



THE NEW HOME OF SPORT IN KEMPSEY COMES TO LIFE

Council has sounded the starter's siren on a higher standard of sporting facilities in the Macleay, with the completion of key elements in the new Vergé and Eden Streets Sporting Complex.

Just before Christmas the Member for Oxley, the Hon. Melinda Pavey MP, joined Kempsey Shire Council Mayor Liz Campbell to open numerous components of the new complex.

The event marked a key milestone in Council's \$10 million project to improve sport and recreation and host large-scale events in the shire, funded through a NSW Government grant. The new features provide an exciting taste of what will be on offer.

The complex will be a real game-changer for residents and sporting clubs, not only as a hub for all things sport but as a place for all members of the community to use.

As well as quality sporting facilities, an inclusive walking track and fitness stations have been set up, designed by local exercise physiologist Michael Kemp, to be suitable for all ages and abilities.

The new features unveiled include:

- a 1.3km running and walking track
- four exercise stations
- competition-standard lighting on all fields, netball courts and ancillary areas
- upgraded Vergé Lane, Vincent Street

and Vergé Street carparks

- a new field irrigation system, including 200,000-litre water tanks
- two new turf wicket tables
- two new basketball courts
- 11 netball courts
- a six-lane cricket net facility.

Another feature of the project is the installation of non-potable water tanks for irrigation and the planned installation of solar panels on the new buildings, providing net zero energy usage across the site.

To find out more about the Vergé and Eden Streets project as well as Council's many other major projects, head to ksc.pub/majorprojects

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

GLITZ & GLAMOUR BALL

18+
EVENT

Saturday 5 March 2022, 5.30pm - 11pm
Slim Dusty Centre, South Kempsey

Tickets on sale now

ksc.pub/idpwd



MAJOR PROJECTS

From Clyde Street to Crescent Head, Willawarrin to water treatment plants, get the latest news on all Council's major projects ksc.pub/majorprojects



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www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Happy New Year and welcome to the first newsletter of the new term of Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mayor and Councillors from our previous term and all of the candidates who ran in the election, and to congratulate those who have been elected to office.

Before each local government election, an End of Term Report must be tabled at the last meeting of the outgoing Council and incorporated into that year's annual report.

The report for the recently completed term provides extraordinary reading as it gives a summary of Council's key achievements over the last five years and demonstrates the progress made for the Macleay Valley community, under the leadership of the outgoing Council, in the strategic focus areas of being healthy, wealthy, safe and connected.

Council's achievements from 2016 to 2021 are considerable given the significant challenges that the Kempsey community has experienced in recent years, with drought, bushfires, floods and the COVID-19 pandemic changing how we live and work.

This Council term was one of transformation and transition for the organisation, as a new management team partnered with Councillors and the community to reshape and lead the Macleay Valley towards a more efficient, customer-focused Council.

Council's unsustainable financial position is acknowledged, and constructive steps are being taken to address this with the adoption in April 2019 of a Financial Sustainability Strategy 2019-23 and Roadmap.

Complementing these corporate advancements has been a targeted capital works and infrastructure refurbishment program to enhance the essential services and facilities Council delivers

for the community, supported by an active campaign to source government funding to secure the delivery of vital infrastructure projects and community programs.

Some of the many significant projects include:

- \$16.3 million grant in 2021 to replace 57 timber bridges throughout Kempsey Shire
 - \$10 million grant injection to the Verge and Eden Streets Sporting Complex Masterplan in February 2020
 - Kempsey Shire Council and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's successful \$17 million joint funding grant in July 2020 to seal Maria River Road
 - \$4 million in staged repairs to 8km of South West Rocks Road, commenced in 2020
 - \$4 million to construct an emergency water treatment plant near Steuart McIntyre Dam
 - \$2.9 million grant to reseal the remaining 6.2km gravel section of Point Plomer Road
 - Macleay Valley Recreation Adventure Park project received a \$11.2 million grant in October 2020
 - construction of the \$4 million Turners Flat Bridge in 2019
 - delivery of the \$3.4 million project to revitalise the Stuarts Point Foreshore in 2019-20
 - \$2.5 million for the Mid North Coast High Performance Centre, South West Rocks
 - \$2.4 million for Bushfire Recovery and renewal initiatives
 - \$1.5 million for safety improvements on Crescent Head Road
- Craig Milburn - General Manager

MAYOR Leo Hauville	COUNCILLOR Simon Fergusson	COUNCILLOR Liz Campbell	COUNCILLOR V Craigie	COUNCILLOR Arthur Bain
	COUNCILLOR Alexandra Wyatt	COUNCILLOR Josh Freeman	COUNCILLOR Kerri Riddington	COUNCILLOR Anthony Patterson

COUNCIL PRESENTS MORE THAN \$72K IN COMMUNITY GRANTS

Community groups and organisations across the Macleay Valley are welcoming 2022 safe in the knowledge that they have secured a grant from Council to do great things.

