



# 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*

**February/March 2008**

## Heritage Festival packed with great events!

The NSW National Trust 2008 Heritage Festival is on again this year between 5-20 April 2008. Kempsey Shire Council has combined forces with Port Macquarie Hastings Council to put together a program of more than 40 events in keeping with this year's festival theme 'Our Place'.



Events in and around the Macleay Valley include "Life at Trial Bay Gaol" (a walking tour), 'Th Making of an Icon' (Akubra Factory Tour), 'Travel a Country Mile' (a bus tour of Kempsey, Nulla Nulla & Bellbrook), Convict Lime Kilns (a walking tour) and Smoky Cape Lighthouse Tour (a walking tour).

For a full calendar of Heritage festival events pick up a Festival booklet at the Kempsey Tourist Information Centre in South Kempsey or visit Council's website, (go to Communication, Documents and you'll find it under 'H').

## Australia Day Award Recipients Honoured

The skies cleared and the sun shone when Kempsey Shire's Australia Day Awards were presented at a special ceremony held in Riverside Park, Kempsey on 26 January. Australia Day Ambassador Andrew Walsh AM and Mayor Councillor Betty Green made the presentations to:



**Peter Scott**  
*Citizen of the Year*

**James Burnett**  
*Young Citizen of the Year*

**Joseph Robinson**  
*Achievement Award*

**Macleay Options Incorporated**  
*Community Service*

**The Kempsey Eisteddfod Society**  
*Community Entertainment, Music and Arts*

## Rebates available on Hot Water Systems & Water Tanks

Now is the time to think about installing a new environmentally friendly hot water system or a water tank. If you do, you may be eligible for a substantial rebate through the State Government if you purchase and install one before 30 June 2009.

There are different rebates for new and existing homes and conditions **do** apply so it is wise to check before purchasing to make sure the type of system or tank you buy qualifies you for the rebate savings.

If you would like more information about this rebate system contact the Department of Environment & Climate Change or visit their website at <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/rebates/>



**Neighbour Day**  
**Sunday**  
**30 March, 2008**

### What can you do?

- Say G'day to your neighbours.
- Make a special effort to introduce yourself to older residents in your street and anyone that lives alone.
- Leave your contact numbers for use in case of an emergency.
- Agree to keep in contact.



## 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...

Interested in attending a Council meeting? Council usually holds its Ordinary Meetings on the second Tuesday of each month commencing at 9am. Here are the next few meeting dates for your diary: 11 March, 8 April, 13 May, 10 June and 8 July.

On the Monday prior to its Ordinary Meeting date Council meets to discuss and clarify with staff information on the agenda for the following day. This workshop usually commences at 1.30pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend both the Ordinary Meetings and the Workshop sessions.

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If anyone would like a copy of Council's Annual Report for 2006-07 you can pick one up at our Customer First Centre, 22 Tozer Street West Kempsey or phone 6566 3334 to arrange for one to be sent out to you.

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Congratulations to Garick Cahill, Allan Frost, Neil Willis and Col Davey who won the Council Staff Excellence Award for the September 2007 Quarter. Thank you to Nigel Rose who nominated this team for their work on the Stuarts Point Cycleway.

## Midwaste meets in Kempsey

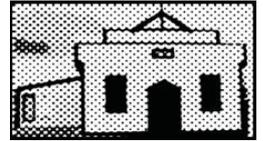
Midwaste is a pro-active group of 8 Mid North Coast Councils involved in waste management and environmental issues associated with all areas of waste and recycling. After successful lobbying by Council's Waste Co-ordinator, Owen Moon, to hold the meetings at different locations within the region, Kempsey Shire Council hosted the first Midwaste meeting for 2008 in early February at its Chambers in West Kempsey.



Mayor Councillor Betty Green officially opened the meeting and Midwaste Chairman, Mr Bob Bailey (Port Macquarie Hastings Council) complimented Council on its approach to, and successful action taken, in the field of waste management and environment over the last 18 months.

