



## KEMPSEY'S NEW LIBRARY IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Almost 300 people attended the Facelift@40 party at Kempsey Library on 27 May, celebrating our much-loved library's new digs on its 40th anniversary.

The music played and there were smiles all round as Uncle Graham Quinlan performed a smoking ceremony and Koala Cottage was revealed as the name of the new tree house in the children's area.

Of course, it wouldn't have been a party without cake. Mayor Leo Hauville was joined by Federal Member for Cowper Pat Conaghan MP to do the honours.

For many guests, it was their first visit to the refurbished library with its new layout, meeting rooms, outdoor area, and children's and youth spaces. Some remembered the library building

when it was first opened back in 1982 as state of the art for its time.

After its recent facelift, our library is now ready to serve the community for the next 40 years. Now with a fresh new interior and even better offerings, what are you waiting for?

Visit the library website, join the library or book a meeting room at [ksc.pub/library](https://ksc.pub/library)

## LIBRARY VAN ROLLS UP TO CRESCENT HEAD EVERY FORTNIGHT

Have you heard the good news? The mobile library van is now cruising into Crescent Head every fortnight on Wednesdays.

The van will park at the Crescent

Head Country Club carpark between 9.30 and 11am.

For dates, head to [ksc.pub/libvan-ch](https://ksc.pub/libvan-ch)



**DELIVERING NEW AND IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE IS WHAT WE DO**

See what projects we've got on at [ksc.pub/majorprojects](https://ksc.pub/majorprojects)

# MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



The 2022-23 financial year is here, and Council has several important and beneficial capital works projects to deliver to the Kempsey Shire.

A challenge we face is providing a growing list of services to meet community expectations within the constraints of a limited budget.

In recent years we have addressed this challenge through a proactive and targeted approach that has been successful in securing significant grant funding enabling a substantial capital works program over the coming years. Of the \$107 million capital works program planned for 2022-23, \$42.4 million is grant funded and allows us to deliver more community infrastructure that residents need. At the same time, this helps our shire's long-term financial sustainability and is a credit to Council's ongoing organisational transformation. Some of the projects within the capital works program include:

- Continued multimillion dollar investment in improving and maintaining the shire's transport/road network

- Extensive expansion of our water and sewer infrastructure with works planned for Crescent Head, Willawarrin, Stueart McIntyre Dam water treatment plants, and Stuarts Point, Sherwood, and Central Kempsey Sewage Treatment Schemes
- Multimillion dollar upgrade of Kempsey Saleyards
- Implementing the Horseshoe Bay Masterplan
- Significant investment in improving flooding and sporting infrastructure

Like everyone, Council is facing huge cost increases for materials and demand for Council services, and we've had to make decisions with the community front of mind, including increasing rates by 2% for this financial year. We are looking forward to continuing our commitment to give people the opportunities and infrastructure to build a safe, welcoming and sustainable community.

Craig Milburn

Kempsey Shire Council General Manager

## WHY HAVE RATES INCREASED?

With the news of an additional rate variation to increase rates by 2% being approved by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for Kempsey Shire Council, many residents may be asking the question: why?



The fact is that like the rest of Australia and the world, we have recently seen huge cost increases for materials, Local Government Award increases and increased demand for Council services. Without a

slight increase in rates, we would have to reduce services or the proposed works program for the coming financial year.

While we're facing the huge challenge of reducing the operating deficit, this rise will generate \$266,000 of general funds for the upcoming financial year. According to our Long Term Financial Plan for

2022-2032, the approval of the special rate variation will also help reduce the forecast deficit by \$3 million over a 10-year period.

The additional special rate variation to set the rate increase at 2% for 2022-23 will have an average impact of less than \$20 per annum per ratepayer. There's still lots to do to guarantee Council's financial sustainability, but we are making headway and look forward to continuing our commitment to give people the opportunities and infrastructure to build a safe, welcoming and sustainable community.





# DEVILS NOOK

Another big step has been taken on the journey to clearing the major landslip at Devils Nook on Armidale Road.

Kempsey Shire Council has begun works to remediate the landslip, which occurred at Devils Nook in January 2021.

Council has been awarded Transport for NSW funding of \$3,809,000 to undertake large-scale civil and geotechnical engineering construction to stabilise the site, which is approximately 6km east of Bellbrook.

The landslip occurred in 2021 after prolonged wet weather, pushing large amounts of rock into roadside barriers and necessitating short-term road closures as Council engaged contractors to clear the debris with earthmoving equipment.

Council's Manager Infrastructure Delivery, Dylan Reeves, said the



impacts of severe weather had been felt across Kempsey Shire, with Devils Nook being one of many sites still requiring remediation.

"We are continuing to work through our repair program from recent flood events, which will ultimately see about \$30 million of natural disaster funding invested in repairing Kempsey Shire's

infrastructure," said Mr Reeves.

"We understand upriver residents have faced many challenges as a result of weather events in the past few years and thank them for their patience and cooperation as we repair the damage to key routes across the valley."

For more information head to [ksc.pub/devilsnook](https://www.ksc.pub/devilsnook)

# SICK AND TIRED OF POTHOLES? SO ARE OUR ROADS CREWS

Everyone in Kempsey is sick of the potholes, but we guarantee there's no one who hates them more than our crews.

For all the good rain brings to Kempsey Shire it also presents big challenges, often in the form of big potholes.

So how do Council's road repair teams cope in periods of wet weather and flooding? The answer is: the best they can.

Kempsey Shire Council Coordinator Maintenance Response, Garick Cahill, said the shire's road network is made up of around 672 kilometres of sealed and 587 kilometres of unsealed roads.

"We look after a road network so massive that its length is similar to

that of Kempsey to Melbourne," said Mr Cahill.

One of the most frustrating tasks for the road repair crew of Frank, Tash and James is repatching potholes they have only recently repaired.

Water can cleverly find its way into the smallest of cracks, failures and even into recently patched potholes. This makes repairing roads difficult, and often the root cause of the failures dates back to when and how the roads were made.

"We understand the community is frustrated and we share this frustration with them but crews



are doing their best to complete this often thankless task," said Mr Cahill.

"Our crews are working to complete the jobs with the limited resources we have and in the continuing rainy weather."

There are a lot of patching repairs ahead for crews and Council asks for patience and understanding of the challenges crews are facing. We are working hard to repair roads as swiftly as possible.

You can find out more about road repairs at [ksc.pub/roadrepairs](https://www.ksc.pub/roadrepairs)



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[www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au](https://www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au)

# ALL THE PIECES FALL INTO PLACE FOR LOCAL ABORIGINAL ART PROJECT

A local Aboriginal art project at Back Creek, South West Rocks, has been completed, with a beautifully mosaicked timber seat installed at the significant location.



The powerhouse behind the Back Creek timber seat project is talented mosaic artist Francesca O'Donnell of the Out There Collective.

From start to finish, Francesca played a pivotal role in this popular project. Her creativity saw her draw up design concepts, order the required materials and, of course, create the culturally symbolic and stunning mosaic.

Council collaborated with Nancy Pattison of South West Rocks Figtree Descendants Aboriginal Corporation and Ms O'Donnell to create the culturally symbolic mosaic and resin artwork for a timber seat in Back Creek reserve.

An earlier stage of the project saw Ms Pattison design wraps



for the prominent bollards around the foreshore. Like the timber seat, the wraps feature three sea animals – a fish, a stingray and a crab – that are all significant to the area.

This project came about after discussions with the local Aboriginal community on having more cultural representation in this significant area and connecting residents to the Aboriginal culture of the area.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY GLITZ AND GLAMOUR BALL

### Don't miss out on the night of all nights!

Get ready to shake it at the Glitz and Glamour Ball in October. A great night is planned at the Slim Dusty Centre on Saturday 15 October to celebrate the contributions and achievements of people with disability.

The evening offers all the fun that people with disability can often miss out on – a complimentary drink on arrival,

dinner, entertainment and dancing, all in an accessible environment.

Tickets are \$35 with a concession card or \$75 full price.

Purchase yours at Council's Customer Service Centre, Key Employment or head to [ksc.pub/glitz](https://www.ksc.nsw.gov.au/ksc-pub/glitz)

This is an 18+ event.

