Welcome to the Macleay Valley Youth Matters update with information on the Youth Advisory Council, Kempsey Shire Council and other news of interest for kids and young people.

youth opinions matter

A recent Youth Survey has revealed a list of issues important to our local youth. They are:-

- Job readiness
- Cooking and life skills
- Bullying
- Body image
- Training and the ability to receive a good education and a job
- Entertainment - movies

Young people showed interest in volunteering and work experience with events and in the area of information technology. They would like to see more opportunities in employment and business over the next five years.

“This information provides a direction for the Youth Advisory Council (YAC), community service organisations, training providers and government. This feedback can now be integrated into future strategic planning and to guide YAC programs” commented Stacey Morris, YAC member.

As a follow up from the Youth Forum held last month local youth are encouraged to complete the survey until Thursday 26 June. Visit Facebook at Macleay Valley Youth – YAC or go to Kempsey Shire Council website page www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au/ythevents

Congratulations to Bre Toby who won a movie pack including cinema tickets for two and a JB Hi Fi voucher after completing the survey!

For further information contact Vicki Martin at Kempsey Shire Council on 6566 3200 or Vicki.Martin@kempsey.nsw.gov.au
free hands on holiday activity

ATTENTION YOUNG ARTISTS! One Off Makery and Kempsey Shire Council are looking for creative young minds over the age of 15 years to be a part of the Frugal Forest Project.

Artists, musicians and scientists across the Mid North Coast are building an intricately detailed forest entirely from salvage and waste, which will premiere at the Glasshouse Port Macquarie in 2016. Why? Because nothing is wasted in the forest, and we could learn from that.

Join the Youth Advisory Council on Tuesday 8 July for an intensive workshop with professional artist Bryony Anderson and crew. Come and find out about the project, be guided step-by-step through a design process, and learn techniques for working with precious junk. Standout works will be showcased online and at the Glasshouse.

This workshop is FREE thanks to Midwaste and Council and places are limited so bookings are essential. Registrations will close on 26 June.

The workshop will be held at the Youth Access Centre, 132 River Street, West Kempsey on Tuesday 8 July from 10am to 3pm. For bookings contact Vicki Martin on 6566 3200 or email Vicki.Martin@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

Further information on the project is available from www.frugalforest.oneoffmakery.net.au

origami play for kids workshop

Children and their carers are invited to attend free hands on origami workshop these school holidays on Friday 11 July, from 9.30am to 12pm at the Youth Access Centre, 132 River Street, West Kempsey

This workshop is free for children 6 years and up accompanied by a guardian, carer or with permission a person 18+.

The holiday workshop is being facilitated by Rosemary Costa and Chantal McPhillips and supported by Kempsey Shire Council, Macleay Valley Community for Children Plus and the Benevolent Society.

"During school holidays we love to see the kids with their parents and/or carers involved and having fun“ stated Sara Phillips from the Benevolent Society.

"It is important to support parents and the carers of our children. This is just one way we can see parents, grandparents and carers strengthen their relationships with their children and have happy involved kids over the holidays.”

Kids and adults will have fun making origami birds, animals, flowers and boxes.

Bookings are essential and places are limited. Contact Vicki Martin at Kempsey Shire Council on 6566 3200, email Vicki.Martin@kempsey.nsw.gov.au or call the Benevolent Society on 6563 6200 to attend.
head to head walk run

The Lions Club of Crescent Head invites you to join in the 2014 Head to Head Walk Run being held at Crescent Head on Sunday 17 August. Whether you enjoy a leisurely stroll, prefer to challenge yourself or would like to organise a social event with your mates, this event is for you. You can enter as an individual or get together a team of four. With 5km, 10km and 20km options, every fitness level is catered for and remember you can walk or run or even do both, the choice is yours.

To register on-line visit www.headtoheadwalkrun.org.au

This is a charity event and all fundraising goes directly to the Westpac Helicopter Rescue Service.

kids safe workshop

Learn tools to make your organisation more child friendly on 15 July at the Masonic Hall, Kempsey from 9.30am to 4.30pm. You will learn risk management strategies, what your obligations are under the Working With Children Check, recruitment and selection tips, and complaints handling procedures. For more information visit http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/EventViewBookingDetails.aspx?Bck=Y&EventID=184

plant a seedling and watch it grow

Local schools and students are invited to plant a tree for Planet Ark’s National Tree Day—Australia’s largest tree-planting and nature care event on Friday 25 July 2014. Participation in National Tree Day is fun, community-focused and helps address important environmental issues like the loss of habitat for native wildlife, soil salinity and erosion, as well as being great for individual and community health.

