



DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

14th March 2006

DSS8	AUSTRALIA DAY 2006
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SUMMARY:

Reporting on the review of the 2006 Australia Day Celebrations at Kempsey Macleay RSL Club.



On Thursday, 26th January 2006 another successful Australia Day celebration was held with Council supporting a range of activities as follows:

Community Celebrations

Two (2) local community celebrations at South West Rocks and Crescent Head were supported.

These celebrations, run by the local Lions Clubs received Australia Day merchandise such as hats, balloons and advertising in the special Australia Day feature of the 24th January 2006.

The Crescent Head Lions Club also held local awards as part of their function. The Mayor attended their breakfast and assisted in presenting awards.

Australia Day Argus Feature

The annual Australia Day feature was promoted in conjunction with the Macleay Argus. The feature provides a keep-sake for the award recipients and their families and is funded through Council and sponsorship. This year sponsors were: -

- Farrer Kitchens,
- C & M Glass and Aluminium,
- Carline South Street Mufflers,
- Stuarts Point Workers Recreation and Bowls Club and
- Holiday Coast Tilt Trays.

Australia Day Awards Ceremony

The Australia Day Awards Ceremony was held at the Kempsey-Macleay RSL Club. Approximately 300 people attended.

The function commenced with the Kempsey District Silverband playing on the lawn outside the club prior to the flag raising ceremony conducted by the TS Calgoa Naval Cadets.

The audience was treated to a special rendition of the National Anthem by this years Ambassador renowned Singer / Actor Mr Peter Cousens.

Guests were then invited inside the Auditorium for the beginning of the program commencing with a Naturalisation Ceremony of: -

- Dorothy Saunders
- Susan Coumbe
- Michelle Rae
- Christina Beresford

After the ceremony the Australia Day Ambassador, Mr Peter Cousens, was welcomed by Randell Cook, Manager Woolworths Kempsey (Woolworths is the sponsor of the Ambassador program) and presented with his Ambassador pin. Peter Cousens gave a passionate speech about his life and times and what it means to be an Australian. The audience were then treated to a performance of "I still call Australia Home".

MC Keith Finnie, the Mayor and Peter Cousens then proceeded to announce the winners of the awards: -

Community Arts, Entertainment and Music Award

South West Rocks Arts Council

Community Service Award: Kempsey West Rotary Club

Sports Award: Hector McMillan

Young Citizen of the Year Award: Tammy Wicks

Citizen of the Year Achievement Awards: Vincent Cook and Trevor Hannam

Citizen of the Year Award: Don Wade

The closing entertainment for the event was provided by the Filipino Dance Group.

Proposed 2007 Australia Day Event

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On Thursday, 16th February 2006 the Australia Day Committee held a debrief of the day's event and have made a number of suggestions as to the format of the 2007 event.

Concerns have been expressed over the lack of younger people being involved in the celebration of Australia Day at Council's function.

Some proposals that have been put forward include: -

- The holding of a Family Fun Day / Multicultural Festival at Riverside Park after the official awards celebration.
- Outdoor Movie screening at Shire Beaches where families can bring a picnic lunch.

These options will be investigated and referred back to a meeting of the committee on the 20th July 2006.

Concerns have been expressed in relation to adequate staffing levels to stage the event in 2007.

For the 2007 event to be run to the standard of past years, additional temporary assistance will be required for at least two (2) weeks prior to the event. As a result the budget for the Australia Day function will need to be increased.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

▪ ***Environmental***

There are no environmental impacts from this report.

▪ ***Social***

Australia Day is a great social event that celebrates the diversity of the Shire and its many cultural differences.

▪ ***Economic (Financial)***

That an additional \$2,000 will need to be included in the 2006 / 2007 budget for the employment of an additional staff member for two (2) weeks.

▪ ***Policy or Statutory***

There is no policy or statutory implications from this report.

▪ ***Acting Director's Review***

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That consideration be given in the 2006 / 2007 budget estimates to the provision of an additional \$2,000 for the Australia Day vote.

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G R Whelan
Acting DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES