Gabrielle Oriel, Export Advisor on 6583 5647, Email: gabrielle.oriel@business.nsw.gov.au

New SES HQ Ready for action

The local SES recently moved into its new Headquarters on the corner of North and River Streets West Kempsey, alongside the headquarters for the Rural Fire Service.

Funding for the new building came from a \$50,000 grant from the New South Wales SES, \$30,000 was raised by the local SES from our community and the balance of \$160,000 was provided by Kempsey Shire Council.



Improvements to Landfill site

An enthusiastic team of ‘Work for the Dole’ participants, organised by H&H training, have assisted Kempsey Shire Council in completing a number of projects at its Crescent Head Road Landfill site over the past 26 weeks, working 2 days a week.

Council’s Landfill staff (Ian Hammond, Justin Sivello and Wayne Crowe) worked with the team providing assistance and encouragement to them as they completed tasks such as gardening, stormwater works, painting, relocating enclosures, general tidying up and landscaping works.



The ‘Work for the Dole’ team, pictured with leader Glenn McNeil and Council’s Waste Co-ordinator Owen Moon, are to be congratulated on their efforts which have enabled Council to improve the environment at Crescent Head Landfill site for the benefit of our Community.



Kempsey Shire Council is pleased to announce the “Waste into Art” competition, an exciting new program to increase the awareness of what recycling is all about for primary and secondary schools in the Macleay Shire.

The project, as the name implies, is about recycling waste into art and ties in with our community recycling education program. It will culminate in an exhibition at the Macleay Community Art Gallery in early November 2007. The winning schools will share between \$5,000 and \$8,000 in prize vouchers to be spent on educational equipment of their choice.

As a member of the Midwaste, Kempsey Shire Council seized the opportunity to be involved in the “Waste into Art” program as a positive outlet for the Shire’s students, who will no doubt amaze us all with their imagination and ingenuity.

There will be 4 sections (Wearable, Sculpture, Collage and Mixed Media) with categories for Infants, Primary and Secondary in each section.

The works selected as finalist will be exhibited at the Macleay Community Gallery in Gladstone during the first two weeks of November to coincide as closely as possible with the National Recycling Week. A ceremony to present the awards to the winning schools is scheduled for the evening of either Friday 2 November or Saturday 3 November 2007. The exact date and time will be confirmed closer to the event.

“Waste into Art” will be a fun project for everyone involved, especially the youth of our area.

Kempsey Shire Council is proud to be proactively working towards a healthy and viable environment for the Macleay.



WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT OF MY WATER SUPPLY?

Within an area served by townwater, your water supply should:

- Be reliable and continuous
- Be free from objectionable taste and odour
- Meet Australian Drinking Water guidelines

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT OF MY SEWERAGE SERVICE?

Within an area served by town sewerage, your sewerage service should:

- Be reliable and continuous
- Be operated so as to minimise odours and be environmentally responsible.

WHAT CAN I DO IF MY WATER OR SEWERAGE SERVICE IS INTERRUPTED?

If you have no water or there is a sewerage spill, please call us, night or day, on the numbers below: **business hours on 6566 3200 or after-hours on 1300 663 211.** We give a commitment to responding to the problem as quickly as possible.

councillors



Betty Green
MAYOR
Tel: 6562 8938
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John Bowell
DEPUTY MAYOR
Tel: 6562 5122
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Tel: 6562 2119
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joining together for a better community

Maintenance work carried out on Sherwood's No 5 Bore

The Macleay Water Technicians recently removed & rebuilt Bore 5 at Sherwood. The pump and motor were removed on one day and taken back to the Council's depot where the pump was stripped down, cleaned and new bearings and rubbers were fitted. Once completed the pump and motor were reinstalled at the Bore site.

There are 8 bores at Sherwood with 4 to 5 normally operating at any one time. These bores are a vital link in the Kempsey Water supply system. Each bore is removed and rebuilt every 3 years.



Above: (Left) The bore column is lifted so the pump can be removed and (on the right) Macleay Water staff re-position the pump in the bore hole after the maintenance work is completed.

Kempsey Library hosts prestigious Poetry Slam event

Kempsey Shire Library was one of just 10 libraries across the state to be selected to host a heat of the 2007 Australian Poetry Slam. The event, which is an initiative of the State Library of NSW, was held before an enthusiastic crowd on August 9.

Under the Poetry Slam rules each contestant was allowed two minutes to impress the 5 judges, selected at random from the audience, with their own original composition. Fourteen local wordsmiths (of all ages) battled it out presenting their work in their own style - singing, beat-boxing, hip hop and spoken work. The event was hailed a huge success with award-winning poet Miles Merrill, who hosted the event, commenting on the quality and diversity of the performances.



Above: (Left) Master of Ceremonies, Miles Merrill, explains the Poetry Slam concept to the audience. (Right) Miles Merrill and Kempsey Library's Lisa Beecham congratulate heat winners Lucy Barber of Frederickton and Laurie Lynch of Kempsey who will head to the State Library for the state final in Sydney on November 30.



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8.30am - 4.30 pm

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