Kempsey Shire Council in partnership with Macleay Landcare is giving local schools the opportunity to participate and beautify their school grounds by offering each school a total of 50 tube stock plants. Each plant is endemic to the Macleay Valley area and comes with a tree guard, support canes and weed matting.

To take part in this wonderful school event please register your interest by contacting Kempsey Shire Council on 6566 3200 by 11 July 2014.

Schools will also need to register their activity for National Tree Day by visiting the Tree Day website http://treeday.planetark.org.

For further information about National Tree Day please visit http://treeday.planetark.org or phone the hotline on 1300 88 5000. You can also contact Tess Meehan at Kempsey Shire by calling 65663200.
sports in the neighbourhood

Thanks to the Office of Communities, Sport and Recreation has given $5000 to support a Sports in the Neighbourhood program in Smithtown.

The program has been developed out of discussions with The Nest—an initiative of the Smithtown Parent Committee, Smithtown Public School and the Macleay Valley Catholic Parish aimed at providing recreational activities in a safe and supported environment for the youth of the lower Macleay.

The Sports in the Neighbourhood Program will commence during school holidays and after school in Smithtown for young people under the age of 18 years and their parents. Expressions of interest are sought from parents and young people in the community who would like to become involved in the program. This is a great opportunity if you have an interest in training or coaching and working with kids.

If you would like to participate in the program or seek training in sports qualifications in contact Vicki Martin, Kempsey Shire Council on 6566 3200 or email Vicki.Martin@kempspey.nsw.gov.au

kempsey library to re-open

Students will be able to come to the bright newly refurbished library from today—just in time for school holidays.

The new look library has a fresh colour scheme in shades of green, blue and silver, and a more open layout with additional seating space.

Images of the refurbishment and its progress can be viewed on Kempsey Library’s webpage at www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au/library, or on Facebook – Kempsey Shire Library.

For all enquiries contact Kempsey Library on 6566 3210

come and visit ‘Betty’

Council will host ‘Betty ’ (a purpose built education exhibit showing where asbestos may hide around our homes) on Wednesday 2 July in the West Kempsey CBD from 1pm to 4pm.

School students are invited to come and learn about asbestos and its dangers to remain safe.

Visit ‘Betty’ and talk to her volunteer educators who will demonstrate how to think smart, think safe, think asbestosawareness.com.au

For more information contact Gavin Hughes, Kempsey Shire Council’s Waste Education Officer on 6566 3200.
raising alcohol awareness

Kempsey Shire Council in partnership with Enterprise & Training Company Limited (ETC) has commenced the delivery of Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) Certificate course to more than 650 Year 11-12 students from Kempsey’s five High Schools. This raises awareness with our young people around alcohol and its ramifications while increasing employment opportunities at the same time.

Thirteen students from Macleay Vocational College were the first to benefit from the course. “This is something that our students really value,” Macleay Vocational College Principal Mark Morrison said. ETC’s Employment Services Manager Leanne Stewart said ETC was pleased to contribute $15,000 towards the initiative as part of the ETC Community Support Fund.

ANZ indigenous traineeships

Two ANZ’s Indigenous traineeships offer an income, while learning new skills. They are:
School Based Traineeships: While completing year 11 & 12 studies school based trainees work one day a week at an ANZ branch. Trainees achieve a national Certificate II qualification in Business/Financial Services.
Full Time Traineeships: Full time traineeships are completed working full time at ANZ over 18 months to 2 years. Trainees achieve a national Certificate III qualification in Financial Services.
To apply for an ANZ Indigenous traineeship visit anz.com/indigenousemployment
Applications for school based traineeships close on 31st August to commence in December. Full time traineeship applications are accepted throughout the year.

kick start your community

Healthy Communities invite interested young people to take part in a series of workshops aimed at growing ideas, buildings kills and building communities. If you feel like you have an idea you would like to put into action, some skills you would like to build upon or share, a love of your community and a desire to support its development, then this could be for you.
Kick Start Your Community workshops will cover:
• Building a better community – what does that mean to you?
• What makes it a good idea?
• Getting others involved
• Turning an idea into reality
• Simple skills to get on track and stay on track
• Knowing if it works or makes a difference
Kick Start Your Community workshops are FREE and will be held over three weekly, 2 hour workshops in Kundabung, Kempsey, Crescent Head and Stuarts Point and the Youth Access Centre on Monday 7 July from 4pm to 5pm.
Register your interest by Friday 20 June 2014. For further information please contact Healthy Communities on 6566 3200.
macleay river festival

The Macleay River Festival now has a new logo thanks to design competition winner and Macleay expatriate Joshua Andrews.

