



# Community newsletter

**VOLUME 4  
August 2005**

*We will work with the community to provide high quality services and facilities through excellence in leadership and with consideration for the needs of the environment and of future generations*

## Full house for Council meeting in August



It was a full house in the Public Gallery at the Council's meeting on August 9, 2005 with several issues of vital community concern on the agenda. Items discussed included the astronomical increase in the rent sought by the Department of Lands from Council for the Boatman's Cottage #2 at South West Rocks; operating conditions for a Rally Car Driving School at

Kundabung; Council's new Customer First Centre; and the location of a Youth Referral Centre in Kempsey.

Council is keen to understand the needs of its residents and ratepayers. It welcomes constructive input on issues of concern and appreciates any support you can give when Council faces difficult decisions.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings, which are held the second Tuesday of each month from 9am. While the meetings usually continue throughout the day, most visitors find it interesting to attend first thing in the morning when the Public Forum is in progress.

The Public Forum provides members of the public with the opportunity to speak for 5 minutes to the Council, on an item listed on the agenda for that meeting. If you would like to participate in this process it is important to realise that, to be included in the Public Forum, you must contact the Mayor's office at least 2 working days prior to the scheduled meeting.

## Roadwork at Turner's Flat nearing completion

Much-needed realignment work on MR75 Armidale Road at Turner's Flat is nearing completion. Council is currently working with the RTA to schedule line marking. This project is funded through the Federal Black Spots program. The work has involved earthworks, drainage and pavement of the black spot section immediately west of the Turner's Flat Road intersection.



## History lecture coming to Kempsey Library

Kempsey Shire Library's reputation for excellence is growing. It is one of only three regional libraries in NSW selected to host "Off the Beaten Track", part of The History Council's Inaugural Travelling Lecture Series.

On Monday 19 September at 11am, Professor Richard Waterhouse will present a lecture at Kempsey Library titled "Agrarian Ideals, Pastoral Realities: the use and Misuse of Land in Rural Australia, 1788-2004".

The lecture is free and members of the public are welcome to attend. A light lunch, tea and coffee will be served after the lecture. Attendance is limited to 60 people and it is anticipated that the event will be popular. As a result, it is recommended that you book your place by phoning Angie at the Library on 65663210 or email [ksclibrary@kempsey.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ksclibrary@kempsey.nsw.gov.au).

If you'd like more information on the visit talk to Angie or visit the History Council's website at [www.historycouncilnsw.org.au](http://www.historycouncilnsw.org.au).

## Did you know...?

Kempsey Shire Library is part of the Mid North Coast Co-operative Library service and through it you have access to around 300,000 items... from books and cd roms to dvds, videos and more! That's enough information for you to learn something new every hour of every day for over 30 years!!!

## Planning renovations or additions?

If you are planning a simple home addition, such as a sunroom or a patio, or if you are thinking about building a carport, shed, or pool, Council can speed up the approval process of your Development Application.



Development applications that meet pre-set standards can be turned around in 7 days, saving you both time and processing costs.

Council's Complying Development Officer welcomes your enquiries on 6566 3330.



## Certificate of Merit Awards

Council recently presented Certificate of Merit awards to Sam Flanagan, Josh Thomas, Adam Davies, Kim McMillan and Clare Maloney for success in their chosen sport at National level. While Sam, Josh, Adam, and Kim achieved national representation in Baseball, Clare, who was unable to attend the award ceremony due to school commitments, competed successfully in the 2004 Little Athletics national championships at Homebush.

To be considered eligible for a Certificate of Merit the person nominated must be a resident (or past resident) of the Shire, and have competed in their sport at national or international level. If you would like to nominate someone for a Certificate of Merit please write to Council detailing the person's achievements.



LEFT TO RIGHT (Front): Certificate of Merit recipients Sam Flanagan, Kim McMillan, Josh Thomas, and Adam Davies with their parents after the award presentation at the August Council meeting.

## Minimising damage to our river banks

Council often receives requests from members of the public to clear vegetation from riverbank areas. The removal of such vegetation exposes these banks to more rapid erosion and Council must adhere to the State legislation that applies to such clearing.

Prior to any works, landholders should consult with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR), as any clearing of vegetation (including weeds) within 20m of a river bank may require consent under the Native Vegetation Conservation Act. It is also important to check with Council whether any approval is required under Council's Tree Preservation Order.

Contact Ron Kemsley from Sustainable Development Services on 65 663200 if you are interested in protecting natural riverbank vegetation on your property as opportunities may exist for grant funding to assist with this type of project.

## New environmental weed control program kicks off

Kempsey Shire Council is commencing a weed control programme for environmental weeds, which will help improve the visual appearance of some roadsides and streets within the Shire.

This is a new project and several areas have been chosen to start control works. This work is being undertaken in conjunction with Council's noxious weed control program. Camphor Laurel, Small and Large leaf Privet, Cockscorb Coral Tree, Ochna, Madeira Vine, Cats Claw Creeper and Mother Of Millions are some of the environmental Weeds being targeted in this program.

