



Community newsletter

VOLUME 6
August 2006

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

It's Easy Being Green!

Apply now for your FREE energy saver pack!

Kempsey Shire Council is working with Easy Being Green to give away free Climate Change Starter Packs (valued at around \$100) to all households in the Kempsey Shire. The pack contains six energy saving light globes and one AAA rated water saving showerhead (for electric hot-water systems).

Once installed the pack can save your household up to \$150 on your energy bill, approximately 1 tonne of greenhouse gas emissions and around 21,000 litres of water each year.

If you would like to receive a free Climate Change Starter Pack, simply phone 1300 789 324 or download a form from www.easybeinggreen.com.au, fill in and return the 'easybeinggreen' form, and the pack will be delivered to your home. Alternatively, you can pick up an order form from Council's Customer First Centre in Tozer Street, West Kempsey.

It's that easy to save energy, save money and the environment! Place your order now as this offer is only valid until 22 September 2006.



Recycling: Bin delivery ahead of schedule



Preparation for the introduction of Council's kerbside recycling service on 2 October 2006 is ahead of schedule with the delivery of the new yellow-lidded bins to homes in Kempsey Shire already well underway.

A cost of \$53 for the kerbside recycling has been included in the domestic waste in your 2006/07 rates. This cost has been calculated on a proportional basis because the service will only be operational for 9 months in this financial year.

JR Richards & Son who have been contracted by Council to operate the new service have set up a Hotline number to answer your recycling questions. The number is active now so if you have any questions about kerbside recycling, please call **1300 787 223**.

Public reserves to benefit from Caravan Park profits

Over the last few years Council has undertaken substantial improvement works at the Crescent Head and Hat Head Caravan Parks including increasing the number and standard of cabins at these parks. These improvements have helped generate additional revenue. The profits from all Council operated caravan parks in 2006/07 is expected to be around \$604,000.

It is a requirement of the Department of Lands that, because these profits are generated on Crown land, they must also be spent on Crown reserves.

As a result of this, Council will use the greater majority of these profits to undertake work on other public reserves. The work planned would not be undertaken to the same extent if this source of revenue was not available.

In 2006/07 most of these profits will be spent on Goolawah Reserve (\$16,698); Horseshoe Bay Reserve (\$182,326); Sporting Fields (\$110,000); Paid life saving (\$87,000) and Parks and Gardens (\$100,000). Some of the profits will also be used to fund further improvements to the Shire's Caravan Parks.



Right: New cabins installed at Crescent Head Caravan Park last October are starting to pay dividends.

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 3253.

Smoke alarms now compulsory

In May 2006 new regulations making Smoke Alarms compulsory in every home came into effect.

While the regulation does not include any new inspection powers, it does include provisions for fines to be issued for failure to install smoke alarms. It is now also an offence to interfere with or remove an existing smoke alarm, unless it is to repair, maintain or replace the alarm. Is your home fitted with smoke alarms yet?

For more information call the Smoke Alarm Helpline on 1300 858 812 or email smoke.alarm@planning.nsw.gov.au

Have your say on road safety issues

Council's Road Safety Officer, Mark Thompson, is developing a strategic plan for road safety for 2006-2010. You are invited to have input into this process by completing a survey about road safety issues.

The better the response to this survey, the more effective our road safety strategic plan will be. So please take the time to complete this simple survey, which is available at Council's Customer First Centre or online at Council's website (www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au).

Below: Council conducted a free Child car restraint fitting day in June as part of its Road Safety Program. Pictured taking advantage of the service is Sandra Secomb with son Brett and granddaughter Tegan.



Local Government Week 2006

Council celebrated Local Government Week in early August with a morning tea and website information sessions for ratepayers held in the Customer First Centre in Tozer Street, West Kempsey.



Above: Customer First Manager, Marg Mottee and Councillor Bob McWilliam chat with Cyril Ripps (centre) at the Local Government Week morning tea.



Above: Website Administrator Lisa Hanrahan, talks to newcomer to Kempsey, Katrina Butler, about navigating Council's website.

What's in the works for 2006/07?

The road network

Most gravel roads in the Shire undergo maintenance grading once a year. In addition, more substantial gravel resheeting work will be carried out this year on sections of the following roads:

- Maria River Road
- Mungay Mines Road
- Old Station Road
- Pipers Creek Road
- Warbro Brook Road
- Willi Willi Road
- Dungay Creek Road
- Point Plomer Road
- Verges Creek Road
- Stuarts Point Area
- Hickey's Creek Area
- Turners Flat Road
- Upper Belmore River road
- Seven Hills Road
- Nulla Nulla Creek Road
- Seale Road
- Mooneba Road
- Aldavilla Road
- Smiths Creek Road
- Carrai Road

A total of \$909,000 will also be spent on routine maintenance on Council's sealed road network.

Other work to be carried out in 2006/07 will include town improvement projects in Crescent Head, Kempsey, South West Rocks and Stuarts Point.

Building bridges for the future

Work will commence in September on the replacement of the single lane bridge over Trial Bay Creek on Collombatti Road.

To address road safety issues the new bridge will be a two lane concrete construction. Residents and road users will appreciate this long-term benefit once construction is complete.

During the construction phase, however, there will be some inconvenience experienced because of the closure of Collombatti Road at the bridge site. Council has made arrangements with the contractor to fast-track the project so the road will be closed for around 5 weeks, rather than the expected 10-12 weeks, during construction.

During this period alternative access will be via Collombatti Road and Chain O Ponds Road. School bus operators have been advised of the closure and have told Council that they will make alternative arrangements to ensure continuity of service. Council will advise affected residents by letter when more specific construction dates have been confirmed.

Council apologises for any inconvenience caused during the construction of the new bridge.

Did you know...

waste minimisation & beneficial reuse of materials



....that Council recently resolved to introduce a kerbside recycling program in the 2006/2007 financial 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 recycle 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.

2006 NAIDOC Week



Above: Children are our future and it was wonderful to see so many kids involved in the 2006 Naidoc Week March in July this year

Dates for your diary

19-21 September

Crocfest 2006 in Kempsey

24 September

Nestle Community Vegetation Project
Tree Planting Day
Rotary Park Plummers Lane Jerseyville

10 November

Noxious Weeds Field Day
Information on the Control of Giant
Parramatta Grass

Saleyards work underway

Council commenced the re-development of the receival area at the northern end of the Kempsey Regional Saleyards.

All the old timber structures will be replaced; services such as electricity, lighting, water and drainage will be installed; and the unloading shutes and receival pens will be re-built in galvanised steel.

The project is expected to take about three (3) months and will mean that during this time all deliveries of cattle will need to be made via the southern end of the Saleyards complex.

Cattles sales through Kempsey Regional Saleyards reached 33,130 head for the 2005/06 year, an increase of 8% on the previous year.

The \$160,000 project is part of an ongoing program to upgrade the Kempsey Regional Saleyards, which has improved its ranking from 28th to 23rd on the list of NSW Saleyards since the upgrade began in 2002/03.

Riverside Festival 2006



Safety saves

Over the past couple of years Council, which is one of the areas largest employers, has focused on improving the safety in its workplace. The focus has been rewarded when Council received incentives and rebates from Council's insurer, Statecover, of \$102,000 for achieving impressive improvements in workplace safety statistics during the 2005/06 financial year.

Statistics show that Kempsey Shire Council is leading the way in safety in the workplace with its Lost time injuries per million man hours averaging 8.35 for the year, which is well below the NSW Construction Industry average of 26.4.

Emergency Risk Management Study ready soon

The Macleay Valley Emergency Risk Management Study (Natural Disasters) is well underway.

The draft report is close to completion and will soon be placed on public exhibition. The community will be invited to make submissions at this time. All community comments and submissions will be reviewed and the report amended if necessary prior to the final document being considered for adoption by Council.

Council has also been successful in securing a further grant of \$25,000 to continue the study into technological and other hazards which affect the Shire.

For more information about the Macleay Valley Emergency Risk Management Study contact the facilitator, Maria Frazer, on 6566 3232.

Library successful in bid for youth resources funding

Kempsey Shire Library has just received exciting news that two grants have been received to improve facilities, resources and training opportunities for young people using the library. The first grant (for \$82,000) is to be shared equally with Hastings Library and will provide resources and training for young adults. The other grant of \$17,000 is exclusively for Kempsey Shire Library to establish and furnish a specific space within the library for young adults.

Before applying for the grants Kempsey Shire Library staff held a focus group with teenagers to find out what services they felt would be of benefit. The letter of notification from the Library Council of NSW indicated that the information gathered through this consultative process played a large part in the success of the grant applications.



Above: A drama workshop at the Library in the July school holidays was popular with the kids.

And what did our kids want?

The types of resources they wanted were computers, devices for listening to music, more popular music CDs and other standard resources for young adults. The training opportunities identified included relaxation, time management and essay writing classes. All of these dreams will become a reality through this funding in early 2007.



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

Your comments really do make a difference

councillors



Janet Hayes
MAYOR
Tel: 6562 3531



Brian Sowter
DEPUTY MAYOR
Tel: 6567 4281



John Bowell
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

Council places many plans and strategies on exhibition and invites the public to comment on them. A public meeting is usually conducted as part of this consultation process. All feedback received from the public is valuable as it gives Council a good overview of the community's opinions and attitudes towards a particular plan or strategy before a final decision is made by Council.

As far as Development Applications are concerned, where required, proposed developments are advertised in the Macleay Argus and the community is given 14 days to comment on them. The comments received play an integral role in Council's process of considering the application for approval. Very often the community's concerns are expressly addressed in the conditions of consent imposed by Council on the development if it is approved.

Another way Council seeks community involvement in its decision-making process is to have members of the community sit on some of the committees established to develop plans on Council's behalf. These community members are involved in

the core planning phase and provide valuable personal expertise and community input that would otherwise not be available to Council.

In making decisions Councillors have to take many things into consideration, including the statutory requirements of the Local Government Act and Council's financial constraints. Sometimes, Councillors must make decisions that they don't wish to in order to meet such statutory or legal requirements. At times, Councillors also need to make decisions that protect future service delivery and infrastructure provision.

From a personal point of view it must be disappointing, when you have taken the time to become involved in Council's consultation process, not to have a decision go the way you believe it should. This is one of the most difficult parts about consultation. It is very hard to please everyone. In this situation it is important to realise that your comments were considered and balanced against others to arrive at the final outcome on that particular issue. Next time around it may be your input that helps Council reach a decision which you find more favourable.

Community Art Gallery forging ahead

The Macleay Community Art Gallery at Gladstone is available for all artists in the Macleay to exhibit their art work. The gallery is fully fitted out with a state of the art hanging system and gallery lighting.

Several exhibitions are planned for the future: the Fibre Artists Network will host their annual exhibition at the gallery in September; the work of students from Gladstone and Bellimbopinni schools will feature in the 'Hat, Head and Habitat' exhibition from 20-22 October; and the combined local High Schools will exhibit work in November.

The gallery facilities are ideal for exhibiting all types of art work painting, sculpture drawing, ceramics etc. Artists can combine with others to present a group exhibition. Bookings are essential for hiring the gallery. You can check the Gallery's current calendar of coming events by logging-on to Council's website at www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au "Community", "Community Gallery", then click on "Exhibition Calendar".

The Gallery is always on the look out for new volunteers to keep it open four days a week. If you have a few hours to spare contact Council's Community Project Officer Barbara Huntington (Tuesday to Thursday) on 6566 3226. Gallery hours are Thursday to Sunday 10am to 4.30pm and training is provided to all volunteers.

Council, the Department of Transport and Regional Services under its Regional Partnership program and the New South Wales Ministry for the Arts provide funding assistance to the gallery.



Above: International Women's Day was marked at the Gallery with an exhibition and informative talks by Susan Oakley and Freya Paton.



Allan Burgess
GENERAL MANAGER



Bruce Snape
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CORPORATE SERVICES



Tom Vermeulen
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Customer First Centre
Civic Centre, Elbow St
West Kempsey

Phone 6566 3200

Counter hours
Monday to Friday
8.30am - 4.30 pm

Call Centre hours
Monday to Friday
8.00am - 5.00 pm

Library
6566 3210

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