



newsletter

S U M M E R 2 0 2 1

Welcome to 2021!

FROM RECOVERY COORDINATOR

One of the most exciting developments for 2021 is the roll out of \$250,000 of Bushfire Recovery Community Grant funding. Congratulations to those community groups successful in securing funds for their various projects which will support a broad range of interests and outcomes across our beautiful valley.

Interestingly it is not just the allocation of these funds which has been such a positive experience but also the process of determination. Applications were assessed by a local community

advisory panel. These individuals gave up many hours to ensure a fair and rigorous process was applied to the application process with the end goal of 'Recovery' front of mind. It truly was an example of how, hand in hand with local government, the community can shape their own futures.

Speaking of inspiring, motivated people, this edition features the Kempsey Shire Australia Day Award recipients, many of whom were involved in some shape or form with the Black Summer Bushfires in 2019.

All the best and until next time

Jo McGoldrick



COMMUNITY GRANTS

Congratulations to the 11 community organisations that were successful in the Bushfire Recovery Community Grants round. They are:

- Macleay Valley Landcare, awarded \$30,000 to develop and deliver community education workshops and seedling dispersal
- Macleay Valley Mountain Bikers, awarded \$30,000 for the development

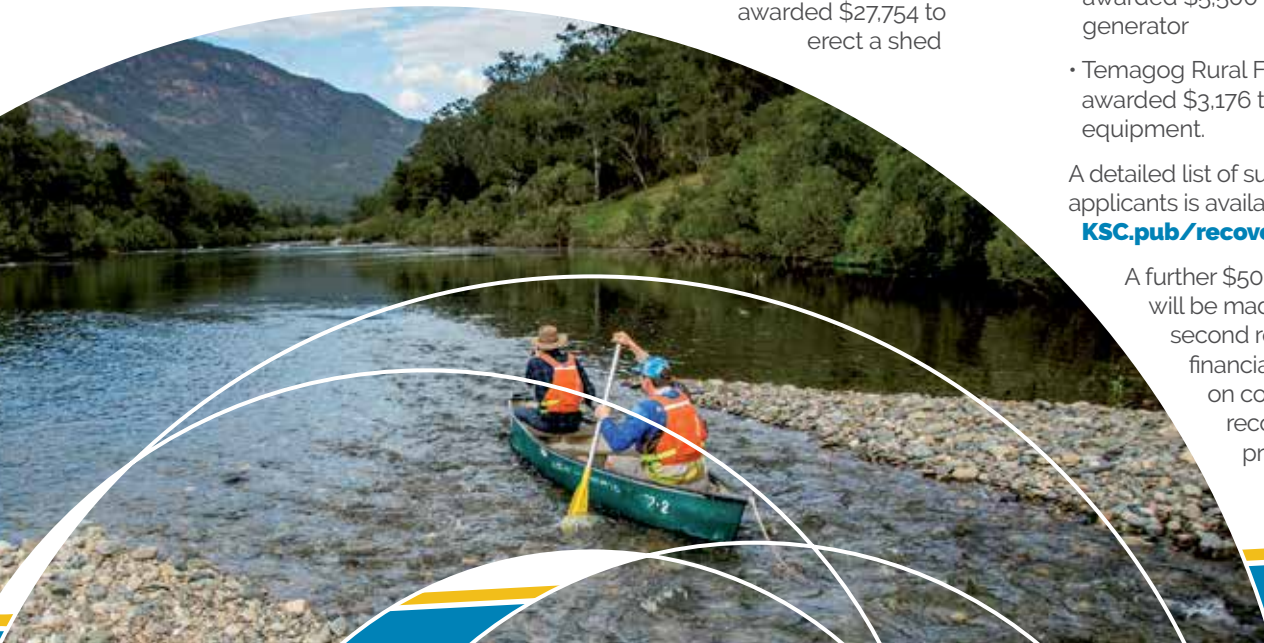
of a professionally built track in Kalateenee State Forest

- Upper Macleay District Rodeo Association, awarded \$30,000 to implement new fencing for cattle yards
- Upper Macleay Soccer Club, awarded \$29,975 for oval upgrades
- Wittittrin Progress Association, awarded \$29,500 to lay a slab and connect power to a new community area
- Wittittrin Progress Association, awarded \$27,754 to erect a shed

- Bellbrook School of Arts, awarded \$23,400 to revitalise the Bellbrook tennis courts
- Temagog Rural Fire Service Brigade, awarded \$21,037 to install a radio repeater to enhance their communications
- Millbank Public Hall, awarded \$20,801 to deliver much needed upgrades to the Millbank Hall
- Hat Head Rural Service Fire Brigade, awarded \$5,500 to purchase a generator
- Temagog Rural Fire Service Brigade, awarded \$3,176 to purchase new IT equipment.

