



**KEMPSEY**  
Shire Council

# community newsletter

*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*

**July 2008**

## **Sponsors stand strong behind medical students**

In early July the sponsors of the Macleay Medical Scholarship Scheme found out, first hand, just what a difference the scholarship is making to the students who receive it.

Representatives from the Macleay Regional Co-op IGA, the Rotary Clubs of South West Rocks, Kempsey and Kempsey West, and Kempsey Shire Council attended a luncheon with some former scholarship recipients, Cate Harris, Lauren Watts, Sean O'Brien and Anna Barnett to hear about their study experiences. The luncheon was a great success with students identifying the cost of accommodation and study resources as the areas where receiving the scholarship had made an invaluable difference in allowing them to follow their dream of pursuing a career in health or medicine.

A representative from The General Practice Network, which also sponsors the Scholarship was unable to attend to the luncheon.



*Back Row (L to R): Brian Calford (Rotary Club of Kempsey), Diana Gammon (South West Rocks Rotary Club), Councillor John Bowell, Susan Ramke (Macleay Regional Co-op & Kempsey West Rotary), Mayor Councillor Betty Green, Kathy Oliver (Council's Manager Community & Customer Services).*

*Front Row (L to R): Scholarship recipients Sean O'Brien, Cate Harris, Anna Barnett and Lauren Watts.*

## **EXERCISE KEEPS EMERGENCY SERVICES ON THEIR TOES**

Local emergency services gathered earlier this month for the 'Playball' exercisedrill at Kempsey Showground. The event was attended by the Police, Ambulance Service, State Emergency Service and the NSW & Rural Fire Services.

Drills such as these provide an excellent opportunity to train and co-ordinate Emergency Service personnel to make sure they are as ready as they can be to deal with real life emergency situations.



## **NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATIONS A HUGE SUCCESS**



Spirits were high during NAIDOC Week celebrations (6-13 July) with lots of exciting events held to mark the occasion. The traditional flag-raising ceremony and march were held in bright sunshine. Other events included a visit to the Greenhills Community Centre by Arthur Beetson and a successful exhibition of local indigenous art was held at the Macleay Community Art Gallery in Gladstone.



## **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 Customer First Officers welcome your enquiries on complying development on 6566 3200.

### **In Brief...**

Every year Council receives over 250 complaints about barking dogs. In the interests of community education, health and safety Council's Companion Animal Management Team (made up of both community and Council representatives) has developed an information brochure on 'Barking Dogs' to assist owners and neighbours in managing and resolving issues relating to this problem. The brochure which offers help and advice is available, free, from Council's Customer First Centre at 22 Tozer Street, West Kempsey or can be downloaded from our Website ([www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au)).

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Following its success last year, Waste into Art is back in 2008! Expressions of Interest are currently being sought from local schools to participate in Council's 2nd annual Waste into Art competition. The format will be similar to last year but there have been some changes to categories. More details will be available on Council's website in the near future. Waste into Art is made possible by these sponsors Midwaste, JR Richards & Sons and Kempsey Shire Council.

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The Kempsey Cultural Centre, designed by well-known architect Glenn Murcutt, celebrated its 25th Anniversary in early May with an open day held at the centre.

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On June 30, 2008 the Mid North Coast Library Co-operative (between Kempsey Shire & Hastings Council) surpassed 1,000,000 items borrowed in one financial year. This is an amazing statistic and shows just how important and vital Library services are in regional areas.

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If you are thinking about installing a wood heater, or you already have one in your home, Council has prepared an information sheet to help you understand your responsibilities regarding wood heaters. Pick your copy up from the Customer First Centre or website.

## **'Pot Trailer' a winner in more ways than one!**

The development of a portable 'Pot Trailer' by Macleay Water staff that allows quick, hygienic repairs to flooding sewage pots in its vacuum sewerage system is proving to be a real winner. Recently awarded a 'Highly Commended' in the Occupational Health & Safety category of the IPWEA Awards, the pot trailer has saved Council thousands of dollars in labour, parts and specialist equipment costs since its introduction 18 months ago.

The Pot Trailer has also produced valuable environmental benefits and welcome OH&S improvements for Kempsey Shire Council and recovered its development costs in less than six months.

Before this innovation sewage pot repairs were required, on average, once a fortnight. Each flooded pot would take up to an hour to repair plus extra downtime for the operator to shower and change. Now pot pump-outs take about 10 minutes and the job is completed quickly and effectively, resulting in substantial savings of time and money.