The competition invited local designers to create a new logo for the festival. Entries were assessed against selection criteria by members of the Festival Committee, and Kempsey Council staff in consultation with local Aboriginal elders. Growing up in Kempsey, Joshua developed an affinity with the ocean and the country coastal landscape that surrounded him. To Josh, design is an extension of this feeling, which forms an incessant source of inspiration and drive in his career and commitment to excellence in his chosen field. The Macleay River Festival interviewed the young designer to find out more about his winning design.

How did you get into graphic design?

I was into drawing at a young age and exposed to art through my family. Mum always encouraged my creative side. This continued through my school years and my high school Design Tech teacher, Jim Newton, was a big influence and support. Before this I’m not sure I knew what a designer was!

How did you come up with the logo?

What I wanted achieve for the festival logo mark was a kind of openness, a symbol of strength and vitality, to touch on the deep history of the area with the importance of the Macleay River being the lifeblood of the region, linking towns, communities and people. Whilst researching the region’s Indigenous heritage and mythology, I found that the Rainbow Serpent is viewed as a giver of life, through its association with water and it is closely linked to land, water, life, social relationships, and fertility. This seemed like a perfect symbol which shared surprisingly similar characteristics to that of the undulating banks of the mighty Macleay River. With initial sketches I came up with the stylised ‘M’ logo mark.

How do you think it captures the spirit of the Festival?

The Rainbow Serpent, an androgynous being, may be seen as a universal symbol. I used a vibrant colour palette and different versions with custom patterns so it may adapt or change over time (similar to a river). This gives it breadth and modern context and I hope through this it appeals to young, old and the many colourful characters and cultures of this beautiful region.

With over 15 years experience in the creative industry, Josh strives for permanence and longevity in his work. Finding inspiration in each project and working towards a variety of aesthetic, verbal and conceptual ends. Josh currently resides in Newcastle, where he continues to grow and pursue his passion for design.

The Macleay River Festival will be held on Saturday 20 September at Riverside Park and include entertainers Shane Howard Trio, Bakoomba and Joel Salom. The Festival will also feature market stalls, local performers, art installations and projection shows from the community. Contact Olivia Parker on 02 6566 3200 or olivia.parker@kempsey.nsw.gov.au for more information.
$50,000 music career scholarship

Young artists across Australia are being invited to find out more about the $50,000 music career scholarship package.

The $50,000 scholarship includes production of an album, a professional photo shoot and video clip, 500 copies of a CD, a website, set up and management for three months of social media accounts, professional written materials, electronic press kit, business plan, marketing consults and media coaching.

Scholarship applications close 31 July 2014. To apply visit:
www.pacificinternationalmusic.com

recognise a young volunteer

Want to nominate a young volunteer who is making a difference in the community? The NRMA Helping People Awards invites you to make a nomination in one of the four categories below and in recognition of their efforts they could receive a $5000 donation towards the charity they volunteer for and a well-deserved holiday for two from NRMA Travel up to the value of $2500.

- Young Volunteer Award (16-24 years)
- Community Volunteer Award (ages 16+)
- Conservation Volunteer Award (ages 16+)

Entries close Friday 1 August 2014 for announcement in September. To nominate visit www.mynrna.com.au/helpingpeopleawards

Volunteers must work for a registered charity or organisation with Deductible Gift Recipient status in NSW. For more information email community@mynrna.com.au

betterman foundation

The BETTERMAN Foundation is an Australian, national not-for-profit organisation, which seeks to empower young men to make positive life choices through the implementation of evidence-based services that focus on violence and suicide prevention.

For further information on programs available for your school, contact details, or to make a booking, visit The BETTERMAN Foundation at:
www.betterman.org.au
macleay valley youth matters

For more information contact:
Vicki Martin
Community Project Officer
Kempsey Shire Council (KSC)
P: (02) 6566 3200
E: vicki.martin@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

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

Next YAC meetings:
- 7 July 2014, Youth Access Centre (school holidays).
- 4 August, Youth Access Centre.
- 1 September, Youth Access Centre.

Youth grants & awards:
To access opportunities visit:
- [www.awardsaustralia.com](http://www.awardsaustralia.com)

Next issue deadline: 14 July 2014