



**KEMPSEY**  
Shire Council

## **DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT**

11<sup>th</sup> December 2007

<b>DCCS10</b>	<b>REPORTING ON GRANT FOR LIBRARY AND GENERAL ACTIVITIES</b>
<b>FILE: 99</b>	<b>GB/KEO {Folio No. *}</b>

### **SUMMARY:**

Reporting on the services provided by the Kempsey Shire Libraries in both traditional library services and those of community and cultural development

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### **DESCRIPTION:**

The role of libraries in developing communities and providing services is an evolving one. Technology and changing demographics demands new approaches and services offered. The Kempsey Library network boasts a total of 14 computers with internet access for our community, located at Kempsey, South West Rocks, Stuarts Point and Hat Head. This is an invaluable resource to the community and visitors alike in accessing information and gaining a connection with the global environment. In addition the Kempsey Library has hosted cultural and information events promoting the use of the venue as a meeting place, cultural space and entertainment facility. The success of these activities is witnessed in the patronage and positive feedback from our community.

The Kempsey Shire Library in the financial year to date has accommodated over 53,000 visitors and provided various other services focused on the youth, arts, cultural development and older people.

In recognition of the needs of the community a development grant for the Cooperative of \$58,625 was successfully sought from the Library Council of NSW for Audio Books Resources. The purpose of this funding is to provide more reading material to older members of the library, including the vision impaired, with books on cassettes, CDs and in electronic format. It is to be shared with the Port Macquarie Hastings Libraries on a 50-50 basis.

Other community oriented library activities since July, include:

- 10 Navigators (electronic devices for reading books aloud) donated by Macular Degeneration Foundation for library users with MD
- A Reading Group meets in the library every month
- There have been 10 holiday activities for school age children held at all branches and 6 story-telling sessions for preschoolers at Kempsey.

- Lee Walder has visited 5 pre-schools as part of her outreach programme, paid for by the schools.
- There have been 4 visits to the library from TAFE and school classes, for library orientation.
- Author visits on 3 separate occasions have been hosted.
- There have also been 8 one off events hosted mainly by Kempsey with an anniversary at Stuarts Point branch. These include a Trivia Night in aid of Macleay Home Hospice, a Poetry Slam and a writers' workshop.
- Hosted the Indigenous Art Exhibition.

These activities are organised and run by library staff over and above the core service of the provision of information, reading and listening matter and have attracted an audience in excess of 700 people.

### **REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- *Environmental*

*No environmental implications*

- *Social*

*The library continues to position itself as a service which is at the heart of the community's life.*

- *Economic (Financial)*

*\$29,312 is gained for library resources from the State Government (50% of grant to Cooperative).*

- *Policy or Statutory*

*No policy implications*

- *Director's Review*

*The Kempsey Shire Library Network provides valuable services to the community through the provision of access to information, cultural and outreach services. The network affords linkages with multiple facets of our community and will continue to extend its services and events to engage the community.*

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the extensive services promoted and hosted by the Kempsey Shire Library Network be noted.**

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**G B Snape**  
**DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**