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.

**RRISK—wow**

What a great turnout for our first Reduce Risk Increase Student Knowledge (RRISK) seminar in Kempsey last November – 208 Year 11 students attended, 76% from this age group! Our youth learned about alcohol, drugs and driving and practical strategies to stay safe when out partying or driving.

THANK YOU to everyone for helping out at Melville High and making the day so successful.

**HSC Art Exhibition**

WELL DONE to the talented students who exhibited in the HSC Art Exhibition at the Macleay Valley Community Art Gallery in Gladstone last November. Over 50 students exhibited their artwork at the Gallery. Some of the artworks have been included in this newsletter from Macleay High Schools.


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’.

An inclusive event—’Vocalise’ is being planned at Riverside Park incorporating music, games and entertainment.

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

Student Transport Scheme

The SSTS (the Scheme) provides subsidised travel for eligible school students on rail, bus, ferry and long distance coaches. A subsidy is also available for transport to and from school in private vehicles in areas where there is no public transport. The Scheme can only be used for travel between home and enrolled school, and for approved travel commencing between the hours of 6.30am and 7.00pm. Monday to Friday on school days. To be eligible the student must be a resident of NSW 4 years and 6 months of age or older and enrolled as one of the following:

- an infant student (K–2) regardless of the distance between their home and school.
- primary student (Years 3–6) who lives more than 1.6kms (radial distance) from school, or 2.3 kms or more by the most direct practical walking route to the nearest entry point to the school.
- secondary student (Year 7–12) who lives more than 2kms (radial distance) from school, or 2.9 kms or more by the most direct practical walking route to the nearest entry point to the school.
- a TAFE student under 18 years of age at 1st January of the year of application who is enrolled in a full-time TAFE course for a minimum of 20 hours a week not employed or living more than 3.2 kms from the college by the most direct practical walking route and attending the college closest to their home where enrolment is available.


dLAB Digital Media Workshop

dLux Media will be running a school holiday workshop at the PCYC on Monday 20 January from 9.30am in the lead up to Saltwater Freshwater Festival from 22 – 25 January. The workshops are for children and youth 10 years upwards, teachers and facilitators who will learn:

- iPad Apps and how to use them in workshops.
- Basic digital media and photography skills.
- Basic sound recording and editing skills.
- Basic video and editing skills.
- Introduction to selected open source software & Adobe programs.
- Tips on online resources and references.

To register your interest please e-mail Olivia.Parker@kempsey.nsw.gov.au
Training Opportunities for Youth

Port Macquarie Community College now known as SkillsLink Training, is offering new courses locally in 2014 in the Shire and over the holiday period. See attached list of courses.

SkillsLink Training provides vocational qualifications across a range of industry areas including Aged Care, Information Technology, Disability, Children Services, Business, Hospitality, and the training of VET teachers. It also plays a major role in supporting disadvantaged groups in the community such as the disabled and youth at risk.

The College’s primary focus will be on the delivery of vocational education and training courses and the continued support of disadvantaged groups across the community. General lifestyle courses may be offered if they have a direct vocational pathway, are part of a customised program for a target group, or are not available elsewhere in the community.

To enquire call 6583 7288, visit www.portace.com.au or email admin@portace.com.au

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 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. Young people are invited to design a creative concept saying no to either smoking, drugs, alcohol, speeding, drink driving, bullying, violence, suicide or littering using local ambassadors, hand signals and a megaphone.

For more information call Vicki Martin, KSC on 6566 3200.

Go 4 Fun

Go4Fun is a FREE fun program for kids to become fitter healthier happier for children aged 7 to 13 years who are above average weight range.

The Go4Fun program provides a fun approach to learning skills for life, such as preparing and eating healthy foods, reading food labels, keeping fit, healthy and shopping on a budget.

A parent or carer must attend with their child. Families living in Kempsey and surrounds are welcome to take part in a free Go4Fun program in term one. For more information call 1800 780 900 or visit www.go4fun.com.au

Youth parliament

Kempsey High School Students Tiffany Kirkwood and Ricky Sharpe presented to Council on Tuesday 19 November on their experiences at Youth Parliament this year. Thank you for your involvement and feedback!

Image: Students with Mayor.
The BETTERMAN Pledge

The BETTERMAN Pledge aims to raise awareness of the statistics that continue to stack up against boys and men in Australia, specifically violence, depression and suicide. It also aims to celebrate positive role models and those boys and men who are making positive choices, to encourage others to do the same.

The BETTERMAN Pledge encourages men - young and old - across Australia to sign 'the pledge' on the website, and to also upload their own pledge video for the official launch - 18 February 2014.

Young people, schools and organisation are invited to sign your name to 'the pledge,' and then either:

1. Take a photo of your male students / staff with a sign that says "(name of school / organisation) have taken The BETTERMAN Pledge!"

OR...

2. Visit www.thebettermanpledge.com and click on "get involved" to upload your own 'BETTERMAN Pledge' video.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen

The Program’s aim is to address childhood obesity by giving students positive experiences and skills in growing and cooking their own fresh, nutritious, delicious food. The food education program aims to be more affordable, accessible and flexible for all Australian primary schools by:

- Encouraging schools to start small, using the facilities and staff they have.
- Training teachers already employed within the school to deliver the program.
- Providing all the resources and support schools need to deliver the program.

Teachers are invited to a two day Program Delivery Training session in your area to give teachers all the skills they need to deliver garden and kitchen classes to students, plus comprehensive supporting Kitchen Garden Program resources.

To find out more about the program visit www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au or call Bianca Moses on 0401 736 964.

Investigate mysteries… at Kempsey Library

Kempsey Library's Summer Reading Club starts at 4pm on Friday 6 December when library staff will be accepting registrations for the club, and offering an afternoon of super sleuthing and pizza eating.

This year’s theme is “Investigation” and library staff have designed a fun electronic quiz to get everyone searching for clues and finding answers online. If you have a laptop or ipad bring it along on the afternoon to complete the online quiz (or you can use the library computers).

The aim of the Summer Reading Club is open to all school aged children and everyone who joins will receive an activity booklet and recording sheet, plus have the chance to win prizes in the lucky draws held at the close of the program.

To become involved visit www.summerreadingclub.org.au, call Kempsey Library on 6566 3210, or send an email to ksclibrary@kempsey.nsw.gov.au
RASF Community Futures Grant

RASF Community Futures Grant 2014 grants of up to $25,000 are now open. The RAS Foundation, through its Community Futures Grant, is giving young people (under the age of 35) who live in rural and regional NSW the chance to secure up to $25,000 to deliver a new and innovative community project.

If you have an idea or want to tackle a local issue, and can partner with an existing community organisation or group to deliver your project you are eligible to apply.

Applications close 13 January, 2014. Interested applicants are encouraged to visit www.rasnsw.com.au/832.htm to find out more about the RAS Foundation Community Futures Grant and to complete the online application form.

Aboriginal HSC Scholarship Program

Applications are now open for the 2014 intake of our Aboriginal HSC Scholarship Program. The purpose of the program is to encourage Aboriginal students in Year 11 or Year 12 to consider a career within Roads and Maritime Services. The program offers a pathway into a career within Transport for NSW or any of their operating agencies.

Scholarships of up to $2500 per year are available to eligible students who meet the Terms & Conditions and are studying mandatory subjects including:

- Mathematics or Extension Mathematics (not General Mathematics); and
- Advanced English (not Standard English).

To apply by the closing date - Tuesday 31 December 2013, visit www.play.viostream.com/?play=e0c352ca-f7a6-4a9e-afa3-b07563ccc124

Skate Vibe at South West Rocks

30 local skaters turned out on Tuesday evening to advice South West Rocks Rotary and Kempsey Shire Council on what improvements they would like to see at the South West Rocks Skate Park.

With no improvements being undertaken to the park since it was first opening in 2000, the participants overwhelming response was for a bowl at the park. Participants enjoyed a free sausage sizzle provided by Rotary.

South West Rocks Rotary will provide $40,000 towards the project. The money will be used for planning and design work with Kempsey Shire Council providing engineering and construction services. Images from the consult below.
Mayor’s Fundraising Event

A major Macleay Valley charity fundraising event will be held on New Year’s Eve to raise much needed funds to support the Community Disaster Relief Fund, Macleay Valley Education Fund and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service at the Slim Dusty Centre.