## Exciting time ahead for Gallery

The Macleay Community Art Gallery in Kinchela Street, Gladstone has a full and exciting calendar scheduled over the next few months. Coming exhibitions include:



- **Until March 16** - International Women's Day 2008" Exhibition
- **March 20 - 24** - Exhibition by local artist Jamie Rylance
- **March 27 - April 6** - Macleay Valley Coast Tourism Association Inc exhibition, "The Peoples Perspective" Images from their recent photography competition.
- **April 10 - 27** - Seniors Week 2008 Exhibition
- **May 1 - 25** - "Exhibition and Sale of Art Work" (open to all artists, all medium welcome).
- **June 5 - 29** - "Coastal Flow Exhibition", A selected exhibition of contemporary furniture, 2D and 3D art and craft. Artwork will reflect the artist's response, reflections or interpretations of their relationship with the coastal environment. Artists need to submit an application form to the Gallery committee for selection by close of business Friday 24 April.
- **July 3- 13** - NAIDOC week exhibition (open to all Aboriginal artists)

If you would like to know more about visiting the gallery or entering an exhibition please contact Barbara Huntington on 65 663226 (Tuesday to Thursday).

## New equipment to improve water monitoring

Macleay Water has purchased new field water testing equipment to monitor the town water supply. In November 2007, Macleay Water operators undertook training to update their skills in the use of this new equipment which is capable of doing up to 90 different tests on a water sample.



The previous equipment could only do a limited range of testing... such as pH and chlorine residuals. The new equipment can measure metals such as iron, manganese and aluminium as well as the pH and chlorine.

Macleay Water Operators will now be able to do more field-testing on site and this will reduce the number of samples to be sent away to external laboratories. The new equipment also means that Macleay Water will also be able to build up a better database of water information to use in planning for the future of the Shire's water supply.

Staff will continue to expand their knowledge of the different types of tests the machines can perform and will eventually be able to perform a wider range of water monitoring procedures on site.

## 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.

## Kempsey Town Centre Masterplan meeting held

The Kempsey Town Centre Masterplan Implementation Committee, comprising representatives from the Kempsey & District Chamber of Commerce, the Macleay Development and Promotion Board and Council met on Wednesday 6 February 2008 at Council's Chambers in Elbow Street West Kempsey.

At the meeting it was also decided that a sub-committee be formed to review the current Town Masterplan and to seek suggestions from the business and general community about beautification and other projects to enhance the Kempsey CBD.

At this stage, the members of the sub-committee are Mayor Councillor Betty Green, Bruce Morris (Director Shire Services), Robyn Ryan (Economic Development Manager) and John Preen and Liz Campbell (representing the Chamber of Commerce).

## Recycle your old CDMA phone

Kempsey Shire Council and MobileMuster, the official recycling program of the mobile phone industry, are calling on residents to recycle their old CDMA mobile phone handsets, batteries, chargers and accessories at one of Council's collection points or post them free of charge to MobileMuster.

MobileMuster will recycle all CDMA handsets, batteries, chargers and accessories and recover over 90% of the plastics and metals. The recycled materials can then be turned into plastic fence posts, jewellery and stainless steel products.

In the first month of operation, the CDMA collection program has recovered over 300 phones and associated equipment weighing in at about 60 kgs. With the extension of the CDMA changeover we are hoping to recover a lot more.

Council offers this service free to members of the public so please help us by dropping your old CDMA handsets, batteries, chargers and accessories in at any of the following locations:

- Customer First Centre, 22 Tozer Street, West Kempsey
- Shire Library, Elbow Street, West Kempsey
- Stuarts Point Library, Cnr Ocean Ave & Marine Parade, Stuarts Point
- South West Rocks Library, 22 Landsborough Street, South West Rocks
- Hat Head Library, Straight Street, Hat Head
- Visitor Information Centre, South Kempsey Park, Kempsey
- Visitor Information Centre South West Rocks, Boatmans Cottage, Ocean Street, South West Rocks
- Council's Economic Development Office at Level 3/37 Forth Street, Kempsey

To download a free post reply paid label go to [www.mobilemuster.com.au](http://www.mobilemuster.com.au) or call 1300 730 070.



## Mid North Coast Mosquito-borne Illness Hot Spot



Given our current climatic conditions of rain and warm weather, residents and visitors to the Macleay Valley need to be cautious in respect to mosquito bites. On average, there are 33 Barmah Forest cases and 24 Ross River Virus diagnosed each year in Kempsey Shire. The peak period of contracting these diseases is between December through May.

