

RESTRUCTURE

Your Council has adopted the General Manager's recommendations to restructure its operations from 6th December 2004.

The number of departments has been reduced from four to three and managerial staff have been reduced from twenty-one to nineteen. The new structure will allow Council to better focus on customer service.

The three new departments are: -

- Corporate Services
- Shire Services and
- Sustainable Development Services.

All of our internal services, such as finance, administration, information technology, fleet and Council property will be grouped together. All services to our residents, such as roads, parks and gardens, garbage collection, community services, libraries, water and sewerage, swimming pools and civic maintenance will be provided by one department. In a new initiative which acknowledges the high level of interest in appropriate and sustainable development, there will be economic and environmental linkages to regulatory services such as town planning, building and health.

This new structure has been designed to better equip council to: -

- identify and provide your infrastructure and facility needs
- ensure ecologically sustainable development outcomes and
- oversee social aspirations through the development of employment opportunities.

To further enhance our customer service focus, a new "Customer First Centre" is to be established. Once constructed, you will only need to contact or visit the one area at the Civic Centre and our multi skilled staff, who will be trained in all aspects of Council's operations, will be able to handle your enquiries and/or discuss your applications. Building alterations and staff training are scheduled to be completed in the latter half of 2005.

The three Directors of the new departments are: -

Corporate Services - Bruce Snape

Shire Services - Keith Finnie

Sustainable Development Services - Robert Pitt.

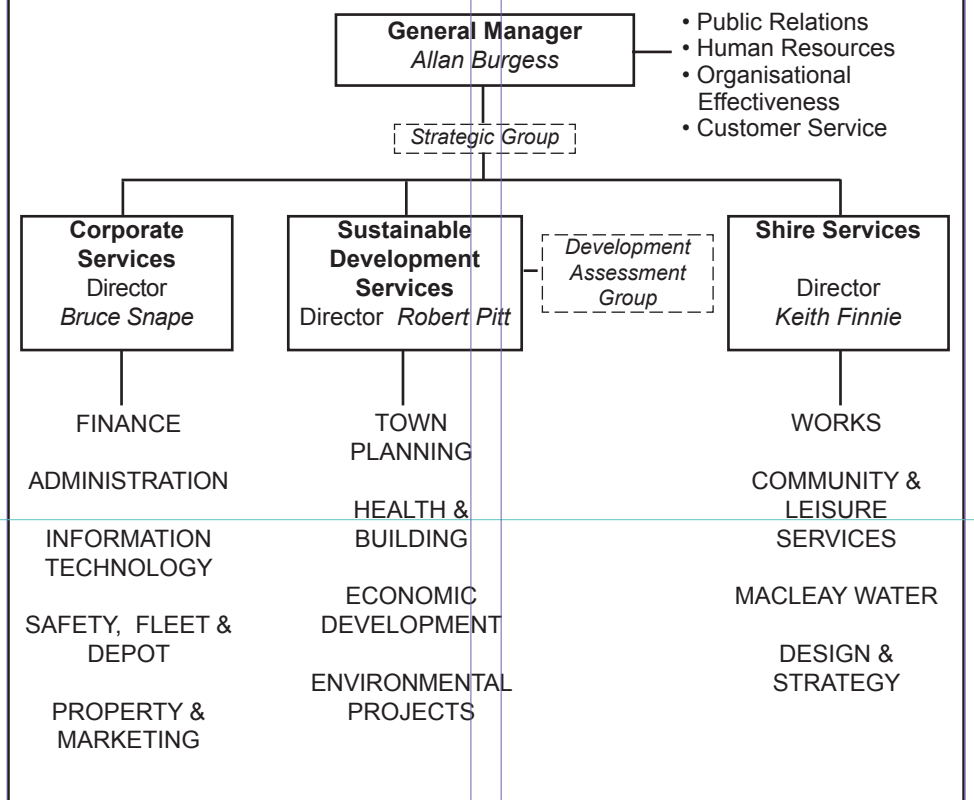
STROLLING NEXT TO BACK CREEK IS SO MUCH EASIER NOW



The recently completed pathway and bridge adjacent to Back Creek at South West Rocks is already proving popular with locals and visitors. The construction has made this pretty walkway safer and more accessible for everyone.

KEMPSEY SHIRE COUNCIL STRUCTURE

DECEMBER 2004



Remember to have your say on the proposed Council name change before January 31, 2005. To vote, call in to Council's Civic Centre in Elbow Street, West Kempsey, the Macleay Community Care Centre in Forth Street, Kempsey; or at the Kempsey, South

COUNCIL SNIPPETS

West Rocks, Stuarts Point or Hat Head Libraries and fill in a submission form.

For the very first time, you can vote online on our Internet poll at Council's website on www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au

Have you been to see the new park in Kempsey yet? It's called Steele Park and it is a great community gathering place with electric barbeques, play equipment, trees and gardens. It's fenced off from traffic and is the ideal place to enjoy family time.

SALEYARDS TRAINING A HUGE SUCCESS



Over 80 local Saleyard Operators and primary users attended the Safety Induction Training Program held by Kempsey Shire Council at the Civic Centre, West Kempsey in November last year. The four-hour program was conducted to raise the awareness of participants in the importance of ensuring a safe workplace for everyone who is involved in the selling of livestock and associated activities at a saleyard. The course was based on the Occupational Health and Safety Management System and the accredited course developed by the NSW Saleyards Operators Association. Council would like to know if there is sufficient interest to hold a second session early in 2005. If you are interested, please contact us on 6566 3200 to register your interest.

JOHN MAWSON AWARD WINNER FOR 2004

Kempsey Shire Council's Access Committee chose Melville High School as the worthy winner of the 2004 John Mawson Award.

This prestigious Award commemorates the late John Mawson who was the driving force behind the Access Committee, which aims to make the Macleay Valley a more accessible place. In 2004, the Award recognised the great lengths Melville High School had gone to in contributing to the education of their students by providing physical improvements to the school environment such as a lift to allow them to facilitate mainstream learning. There is now accessibility for all students and visitors to the school who may be in wheelchairs or on walking frames as well as parents with prams.



Back Row: Chris Heise, Sue Hindi (John Mawsons Family), Councillor Bob McWilliam (Kempsey Shire Council Access Committee member and Award presenter). Front Row: James Burnett, Lesley Langer (Deputy Principal) and Nancy Guascoine (John Mawsons Family).

INNOVATION

Council is an innovator in Local Government service provision in many areas. CivicView is a computer software system developed for the local Government industry by Council and its partners, Insight Informatics and Dulconghi Investments. CivicView has been sold to local authorities in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. The development of this system will not only provide an income stream through sales but also Council won't have to pay maintenance charges to an external software house, which in turn, will save Council considerable expenditure annually.

Each year, Council is the recipient of awards for innovation and the 2004/2005 year has been no different. In the past six months alone, your Council has already received the following accolades;

- * A gold award in the Local Government Managers Australia Excellence Awards for its "Eat Healthy-Skip to the Beat" program
- * Won the 2003 R H Dougherty Award for our Communication Strategies
- * Three first awards and seven highly commended in the regional Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beach Challenge
- * A special commendation in the National Diversity At Work Awards for our new indigenous streets maintenance team
- * Semi finalist in NSW Enterprise Awards for our involvement in establishing a community Economic Development Committee
- * A Certificate of Achievement in the Community Enterprise Awards for improvement works at the saleyards.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT USING THE INTERNET?

Your Council Library plans to run free Internet classes again in early February, 2005. The classes will include beginner's Internet, beginner's e-mail including help with setting up an account and advanced web searching. These small classes will be held at each of the Council Libraries at Kempsey, South West Rocks, Stuarts Point and Hat Head. Early bookings are essential. Please phone 6566 3210.

OUR OWN GROWERS MARKET IN KEMPSEY

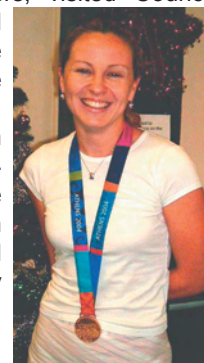
Have you been to the new Kempsey Growers Market? The markets are held every second Saturday of the month in Services Club Park in Kempsey. Stallholders gather from 8.00am until 12pm selling products they have either grown or prepared themselves including fresh fruit, vegetables, smoked meats, olive products, plants and herbs, homemade breads, jams and tasty chutneys. So mark February 13, 2005 into your calendar and come sample the delights of our Macleay Valley. For more information please contact Michele Foley on 6561 5223 or 0407 957 319.

YOUR COUNCILLORS

Mayor Janet Hayes	6562 3531
	0418 289 151
Deputy Mayor Brian Sowter	6567 4281
Councillor John Bowell	6562 5122
	0438 625 122
Councillor Terry Hunt	6561 7157
	0414 356 197
Councillor Betty Green	6562 8938
Councillor Jim Gribbin	6566 6907
Councillor Bob McWilliam	6566 5465
Councillor Dean Saul	6567 4682
Councillor Ellis Walker	6562 2119

GOLD FOR AMY

Kempsey's "Golden Girl" and previous employee Amy Winters, visited Council recently and showed us the Gold Medal she won in Athens in the 2004 Paralympics. Amy has also been named the 2004 Paralympian Female Athlete of the Year. On behalf of our Shire, we'd like to congratulate Amy on her 'outstanding efforts'. Well done!



contacting your Council

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