



Investing in our sporting facilities

The redevelopment of the Verge and Eden Street playing fields will transform Kempsey into a regional sporting hub, resulting in better facilities and a capacity to host larger events.

The NSW Government's commitment of \$10 million will make the project one of the largest investments in sport and recreation in the Macleay Valley.

As outlined in Council's adopted Verge and Eden Street Sporting Complex Masterplan, improvements will include;

- Reconfiguration of existing fields (including new turf wicket for cricket)
- Refurbishment of the existing grandstand (Verge 1)
- Provision of three grass surface netball courts and 10 hard surface courts
- New purpose-built clubhouse incorporating amenities and change rooms
- New lighting to competition standard on all fields, netball courts and ancillary areas
- Passive recreation facilities including perimeter running path and fitness stations
- Field irrigation, drainage and resurfacing
- Expansion of car parking



The development will significantly increase opportunities for local participation and the various clubs who currently utilise the fields. These include cricket, soccer, netball, rugby league and rugby union.

Sydney Sixers Cricket stars Sean Abbott and Lauren Smith recently visited the Verge and Eden St fields as part of a Cricket NSW Country Blitz initiative.

Smith, a 22-year-old spin bowler, said the masterplan development was exciting, especially for the future of the local cricket community.

"When the kids come to training and see such a great facility it's obviously going to encourage them to get better and keep playing cricket," she said.

"I know personally having access to great facilities, it makes me want to be a better player and train harder. For a regional area like Kempsey I think it will be absolutely amazing."

Bringing the Verge and Eden Street complex up to higher competition-standard playing surfaces and vastly improved clubhouse facilities will create opportunities for sports tourism and the associated economic benefits.

Council is currently in discussions with state sporting associations to express interest in hosting future regional events and carnivals. With a \$10 million improvement to the complex at a central location for much of NSW, Kempsey could become a regional sporting destination.

General Manager's Message

It is good to see that as an organisation and a community we are actively promoting inclusiveness within the Macleay Valley.

The third 'Its OK on the Macleay' event, organised by the Baylin's Gift Committee, was held recently and really demonstrated how all sections of our valley support and value people's different lifestyles, cultures and customs. The many people that visited Council's stall at the event shared their life experiences in a celebration of diversity in our community, while reaffirming that each one of us belongs and is connected to others.

Inclusiveness was the theme of a forum held in June involving 70 of our organisation's leaders. Ideas were gathered on how we can be more inclusive in our day-to-day roles, and how we can encourage this behaviour within the wider community so that it will become the norm. As an organisation, we are actively looking at how we can promote inclusiveness in the services and facilities we deliver to the community.

We have made a start with improvements to our playgrounds at Gladstone and South Kempsey, making it easier for people with disabilities to enjoy accessible barbecue shelter facilities and tables, and by installing an accessible carousel in the playground areas. We have similar plans in place for Stuarts Point, and the new toilet block at Willawarrin sports ground will have disability access.



Council is proudly supporting the 2019 International Day of People with Disability on 3 December. Visit Council's website to see the celebrations planned, including a festival at Riverside Park and a 'Glitz & Glamour Ball' at the Slim Dusty Centre.

Both events will be great examples of how the Macleay Valley community comes together to celebrate difference and diversity and a chance for all of us to spend time together in a fun and inclusive setting.

Craig Milburn
General Manager

New footbridge for Back Creek



Piling work is underway for construction of the new \$1.4 million Back Creek footbridge at South West Rocks. The new bridge decking, built predominantly from compostable materials, will be constructed off site by Council's bridge crew. The new bridge is expected to be open for the Christmas holiday period with the old bridge scheduled to be dismantled and removed in February 2020.

Tozer Street works underway

Rehabilitation works underway between Wide and Marsh Streets in West Kempsey will result in safer driving conditions.

Part of Council's ten year works program, the upgrades include reconstructing the road pavement, installing new kerb and gutter and driveways and new stormwater pipes to reduce local flooding.

Parking will also be more defined with marked unrestricted parallel parking on both sides of the road and landscaping four centre medians.

Council's Director Operations and Planning, Robert Fish, said the work follows on from the completed upgrades in West Kempsey between Marsh and Elbow Streets.

"Council began the upgrades in mid-July. Work is progressing well and is on track for completion by mid-November, weather permitting," he said.

Mr Fish thanked nearby residents for their patience and understanding while the works have been taking place.

Please be aware that some disruption to traffic can be expected during construction but access to properties will be maintained for residents.



Adopting an animal



The Kempsey Pound is located at Frederickton and is managed by Council. It is provided as a service to residents in the Local Government Area for lost, surrendered or unclaimed cats and dogs.

The pound keeps animals safe and protected until its owner can be located. If, however, the owner cannot be located or if an animal is surrendered by its owner, the pound offers an adoption service of these animals to the general public.

Impounded cats and dogs available for adoption are advertised on Council's website, Facebook page and Council notices. By adopting a dog or cat from the pound, you are giving an animal in need a much deserved second chance.

Council would like to emphasise to local pet owners the importance of having pets de-sexed and microchipped. It is also vital that pets have a collar and clear name tag with up-to-date contact details so if an animal is found by Council rangers it can be reunited with its owner.

If you are interested in adopting an animal from the Kempsey Pound, visit www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au/pound

Please report lost animals to Council's Customer Services Centre by phoning 6566 3200.

Council's free Heritage Advisory service



Owners of heritage listed properties in the Kempsey Shire can access free, expert advice on their property through Council's Heritage Advisory Service.

Council has engaged the services of Stephen Booker, a highly qualified, experienced heritage consultant and architect who can provide information and advice on conserving heritage properties, renovations and repairs, colour schemes, urban design and planning matters.

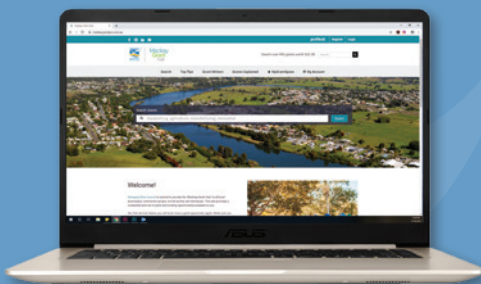
Mr Booker has a great deal of experience in providing heritage advisory services to Local Government and has been working with Council's planning department since 2006.

There are currently 125 properties with local heritage significance listed in the Kempsey Shire under Council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP).

Mr Booker is available for consultations either at Council or on-site on the second Wednesday of each month.

Bookings are essential and can be requested by calling Council Customer Services on 6566 3200.

Find funding with Macleay Grant Hub



Community groups, businesses and not-for-profit organisations across the Kempsey Shire can more easily find and apply for grants with Macleay Grant Hub.

Council has teamed up with Grant Guru to provide a free one-stop site with access to one of Australia's most comprehensive and up-to-date funding databases, making grants accessible and easy to find.

The site can be used to find available grants according to location, industry and type of project. It also provides tips for applying for grants to maximise your chances of receiving funding.

The comprehensive grants listing service includes grants from all levels of government, corporate and philanthropic organisations and lists rebates, concessions, awards, scholarships and more.

It's free to search, simply register with Macleay Grant Hub at macleay.grantguru.com.au to receive email alerts about available funding.

International Day of People with Disability events

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

A 'Big Day Out' is scheduled for Tuesday, 3 December at Riverside Park, Kempsey from 10am to 2pm. There will be a range of fun activities for people of all abilities and information stalls for disability service providers and other organisations in the Macleay Valley.

A 'Glitz & Glamour Ball' will be held at the Slim Dusty Centre on Saturday, 7 December from 6pm to 11pm. The event will offer all the fun that people with a disability can often miss out on - a complimentary drink on arrival, dinner, entertainment and dancing, in an accessible environment. This is an 18+ event.

Tickets for the ball are \$70 or \$35 with a health care/concession card and can be purchased from Council's Customer Service Centre (22 Tozer Street, West Kempsey) or Key Employment (14-18 Tozer Street, West Kempsey).

Macleay Seniors Festival is back for 2020

The 2020 Macleay Seniors Festival will be held from Tuesday 11 February to Sunday 23 February.

If you are over 60, Macleay Seniors Festival gives you the chance to make new friends or get together with old ones at a variety of events across the Shire.

A Senior's Expo with workshops and information stalls at the Slim Dusty Centre will open the Festival on Tuesday 11 February.

Visit Council's website or Facebook page to stay updated.



What's on at Kempsey Shire 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

Baby Bounce

Baby Bounce sessions take place weekly and offer a half hour of songs, rhymes, stories and movement for very young children. Sessions are designed to introduce 0-3 year olds to the wonderful world of books and libraries. The last two sessions of 2019 will be held on Friday 9 November and Friday 13 December from 10:30am.

Lego Builders

Bring your imagination along at 10:30am on Thursday, 21 November 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. The last Lego Builders session for 2019 will be held on Thursday 19 December.



Summer Reading Club

The Summer Reading Club will launch at all library branches on 5 December and is open to children from pre-school through to high school who are current members of the library.

The themed program aims to encourage a continued love of reading and ongoing multi-literacy skills development in children and young people over the summer school holiday period.

At the end of the program, a Summer Reading Club party will be held for participants. Date yet to be announced.



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 19 November and 17 December 2019.