



Autumn 10



Community NEWSLETTER

A Community Celebrates

The bicentenary celebrations of Lachlan Macquarie becoming the Governor of New South Wales are off to a flying start with a range of interesting and innovative activities and celebrations taking place throughout the Hawkesbury.



For a current list of events go to www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Macquarie Rose *in bloom*

Governor Macquarie played an important role in the development of the Hawkesbury leaving his legacy through the naming of Richmond, Windsor, Wilberforce, Pitt Town and Castlereagh. Due to this connection that Governor Macquarie and the Hawkesbury share, Council initiated the development of a new rose to commemorate his contributions to the Hawkesbury community.

Local community members and guests joined presenter Trevor Grant, the breeder of the Governor Macquarie Rose and Finbarr O'Leary of Swane's Nurseries, developer of the rose at a pruning demonstration at the Deerubbin Centre Garden, Windsor recently. This pruning was essential to ensure that the roses are in full bloom on 14 April for the official launch. Commemorative artwork and china will also be launched at this time to celebrate the bicentenary and the Governor Macquarie Rose.

The Governor Macquarie Rose will be planted at key Council-owned facilities and in each of the Macquarie towns in the Hawkesbury. The rose was chosen as a way to ensure that Governor Macquarie's contributions to the Hawkesbury would be recognised both this year and into the future.

The first of the Governor Macquarie roses was official planted in July 2009 by her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales.

Council is encouraging the organisation of local events by local organisations and community members that celebrate Governor Lachlan Macquarie's accomplishments and contributions to the region. For more information on the Macquarie 2010 Bicentenary and the current program of events log on to Council's website www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

For more information about the Governor Macquarie Rose and the launch in April, please contact Fiona Mann on (02) 4560 4579.

Macquarie exhibition at Museum

On show throughout 2010 at the award-winning Hawkesbury Regional Museum, located itself on a town allotment granted by Governor Macquarie to John Howe in 1811 in Baker Street, Windsor, is a display about Macquarie's most enduring legacies- the setting out of five towns on the Hawkesbury River.

The exhibition includes information about the time he spent in the area, and the thinking that went into the siting and naming of the towns. Objects from the Hawkesbury Historical Society collection are also to be seen, including a relic of the original wooden cross that adorned Windsor's magnificent St Matthews Anglican Church, designed by Macquarie's favourite architect, Francis Greenway.

Hawkesbury Regional Museum is at 8 Baker Street Windsor.

Opening hours:

Wednesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm
Saturday and Sunday 10 am - 3 pm
Monday and Tuesday Closed
(open by appointment for groups)

Public Holiday times: Closed Christmas Day, Good Friday and public holidays falling on Tuesdays to Fridays. Open 10-3 on public holidays falling on Saturdays to Mondays.

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Good Sports Program



Councillor Bart Bassett and Phil Tangney, Regional Manager Sydney, Good Sports.

Council is proud to announce its sponsorship of the Australian Drug Foundation's 'Good Sports' Program in the Hawkesbury.

The Good Sports Program is a national initiative of the Australian Drug Foundation. The program works in partnership with sports clubs with or without an alcohol licence, their sponsors, Council and community stakeholders on practices for the responsible service and consumption of alcohol.

The aim is to achieve safer and healthier communities through the reduction of potential alcohol-related problems such as drink driving, excessive or underage drinking and antisocial behaviour.

Council will provide \$2000 per year for the next three years to support this program.

Clubs wishing to express their interest in the program or seeking further information should visit the website at www.goodsports.com.au and click on 'Register Your Club' or call the Good Sports NSW office on 9972 3160.

Council joins the Companion Card Program

Council has become an affiliate of the NSW Companion Card Program which aims to improve access to leisure and recreation venues for people with a disability.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 6.3% our local population has a profound or severe core-activity limitation.

It is hoped that, by Council supporting this program, people with disabilities will find the many facilities provided to be more affordable.

The Companion Card has a photograph of the cardholder and can be presented when booking or purchasing a ticket at events and venues. Provided the cardholder requires attendant care support in order to participate at that particular activity, the participating venue or service will issue a second ticket for their companion at no charge.

Although Hawkesbury Oasis Aquatic Centre and Richmond Pools have had informal arrangements in place to assist in overcoming the financial constraints for persons requiring attendant care, both venues now recognise the Companion Card, enabling cardholders to bring a companion free of charge.

Council's public venues, such as the Regional Museum, Gallery, Library, parks and recreation areas can be entered free of charge. In addition, existing Council funded programs – such as community transport services managed by Peppercorn Services Inc. already provide free access to services for attendant carers.

For further information about the Companion Card Program phone 1800 893 044 or visit <http://www.nds.org.au/nsw/companioncard.htm>

New bird trapping project

Council has gained an overwhelming response to the new Indian Myna trapping project launched in September 2009. Over 350 people have since joined the community-driven trapping program facilitated by Council. As a result, the Hawkesbury Indian Myna Action Group (HIMAG) has been formed. HIMAG is helping to improve the biodiversity of the Hawkesbury area through community education and the humane control of Indian Mynas.



The Indian Myna is a bird species which is listed by the World Conservation Union as amongst the 100 most invading bird species in the world. Indian Mynas are also described as an extreme threat to the Australian environment. Anecdotal information suggests Indian Mynas reduce biodiversity by competing with our native birds and mammals for nesting hollows, destroying their eggs and killing their chicks to hijack nesting places.

A community workshop was held in March at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery to explain the importance of the trapping program. All interested residents are welcome to attend future workshops. For more information call 4560 4525 or email martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

2010 Australia Day Award Winners

Several outstanding Hawkesbury residents and organisations received Australia Day Awards for 2010 at a presentation ceremony held at Richmond Club on Australia Day. The winners are:

• **Citizen of the Year: Ruby Wilbow**

Ruby is one of those quiet but determined contributors that make up the backbone of our community. She has contributed her volunteer support to the Hawkesbury Hospital Auxiliary working in the gift shop for many years as well as a wide-range of other community organisations within the Hawkesbury.

• **Joint Young Person of the Year: Louise Swane**

Louise's contribution to the Hawkesbury has been to offer herself as an open-minded, cheerful volunteer for the Wisemans Ferry Sunshine Group. She has consistently displayed a positive attitude towards the community and is an inspirational leader for young citizens.

• **Joint Young Person of the Year: Elizabeth Hitches**

Elizabeth's main contribution to the youth of the Hawkesbury has been to inspire school students to lead a healthy life despite her medical condition which has affected her life dramatically.

• **Sports Person of the Year: Jack Houston**

Jack is a very motivated young man who sets goals and trains hard to achieve at the highest level in his chosen sport of ski racing. In Belgium in 2009 he became the Boys Junior World Champion and is the current NSW and Australian Champion.

• **Community Arts Award: Donald Cobcroft**

Donald's generous spirit has been reflected in the many roles he has held in his life including his 35 years of service with SES, being a member of the Macquarie Bicentenary 2010 Committee and Secretary of Wilberforce School of Arts Committee.



Macquarie Park

Above: Artists impression of Macquarie Park

Council is upgrading the playground in Macquarie Park with a new regional facility as part of continuing improvements to Council's parks and play spaces. Stage 1 of the improvements will include minor path works and shaded play facilities for children aged up to 7. As part of Stage 2 works (subject to funding) it is envisaged that the play space will be extended to include facilities suitable for young people aged up to 14 with climbing structures and new slides. In addition to the play facilities, carer amenities will be provided including shelters and picnic facilities. The pathway network will also be extended to create a circuit path up to 1.5 km in length (stage 3).

Richmond Park

As part of a jointly funded program between Council, the Heritage Council of NSW and the Department of Planning, funding has been provided to re-instate the strong geometry of Richmond Park through the construction of a pathway system,

incorporating the basic elements of the known late 19th/early 20th century pathways. New gardens are also to be established to incorporate the existing roses that will be removed prior to the works, with some Macquarie Roses also added.

The works, scheduled to commence the 22 March, and be completed within 14 weeks, will include, new pathways, fencing near the current play space, and park furniture replacement.

Windsor Wharf Project

Council is in the process of re-constructing the Windsor Wharf through a jointly funded project with NSW Maritime. Council is currently undertaking the detailed design of the new structure with the use of modern products to ensure an attractive, long lasting structure that requires minimal maintenance. It is envisaged that works on the re-building will begin in June 2010 and take up to three months.

Local Waste ONLY

Hawkesbury City Waste Management Facility, located at The Driftway, South Windsor receives waste from people that can provide proof of their residency through, for example a current drivers licence, or in the case of commercial customers, by establishing that the materials are from within the Hawkesbury local government area.

On average more than three people per day are refused entry to the Facility because they are attempting to dump prohibited waste, come from outside the LGA, don't have adequate ID or object to paying the fees. Prices for dumping are set according to the waste type and most wastes are charged by weight. Some recyclable items are accepted free.

Details of fees and type of waste accepted are available on Council's website www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or by contacting the Waste Facility on (02) 4572 5489. It is suggested that residents have a look at these details prior to taking a trip to the Waste Facility to ensure that they are fully aware of the type and amount of waste that will be received and cost of dumping.

Illegal dumping is an ongoing issue for Council and compliance officers have been working with the Department of Environment Climate Change and Water to target offenders.

• Cultural Heritage Award: Max Hatherly

Emeritus Professor Max Hatherly has demonstrated a deep commitment to the history of the Hawkesbury through his dedication to the restoration of Stannix Park House and gardens in Wilberforce. Max is known as a very capable and civic-minded person who works selflessly for historical preservation, environmental issues and the good of the community.

• Commemorative Plaque Award: Governor Lachlan Macquarie (1762-1824)

Governor Macquarie took up his commission as fifth governor of the colony of New South Wales on 1 January 1810. His vision for the colony encompassed ideas of virtue, prosperity, deconstruction of faction in society, reform, exploration, building and town development on a scale grander than anything undertaken before him.

With the posthumous Commemorative Plaque award, Hawkesbury pays special tribute to the achievements of Governor Lachlan Macquarie.

• Community Organisation of the Year: Hawkesbury Skills

Hawkesbury Skills Incorporated has over 15 years experience in vocational skills training and the provision of employment related services in the Hawkesbury.

The organisation aims to raise the awareness of the local community to the problems of unemployed and disadvantaged people. They also continue to work with community, business and education groups to enhance the creation of sustainable employment opportunities.

• Special Achievement Award: Erik Hausoul Sarcoma Foundation

The Erik Hausoul Sarcoma Foundation is a local organisation which aims to raise public awareness to help early identification of symptoms and to fund research into sarcomas and other cancer treatments. Osteosarcoma is the most common type of bone cancer and the sixth most common type of cancer in children.

Community Survey RESULTS

Hawkesbury City Council recently commissioned a random community survey of 400 residents in an effort to assess the priorities of the community and their attitudes to Council's performance.

The independent survey provides an assessment of where the community perceives Council is performing well and meeting the priorities of its residents, and also identifies priority areas that require improvement.

The top five areas achieving the highest level of satisfaction (in order of ranking) were libraries, garbage services, Gallery/Museum, recycling services and child care centres.

The top five priority areas for residents in order of importance are road maintenance, healthy & sustainable waterways, improving services & infrastructure, lobbying State & Federal Government for funding and improved service levels and road safety.

Overall, the survey identified the high levels of importance residents attach to the services or facilities provided by Council. Importantly, when comparing the results of the 2009 research with that conducted in 2007, resident satisfaction has increased significantly for 5 of the 23 comparable services.

As a result of this survey, a Residents Panel will be established to assist in areas that need further community input as identified in the Community Strategic Plan or other areas of Council's general operations. The full results of the Community Survey 2009 are now available on Council's website.



Centre opens on a glorious summer day

Close to 800 people from the community of Kurrajong and surrounding areas celebrated the official opening of the Kurrajong Community Centre on the last day of summer.

The beautiful McMahon Park provided the perfect backdrop for displays, activities and entertainment that were arranged jointly by Council and the McMahon Park Management Association for all to enjoy.

A traditional Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by elders of the Darug community featured as part of the opening ceremony by the Mayor, Councillor Bart Bassett.

Designed by local architect Robert Pont and constructed by GW Building, the new large hall can be divided into two smaller halls, if required, and features a fully equipped kitchen, a meeting room and two offices. Other improvements include a new sports storage facility, new car park, 1400 square metres of turf and additional irrigation.

The \$1million facelift was funded with \$850,000 from Council and \$150,000 from the Australian Government, under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program.

Small but significant improvements

A small but significant improvement was recently officially opened with a community celebration organised by the St Albans Hall Committee at St Albans in February.

A local valley architect and the Committee gave freely of their time to work with Council to develop plans to upgrade the existing school of arts building to provide amenities including disabled facilities.

The extension was officially opened by Councillor Christine Paine. The project was funded by the Australian Government under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program with a grant of \$88,000 and provided local employment for Hawkesbury residents.



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If you would like to make comment on this newsletter please contact (02) 4560 4430