Grants totalling \$72,579 have been awarded to 20 organisations across six categories: environmental, community, sporting, youth, safety and bushfire recovery.

Kempsey Tennis Club was the recipient of a sporting grant, awarded \$1,294 to purchase equipment for the club.

YP Space MNC received a youth grant for \$2,200 for BoostYouth, a resource for the YPS youth refuge that provides fitness equipment for the use of residents in the service. BoostYouth encourages young people experiencing homelessness to add exercise to their daily routine

to decrease stress, anxiety and depression, and promote better mental and physical health.

Hat Head Community Garden received a bushfire community grant of \$4,005 to build and maintain raised vegetable gardens in a common vacant area in the village.

Council successfully relaunched an updated Community Grant Program last financial year and the 2021-22 program has built on that success.

These grants reinforce our belief that some of the best work for the community is done by the community and the best thing Council can do is support this.

The next round of grants will be released early in 2022. [Head to ksc.pub/community-grants](https://www.ksc.nsw.gov.au/community-grants) for more information.



**YOUR FLARES ARE OUT OF DATE
- NO, NOT YOU, TRAVOLTA!**

Macleay boat owners can safely dispose of expired marine flares at free temporary collection points.

[ksc.pub/flares](https://www.ksc.pub/flares)

MORE JOBS FOR LOCALS

Kempsey Shire Council is proud to be one of the largest employers in our shire and is committed to local employment and training.

Council's positive culture was recognised in 2021 when we were awarded Employer of Choice by the Macleay Valley Chamber of Commerce.

A commitment to generating local employment has seen Council develop a successful trainee and apprentice program over many years. In fact, many of our staff started their careers this way.

Access to additional government funding meant the program was expanded in 2021, and 10 trainees and 2 apprentices were employed.

The trainees were recruited in project management, waste services, finance, customer service, administration and automotive administration, water and sewer operations, libraries, town planning and our communications team.

The United Services Union also awarded Apprentice of the Year to one of our mechanics, Justin Simpson, who was selected from a field



of more than 20 shortlisted candidates from around New South Wales.

Council also teamed up with TAFE NSW to offer the Try a Trade Program, encouraging women to pursue careers in male-dominated industries. Participants completed short courses through TAFE Kempsey and work experience with Council's outdoor teams including water and sewer, parks and gardens, maintenance and boiler making.

Strong local representation in our staff is vital and further evidence that Council is in the community working for our community.

To keep track of current and future job opportunities, visit [ksc.pub/careers](https://www.ksc.pub/careers).



ABORIGINAL CULTURAL ARTWORK GETS AN INNOVATIVE NEW HOME IN SOUTH WEST ROCKS

A series of important and inventive cultural art projects have been installed at Back Creek in South West Rocks to help reflect Indigenous culture in this high-profile location.

After the local Aboriginal community asked to see more representation in this culturally significant area, Kempsey Shire Council worked in partnership with the South West Rocks Figtree Descendants Aboriginal Corporation on a two-stage cultural art project.

The first stage of the project, unveiled in December, is the stunning work of local Dughutti and Figtree woman

Nancy Pattison, who has designed wraps for the prominent bollards around the foreshore.

The wraps feature three sea animals – a fish, a stingray and a crab – all of which are significant to the area.

In the next stage of the project, Council and Ms Pattison will collaborate with artist Francesca O'Donnell from the Out There Collective to create a symbolic mosaic and engraved timber seat at Back Creek.

Featuring cultural elements such as local wildlife significant to the Aboriginal community of South West Rocks, the mosaic-decorated timber seat is expected to be installed by the 2022 autumn school holidays.

FLOOD GAUGES READY FOR A WET SUMMER

Macleay Valley residents can now easily and instantly confirm Macleay River levels at any time thanks to repairs and upgrades undertaken by Kempsey Shire Council.