So simple, effective and significant are the solutions offered by the Pot Trailer that it is gaining a reputation further afield. Earlier this month Macleay Water staff were asked to demonstrate how the pot trailer works for representatives from Tweed Shire Council.

*Above Right: The Pot Trailer was developed by Macleay Water staff. One of the innovators, Peter Anderson holds the IWPEA award, while Manager Anne Maree Burke looks on.*

*Below Right: Macleay Water staff demonstrate how the Pot Trailer works at Hat Head for Luke Shepherd and Bill Flitcroft from Tweed Shire Council.*



## **Volunteers drivers & support workers needed for Valley Tours Program**

Macleay Community Care Options is seeking volunteer drivers and volunteer support workers for its Valley Tours Program. Valley Tours is a support service for people with dementia and their carers. The program, auspiced by Kempsey Shire Council, provides service throughout the Macleay Valley.

Clients are picked up from their homes and taken out in the afternoon for a leisurely drive, a light meal and some gentle exercise. This program is for socialisation and promotes the independence of the client in a supportive environment. It also helps provide some respite for carers.

If you have some time to transport people to a central collection point there is a reimbursement package in place for the use of your comprehensively insured vehicle; Alternatively, if you have a little more time on your hands and would like to give back to your community by helping as a volunteer support worker please contact Anne on 6562 6799 or via mobile 0427 781 463 for more information on this program.

## **Recycling reminders...**



## **waste minimisation & beneficial reuse of materials**

Congratulations to Shire residents on the low level of contaminated material making its way into the recycling collections. Even though we are doing well, monitoring of the material coming into the Crescent Head landfill site shows that there are still lots of recyclables making their way into the landfill.

Please double check the rubbish that is going into your green general waste bin – can you find any items on the list below that could be recycled?

- Aluminium and tin cans (you can leave the label on)
- Glass bottles and jars (no lids)
- Junk mail and magazines
- Aerosol cans (empty)
- Juice & milk cartons
- Plastic containers (with triangular 1 to 6 code)

For any enquiries about what you can recycle please contact the JR Richards Recycling hotline on 1300 787 223.

## Important information for Retail Food Businesses

As part of legislative changes to the NSW Food Act 2003, which became effective on 1 July, 2008, local councils have entered into a partnership with the NSW State Food Council and have been appointed as regulatory authority for the retail/food service sector.

It is hoped that this new collaborative approach will bring the following benefits:

- Enhance food safety in the retail/food service sector.
- Make food regulation more consistent across the state.
- Raise the profile of Council food regulation across the state.
- Reduce the impact of food borne illness in NSW, which is currently estimated at \$760 million.

Under these amendments Council's responsibilities and its role in Food Surveillance is clearly defined and will include:

- Investigation of food complaints.
- Urgent food safety responses, including urgent food recalls.
- Reporting on key food regulations activities/inspections to the NSW Food Authority every six (6) months.
- Regular inspections: food businesses will be placed into three categories based on the Australian NSW Zealand Food Authority priority classification - Low, Medium, High risk. Depending upon which level your business meets, will determine the inspection frequency. High - 2 inspections per annum, Medium - 1 inspection per annum, low - incident only.

Council will be required to regularly inspect retail food premises and report to the NSW Food Authority at six (6) monthly intervals.

## Council support for Community Organisations

Earlier this year Community organisations were invited to make submissions to Council for financial support in the 2008-09 financial year. The applications received were considered at Council's April meeting. As a result, the Mayor Councillor Betty Green distributed Council's donations for the year to representatives of the organisations and thanked them for their efforts at a morning tea held on 7 July 2008.



Among the organisations to benefit were Stuarts Point & District Community Organisation, Macleay Motor Cycle Club, Kempsey Eisteddfod Society, Central North Coast Show Society, the Hospital Auxiliary, Yarrahapinni Community House, Bellbrook Hall Committee, Macleay River Historical Society and the Kempsey Country Music Festival.

## RYANS CUT & BIG HILL FLOODGATES CLEARED

In late April, Council gained approval from the appropriate State Government authorities and carried out excavation work to open Ryans Cut to the ocean and to remove sand in front of the floodgates at Big Hill to enable the gates to open.

Ryans Cut is located on the beach between Crescent Head and Hat Head and helps to drain the Belmore River area in times of flood. It had not been opened since the floods in 2001. Its floodgates are located under Loftus Road about 1 km from the ocean.