If you'd like to know more, please contact Greg Egan, Council's Weeds Officer on 65 663200.

## Gravel Resheeting

Council will spend \$770,000 in the 2005/06 financial year on resheeting gravel roads such as Chain-O-Ponds Rd, Collombatti Rd, Maria River Rd, Mines Rd, Old Station Rd, Pipers Creek Rd, Warbro Brook Rd, Willi Willi Rd, Dungay Creek Rd, Point Plomer Rd, Toorumbie Creek Rd, Nagles Fall Rd, Toms Gully Rd, Beranghi Rd, Hickeys Creek Area, Spooners Ave, Kemps Access and Yessabah Rd.

## Council & Lions Club work together to help educate young drivers

Kempsey Lions Club, Kempsey Shire Council and the Rural Fire Service worked extremely well together to bring to fruition a Safe Driver course at Kempsey Airport on 13-14 August. The event was a huge success with nearly 50 drivers put through their paces by professional defensive driving instructors. The aim of the course was to help drivers, especially younger drivers, better understand how to deal with emergency situations when driving.

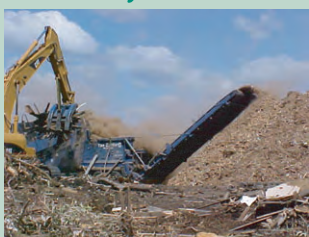
This project is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when a community identifies a specific need in its midst.



ABOVE: One of the participants in the safe driving course, held at Kempsey Airport in mid August, learns how to control a skid.

## Did you know...

### waste minimisation & beneficial reuse of materials



....that Council recently resolved to introduce a kerbside recycling program next year?

This program is in response to recent community surveys that identified that you wanted an improved recycling system and identified recycling as an important service in the Shire.

Working in collaboration with Hastings Council, we will see the construction of a state of the art Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at the Hastings recycling facility located at Cairncross. This facility will be capable of processing all the recyclate material from both Hastings and Kempsey, estimated to be over 10,000 tonnes per year.

Council is always striving to provide quality waste services that meet the requirements and expectations of the community with consideration for the principles of social, economic and environmental sustainability.

## Success for Clybucca acid sulfate soil scald revegetation project

Tim Morris, Kempsey Shire Council's Acid Sulfate Soils Project Officer has been working with a local landholder in Clybucca, to restore wet pasture grasses on what was previously a barren moonscape. Funding for the project was provided by the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR).

Through techniques that include maintaining water levels, restricting stock access, site preparation and mulching, the former wetland has undergone a significant recovery and is now filled with vegetation and birdlife. The 'before' and 'after' photos below show the effectiveness of these techniques at the Clybucca Southern Scald site.

The revegetation of acid sulfate soil scalds is an important component in reducing acid water discharge into our waterways, which will help preserve marine ecosystems and fisheries.



Before revegetation:  
Clybucca Southern Scald in 2004



After revegetation:  
Clybucca Southern Scald in 2005

## Water Rates explained

Sometimes at this time of year there is confusion about how Council charges for water. Ratepayers will have received a rates notice, which indicates a fixed access charge for water. The amount charged for this fixed access charge depends on the size of the meter connected. Vacant properties and most residential homes in the shire are charged \$265 per annum.

In addition to this, twice a year, you will receive a separate 'user pays' water account on which you are charged 86 cents for each kilolitre of water used. Water meters in the Shire are read around May and November each year with 30 day accounts issued in early January and early July, respectively. Council converted to the user pays system, as required by State Legislation, in July 2003.

From a financial point of view it is also important to realize that under the Local Government Act 1993, the money generated by Water charges, through the fixed access and the user pays system, *must* be spent in this same category. It cannot be used to subsidise other local government services. Among other things, Council uses Water rates to maintain and renew the Shire's water infrastructure, and to treat and monitor water quality.



ABOVE: Work continues on the upgrading of the mains in Tozer Street, West Kempsey

## Crocfest for Kempsey

Crocfest is designed to foster the health, education and well being of Indigenous and Non-indigenous youth in rural and remote areas of Australia.

Council's participation in the organisation and planning of this year's Crocfest, to be held in Verge Street, Kempsey over three days from 13 to 15 September, is one way it is working to build civic pride and foster effective social and community relations.

This festival will bring over 1600 students, plus many parents, from all over NSW to Kempsey. If you'd like to know more about Crocfest check out the website at [www.crocfest.org.au](http://www.crocfest.org.au)

## Did you know...?

In the 2004/05 financial year there were 64,315 hits on Council's website -[www.kempsey@nsw.gov.au](mailto:www.kempsey@nsw.gov.au) - that's an average of more than 175 per day!



The Department of Local Government comparative data for 2003/04 shows that Kempsey Shire has the third lowest average Residential Rate when compared to other coastal communities.

