

Spring

2011



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St Albans community celebrates

The St Albans community and their neighbours in the Macdonald Valley came out to celebrate on Saturday, 13 August 2011. The community was joined by Councillor Kim Ford representing the Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Bart Bassett, and fellow Councillors, Christine Paine, Paul Rasmussen and Jill Reardon to celebrate the completion of two projects in St Albans Park.

The celebrations marked the completion of the Rescue the Future-Biodiversity Enhancement Project and the unveiling of the Biodiversity Sculpture which was funded by the National Heritage Trust's Envirofund. The project also encompassed weed eradication and bush regeneration at St Albans Park and two other reserves, a Biodiversity Walk, pamphlets and the installation of plant plaques.

The park upgrade was completed under the Australian Government's Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program



and included the installation of decomposed granite pathways and improved seating and picnic facilities. This project is part of the implementation of the St Albans Park Master Plan.

Both projects were completed with contributions by Council.

Our thanks go to the Macdonald Valley Association and the St Albans Bush Fire Brigade who assisted in the organisation of this very successful community event.

Hawkesbury welcomes new Mayor

Hawkesbury City Council welcomes a new Mayor, Councillor Kim Ford. Councillor Ford was elected to the position at Council's Extra-Ordinary meeting held on Tuesday, 20 September 2011.

Councillor Ford, a local business man, was elected to Council in the by-election in June 2010. He is an active member of the community through his work with the Yarramundi Rural Fire Service and Nepean Rotary.

"The Hawkesbury community have been very supportive and I will continue to work with them to build a better Hawkesbury. I aim to keep the community informed and involved in Council activities and decisions and continue to implement the priorities

outlined by residents in the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan," Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Kim Ford said.

A new Deputy Mayor was also elected. Councillor Tiffany Tree is an educator and is a supporter of the Hawkesbury Sport Council. She believes the greatest challenges our region faces is economic sustainability and supporting infrastructure.

Councillor Ford added, "I would like to thank the former Mayor, Councillor Bart Bassett and former Deputy Mayor, Councillor Kevin Conolly for their leadership and considerable contribution and dedication to our community during their terms of office."





Hawkesbury sporting dedication recognised



Talented sportspeople and sports administrators were officially recognised for their outstanding involvement in sport at the 2011 Hawkesbury Sports Awards presentation held in Local Government Week.

Jointly coordinated by the Hawkesbury Sports Council and Hawkesbury City Council, the civic program recognises outstanding contributions to sport in our area.

Five dedicated sportspersons were awarded the Certificate for Commitment to Sport in the Hawkesbury which recognises their highly commendable contribution to their sport over the last 10, 20 and 30 years.

A triathlon athlete, tennis player, soccer player, BMX rider and five cricket players won the prized Sports Medals for their talent and dedication. In total, nine Sports Medals were awarded on the evening which demonstrates the high level of sustained commitment to sport within our community.

Scrappy goes to school!

Students at Comleroy Road Public School were surprised when special guest Scrappy, Council's waste and recycling mascot, arrived during their 'It's a Wormy World' presentation conducted by EnviroCom Australia, Council's waste education contractors for primary schools.

Students were introduced to worm farming as an alternate means of disposing of waste. Scrappy was surprised at how much the students already knew about worms and their important role in the environment.

Where will Scrappy be spotted next?

For further information, please contact Council's Waste Education Officer on 4560 4566.



Dob in a Dumper

Did you know that you can now report a dumper online at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au? Go to Council's waste and recycling page and click on 'report illegal dumping'.

Customer service improvements

Residents visiting Council's administration centre in Windsor will notice changes to the public areas that will improve service for its customers. A one-stop-shop approach is being implemented which will allow for customer enquires to be dealt with more effectively and efficiently.

Customer enquiries will now be received and processed at a single entry point.

A new front service counter has been built with provision for payment facilities, disability access and a hearing loop. A 'back office' telephone enquiry centre has also been established to respond to customer enquiries.

