

Heritage annual report 2007 - 2008



Background to this report

Kempsey Shire Council has, for a number of years, recognised the importance of its heritage. In early 2001 it established a Heritage Advisory Committee and later developed a Heritage Advisory Service.

In 2005, with the assistance of the Macleay River Historical Society, it completed a Community Based Heritage Study. That Study, which was partially funded by the NSW Heritage Office, now known as the Heritage Branch of the NSW Department of Planning, investigated the historical context of the Kempsey Shire and recommended protection of items of heritage significance.

In that same year, Council utilised the resource sharing opportunities available to it as part of the MIDGOC Strategic Alliance and approached Port Macquarie-Hastings Council with a view to seconding their Heritage Officer to assist with raising the profile of our heritage. The approach was successful and what was initially a one-off visit has now grown to 10-15 visits per year.

This successful partnership facilitated the establishment of a Heritage Assistance Fund. It also resulted in the inclusion of historical information on Council's web page and the co-ordination of events as part of the annual National Trust of Australia (NSW) Heritage Festival.

While Council has endeavoured to be pro-active in its approach to heritage Council cannot act alone. The community must recognise the inherent value of its heritage and work together with Council to preserve it for future generations.

Heritage Assistance Fund

In October, 2007 Council allocated a total of \$16,466 from the Heritage Assistance Fund to seven (7) property owners to carry out repairs, maintenance or to re-instate missing items to their heritage listed property. The total cost of this work was \$38,587.

The projects that received funding were:

- former Church, 235 Euroka Rd, Euroka
- St Patrick's Catholic Church, Oreen St, Bellbrook
- Oddfellows Hall, 22 Kemp St, West Kempsey
- Public Hall, Main St, Willawarrin
- Residence, 49 Kinchela St, Gladstone
- Residence, 35 Kinchela St, Gladstone
- Old Lodge Gallery, 8 Kinchela St, Gladstone

The fund, which has proved very successful since its introduction in 2006, encourages positive work on heritage items identified within Kempsey Shire Council's Local Environmental Plan.

The fund also promotes a positive community attitude to heritage conservation.

Partially funded by Council and the Heritage Branch of the NSW Department of Planning the fund has now assisted owners of eleven (11) items by providing financial assistance of \$25,166 for work with a total value of \$56,504.

It is anticipated that Council will call for the next round of applications in July 2008.



From the top: Heritage Assistance funded projects:

- Old Lodge Gallery, Gladstone
- Community Hall, Willawarrin
- Oddfellows Hall, West Kempsey
- St Patrick's Catholic Church, Bellbrook
- former Church, Euroka

Heritage Festival

Between the 5 - 20 April, 2008 the Kempsey Shire celebrated its annual Heritage Festival. This much-loved community festival is a celebration of our culture, our shared past and of heritage conservation.

This year Kempsey Shire Council and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council once again joined together to create a truly regional event.

The Festival consisted of thirty five (35) events, five (5) of these were in the Kempsey area, however, wet weather resulted in the cancellation of several events reducing attendances for the very first time. More than four thousand five hundred (4,500) people attended the remaining events.

The theme for the Festival was 'Our Place' and specifically explored the community's interaction with particular places with reference to historical significance.

The Festival was once again co-ordinated by Council with the assistance of a number of hardworking volunteers and heritage organisations.



Heritage Publications Catalogue

In May 2008 Council commenced production of a Heritage Publications Catalogue. The purpose of this catalogue is to list those publications, that Council and the community has on its shelves, that address the heritage of our area.

The catalogue, which will be available at the Library in July 2008, will be updated annually. It will be an easy reference source for those wishing to locate publications quickly by either name, author or date of publication.



Heritage Publications Catalogue

July 2008



Implementing our Heritage

Heritage Advisory Committee

One of Council's Committees is the Heritage Advisory Committee. Made up of the Mayor, Councillors, Council staff and representatives of the Macleay River Historical Society its role is to:

- provide advice to Council on the management of heritage matters by Council
- raise community awareness of heritage conservation
- make recommendations on the nomination and deletion of items from the Heritage Schedule in the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and any other future LEP

Heritage Advisory Service

The Heritage Advisory Service assists Council and the community to have appropriate measures in place so as to best conserve and present the heritage of the Kempsey Shire.

Council's Heritage Advisor, Stephen Booker, visits the area 11 times a year and comments on Development Applications and provides feedback to Council on a variety of projects.

Heritage Officer

Council's Heritage Officer, Mitch McKay, is seconded from Port Macquarie-Hastings Council. He works closely with heritage organisations, Council staff, Council's Heritage Advisory Committee and Heritage Advisor.

He visits the area between 10-15 times a year and his role is varied. Part of his work includes the co-ordination and/or preparation of registers and inventories, organising events as part of the annual heritage festival, promotional and educational material and administration of Council's Heritage Assistance Fund.

KEYWORDS	TITLE	AUTHOR	YEAR	LOCATION
History (Local)	A Brief History of Belmore River School and District	A. J. Campbell	1967	L
	A Century of Caring - The Kempsey District Hospital 1881-1981	Patricia Riggs	1981	L
	A Folk History of Yarrahapinni and Stuarts Point	Stuarts Point History Committee	1984	L
	A History of Hickeys Creek Church - The Little Church on the Hill	Janet M. Kesby	2005	L
	A History of the Stuarts Point Library from its Inception	Gloria Donnelly		L
	A History Trail - The Story of the MacKay and Doman Family	Alan King	1970	L
	A Portrait of Kempsey	Patricia Riggs and illustrator Tony Nolan	1988	L
	A Short History of Crescent Head	Patricia Riggs and Tony Nolan		L
	A Short History of Kempsey and the Macleay Valley	Patricia Riggs and Tony Nolan	1986	L

From top: Some Heritage Festival events:

- Convict lime kilns, Kumbatine National Park
- Gaol, Trial Bay
- Art Show, Bellbrook
- Slim Dusty's boy-hood home, Nullia Nullia

Middle: Front cover -
Heritage Publications Catalogue

Bottom: Extract from Catalogue

Heritage annual report 2007 - 2008

For further information contact:

Kate Albery
ph (02) 6566 3200
email: kate.albery@kempsey.nsw.gov.au
web site: www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au