A detailed list of successful grant applicants is available at [KSC.pub/recovery](https://www.kempseyshire.nsw.gov.au/recovery)

A further \$50,000 of funds will be made available via a second round in the next financial year with a focus on community-lead recovery, resilience and preparedness projects.



GET READY

Macleay Valley

The Macleay Valley has experienced 19 natural disasters over the past decade. This rise in emergencies and their impacts demonstrates the importance of being prepared.

The better prepared you are, the safer you will be when disaster strikes. Being prepared also makes it easier to cope in stressful situations and will help you recover more quickly.

Over the next few months, Council will be working with a variety of emergency services and response groups to develop localised emergency plans.

Get Ready for Disasters

KEMPSEY
Shire Council

Five simple steps to prepare for disasters



1.
**Know
your
risk**



2.
**Plan now
for what
you will
do**



3.
**Get
your
home
ready**



4.
**Be
aware**



5.
**Look out
for each
other**

ksc.pub/getready



These will be tailored to specific townships across the Shire and will direct households to a variety of resources to help you get ready.

Being prepared is everyone's responsibility. Find out how you can start getting ready at KSC.pub/getready

OLD & NEW FACES AT THE MACLEAY VALLEY RECOVERY HUB

There have been a few changes at the Macleay Valley Recovery Hub with position changes and

welcoming new members to the fold. We are delighted to welcome Michelle, welcome back Chontelle

and congratulate Sarah on her new role.



Welcome Michelle Gapes

Recovery Support Officer, National Bushfire Recovery Agency

Michelle Gapes has recently joined the National Bushfire Recovery Agency as a Recovery Support Officer for Kempsey and the North Coast. Her role is to provide affected regions with additional support to bushfire recovery efforts. She will work in partnership with the local and state governments to ensure things are coordinated on the ground.



Chontelle Shore

Bushfire Recovery Community Development Worker, St Vincent de Paul

I work alongside communities to tackle challenges that have arisen due to natural disasters. Vinnies's goal is to foster positive development and to build on existing strengths to bring about sustainable long-term resilience. If you have suggestions that might strengthen the Macleay

Valley community or assist those in need, please get in touch.

✉ Chontelle.Shore@vinnies.org.au ☎ 0418 941 888

Based at the Macleay Valley Recovery Hub, Monday's 9:30am – 4pm, or by appointment



Sarah Mason

Farmgate Counselling Service, Mid North Coast Local Health District

The Mid North Coast Local Health District is pleased to announce that Sarah Mason has recently commenced providing support as the new Farmgate Counselling Service.

Sarah can visit and provide services at a venue that suits the individual and their family – on the farm, in offices, at a café or via telephone. Referrals can be made by individuals, their families, friends and service providers. This service is in addition to the Bushfire Recovery Clinician. To make an appointment, call Sarah on 0438 964 716.

RECOGNITION FOR A LOCAL HERO

Much loved Shire resident Alice Strutt has been awarded the prestigious Australian Service Medal (NSW Rural Fire Service) by the Governor General.

Alice joined the NSW Rural Fire Service Temagog Brigade in 1981 in an era when it wasn't overly common for women to actively fight fires. In 1990 she was one of the first women on the coast to complete the basic firefighter training and later becoming a trainer herself.

Since that time, she has served in a range of roles including Deputy Captain in 1994 and Senior Deputy Captain in 1997. In 2008 she joined the Lower North Coast Communications Brigade and was Brigade Captain up until 2020. Alice is also a founding member of the Lower North Coast Aviation Brigade.

It was her role in Communications that saw her deployed to many major fire events across the State. Alice has also assisted the SES with communications during times of flood. Additionally she has contributed to community engagement, assisting many of the smaller communities and schools in the upper Macleay region.

During the recent 2019 Black Summer Fires, Alice stayed on shift all night with the Communications Brigade as the Carrai East fire impacted the nearby Willawarrin community and surrounds. The following week the same



fire impacted the Temagog area, including Alice's own property.

Ms Strutt has provided exceptional dedication to the local community for over 39 years as an active member of the New South Wales Rural Fire Service, and she has proven to be an effective ambassador for all female firefighters. Congratulations Alice on this well-deserved accolade.

BLACK SUMMER & BEYOND EXHIBITION CONTINUES



The Black Summer and Beyond exhibition is now on display at the Slim Dusty Centre. It has been extended to include additional images, artifacts from local RFS Brigades and a decommissioned fire truck.

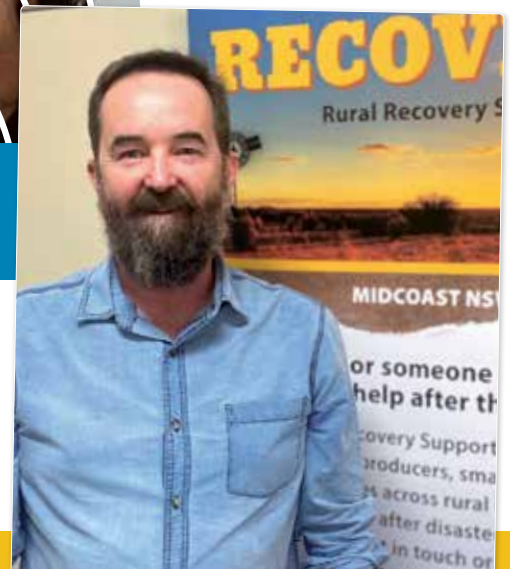
The exhibition is open to the public, with FREE Admission, between 10am – 4pm Tuesday – Sunday. It will remain on display at the Centre until 30 June.

RURAL RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICE CONTINUES

The DPI's Rural Recovery Support Service has been extended until December 2021 with Recovery Officer Rob Edwards continuing to work across the Shire with primary producers, small landholders

and communities to support their recovery.

Get in touch via midcoast.recovery@dpi.nsw.gov.au or drop into the Macleay Valley Recovery Hub for a chat.



AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2021

Hard working Kempsey community members and community groups were recognised at Kempsey Shire

Council's official 2021 Australia Day Awards ceremony at the Slim Dusty Centre.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - STAFFORD & DIANNE EVERSON

For over 40 years, Dianne and Stafford have contributed to the lives of Macleay Valley people.

Throughout the bushfires they arranged food drops to the Upper

Macleay, donated to and supported the local SES groups and ensured that their 200 staff were kept employed even during the worst of the drought.



YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - KEELY LAWRENCE

As the reigning Miss Kempsey Showgirl Keely has raised over \$17,000 for Dolly's Dream charity and

been named Chief Beef steward for the 2021 Kempsey Show.

During the bushfires Keely was a front and centre volunteer in the

evacuation centre and went on to volunteer with Blaze Aid repairing fences on properties throughout the Shire.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR (JOINT RECIPIENTS) - ANDREW KIRBY & MICHAEL KEMP

As an RFS volunteer during the Black Summer Fires, Andrew Kirby protected the property of others through the night, then would barely make it home for a short sleep before working all day for his own business and repeating the process again for days on end.

Michael Kemp was integral in providing support to his local Wittitrin community during the Black Summer Bushfires. Throughout 2020 Michael continued to support the community by donating funds, materials and labour to build shelters over donated caravans.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - KEVIN FARRAWELL (A SPECIAL CATEGORY AS NOMINATED BY THE AUSTRALIA DAY COMMITTEE)

Kevin has been a tireless worker for our community over 50 years. He was a founding member of the Kempsey Men's Shed, Cedar Place

Nursing Home, the Slim Dusty Heritage Centre and the Slim Dusty Foundation. He has also been a member of countless community

committees such as the Business Chamber, the Bush Fire Concert and CBD revamps.



COMMUNITY GROUP OF THE YEAR - KEMPSEY-CRESCENT HEAD SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

The Kempsey-Crescent Head Surf Life Saving Club is celebrating 100 years of service to the Macleay this year.

Two Highly Commended Awards went to My Church Kempsey and Lilli Pilli Ladies.

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