

# Keeping the Shire Connected

#### COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2019



## End of financial year review

Kempsey Shire Council continues to evolve as an organisation and implement business improvements to provide more efficient services and long-term benefits to the local community.

Throughout this period of change, we remain focused on delivering the diverse range of services that our local community expects. This includes improving and maintaining local roads, bridges, water infrastructure networks, parks and gardens and sports fields, delivering a high level of waste services and extensive library network, and securing grant funding for major revitalisation projects and new infrastructure.

Major projects undertaken in the last 12 months include completion of the Lachlan Street upgrade, new timber wharf at Jerseyville, installation of a public art gateway sculpture at the Frederickton roundabout, pathway lighting in Riverside Park, Brighton Park at South West Rocks and South Kempsey Park, formation of an Economic Development and Tourism Committee, introduction of live streaming of Council meetings, and expansion of CCTV cameras into South and West Kempsey.

During the year, Council hosted a visit from passengers aboard luxury cruise ship MS Caledonian Sky who docked at Trial Bay at South West Rocks and other successful events including the



A tourism highlight of the last financial year was MS Caledonian Sky visiting Trial Bay

Festival of Small Halls at the Frederickton School of Arts Hall in late January and the 2019 Macleay Seniors Festival in February.

Council also welcomed announcements of more than \$35 million in State Government funding for the delivery of infrastructure projects over the next three years. This funding will allow Council to deliver the construction of Monument Point walkway at Horseshoe Bay, the replacement of Turners Flat Bridge, new playground and amenities at Frederickton, Stuarts Point foreshore revitalisation and a high-performance sports centre at South West Rocks.







### General Manager's Message

In a fitting tribute to the work Council is undertaking to become a more efficient business, we were recently recognised as a key employer at the 2019 Macleay Valley Business Awards.

Council was awarded the Excellence in Professional Services Award (for more than 21 employees) and the Employer of Choice Award in mid-June.

These awards recognised the huge program of works Council has undertaken over the past 18 months to restructure, change technology and improve business systems and processes.

I'm exceptionally proud of our achievements to date – and remain focused on the work still to come – to deliver the best value for money services for our local community.

Giving the community a voice in Council's planning and delivery is important in creating a strong and effective partnership.

As part of this commitment, we continue to engage with residents in local towns and villages as part of our Community Catch-ups program with good attendance at our last meeting at Kundabung in late June.

In 2019-20 we will seek feedback on the Community Infrastructure Strategy, Local Character statements and development of management plans for reserves and Holiday Parks.



Council was awarded Excellence in Professional Services and Employer of Choice at the 2019 MVBAs

I am looking forward to even more major projects being achieved this financial year with almost \$80 million to be spent on a wide range of services across the Shire including \$24.5 million investment in maintaining and improving the road network, \$20 million in water supply operations and a further \$3.17 million on our recreational facilities.

To view the variety of projects that are underway, visit Council's engagement website, Your Say Macleay, to stay updated and to provide your feedback.

Craig Milburn General Manager

#### New Kempsey Community Directory



www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au/directory

Are you looking for local services, support programs or a sporting or recreational club to join?

The new Kempsey Community Directory is a one-stop site for connecting residents to the diverse range of community services, events, programs and activities on offer across the Macleay.

Community groups and not-for-profit organisations can list their services for free on this easy-to-use site.

Visit Kempsey Community Directory at: www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au/directory

## Lifesaving devices for local pools



Managers of Crescent Aquatic Centre recently received a defibrillator device for the facility

Three of Kempsey Shire's aquatic centres have taken delivery of a lifesaving device that will benefit pool patrons by improving emergency first aid responses.

Jointly funded by Council and the Office of Sport under its Local Sport Defibrillator Program, the defibrillator devices will be located at the Crescent Aquatic Centre, Macleay Memorial Pool Gladstone and South West Rocks Swimming Pool.

Kempsey McElhone Swimming Complex received a defibrillator in early 2017 thanks to a generous donation from Mid North Coast Diagnostic Imaging Kempsey.





#### Horseshoe Bay Walkway



Residents and visitors can now enjoy a scenic stroll along a new walkway at Monument Point that connects South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club to Horseshoe Bay Beach.

Funded by a \$357,000 grant under the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund and a Council contribution, the project was recently completed.

The coastal walkway follows the natural flow of the landscape of Monument Point and offers multiple viewing points along the scenic headland.

#### Australia Day Awards Committee changes

Council has adopted a new charter for its Australia Day Awards Committee.

Responsible for planning, conducting and reviewing Kempsey Shire's annual Australia Day Awards events, the Committee will play a crucial role in assessing the nominations and determining eligibility for awards and the recipients of each category.



2019 Australia Day award recipient Holly Gaddes and Josh Ball

Under the new charter, the Committee will comprise the Mayor, one Councillor, one Council staff member and up to five community representatives.

Keep an eye on Council's website for the call for nominations for community members to join the Committee.

## Changes to public forum arrangements

Kempsey Shire Council has adopted a new Code of Meeting Practice that includes changes to its public forum arrangements.

The public forum is now held on the evening prior to the monthly Council meeting to allow Councillors more time to consider information provided and to conduct further research and enquiry.

The change also recognises that the purpose of meetings is for Councillors to consider business items and make decisions.

Applications by community members to speak at the public forum will close at noon on the Friday before a Council meeting.

For more information about Council's new Code of Meeting Practice, visit: www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au/meeting-practice

### Have a say on Council's Saleyards options paper

Community comment is invited on options for the future management and ownership of Kempsey Regional Saleyards.

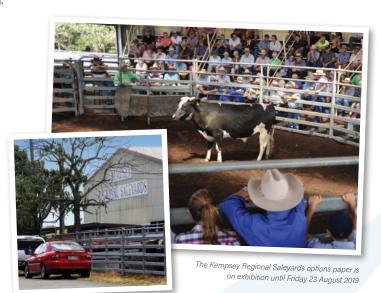
An options paper outlining five scenarios for the continuation of the saleyards facility is on public exhibition until 23 August 2019.

The options include maintaining the status quo, upgrading, leasing or selling the saleyards, or building a new facility.

The options paper is available at Council's West Kempsey office or online at: yoursay.macleay.nsw.gov.au/saleyards



Council's first public forum under the new Code of Meeting Practice was held in June



#### Sculpture in the Gaol

The historic prison at Trial Bay will be transformed into an artistic landscape with the return of the Sculpture in the Gaol exhibition.

The South West Rocks Chamber of Commerce is partnering with Kempsey



Shire Council and the National Parks & Wildlife Service to present the event which runs from 3-31 August 2019.

The exhibition attracts entries from all over NSW, including many schools from around the Macleay Valley. Sculptures are exhibited in and around the jail cells, which makes for a unique gallery experience.

For more information, visit Sculpture in the Gaol online: www.sculptureinthegaol.com.au

## International Day of People With Disability

Council and the Community Disability Working Group are planning two events as part of 2019 International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD) celebrations in the Macleay in early December.



A Riverside Fun Day is

scheduled for Tuesday, 3 December at Riverside Park and a Glitz and Glamour Ball at the Slim Dusty Centre on Saturday, 7 December.

If you are a disability services provider interested in becoming a stall holder at the fun day, visit Council's engagement site, Your Say Macleay for more details.

### What's on at Kempsey Library

There is always a wide range of events and resources at Kempsey Shire Library. Visit www.facebook.com/ KempseyShireLibrary to stay up-to-date. To register for one of the below events, contact the library on 6566 3210 or email kempsey.library@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

#### **Simple Living Group**

Frugal living, sustainability, decluttering and living an intentional life will be discussed at the Simple Living Group meeting on Thursday, 29 August from 1:30-2:30pm.

The group will share knowledge, experience and stories about better ways to live. Light refreshments will be provided.

#### **Lego Builders**

Bring your imagination along at 10:30am on Thursday, 15 August to create, build and play with the library's Lego collection.

Suitable for children aged 2-4 years, the Lego Builders program involves using Lego to develop early literacy and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) skills.

Through songs and rhymes, children will also increase their functional vocabulary.



#### **Poetry Slam 2019 Kempsey Heat**

The search is on for brave new voices to speak their mind at the local heat of the Australian Poetry Slam 2019 on Thursday, 8 August at Kempsey Library.

Co-hosted by Melanie Mununggurr-Williams (2018 Australian Poetry Slam Champion) and Emily Crocker (2016 Rumble Youth Slam winner), the heat gives contestants two minutes to own the stage and win over the audience with their original spoken word poetry.

Judges from the audience will rate each performance and two successful wordsmiths will go on to battle it out in the state final.

Only 20 competitor spots are up for grabs! Registrations open at 4:30pm before the event starts at 5pm.

### Upcoming Council meetings

Ordinary Council meetings are held every third Tuesday of each month at 9am in the Council Chambers, Civic Centre, corner Elbow and Tozer Streets, West Kempsey. Upcoming council meeting dates are the 20 August, 17 September and 22 October.





