



Community newsletter

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

Armidale Road works improve road safety

Between 1999 and 2003 there were six recorded accidents on the section of Armidale Road near Skillion Flat with one resulting in four fatalities. Kempsey Shire Council in 2003 nominated this project as part of its application for Black Spot Funding and in 2004 the RTA announced that this project was eligible for 100% funding under the Black Spot funding program.

This project which improved the road alignment, together with the replacement of a narrow timber bridge at Woolshed Gully, has resulted in significant improvements for motorists using Armidale Road.



Work in progress at Skillion Flat

On completion of the work, two hazardous curves and a crest were removed improving the sight distance for travellers in both directions. This new section of Armidale Road was completed in January this year.

Council has received letters of appreciation from some residents thanking Council for their efforts in both design and construction of the road, and for the improved safety to travellers that use this route.

New picnic shelter for Crescent Head



Work on a new picnic shelter in the day visitor area of Crescent Head Reserve is now complete. The shelter features a modern, wave-like roof, which provides shade for the new metallic picnic table underneath.

Some new playground equipment and softfall has also been installed in the area to upgrade the playground facilities.

Heritage Festival 2007: Step Back in Time to Bellbrook

Council, in conjunction with Port Macquarie Hastings Council, is again involved in the NSW National Trust Heritage Festival from Saturday, 3 March until Sunday, 18 March 2007. The theme of this year's festival is 'Places in Context - Cultural & Natural Landscapes'.

As part of this festival there will be a Step Back in Time bus tour to Bellbrook, which is a National Trust classified village. The six hour tour departs at 9.30am from the Ampol Carpark in Belgrave Street, Kempsey on Friday 16 March. The cost is \$18 per person and this includes lunch at the Bellbrook Hotel. Bookings for this tour are essential as numbers are limited. Reserve your place by phoning 6562 7572 or calling into the Kempsey Museum.

If you'd like to have a look at the full program of Heritage Festival events please visit Council's website: www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au, go to Communications, then Documents and you'll find it under 'H'.



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.

Dates for your diary

12-25 March

Seniors' Week Exhibition
at the Community Art Gallery

10 March

'Open Book' Trivia Night
at Kempsey Library

14 March

Seniors' Luncheon

17 March

Indigenous Research Workshop
at Kempsey Library

Saleyards Ranking up

The National Livestock Reporting Service has released the 'Cattle Saleyard Survey' which indicates that the Kempsey Regional Saleyard has again increased sales through the facility for the previous year.

Kempsey Regional Saleyards is now ranked at number 22 in New South Wales for sales of cattle.

Cattle throughput rose to 33,130 which was an 8% increase from the previous year.



This continues the upward trend from 2002/03 when the saleyards were ranked at number 28.

Upgrading works on the Saleyards complex will recommence in July with the replacement of the ageing timber pens with safer more OHS compliant steel yards.



Australia Day 2007 - A family celebration

Australia Day Celebrations, held this year for the first time at Kempsey's Riverside Park, were a huge success with twice as many people participating in the festivities as in previous years. The event, which combined the official ceremony, speeches, naturalisations and award presentations with a family fun afternoon of face painting, children's entertainment, music and dancing demonstrations, was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

This year's award recipients were:

Citizen of the Year Award -

Sister Cabrini and Margaret Jopling (joint award)

Community Service Award - Macleay River Historical Society

Community, Entertainment, Music & Arts Award - Senior Music Makers (Ray & Nita Halsey)



New cabins a success at Hat Head

Two new cabins (pictured below) were installed at Hat Head Holiday Park in time for the busy Christmas season. These cabins met with enthusiastic approval from the visitors who stayed in them with the majority re-booking the cabins for their next holiday.

The cabins are also appealing for people who have traditionally camped in the park with many having opted to book cabin accommodation for future stays.

Both cabins have two bedrooms and large covered verandas to enjoy the views and breezes. One cabin also has two bathrooms, one of which features a two person spa.

These cabins are the first two of four identified for installation in Hat Head Holiday Park as part of Council's current improvement program for the Holiday Park.



Recycling reminders...



waste minimisation & beneficial reuse of materials

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.

Council welcomes new Engineering Cadet

Ryan Stevens (pictured) from South West Rocks is the new engineering cadet with Kempsey Shire Council for 2007. Ryan, along with Richard Officer and Karen MacKenzie, is part of the University of Newcastle Industry Scholarship Scheme (UNISS). Ryan, formerly a student at Kempsey High School, commenced his studies in Civil Engineering this year.

UNISS is a 5 year program involving academic study and industry-based experience. For the past 3 years Kempsey Shire Council has sponsored scholarships in Civil Engineering via the UNISS scheme through the University of Newcastle. Further information is available from the UNISS website (www.uniss.newcastle.edu.au).



Community Survey Results

In November 2006 a Community Survey was conducted by Micromex Marketing Services for Kempsey Shire Council using a structured questionnaire; a total sample of 300 residents was selected by Micromex using a computer-based random selection process. Below is a summary of some of the findings.

The full survey results, in a comprehensive 67 page document, are available to read at the Civic Centre, the Council libraries at Kempsey, South West Rocks, Hat Head and Stuarts Point. The information is also on Council's website under 'Communications', 'Documents'.

