Welcome to the Macleay Valley Youth Matters update. Please find below information on the Youth Advisory Council and other news of interest for kids and young people.

Macleay Community Connect Day

Macleay Valley community services providers rallied together to support the people of the Macleay last October at Kempsey Showground. This day enabled our elderly and people who may be disadvantaged to access services and get assistance. Services showcased included housing, legal aid, health and wellbeing, youth services, and training and employment. Thank you to Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre and the supporting organisations!

HSC Art Exhibition

The HSC Art Exhibition is on at the Macleay Valley Community Art Gallery in Gladstone from 7 – 17 November. Over 50 students are representing their artwork at the Gallery from participating Macleay Valley High Schools. The exhibition opening is on at 1pm this Saturday 9 November.

National Youth Week is the largest celebration of young people in Australia from 4 to 13 April 2014. Thousands of young people aged between 12-25 from across Australia get involved each year. The theme for 2014 is ‘Our Voice. Our Impact’.

Feedback from local schools and young people have placed an emphasis on events and activities which include a sporting or pool challenge, music and dance, movie nights and personal development. For further information, to join the Youth Week Steering Committee, to launch an event or to become a Youth Advisory Council Volunteer contact Vicki Martin, Kempsey Shire Council on 6566 3200 or email vicki.martin@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

Macleay Valley Youth Leader

Local resident Gemma Clarke has the chance to make a real difference as a new member of the NSW State Youth Advisory Council.

Gemma will provide advice to the NSW Government on policies that affect youth and meet regularly with the other 12 members throughout the year to discuss significant issues facing young people as well as monitor and evaluate policy and legislation that affects young people across NSW.

Well done Gemma!

Let your voice be heard!

We are seeking young people of the Macleay who are talented musicians or photographers to be involved in 2014 Youth Week.

Artists are sought to participate in the entertainment at the youth music event—‘Vocalise’ and throughout Kempsey Shire locations to ‘Busk for a Cause’ - in support of youth education, transport and homelessness.

Buddying photographers and artists are invited to participate in the Youth Week advertising and promotion campaign created by local youth. To enquire call Vicki Martin, KSC on 6566 3200.

TAFE Mid North Coast Community Forum

You are invited to a forum to discuss changes to Kempsey TAFE on Thursday 14 November 2013 at 5pm, Kempsey Golf Club, 330 Pacific Highway, South Kempsey.

Discussions on TAFE privatisation will include course and job cuts, fee increases and effect on local economy. Guest speakers include Pat Forward, AEU Federal TAFE Secretary and local TAFE graduate, Jo Astorini. Refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP to postschools@nswtf.org.au by 13 November 2013. For more information visit www.stoptafecuts.com.au

Reconnect Program

The Reconnect program offers flexible and practical assistance to both young people and parents including individual support and advocacy, family mediation, building family relationships, assistance with linkages to education, community work and support groups, information and referral to other services, advice regarding applying for community benefits such as Centrelink applications. Reconnect is a mobile service and is able to see young people and their families in their home, at school, coffee shops or in the office. For more information contact Reconnect Youth Worker Jen McKeown on 6588 7300 or email Jen.McKeown@each.com.au
**Reality Renting**

YP Space is running a reality renting program aims to give young people 17 – 25 a heads up on the ins & outs of the rental market on Tuesday 19 November from 9.30pm to 3pm at 108 Sea Street, West Kempsey. The program will cover:

- Budgeting to move in and sustain tenancy.
- Where to find rentals & how to apply.
- What are bonds, leases & how to negotiate paperwork.
- Looking after your new place.
- Starting & ending a lease.
- Your rights and responsibilities.
- Juggling bills & other living expenses.

Morning tea & lunch is provided. For more information or to make a booking please contact Leish Morrison at YP SPACE on 6563 1230.

**Youth Paint the Macleay Mural Team**

The Youth Mural Team, led by graffiti artist James Moulton is in its final stages for completion of the youth mural for Kempsey Bike Shop. The team has recently relocated to Kempsey Family Community Centre on Yarravel and Queen Streets and meet from 4pm to 5pm each Thursday. James and the Paint the Macleay Mural Team will be at PCYC this Saturday night 9 November from 5.30pm. To become involved call Vicki Martin on 6566 3200 or call PCYC on 6562 8399.

**Young people are hard wired**

For the very first time Kempsey will host the RRISK (Reduce Risk Increase Students Knowledge) information seminar.

Young people will be provided with the latest strategies to help manage alcohol, drugs and driving risks. Students will learn practical skills such as how to stay safe when out partying, how to look after intoxicated friends and how to manage distractions as drivers and passengers. RRISK is a resilience building program with proven research outcomes in reducing young driver incidences of crashes.

RRISK is a partnership between Northern NSW and Mid North Coast Local Health Districts, Catholic Schools Office Lismore, Department of Education and Communities North Coast Region, Kempsey Shire, Tweed Shire, Ballina Shire and Coffs Harbour City Councils, NRMA, Aware Driving School Coffs Harbour, Headspace Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie STEER Project.

The RRISK seminar will be held on Wednesday, 20 November at Melville High School, South Kempsey.

