

**Elections** for Local Government in NSW are fast approaching and the following timeline may be of interest to you as a voter or a potential candidate.

**Electoral Rolls** - close on Monday 16/2/04

**Nominations** - Returning Officers will advertise the election and call for nominations from Monday 9/2/04 to Friday 20/2/04.

**Close of Nominations** - 5.00pm on Wednesday 25/2/04.

**Nomination Day** - Friday 27/2/04.

- Withdrawal of nominations - 11.00am
- Close of grouping applications /request group voting square - noon
- Withdrawal of claim for group voting square - noon
- nomination of candidates and ballot-paper draws - after noon.

**How-to-vote material** - applications for registration of how-to-vote material to Electoral Commissioner from Friday 27/2/04 to Monday 8/3/04.

**Postal voting** - opens Friday 27/2/04. Close of postal voting applications is 5.00pm on Monday 22/3/04. Closing time for the return of postal votes is 6.00pm on Monday 29/3/04.

**Pre poll voting** - from Monday 15/3/04 to 6.00pm Friday 26/3/04.

**Polling day is Saturday 27/3/04.**



More information on the election is available from the State Electoral Office website - [www.seo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.seo.nsw.gov.au)

If you are interested in standing as a Councillor, phone us on 6566 3200 and request a copy of the publication, "Becoming a Councillor". Alternatively, visit the State Electoral Office website for a range of information for candidates and also some brochures to download.

**A new look** for Crescent Head Parks and Gardens employees, Steve Laird and Terry Batterson, are pictured on the right putting the finishing touches to stage 1 of the re-landscaping of the Crescent Head shopping precinct.

**Land valuation.** You would have now received the new valuation certificate for your land and noticed that property prices have increased significantly in the valley - in fact, the average increase was approximately 113%! When the last valuation was completed in 2000, the total land value in the Shire was \$781,627,730 - at July 1, 2003, that valuation jumped to \$1,613,298,750. Your land value is the dollar value of your land only and does not include your home, other structures and improvements on your land. To value your land, a qualified valuer considers a number of factors including recent sales of property similar to yours. Your valuation is maintained by the Land and Property Information Division of the Department of Lands on behalf of the Valuer General.

**Don't panic!** Just because your land value has increased by around 100%, it does not mean that your rates will also increase by that amount. Council is only allowed to collect the same dollar amount of rates (with a small increase set by the Minister for Local Government) with the new valuations as it did with the old. So, your rates will vary depending on whether your increase is greater or less than the Shire average. eg. If your valuation increased by 400%, you will get an increase in your rates - if your valuation increase was less than the average of 113%, you could make a saving on your rates.

### New "tar"



Council embraced the age of technology recently with the purchase of a new PaveLine tar patcher. The equipment sprays compressed air into the pothole to clean the surface and then pressure sprays a mix of small gravel and emulsion into the hole through a remote hose controlled from the truck cabin. Richard Howling from PaveLine is pictured handing over the keys to staff members Richard Swan and David Harrower. With 2,000 litres of emulsion and 6 cubic metres of aggregate on board, 400 - 700 square metres of potholes (depending on the size and depth of the hole) can be filled in any one trip. It is possible to make two trips in a day if the locations of the holes are not spread over too great a distance.

**Congratulations** to the NSW Police Service and St Josephs Primary School for winning the John Mawson Access Award for 2003. Both of these West Kempsey organisations have gone to great lengths to make their premises accessible to people in wheelchairs, those on walking frames or parents with prams. Council thanks them for their efforts.



#### WATER FACTS

- Council has:-
- 38 bores
- 10 treatment plants
- 18 pump stations
- 2 dams
- 22 reservoirs
- 574,288 metres of trunk and reticulated mains

#### SEWER FACTS

- Council has:-
- 77 pump stations
- 7 treatment works
- 254,204 metres of gravity, rising and effluent mains



## A lot of achievements.

Council is in the last stages of the five year Federal Government "Roads to Recovery" program which has provided Australian Councils with a significant injection of funds to improve roads in their local areas. For our Shire, this has meant an extra \$720,000 annually to undertake road works which would not have been possible from existing budgets. Some of the projects funded under this program include:-

- the sealing of sections of Old Station Road, Toose Road, John Lane Road, Austral Eden Link Road, River Road (Kundabung), Inches Road, Suez Road, Main Street (Willawarrin) and the approaches to the Toorooka Bridge;
- the rehabilitation of sections of Sea Street, Second Lane, Bloomfield Street, Kemp Street, Middleton Street, York Lane and North Street (Kempsey);
- the gravel resheeting of Myhills Road, Yessabah Road, Pt Plomer Road and Maria River Road; and
- drainage improvement works in Barnard Street (Gladstone) and drainage/kerb and gutter work in Great North Road (Frederickton).