The existing foyer and customer waiting area has been refurbished, and new meeting and interview rooms built.

Customer Service Officers across Council are currently being trained on all customer transactions, to ensure they have a broader knowledge of Council's services to assist with your enquiries.

An electronic customer request software tool is also being rolled out to improve the timely processing, tracking and completion of customer requests.

Council has adopted a 'Customer Service Charter'. A set of customer contact and service standards have been developed to advise customers of the levels of service they can expect from Council and the timeframe for the delivery of these services. These documents can be viewed on Council's website, www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

For more information about these customer service improvements please call Council's Customer Service Manager on 4560 4597.

Improved disability access in the Hawkesbury underway

Planning for the Disability Action Plan is well underway. Members of the Hawkesbury Disability Advisory Committee have completed an 'access audit' training and will now be conducting access audits of Council buildings and parks to identify works needed to improve their accessibility.

Council supports additional graffiti removal project

Council has agreed to support the Rotary Club of Kurrajong, North Richmond Inc. to establish a graffiti removal project providing financial assistance of \$10,000.

The project is similar to that currently being provided by the Rotary Club of Windsor, throughout the Windsor, South Windsor, Bligh Park and McGraths Hill areas. It means that Kurrajong, North Richmond, Richmond, and the surrounding commercial and business areas will also benefit from a graffiti removal program.

Funds will be used to purchase a purpose built trailer, high pressure water spray unit, graffiti removal products, personal protective equipment, and other ancillary items that are required to carry out the removal work. Graffiti removal will be carried out by Rotary Club members.

Since the commencement of the Rotary Club of Windsor's project in March 2011, there have been significant improvements in the presence of graffiti in the area in which they operate. The project has been well received throughout the community.

Residents are encouraged to report graffiti by visiting www.vandaltrak.com.au. This site logs the location of graffiti for future cleaning and also provides a database which may help to determine and catch offenders.

Community celebrates completed infrastructure improvements



The official opening of projects completed with \$375,800 of funding provided through the Australian Government's Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program was held at Howe Park, Windsor during Local Government Week in August. Projects included:

- Howe Park, Windsor – \$112,800 – observation deck and park furniture.
- Streeton Lookout, Freemans Reach – \$68,000 – car park improvements and park furniture.
- Hawkesbury Visitors Information Centre, Clarendon – \$30,000 – access improvements.

- Richmond Park, Richmond – \$50,000 – installation of a computer based irrigation system.
- Glossodia Bush Fire Shed, Glossodia – \$10,000; Woodbury Reserve, Glossodia – \$20,000; Glossodia Neighbourhood Precinct, Glossodia – \$65,000 – connection to the reticulated sewerage system.
- Macquarie Street, Windsor – \$20,000 – installation of a new bus shelter.

The event acknowledged the improvement and betterment of key items of infrastructure in the Hawkesbury for the benefit of the community.

Hawkesbury Regional Museum wins top Tourism Award (again!)

For the second year in a row, Hawkesbury Regional Museum has won the Award for Cultural and Heritage Tourism in the 2011 Greater Sydney Tourism Awards announced on Thursday, 28 July 2011. It recognises their work in fostering a greater understanding of history, heritage and culture in the Hawkesbury.



Rickaby's Creek Cycleway/ Pedestrian Bridge

Work is well underway on the construction of the Rickaby's Creek Cycleway and Pedestrian Bridge at Howe Park, Windsor. It was a spectacular sight as a 450 tonne crane erected the 30 metre Super T Girder weighing 46.3 tonnes at the site recently. A concrete slab was poured on top of the girder to provide the main structure of the bridge.

The new bridge is the next step in connecting the main centres of the Hawkesbury through a bicycle network. It will provide a link between Deerubbin Park, Cornwallis (Windsor Lowlands) on the western side of Rickaby's Creek and Howe Park, Windsor on the eastern side of Rickaby's Creek.



WANT TO KNOW SOME FACTS ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY?