For more information on the seminar contact Linda Young, Council Community Safety Officer on 6566 3222.
Tom Harvey Award for Citizenship 2014

The Commonwealth Day Council and Australia Youth Trust are calling for nominations for young citizens between 15 and 30 years of age making contributions in their community for the Tom Harvey Award for Citizenship 2014. Nominations are sought from young people supporting projects such as:

• the relief of poverty and suffering.
• literacy, education, training and employment opportunities.
• the promotion of youth leadership exchange.

To nominate a person by the 6 December or for more information visit www.commday.org.au

Working with Children?

A Working With Children Check is a prerequisite for anyone in child-related work or work with young people. It involves a national criminal history check and review of findings of workplace misconduct and is essential for employees and volunteers.

The result of a Working With Children Check is either a clearance to work with children for five years, or a bar against working with children.


Macleay Valley Education Fund

Youth of the Macleay are able to access help to study thanks to Macleay Valley Education Fund. The fund aims improve education and career prospects for local youth by providing them with non cash grants, encouragement and support. This support will enable them to realise their aspirations for further education or career ambitions.

Grants are awarded to applicants for a number of reasons, such as requiring equipment to pursue a trade through to educational needs for those who are enrolling in university or TAFE courses. They are not necessarily presented to the highest achievers; rather all applicants are assessed on realistic goals and their financial need.

To donate visit www.cef.org.au/product/donate/?campaign=MacleayValley

For more information contact Terry Witchard at Kempsey TAFE on contact Michelle Fisher on 6562 5314 at Mid Coast Connect.

Discover something new!

Macleay Valley Coast tourism operators have rallied together to offer a pool of prizes as an incentive for locals to subscribe to the Macleay’s new ‘Discovery’ online tourism newsletter. Published quarterly, the first issue of Discovery is due out at the end of November and features the Top 10 experiences during the summer months, Hot Deals from business operators, and signature events happening throughout the Valley during December, January and February.

To subscribe to the Macleay Valley Coast’s official tourism newsletter and have it delivered to your email inbox, visit www.macleayvalleycoast.com.au and click on the Discovery subscription link on the left-hand side of the home page.
Genwire

Genwire is an information hub for youth services and young people living on the Mid North Coast of NSW. You can use Genwire to share and search for information about a range of youth topics, youth services, youth organisations, helplines, programs and events. See more at: www.genwire.net.au/infohub

Youth Link Australia

Youth Link Australia is a national organisation that links youth with services in their local area, promoting extra-curricular and leadership activities. To register service details or for more information visit www.youthlinkaustralia.org

Carpooling

Do you need a ride to get to study courses or work in Port Macquarie? The Carpool Mid North Coast Project is a free, easy to use online service for all residents of the Kempsey Shire and Mid North Coast region. Carpool will match you with other people travelling in the same direction to your place of work or study. It can save you time, money and take the stress out of looking for transport, while making new friends and helping reduce greenhouse emissions. To join visit www.carpoolmnc.org/how_it_works.php

Sports in the Neighborhood Program

An active social community initiative—Sport in the Neighbourhood Program has commenced in Smithtown for young people, kids and their parents each Wednesday afternoon from 3.30pm to 5pm. The free program is an initiative of Smithtown Public School, the Smithtown Parent Committee with sports coach and mentor John Brenton, and supported by Kempsey Shire Council. For more information call Lisa Kirkland at Smithtown Public School on 6567 4529.

Kempsey Off Road Mountain Bike Riders

Come along and enjoy the off road track experience with assistance riders on Saturday afternoons. Open to all ages and levels of experience the group meets each Saturday afternoon from 1.30pm at the rear of Kempsey Golf Club in South Kempsey. Bring your helmets and bikes along. For more information contact Gaven or Garry at Kempsey or South West Rocks Bike and Skate Shops. Call 6562 2144 or 6567 0299.
For more information contact:
Vicki Martin, Community Projects Officer - Kempsey Shire Council
P: (02) 6566 3200
E: vicki.martin@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

We’re on Facebook. Visit: Macleay Valley Youth—YAC

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The YAC meets the first Monday of the month at the Youth Access Centre (YAC), 132 River Street, West Kempsey from 4pm to 5pm and will meet next on 2 December to discuss ideas for Youth Week 2014.

Next Youth Advisory and Planning Council Meetings:
- 2 December 2013.
- 3 February 2014.
- 3 March 2014.
- 7 April 2014.
- 5 May 2014.
- 2 June 2014.

Next Macleay Valley Youth Matter E-Newsletter—6 December

Upcoming dates of interest:
- Kempsey Youth Network Meeting, YP Space, 2pm, 12 November.
- TAFE Mid North Coast Community Forum, Kempsey Golf Club, 5pm, 12 November.
- Money Management Workshops, 14 November.
- Reality Renting, YP Space, 9.30am, 19 November.
- Free alcohol and drug workshop, Kempsey Council Chambers, 20 November.
- National Young Leaders Day, 29 November.
- Tom Harvey Award for Citizenship 2014 closes, 6 December.
- Who’s the Man, Northern Sydney Institute, 25 March 2014.
- National Youth Week, 4 – 13 April 2014.

Inspirational quote:
“You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face... You must do the thing you think you cannot do.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt