



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

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

April 2009

Seniors Week Celebrations

Kempsey Shire celebrated NSW Seniors Week under the theme 'Live Life' between 15-22 March 2009 with its annual Seniors Luncheon, a two day Seniors Expo, and a Seniors Art Prize.

The Senior's Expo (pictured) was held on 19 & 20 March at Kempsey Showground and attended by 260 seniors. During the two day event workshops were held in Tai Chi, Line Dancing, Floral Arranging, Quilt Making, Table Tennis, Creative Writing, Scrabble, Mahjong and a recital given by the U3A singing group. For those who were interested Mayo Home Nursing performed free blood pressure readings. Kempsey Cookhouse provided morning and afternoon teas and lunches at a small cost. Entries in the Seniors Art Prize were also exhibited at the Expo.



Thanks to everyone involved in making Seniors week a success including: Expo stall holders, Kempsey Quilters, U3A, Kempsey Macleay RSL Club, students from three high schools, the Showground Trust, Kempsey Retraivision, Netherby House, Kempsey Fruit Market, Benbullen Mid North Coast Farm Stay and staff from Macleay Community Care Options.

Human Sign Project

Gary Smith and Chris Seam (far right) of Macleay Water are pictured presenting David Munday, Principal of Aldavilla Primary School (left) and some his students with a cheque to help sponsor the Human Sign Project.

The project involves students from local schools forming human signs with messages of hope for the future, which are captured by aerial photography.



You're Never too Young

The 'Baby Bounce' sessions held at Kempsey Shire Library in March and April proved very popular, with presenter Lee Walder leading mums and babies through fun sessions filled with song and movement.



The aim of the Baby Bounce program is to introduce very young children to the library and to introduce them to songs and the spoken word. Further sessions will be held at South West Rocks and Stuarts Point libraries later this year. For more information phone Alison on 6566 3210.

SWR Lions Club donates seating at Arakoon Cemetery



Thanks to the generosity of the South West Rocks Lions Club, Arakoon cemetery now has park bench seating in the monumental and lawn sections.

This latest donation marks a continuation of South West Rocks Lions Club for support this beautiful, peaceful cemetery.

Back in May 1986, during the Sesqui Centenary of Kempsey and Districts, the columbarium wall was built with the help of Lions Club members and the community. The concreting, bricklaying, tiling and landscaping took about three months to complete.



Special Rate Variation Poll Results

- 914 Surveys returned:
- 292 For (32%); 622 Against (68%)
- 200 people attended community meetings

Thank you to the members of the community who chose to get involved in this consultation, especially those who took the time to attend the community meetings. The decision is now in the hands of the Minister for Local Government.



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Joining together for a better community

SWR Public School participates in Macleay Waterwatch Training Program

Students and staff from South West Rocks Public School have become involved in a Waterwatch Training Program at the Boyters Lane Wetlands Rehabilitation site. The training is provided by the Macleay Waterwatch Team, made up of representatives from Kempsey Shire Council (KSC), Macleay Landcare Network (MLN) and the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (NRCMA). The school is being kindly assisted with transport to and from the site by the SWR Rotary Club.

During March the students and their teachers met with the Macleay Waterwatch Team for a Training Program to support their ongoing testing of water quality in



the wetland area. The students will be checking for the presence of key living organisms (aquatic water bugs) and recording the levels of pH, electrical conductivity, temperature and turbidity, all of which give an indication of water quality. Waterwatch NSW supports the involvement of local communities in taking responsibility for their rivers and aquatic ecosystems. By monitoring water quality and biological indicators, local communities can directly observe and learn about the health of their waterways and identify whether changes are occurring.

The results obtained by South West Rocks Primary School will add to the baseline water quality data already collected by Council and the Waterwatch NSW statewide data base, and help provide a measure of any changes in the condition of the Wetlands, as the rehabilitation program progresses. The students are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm, conduct and scientific endeavour! The monitoring results will be highly valued.

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South West Rocks Primary School students learn how to test the quality of the water in the Boyters Lane Wetlands Rehabilitation site assisted by Macleay Waterwatch Team member, Nathan Hegerty (Council's Ecological Sustainable Development Officer).



In Brief...

Council would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of its community sponsorship partners in the Macleay Medical Scholarships, namely South West Rocks Rotary Club, Rotary Club of Kempsey West, Rotary Club of Kempsey Club, Macleay Regional Co-operative and the General Practice Network.

In February Council staff, Councillors and their families raised \$5,647.15 cents in one week to help victims of the Victorian bushfires. Many people made substantial personal donations and a fundraising BBQ was held one lunchtime in the Civic Centre courtyard.

Did you know that only 3 flood gates in Kempsey Shire are operated manually... Belmore River, East Bank and West Bank, Kinchela? The numerous other gates are automatically triggered when the river level reaches the point where

flood waters are able to push the flaps to open and drain. Big Hil and Ryans Cut do operate automatically, but often require mechanical assistance (for example, by digging the sand out in front of the gate). In the recent events Ryans Cut did not need assistance to open.

Gates are also sometimes affected by the build up of weeds that can inhibit the flow and must be manually cleared. Council crews work to monitor and clear the gates as necessary.

Community Options Program provides case management assisting frail aged and younger disabled people and their carers, to remain living independently in their own home. To be eligible for this program people must receive an aged pension, a disability pension or be a carer of these two groups of people. For more information contact Macleay Community Care Options on 6562 6799



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