Development

- 57% of respondents agreed that 'Council is ensuring that the Shire grows in a positive way'. 23% disagreed.
- 50% agreed that 'Council is ensuring that the nature of development is improving the quality of life'. 25% disagreed.
- The community is not in favour of major developments in any part of the Kempsey Shire. There is some support for moderate development in inland towns.
- When asked what their vision was for the future, the most significant responses related to being in favour of development and planning, followed by improved maintenance of current infrastructure.

Strategic Planning

- All seven goals in Council's Strategic Plan were rated very highly, with the highest being 'to provide value for money services'.

Kempsey CBD

- 77% of respondents believe

that the improvements to, and the cleanliness of, the Kempsey CBD make it a good place to visit and shop.

- 76% of respondents felt that the Kempsey Mall should not be reopened to traffic.

Employment

- When asked how Council can generate employment, the most common answer was 'attracting new business/industries'.
- When asked how Council could encourage people to stay in the Shire the most common answer was 'providing employment opportunities'.

Performance

- 61% of respondents were 'satisfied' to 'very satisfied' with Council's overall performance.
- Respondents rated their satisfaction with the performance of eight of Council's services as follows:

Garbage services

- highly satisfied;

Sewerage supply

- moderately satisfied;

Water Supply

- moderately satisfied;

Sporting Facilities

- moderately satisfied;

Parks & Gardens

- moderately satisfied;

Community Facilities

- moderately satisfied;

Rural roads

- low satisfaction; and

Town roads

- moderately satisfied.

- 98% are happy with the introduction of recycling and the benefits it will have on the

environment and community.

- 76% supported having an annual rubbish clean up day for larger items at an additional cost.

Facilities

- A small majority of 54% were not in favour of an indoor heated swimming pool in the Shire. 75% of those in favour would like the pool to be located in or around Kempsey.
- Respondents rated the provision of aged and community care services for the ageing population in Kempsey Shire very highly.

Communication and contact

- 26% of respondents had attended a public council meeting or workshop. 60% of those said that the opportunity to express their view could not be improved
- The preferred method for contacting or conducting a transaction with Council was by phone, but almost equally in person. The opinions of those who had contact with Council staff were positive, with 49% describing it as courteous, 39% helpful and 37% professional. 12% described their contact as unsatisfactory and 7% as uninterested.
- 15% of residents had written contact with Council staff in the last year. 50% of these were satisfied; 46% expressed some degree of dissatisfaction.
- 29% of residents had telephone contact with Council staff in the last year; 72% were satisfied and 21% were dissatisfied with that contact.
- 53% of residents own or have regular access to a computer that is connected to the Internet and, of those, 33% had visited Council's website.



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.

Joining together for a better community



Betty Green
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DEPUTY MAYOR
Tel: 6562 5122
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Tel: 6562 2119
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January water restrictions: What went on behind the scenes

In mid January 2007, water supply distribution problems necessitated the short term introduction of Level 2 Water Restrictions for the entire Shire. Fortunately, Council was able to lift these restrictions after just 9 days because Macleay Water's Construction, Maintenance, Water Process and Technician crews were (*as these pictures show*) able to successfully replace a major valve in the Potters Hill Reservoir and locate several leaks of various sizes in rural areas which were not immediately obvious.



Initially, Macleay Water staff picked up, through its telemetry systems, high water flows of up to 50 litres a second (including all residential use) moving through the Potters Hill, John Lane and Greenhills Reservoirs. Even allowing for increased usage due to the hot weather, the figures were excessive and reservoir levels continued to drop. A multi-front problem was identified after repairs to one of eight production bores in the Sherwood borefield failed to stabilise the Greenhill Reservoir's recovery.

Water Restrictions were introduced, not because of a water shortage but rather, as a stop-gap measure to ensure continuity of water distribution to the affected areas. Meanwhile, Macleay Water staff worked tirelessly to diagnose the problem. Crews walked the water lines to check for main breaks; telemetry data on usage and recovery rates was monitored constantly; the community provided important information about the source of possible leaks; and good water quality in the Stuart McIntyre Dam enabled it to be brought online to top up the reservoirs.

A number of minor main and valve repairs were undertaken in the Lower Macleay area, as well as the major valve replacement at Potters Hill reservoir, which resulted in the Euroka, Dondingalong, Burnt Bridge and Pipers Creek areas being without water for 4 hours while the work to replace the 1938 valve was undertaken.



Water restrictions were lifted late on 31 January and water levels at the reservoirs have been stable since this incident. Council greatly appreciates the assistance and patience of the general public during this situation.

Airport security upgraded

Council was successful in obtaining Commonwealth Government grant funding for security upgrades for the airport. The funds were for the implementation of an Aviation Transport Security Program. This program seeks to ensure that regional airports are compliant with the airport security requirements regulated by the Department of Transport and Regional Services.

Security upgrades, which are currently underway, include the installation of security fencing in the vicinity of the airport terminal and the general aviation hangars, push button coded gates for entry to the airside, security floodlighting and installation of Closed Circuit TV.

Once completed, these security measures will only become operational if the airport is serviced by a Regular Passenger Transport operator. It is hoped this security upgrade will be an added incentive for any passenger airline considering introducing a service from Kempsey Airport in the future.



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your fingertips

Councillors

directors