## Tree day - thank you

A very big thank you to all the volunteers who turned up to help plant trees at the Boyter's Lane playing field and wetland site on the weekend of August 6-7 as part of Council's celebration of National Tree Day. Many volunteers, including Council staff and members of the South West Rocks Lions Club, gave generously of their time to help plant, mulch and water 913 trees in just two days.

The community spirit shown by those who participated was just amazing. It will be wonderful to see the results of this effort in a few years time when the saplings become strong young trees.



ABOVE: Volunteers hard at work at the Boyter's Lane tree planting in early August.

**acleay water**  
A BUSINESS UNIT OF KEMPSEY SHIRE COUNCIL

**WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT OF MY WATER SUPPLY?**

Within an area served by townwater, your water supply should:

- Be reliable and continuous
- Be free from objectionable taste and odour
- Meet Australian Drinking Water guidelines

**WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT OF MY SEWERAGE SERVICE?**

Within an area served by town sewerage, your sewerage service should:

Be reliable and continuous  
Be operated so as to minimise odours and be environmentally responsible.

**WHAT CAN I DO IF MY WATER OR SEWERAGE SERVICE IS INTERRUPTED?**

If you have no water or there is a sewerage spill, please call us, night or day, on the numbers below:  
**business hours on 6566 3271**  
**or after-hours on 1300 663 211.**  
We give a commitment to responding to the problem as quickly as possible.

joining together for a better community

councillors



Janet Hayes  
MAYOR  
Tel: 6562 3531



Brian Sowter  
DEPUTY MAYOR  
Tel: 6567 4281



John Howell  
Tel: 6562 5122



Betty Green  
Tel: 6562 8938



Jim Gribbin  
Tel: 6566 6907



Terry Hunt  
Tel: 6561 7157



Robert McWilliam  
Tel: 6566 5465



Dean Saul  
Tel: 6567 4682



Ellis Walker  
Tel: 6562 2119

**NAIDOC Week celebrations a real family affair**

NAIDOC Week celebrations in July had a real family focus. On Wednesday, July 6, the traditional flag raising ceremony was held at the Civic Centre in Elbow Street, West Kempsey. The annual march followed the ceremony. This year the march made it's way to Services Club Park in Belgrave Street, where everyone gathered to enjoy a family fun day.

Kempsey Shire Council's Aboriginal Liaison Committee, The Kempsey Aboriginal Lands Council, and Coffs Harbour's Indigenous Co-ordination Centre sponsored the week's activities.



ABOVE: Great weather and wonderful community spirit made this year's NAIDOC week march and flag raising ceremony a huge success.

**Tell us what you'd like to know about roads**

A community survey conducted earlier this year by Micromex Marketing Services identified that the community expressed some dissatisfaction with Council's performance on roads. This result backs up Council's view that there has been a steady deterioration in our road network. A funding shortfall in the area of Specific Road Maintenance has limited Council's ability to meet the community's expectations on roads.

Council wants to keep you up to date with this very important issue. Seven areas relating to road maintenance are listed below. Over the coming months we will try to provide you with information specific to these areas. Please rate them 1 to 7 in the order of importance to you (1 most important, 7 least important).

Type of maintenance	Rating
• Gravel resheeting (placement of gravel on dirt roads)	_____
• Bitumen surface resealing (tarring)	_____
• Road pavement rehabilitation (structural work on roadbase over which bitumen is laid)	_____
• Initial sealing of gravel roads (converting dirt road to sealed road)	_____
• Pedestrian access (footpaths, refuges & ramps)	_____
• Road patching	_____
• Kerb and guttering	_____

You can email your ratings to us at [megan.barber@kempsey.nsw.gov.au](mailto:megan.barber@kempsey.nsw.gov.au) with the subject heading "Road Ratings" or go to our website ([www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au)) by following the prompts from "Tell us what you'd like to know about roads".

Or simply mark your ratings here and cut out this section. Then drop it in, or post it, to Kempsey Shire Council, Elbow Street, (PO Box 78) West Kempsey 2440. Please return your ratings to Council by Friday, 15 October, 2005.

We really need your input. Remember, the more responses Council receives from the community the better idea we will have about the topics considered of highest importance so we can keep you better informed.



Allan Burgess  
GENERAL MANAGER



Bruce Snape  
DIRECTOR  
CORPORATE SERVICES



Keith Finnie  
DIRECTOR  
SHIRE SERVICES



Robert Pitt  
DIRECTOR  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICES

directors

*contact us*

PO Box 78  
WEST KEMPSEY  
NSW 2440  
Fax: 6566 3205  
Email:  
[ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au)

Phone:  
Administration  
6566 3200

Shire Services  
6566 3270

Sustainable  
Development Services  
6566 3240

Library  
6566 3210

*Keep up to date  
with Council news  
-visit our website*

[www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au)

*Information at  
your fingertips*