The inaugural New Year’s Eve Mayoral Fundraising Party will be held with a ‘Mad Hatter’s’ theme.

Entertainment will be by Maddy Lardner, Aleyce Simmonds and Sages Muses.

Tickets are $160 per person and can be purchased from:

- Raw Spice Boutique, South West Rocks.
- Council’s Customer Service Centre, Tozer Street, West Kempsey.
- Travelscene, Belgrave Street, Kempsey.

Tickets can also be purchased online at: www.tickethost.com.au

For more information visit: www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au/mad-hatters-party.html

World of Women’s’ Cinema: WOW

The WOW Film Festival is a short film festival that promotes and awards the talents of women directors, producers, writers, editors and cinematographers in the Australian film industry and internationally. It is a festival that offers emerging and established filmmakers the opportunity to screen short works giving a thematic perspective of "seeing the world through the eyes of women". Screening of selected films will take place in Kempsey (venue to be confirmed) on Saturday 8 March 2014, the same day as International Women’s Day, from 10am to 4pm.

Workshops, information stalls, childcare, kids activities and food will be available on the day.

For more information or to become involved contact Monika Paril at Kempsey, TAFE by email: monikaparil@yahoo.com
Free Skate Program

Come along to Free Rollin’ these school holidays to learn how to skate or use the bikes, boards and safety equipment available. The program will run at the following venues from 3.30pm until 5.30pm:

- Kempsey Skate Park - Every Tuesday starting on 31 December
- Stuarts Point Skate Park – Every Wednesday starting on 8 January
- South West Rocks Skate Park – Every Thursday starting on 2 January
- Crescent Head Skate Park – Every Friday starting on 3 January

For more information call Linda Young at Kempsey Shire Council on 6566 3200 or Adam Worthy at Mission Australia on 0439598541.

Saltwater Freshwater Festival Kempsey

The Saltwater Freshwater Festival celebrates and shares our Aboriginal living culture on the Mid North Coast with the wider community and commemorates Australia Day as a positive, inclusive, family day for all communities to enjoy.

In 2014 the festival will be held in Kempsey, bringing a day of Aboriginal culture, music, fun, food, discussion, craft, dance, market stalls and a special kid’s activity area. Key acts will include Troy Cassar-Daley and Shellie Morris.

The Festival is part of the Saltwater Freshwater Arts Alliance Aboriginal Corporation, which is made up of the ten Local Aboriginal Land Councils from Karuah to Coffs Harbour. The Festival is nomadic and will be hosted in a different community each year.

The festival will be held at Kempsey Showground from 10am to 4.30pm on Sunday 26 January and is a drug and alcohol free event. Visit www.saltwaterfreshwaterfestival.com.au or for regular festival updates and announcements like www.facebook.com/swfw.festival

Entry is by gold coin donation.
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

The YAC meets the first Monday of the month from 4pm to 5pm at local cafes or the Youth Access Centre (YAC), 132 River Street, West Kempsey. Come along, meet new people and be involved in making a difference in your local area.

Next Youth Advisory and Planning Council Meetings:
- 3 February 2014, Iguana Blues Cafe.
- 3 March 2014, Youth Access Centre.
- 7 April 2014, Gloria Jeans Café.
- 5 May 2014.
- 2 June 2014.

**Please note the Youth Mural Team Project has been postponed until after the Christmas holidays until February 2014.

Next Macleay Valley Youth Matter E-Newsletter—6 February 2014

Upcoming dates of interest:
- Kempsey Library’s Summer Reading Club starts at 4pm from Friday 6 December onwards.
- DLab Digital Media Workshop, PCYC, 20 January, 9.30am,
- Saltwater Freshwater Festival, 26 January Kempsey Showground.
- Who’s the Man, Northern Sydney Institute, 25 March 2014.

Youth awards
Banana Coast Credit Union Bill Ussher Enterprise and Innovation Awards support students, apprentices and trainees, to gain employment across our region. Applications close: 31 December.

Inspirational quote:
Sometimes in the winds of change we find our direction.

In February!