



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

October 2008

It's down to business for new Council...

On 13 September, 2008 residents of Kempsey Shire went to the polls to elect a new Council for the period 2008-2012. As a result, three new Councillors and six Councillors from the previous council were elected to serve the community.

Since the election, Councillors have attended an induction workshop and also held an extraordinary meeting to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Councillor John Howell and Councillor Dean Saul, respectively, were elected to these positions.

Councillors will continue to elect the Mayor each September until the next Council elections take place in 2012, at which time the electorate will vote for the Mayor for the ensuing 4 year period. This is as a result of the majority 'Yes' vote to the referendum question asked at the Council elections regarding the popular election of Mayor.

If you need to contact a Councillor at anytime, contact numbers for each Councillor are listed on page 3 of this newsletter.

NEW LOOK PLANNED FOR KEMPSEY CBD

Kempsey CBD is one step closer to achieving a new look after Kempsey Shire Council considered (at its September 9 meeting) three design options for the intersection of Smith and Belgrave Streets as part of the Town Centre Master Plan.

The concept design options, presented to Council in a 3-D format, were the result of the collaborative effort of the representatives of Council, the Kempsey & District Chamber of Commerce and the community involved in Council's Town Centre Master Plan Implementation committee and sub-committee.

The design selected (*shown below*) will provide a modern look for this major town intersection. It features the Macleay Valley Coast logo in Council's corporate colours and metal bollards with innovative solar lights for impact lighting at night."



Councillors elected at the polls on 13 September, 2008.

Back row, L to R: Alan Snowsill, Betty Green, Jim Gribbin, Liz Campbell, and Ellis Walker. Front row, L to R: Janet Hayes, John Howell, Dean Saul and Jenny Sproule.



Funding for the implementation of the Kempsey Town Centre Master Plan is allocated on an annual basis and work is completed progressively according to the allocated budget.

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...

The NSW Sport and Recreation's Capital Assistance Program (CAP) for 2008 is open for applications with a closing date of 14 November 2008.

The CAP is for the development of local level facilities with \$30,000 being the maximum grant available in 2008.

Eligible applicants are incorporated not-for-profit organisations and local government authorities wishing to develop facilities that will increase participation in sport, recreation and physical activity.

Application forms are available at NSW Sport and Recreation website at www.dsr.nsw.gov.au or by telephoning 13 13 02.

Over 150 entries were received from local school students into Waste into Art 2008.

The Waste into Art exhibition is on at the Macleay Valley Community Art Gallery in Gladstone until Sunday 2 November.

The event is proudly sponsored by Kempsey Shire Council, Midwaste and JR Richards & Sons.

Kempsey Shire Council hosted the World Devon Conference at the Kempsey Regional Saleyards on Wednesday 17 September 2008.

Over 80 delegates from the UK, Canada, USA, Brazil, NZ and Australia were in attendance for a viewing of cattle from two local producers as well as the cattle grown by St Paul's College in Kempsey.

Those attending were impressed with the facilities provided by the Regional Saleyards. It was a worthy alternate use for Council's popular Saleyards facility.

The new Stuarts Point footbridge was opened on Sunday 31 August during the highly successful Yarrahapinni Festival weekend.

Congratulations to the Macleay Argus on a successful 'Celebrate the Macleay' event held at Kempsey Racecourse on 20 & 21 September. After being forced to take a break last year due to the equine influenza outbreak it was great to see the event back on the calendar this year.

Council would like to thank all the members of the community who visited our display, participated in our Community Service survey or signed up for our Community Consultation Register.

Council Takes Action At Killick Creek

Just before the October long weekend Council used heavy machinery to re-open Killick Creek to the sea at Crescent Head.

Under the strict Plan of Management guidelines for Killick Creek (required by State government regulatory bodies) there are triggers which allow Council to use heavy equipment to re-open the creek.

Testing on water quality in the creek triggered the need, and made it possible, for Council to take this action under the Plan of Management guidelines.

Council realises the economic importance to Crescent Head businesses of the creek being open during holiday periods, and was pleased it was able to respond to the situation under the parameters set in the Killick Creek plan of management guidelines on this occasion.



Dozer in Action at Killick Creek on October 3

Eastern Kempsey Koala Study & Plan of Management



Council is currently in the process of undertaking a detailed koala study throughout the eastern portion of the local government area, encompassing some 110,000ha. The aim of such a study is to identify areas of key koala habitat, as well as gain a better understanding of the distribution and abundance of local koala populations.

A Koala Advisory Group comprised of a number of local community members, as well as representatives from various government agencies, including the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change, Forests NSW, NSW Department of Planning and NSW Department of Lands have been assisting Council define the study area and set project objectives.

More recently the Advisory Group has overseen the engagement of a professional consultancy service, specialising in koala ecology, to undertake a detailed field survey of koalas and their habitat across the study area. The field surveys took place during late August and September 2008, with over 100 vegetated sites, on both public and private land, surveyed for the presence of koalas, or koala activity. The results from the field surveys are expected to be finalised by early November.

Information on koala habitat usage and areas occupied, gained through the results of the field surveys, will form the basis of a Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (CKPoM) for the study area.

Outcomes of the CKPoM will aim to ensure the conservation and management of important koala habitat and populations on a landscape scale through better informed strategic landuse planning decisions and management of other threats to koalas within the eastern portion of the Kempsey Shire LGA.

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.

Great news for Companion Animal owners

New Leash Free areas

Council's Companion Animal Advisory Committee recently reviewed Council's current leash free policy and made recommendations to include the three new sites. As a result, a 6 month trial has commenced of the following additional areas for exercising dogs off the leash:

- at the southern end of Riverside Park (Kempsey),
- in the parkland area of James Carney Crescent (West Kempsey); and
- at Lindsay Noonan Drive Park (South West Rocks).

The Committee is made up of council and community representatives who work consultatively on issues involving the shire's companion animals such as cats and dogs.

After the trial period is over and public consultation is undertaken a report will be prepared for Council so that it can consider the impact of these new leash free areas and whether they should be permanently added to its Leash Free areas.

Other leash free areas in the Shire are:

1. Grassy Head – more than 250m north of Grassy Head (Day visitor area) to the northern boundary of the Shire;
2. Stuarts Point – Stuarts Point Beach;
3. South West Rocks – Back Beach to river mouth;
4. Hat Head – Access No. 6 to Les Dunford Road beach access;
5. Crescent Head – South of Goolawah Beach vehicular access to Big Hill;
6. Kempsey – western corner of South Kempsey Park between tennis courts and museum.

Dogs may be exercised off the leash within these areas but must still be under the control of their owners.

For more details contact Council's Customer First Centre on 65 663200.

View impounded cats and dogs on Web

Council has developed a webpage to assist pet owners and residents with checking on impounded cats and dogs. It is designed to help people track down a lost or missing pet and for anyone thinking about adding a new canine or feline member to the family.

The site will be updated on a daily basis and can be checked at any time of the day. Just follow the link: <http://www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au/impounded-animals.html>.



Council Ranger, Robert Watson, chats to some young pet owners.

Fact Sheets

Council has developed three facts sheets to assist residents in the management of Companion Animals:

- Barking Dogs
- Your Dog Your Responsibility
- Microchip and Register Your Pet

You can either download these informative sheets directly from Council's website (go to Communication, Documents, then scroll down to 'F') or you can all into Council's Customer First Centre at 22 Tozer Street, West Kempsey and collect a copy or phone 65 663200.

John Marsden at Kempsey Library

Australia's leading teen author John Marsden visited the Kempsey Library (see photo below) and local high schools in late September.

The visit was made possible by the joint efforts of the Mid North Coast Library Cooperative who secured a grant from the NSW State Library to provide a variety of workshops and improve resources for teens in the area.

During his time in Kempsey John imparted his unique brand of wisdom to over 400 students and interested people.

It was a real privilege to have an author of this calibre visit Kempsey Shire and provide inspiration to our young people.



YOUR COUNCILLORS

Mayor John Bowell	65625122 0438 625 122
Deputy Mayor Dean Saul	65674682 0419 639943
Councillor Betty Green	65628938 0427 419302
Councillor Janet Hayes	65617188 0427 804956
Councillor Liz Campbell	0427 627074
Councillor Jim Gribbin	65666907
Councillor Alan Snowsill	65628550 0411 635650
Councillor Jenny Sproule	65621141 0429 453753
Councillor Ellis Walker	65622119

A BUSINESS UNIT OF KEMPSEY SHIRE COUNCIL



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?



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

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

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.





John Bowell
MAYOR
Tel: 6562 5122
Fax: 6562 3670



Dean Saul
DEPUTY MAYOR
Tel: 6567 4682
Fax: 6567 4032



Liz Campbell
Tel: 0427627074



Betty Green
Tel: 6562 8938
Fax: 6562 3147



Jim Gribbin
Tel: 6566 6907
Fax: 6567 0183



Janet Hayes
Tel: 6561 7188
Fax: 6561 7595



Alan Snowsill
Tel: 6562 8550



Jenny Sproule
Tel: 6562 1141
Fax: 6562 1141



Ellis Walker
Tel: 6562 2119
Fax: 6562 4110

Joining together for a better community

Shire's Youth speak out at Forum!

In mid September Council, in conjunction with the Department of Community Services, held a joint forum to survey the opinions of young people in the Macleay Valley about Education and Employment; Safety; Health; and Access to Decision Making.

Members of the Youth Advisory Council facilitated the forum discussion groups, which were made up of students from most local high schools and other young people not attending school but who have access to other youth services in the Macleay such as Wesley, Centacare, South West Rocks Community Services and Kempsey Family Support Services, to name a few.

Guest speaker at the event was Joe Robinson. He inspired those present with stories about the perseverance and practice it has taken for him to achieve his current success. He also played several songs.



A forum discussion group in action



Youth Services website

Council recently launched its Youth Services website to provide information, programs, events and assistance for young people aged 12 to 24 years of age. Council welcomes any good news stories, comments and feedback from youth through this website.

Just look for the brightly coloured Youth Services button on Council's homepage. There are some excellent photos from the Youth Forum on the site.

SWR Sewer Treatment Plant upgrade now under construction

Construction has commenced on Sewer Treatment plant upgrade at South West rocks. Major earthworks have been completed and the photo, left,



shows progress on concrete works for the sequence batch reactor (SBR), which is the main process component of the new plant.

Work is expected to begin in the coming months on the water recycling plant. During the next 4-8 weeks a higher than usual volume of construction vehicles is anticipated along Belle OConnor Street.

Council apologises for any inconvenience this additional traffic may cause.

Disclosure of political donations & gifts

The NSW Parliament recently passed legislation, which came into effect on 1 October, 2008, requiring the disclosure of relevant political donations or gifts when planning or development applications (or submissions about these) are made to Council to minimise any perception of undue influence. Such a disclosure is required for any political donations or gifts made in the two years before the application or submission is made and ending when the application is determined.

The Department of Planning has produced Guidelines on the Disclosure of Political Donations and Gifts on its website at:

http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/planning_reforms/p/political_donation_guidelines.pdf.



Allan Burgess
GENERAL MANAGER



Bruce Snape
DIRECTOR
CORPORATE AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES



Bruce Morris
DIRECTOR
SHIRE SERVICES



Robert Pitt
DIRECTOR
SUSTAINABLE
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NSW 2440
Fax: 6566 3205
Email:
ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

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

Information at
your fingertips