The Big Hill floodgates are located under Point Plummer Road, about 150m from the beach, near Council's southern boundary. When opened they provide flood relief to a large catchment beyond Maria River Road.

## NEW TREES FOR SEA STREET

Council's Open Space & Recreation (OS&R) section recently removed the old, woody bottlebrushes from the road reserve outside the Kempsey Showground in Sea Street. They will be replaced with a small growing cultivar of Golden Penda called 'Fairhill Gold', which has attractive bark, dark green leaves and produces beautiful golden fluffy flowers (shown below) in Summer.

The new planting holes have been dug with good soil incorporated and our OS&R team is keen to plant these lovely new trees as soon as they are delivered.



## ONLINE TUTORING SERVICE FOR LOCAL STUDENTS

Kempsey Shire school students can now receive free tutoring help online at their library or home, through an innovative new service just introduced by Kempsey Shire Library.

'yourtutor' creates an online classroom where students are connected to qualified, expert tutors for one-to-one help with homework, assignments, exam preparation and study questions.

English, Maths and Science subjects are included and the service is available 4pm-8pm, Monday to Friday from either library or home computers. Help is immediate, professional and secure and it's free to library members. Students in Years 4-12, simply log on to the library's website and click on the link to access the program.

The service can be accessed through the Kempsey Shire Library Home Page at

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



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 3200** 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



Betty Green  
MAYOR  
Tel: 6562 8938  
Fax: 6562 3147



Janet Hayes  
DEPUTY MAYOR  
Tel: 6561 7188  
Fax: 6561 7595



John Bowell  
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Jim Gribbin  
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Ellis Walker  
Tel: 6562 2119  
Fax: 6562 4110

## Council Elections & Referendum

Local Council elections will be held in Kempsey Shire on Saturday 13 September, 2008. Voting is compulsory for all residents over the age of 18.

If you are not on the Electoral roll and/or you are considering standing for Council you have until 4 August 2008 to register. For more details contact the local Returning Officer, Alan Wilcox, by phoning 1300 135 736.

At these elections on 13 September voters will also be asked to vote on the following referendum question regarding the election of Mayor:

*"The Mayor of Kempsey Shire Council is currently elected by the Councillors. Do you favour the election of the Mayor by electors for a four year term and without changing the number of Councillors from nine?"*

To assist you in your decision-making the 'Yes' and 'No' cases are laid out below:

### THE 'YES' CASE

*The position of Mayor should be determined by the electors and not elected representatives.*

- Popular election of the Mayor for four years would give stability to the office for that period.
- The Mayor would have an opportunity to influence planning and policy setting in the longer term.
- The Mayor would have more direct accountability to the electorate.
- The distractions caused by the annual election of the Mayor would be avoided.
- Popular election would give a stronger community focus to the office of Mayor.
- The possibility of a Mayor being elected "out of the hat" is avoided.
- There would be predictability about the style and direction for a period of four years.
- Popular election would represent a greater level of involvement and participation by residents.

### THE 'NO' CASE

*The elected Council should determine the leader of the Council.*

- Councillors need to be able to express continuing satisfaction or otherwise with the Mayor.
- Councillors electing the Mayor on an annual basis would retain the option of assessing the performance of the Mayor annually.
- The electorate expresses confidence in the elected Councillors to choose the Mayor.
- A popularly elected Mayor may not have the support of a majority of Councillors.
- Neither electors nor the Council would be able to change an unsatisfactory tenure before the next election.
- The most popular candidate may not necessarily be the best leader of the Council.
- The four year Mayoral term may be too great a commitment for some to make and the choices may be limited.
- The positions of Prime Minister and Premier are not elected by popular vote.

**The local government elections are your chance to have a say in who makes decisions on your behalf in our local area over the next 4 years so...**

**Don't forget to vote on 13 September!**



Allan Burgess  
GENERAL MANAGER



Bruce Snape  
DIRECTOR  
CORPORATE AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICES



Bruce Morris  
DIRECTOR  
SHIRE SERVICES



Robert Pitt  
DIRECTOR  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICES

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West Kempsey

Phone 6566 3200

Counter hours  
Monday to Friday  
8.30am - 4.30 pm

Call Centre hours  
Monday to Friday  
8.30am - 4.30 pm

Library  
6566 3210

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directors