We are proposing to undertake:-

- kerb and gutter work in Mitchell and Gregory Streets (South West Rocks), Belmore Street (Smithtown), Willow Street (Crescent Head) and Ocean Avenue (Stuarts Point);
- further pavement strengthening in Gladstone Street, Tozer Street, Queen Street (Kempsey) and Gordon Young Drive (South West Rocks) and
- the reconstruction of Mary's Bay Road intersection, Sherwood Road west of Link Road and Hat Head Road adjacent to Kinchela Creek Right Bank Road.

## Help us to help you.

As you can see, much has been achieved during the past four years. Unfortunately, the Federal Government has not committed to the continuation of the Roads to Recovery program beyond 2005 and Council is concerned that the funding will not proceed. We urge you to lobby your Federal Member of Parliament, Luke Hartsuyker (Member for Cowper) or Mark Vaile (Member for Lyne) to ensure this vital program is extended beyond 2005.



## Meet the team.

Our Aged Services team do a fantastic job helping older people and those with disabilities to stay in their homes as long as possible. Pictured on the left are Alyson Everingham, Suzy Turnbull, Sara Campbell, Helene Russell and Madeleine Lacroix (back row). Leone Bocker, Thelma Juillerat and Renee McCluand (front row).

## It's free!

Thanks to a small grant from BHP Billiton, free internet and email training will be conducted at the Kempsey, South West Rocks and Stuarts Point Library branches during February. Make a booking today by phoning 6566 3210.

## Aldavilla

Public School's Student Representative Council visited the Civic Centre in November to learn more about Local Government. Councillor Russell Bowen and Principal, Judy Blomfield watch as the students pay their school rates. School groups are encouraged to visit Council.

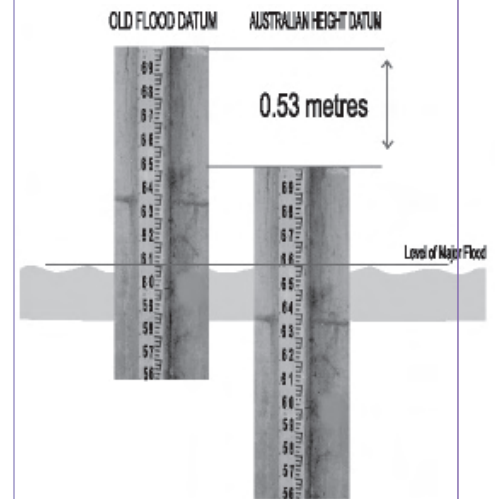


## It's new and different.

Australian Height Datum, or AHD, will now be the reference datum for stream levels at the Kempsey Traffic bridge. All references to stream levels and flood warnings will now be issued in AHD, a common survey datum used throughout Australia with levels measured above mean sea-level. The change from the old flood mitigation datum to AHD will:-

- provide consistency with flood modelling and development controls
- provide a common reference for all downstream gauges
- eliminate confusion and errors

You will notice in the following diagram that there is a difference between the old flood mitigation datum and the new AHD of 0.53 metres.



## Flood Warnings for Kempsey and the Lower Macleay

Minor Flood	4.5m AHD
Flooding of low lying rural areas	
Moderate Flood	5.7m AHD
Flooding over river banks in rural areas	
Major Flood	6.6m AHD
Overtopping of Kempsey levee	

There is a wealth of information to be found about river heights and rainfall in the Macleay River catchment area on Council's website - just follow the links to the Macleay Flood Web Page from the homepage on [www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au) It's real time data so you can keep an eye on river levels and rainfall at any time of the day or night. There are also handy links to the SES and the Bureau of Meteorology.

# contact

your council

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