Comprehensive upgrades have been carried out on the gauges at Bellbrook, Collombatti Creek, Moparrabah (Majors Creek) and Sherwood. Major repairs were completed early in 2021 at Toorooka, where the gauge had been severely damaged by bushfire in 2019.

Further repair work will be carried out at the Collombatti site and repairs are also planned for the Dungay Creek site at Wittitritin, which sustained damage from

flooding soon after it was repaired due to bushfire damage.

Council understands the community frustration with the time taken to carry out these complex gauge repairs.

This equipment is, of course, immensely complex and technical, and repairs require specialist contractors who are in high demand. In addition, by their very nature these devices are installed in areas that are difficult to access and prone to the impacts of disaster events.

More information on Council's flood preparations can be found at [ksc.pub/flood](https://www.ksc.pub/flood)

WANT TO KNOW WHICH BIN GOES OUT TONIGHT?

Seen the new Mobile Community Recycling Centre calendar?

GET THE NEW KEMPSEY SHIRE WASTE APP
[ksc.pub/wasteapp](https://www.ksc.pub/wasteapp)



ARE YOU HARBOURING A FUGITIVE IN YOUR GARDEN?

This summer, gardening may not just be a way to relax and keep your home beautiful; it could also save your children and pets and prevent a run-in with the law.

While a lot of publicity is rightly given to Tropical Soda Apple because of the damage it inflicts, there are numerous weeds of concern. Recently, Council has observed an increase in infestations of plants which are harmful to health – plants that are poisonous and spread quickly.

The major concerns at present are Green Cestrum, which is becoming particularly prolific in West Kempsey and South

Kempsey. Another is Mother-of-Millions. Council is also highlighting the need to look out for weeds which spread incredibly fast, like Cockspur Coral Tree, Yellow Bells and Chinese Tallow Tree, along with aquatic weeds like Salvinia, Water Hyacinth and Frogbit.

You can learn more about identifying and responding to these weeds and many others which might grow in your environment by looking at the NSW WeedWise page at weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au, by downloading the free NSW WeedWise app on your smart phone or by obtaining the free weeds book from Council's website or Customer Service.

IS KEMPSEY SHIRE SAFE, PROSPEROUS AND WELCOMING?

The people of Kempsey Shire are being asked to choose three words that sum up their vision for the future and, in doing so, set the direction for a 20-year strategy to guide government and public services.

Council has drafted a Community Strategic Plan entitled 2042: Your Future and it contains a vision statement that brings together the priorities, strengths and expectations identified by analysing a large range of community engagement over the last two years.

The draft wording for the vision is: 'From the mountains to the sea, our people are given the opportunities and infrastructure to build a safe, prosperous and welcoming community. Marrungbu.'

While the language of the vision statement captures the natural beauty, Indigenous history and importance of our people, Kempsey Shire Council General Manager Craig Milburn says Council wants to know if 'safe, prosperous and welcoming' are the best three words to describe the future that residents want.

Council has captured and analysed feedback and data gathered from many community surveys, events and organisations to arrive at the long-term priorities for the future of our shire.

You can download a draft copy of 2042: Your Future, choose your preferred three words and provide feedback on the overall plan at ksc.pub/csp



KEMPSEY LIBRARY - STILL OPEN, STILL AWESOME

When driving past Kempsey Library at present, it's easy to assume they've shut up shop, as all you can see are big renovations happening behind big fences.

But the truth is our amazing Kempsey librarians are also building some great programs to keep you – and the kids – busy this summer.

NSW Reads

The NSW Reads Summer Book Club is the state's biggest book club. Until 31 January, library members are encouraged to read *The Grandest Bookshop in the World* by Amelia Mellor.

This beautiful story is set in a magical 19th century bookstore, where siblings Pearl

and Vally Cole are swept into a game of impossibly high stakes to save the shop. It is perfect for readers of all ages.

And it's free! The club is free and the book is free. Yes, you do need to be a library member, but that's free too.

Summer Reading Club

The Summer Reading Club is a program for kids that encourages participants to read, play and try out new things during the school holidays. Anyone aged from 3 to 18 years can join and everyone gets a free sign-up pack. There are prizes to be won and lots of fun to be had.

Head to ksc.pub/library for details



Keep up with the latest on the Library renovations at ksc.pub/library-reno ... and remember, we're still open for business