Council now has available an easy to use Community Profile and Social Atlas which can be accessed through its website, www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

The Profile and Atlas are a great source of information for community groups, businesses, students and the general public.

The Community Profile is formatted to present the data in simple, clear tables and charts with concise factual commentary. The profile is based on Census of Population and Housing information and will be updated with the 2011 Census data when it becomes available.

The Community Atlas includes key socio-demographic characteristics for the Hawkesbury, presented as interactive maps. Based on data from the 2006 Census, each map is prepared using Census Collector Districts to help identify spatial patterns and trends in the area.

Green Spot

Council's A-Z Reuse and Recycling Guide online

From aluminium to x-rays, cooking oil to reading glasses, fire extinguishers to plastic garden pots; Council's A-Z Reuse and Recycling Guide is now live on the waste and recycling page of the Council's website.

The A-Z guide will assist residents in finding alternatives for the disposal of common household items, which may not be acceptable in your household recycling bin, but can actually be recycled by dropping them off at locations in and around the Hawkesbury.

Remember landfill is the last resort after you have tried to avoid, reduce, reuse and recycle.

THE SEARCH IS ON...

Australia Day is quickly approaching and the search is on to find the 2012 Australia Day Award winners. Nominate now for the Sportsperson, Cultural Heritage, Community Arts and Commemorative Plaque Awards.

If you know an individual who is doing something amazing in the Hawkesbury nominate them for a Citizen of the Season or Young Citizen of the Season Award and they go in the running to be named Citizen of the Year or Young Citizen of the Year at the Australia Day Awards for the Hawkesbury.

Nomination forms can be found at Council's Administration Building, Richmond Branch Library, Hawkesbury Central Library, Windsor and also on Council's website.

Contact Us

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www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

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

NEW LIBRARY EVENTS PROGRAM AVAILABLE

Pick up the new Library Events Program for September - November 2011 from your local libraries at Windsor and Richmond to ensure you don't miss out on upcoming Library activities, most of which are free. You can also find the program online at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.



Natalie Burton Memorial Award winner

Bede Polding College student, Alana Axiak is the proud recipient of the Natalie Burton Memorial Award for 2011.

After sustaining an injury in 2008, Alana has made steady, ongoing progress and will complete her HSC this year. She has increased her school hours over the last three years and has been successively completing a Life Skills Program of study for her HSC to a very high standard. Through Alana's sheer determination, she has remained optimistic and has overcome the adversity and challenges she faced to complete her schooling.

Commendation for Hawkesbury Macquarie 2010 Celebrations

Council received a Highly Commended Award in the RH Dougherty Awards, Excellence in Communication for the Hawkesbury Macquarie 2010 Celebrations recently. The award was presented at the Local Government Week 2011 Awards Ceremony hosted by the Local Government and Shires Association of NSW.

The RH Dougherty Communication Awards recognise leading practice in communication management in councils. The Awards aim to encourage greater understanding and accountability by councils to their local communities and acknowledges the importance of building a partnership between the community and Council.

Hawkesbury Tourism providers lead the way

The excellence, dedication and hard work of six tourism providers and one individual from the Hawkesbury was recognised when they received a 2011 Greater Sydney Tourism Award. The Mayor publically recognised their achievement at a special ceremony on Monday, 22 August 2011.

While the awards had already been presented Council felt it was appropriate to publically acknowledge the work of those that are specific to tourism in the Hawkesbury. Tourism activities in the Hawkesbury play an essential role for many businesses and are a vital contributor to our local economy.

Colo local and owner of Ossian Hall Valley Retreat, Jim Swaisland, received the ultimate recognition for his contribution to tourism in the Hawkesbury, receiving the Outstanding Contribution by an Individual Award.



Cover Your Load – Don't throw your money away, secure your load

Officers from Hawkesbury City Council's Regulatory Services and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage have begun a campaign to make residents aware of the hazards associated with uncovered loads.

Regulatory action has commenced, from Saturday, 10 September 2011, and fines will be issued to people not transporting waste correctly. Cover your load or risk a \$500 fine.

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