



# Community Newsletter

The Macleay Valley Coast  
...Lifestyle - second to none

September 2009

## Feedback needed on Draft Plans for Village Communities

As part of the 'Macleay Valley ~ Explore the Possibilities' consultation, Council held a series of community workshops throughout the Shire in late July/early August to find out from the community what living in the Macleay Valley could be like in 10 years time. From information gathered at these workshops Council has compiled draft Local Action Plans for each of the nine villages, focusing on community development in terms of services, public facilities and community goals. Council is now seeking feedback on these draft Plans and staff will be at the following locations to allow residents to view and comment on them:

- **South West Rocks**  
SWR Shopping Fair - Bi Lo complex  
16 September (3-6pm)  
19 September (9am-12noon)
- **Crescent Head**  
outside Crescent Head Surf Shop  
17 September (3-6pm)
- **Gladstone** outside the General Store  
18 September (8-11am)
- **Willawarrin**  
at Willawarrin Hall Markets  
18 September (3-6pm)
- **Hat Head** outside the General Store  
21 September (3-6pm)
- **Frederickton**  
outside the Frederickton Newsagency  
22 September (3-6pm)
- **Bellbrook** outside General Store  
23 September (3-6pm)
- **Stuarts Point** at the Workers Club  
24 September (3-6pm)
- **Smithtown**  
outside the General Store  
25 September (8-11am)

If you are unable to attend a village feedback session, all draft Local Action Plans will be available at Kempsey Clyde Street Mall, Thursday, 24 September 2009 from 8am to 2pm. Alternatively, they can be viewed on Council's website [www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au). Any comments or suggestions should be forwarded to [mel.booth@kempsey.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mel.booth@kempsey.nsw.gov.au) by 4.30pm Monday, 28 September 2009. For more information please contact Melanie Booth on 65 663221.

## Pink & Blue Crosses at East Kempsey Cemetery - what do they mean?

Council recently placed dozens of pink crosses throughout the old monumental sections of East Kempsey Cemetery to mark vacant burial plots that are still available for single depth graves. Each position marked with a pink cross is available to be reserved.



If you are interested in reserving one of these sites all you need to do is contact Council and quote the names of the graves either of the cross to begin the process.

The cost to reserve a burial plot is \$315. This is a deposit which comes off the cost of the burial when it occurs.

Council has also placed blue crosses at East Kempsey Cemetery to mark burial sites reserved prior to 1967. Council needs members of the public, who believe they have reserved a plot prior to 1967, which is currently marked with a blue cross, to confirm their reservation with Council.

Anyone wishing to reserve a pink cross site or to confirm an existing blue cross reservation should contact Jennifer Colling on 65 663200.

## Waste Warriors Program

The West Kempsey Community Renewal Project hosted a Waste Warriors clean-up at the beginning of August. Fifty-one people got involved in the all day event which concluded with a barbecue at 4pm.

The clean-up was part of a 'Waste Warriors' pilot program which involves men, women, teens, and children. An ongoing part of the program is to include the Junior Waste Warriors in after-school projects on a Tuesday afternoon. Some of the participants in the program are pictured below.



## Council staff nominated for Business Awards

Council would like to congratulate staff members, Anne Flanagan from Macleay Community Care Options, and Tracey Edwards from Community Services & Lifestyle on being nominated in Macleay Argus Business Awards.

Anne was nominated for the Customer Service and Community Involvement Awards. Tracey won the Reconciliation Award, sharing it with the Hastings Macleay Community Transport.

Thank you to the members of our community who voted for Tracey and Anne - your acknowledgement of their efforts means so much!

## Flood Warning Terminology

After the May floods some members of the community expressed confusion about the terminology used for expected river heights.



Below are specific terms used by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) when a flood warning is issued:

**Exceed** – This is the term most likely to be used by the BOM in the developing stages of a flood. It is a forecast of a river height that is predicted to be exceeded, given the current rainfall that has been received in the catchment.

The use of this term does not consider any additional rainfall received after the issue of the warning. Logically any additional rainfall will result in an increase in the ultimate flood height.

**Reach** – This term is used when the BOM has considered the impact of up to 12 hours of future rainfall. This additional rainfall is assumed from rainfall prediction modelling. This provides the community with additional warning, although the actual rainfall intensity, spread and timing may differ from that predicted by the model.

If the rainfall is less than predicted, then the flood height may be lower or later. Conversely if the rainfall is greater than predicted the flood height may be higher.

**Peak** – This term is not used until the BOM are confident that the rainfall event is abating and the maximum flood height can be determined with certainty. This is generally late in the flood event after the rainfall event is either finished or is very close to being finished.

With the May 2009 flood event in Kempsey the BOM did not use the term Peak for Kempsey in their flood warnings until 3:23 am on 23 May 2009 at a flood peak of 7.0m, with all previous warnings using either the term Exceed or Reach.

## Tree planting promotes environmental awareness with local students

To help celebrate Schools National Tree Day a group of enthusiastic school students and teachers from a number of primary and secondary schools across the Shire joined forces for a tree planting session at Riverside Park on 31 July. The day was an outstanding success with a total of 30 mixed native riverine seedlings along with approximately 20 native grass species planted.

The planting session also tied in with the innovative 'Human Sign Project' undertaken by the Macleay Educational Community of Schools (MECS), through which students delivered their favourite sustainability messages by forming their bodies into words, symbols and signs and having them photographed from a helicopter. The combined environmental benefit of the trees planted on Schools National Tree Day was calculated to be more than enough to offset the carbon emissions of the helicopter used to take the aerial photography.

The planting session was jointly coordinated by Council and MECS with assistance on the day from Macleay Landcare Network. Trees and grasses were supplied by Wigay Aboriginal Culture Park. It is proposed to mount a plaque next to the planting site so locals and visitors understand the link between the tree planting and the Human Sign Project.

*Right: Jai Cooper from Macleay Landcare Network demonstrates students the basics of tree planting.*



## What's happening at the Library?

Plans are well underway for seniors and the disabled to have their own special computer area at Kempsey Library, as a result of a successful grant application to Adult Learning Australia. The new "Seniors Kiosk" will be available for internet research and general computer use, as well as for computer training.

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Kempsey Library participated in the ABC Radio campaign to knit squares to make blankets for charity by hosting its own Knit-in on 6 August.

Around 40 keen knitters, including visitors from Boronia Gardens (pictured), joined in to make the event a huge success.



## In Brief...

*Council reminds residents that, under the Local Government Act, dogs and other animals are prohibited from entering the Shire's Cemeteries. If your animal breaches this ordinance you may receive an on the spot fine of \$110 from Council Rangers.*

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*The 2009 Waste into Art Competition for schools is on again! Council has, so far, received expressions of interest from 9 local schools to participate in this year's event. It is not too late to get your school involved - entries do not close until 1 October and artworks do not have to be ready until 26 October. With over \$6,000 in cash vouchers for school resources up for grabs, Waste into Art 2009 is definitely worth entering. For more information contact Megan Barber on 65 663334 or visit Council's website ([www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au)).*

*The finalists in the Waste into Art competition will feature in an exhibition at the Macleay Valley Community Art Gallery in Kinchela Street Gladstone from 4 to 15 November.*

# How can we help you?

## Please contact us



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