The best remedy in avoiding either of these Viruses is to follow the precautions as listed:

- The key to prevention is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, especially in the summer and autumn months.
- Avoid being outside in the late afternoon and dusk. Mosquitoes are usually most active from 1-3 hours after sunset and again around dawn.
- When outside wear loose fitting, light coloured clothing that covers your arms and legs, and use an insect repellent that contains the chemical Diethyl Toluamide (DEET) or Picaridin.
- Fit fly screens to all windows, doors, and chimneys (when not in use), and keep them in good repair.
- Use an insecticide in sleeping areas, according to instructions.
- Ensure open containers of water are removed from around the home to prevent mosquitoes breeding. Cover the openings to water tanks with fine steel mesh to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs in the tank.
- When camping, take precautions such as using flyscreens on caravans and tents, or by sleeping under mosquito proof nets.
- Take particular care while fishing, ensuring that you follow personal precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes.

For extra information see [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au) fact sheets Ross River and Barmah Forest Virus.



### 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.





**Betty Green**  
MAYOR  
Tel: 6562 8938  
Fax: 6562 3147



**Janet Hayes**  
DEPUTY MAYOR  
Tel: 6561 7188  
Fax: 6561 7595



**John Bowell**  
Tel: 6562 5122  
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**Jim Gribbin**  
Tel: 6566 6907  
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**Terry Hunt**  
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joining together for a better community

## Climate Change Action:

### COUNCIL JOINS GLOBAL CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION PROGRAM

Kempsey Shire Council has recently joined the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Australia Program and is one of 231 Australian local governments who have made a formal commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Council operations and in the community.



In joining CCP, Kempsey Shire Council will work through a series of milestones to make an inventory of their greenhouse gas emissions, set reduction goals, plan and implement actions, and monitor their progress.

This commitment represents Kempsey Shire Council's intention to:

- Establish an inventory and forecast for key sources of greenhouse emissions for council and community at Milestone 1.
- Set an emissions reduction goal at Milestone 2.
- Develop and adopt a local greenhouse action plan to achieve emission reductions at Milestone 3.
- Implement the local greenhouse action plan and quantify benefits at Milestone 4.
- Monitor and report on greenhouse gas emissions, and implement actions as a continuous improvement cycle at Milestone 5

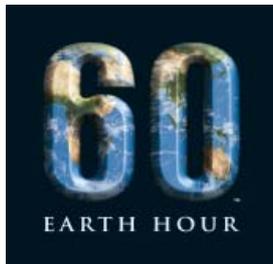
Council is hopeful of making good progress towards reducing the Shire's greenhouse gas emissions through its involvement in the CCP Program. Councillor Janet Hayes is Council's representative on the CCP Program.

### NSW MAYORS' AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

At it's meeting in December 2007 Council also endorsed the signing of the NSW Mayors' Agreement on Climate Change. The NSW Mayors' Agreement on Climate Change was established by the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW following a motion by Waverley Council, passed unanimously during the annual Local Government Association Conference in 2006.

Among other things, the Agreement commits Council to:

- Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in our operations, activities and communities;
- Urge the State and Federal Government to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction, suggested for Australia in the Kyoto Protocol, of 108% of its 1990 baseline; and
- Encourage all sectors in our local community to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action.



### EARTH HOUR 2008

A reminder to all residents that Earth Hour 2008 will take place on 29 March, commencing at 8.00pm. Initiated by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) – Australia, the event builds on Earth Hour 2007, which asked the households and businesses of Sydney to turn off their lights for 1 hour to reduce electricity consumption and therefore greenhouse gas emissions contributing to global warming.

Earth Hour 2008 has expanded to a global movement, with major capital cities around the world, as well as communities all around Australia now taking part in the event. By inviting households and businesses to turn off their lights, Earth Hour 2008 highlights the actions individuals and communities can take to help combat a global issue such as climate change.

For more information, or to sign up to take part in Earth Hour 2008, please visit the official website - <http://www.earthhour.org/>



**Allan Burgess**  
GENERAL MANAGER



**Bruce Snape**  
DIRECTOR  
CORPORATE AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICES



**Bruce Morris**  
DIRECTOR  
SHIRE SERVICES



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Customer First Centre  
22 Tozer Street  
West Kempsey

Phone 6566 3200

Counter hours  
Monday to Friday  
8.30am - 4.30 pm

Call Centre hours  
Monday to Friday  
8.30am - 4.30 pm

Library  
6566 3210

Keep up to date  
with Council news  
-visit our website

[www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au)

Information at  
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