



Delegate leader Ashlie O'Neill and Mayor, Kim Ford preparing gifts for the Mayor of Kyotamba, Japan.

Sister City visit a great success

Members of the Hawkesbury Sister City Association have recently returned from a visit to our Sister City of Kyotamba, Japan where they took part in an annual puppet festival hosted in Kyotamba and Kyoto. The Mayor of Kyotamba extended an invitation to visit their city, when he was in the Hawkesbury in 2010.

Mayor, Kim Ford sent a gift to the Mayor of Kyotamba with delegate leader Ashlie O'Neill, who was representing the Mayor during the visit. The gift, a locally handcrafted Aboriginal Coolaman – a bowl that is used to carry new born babies, food, water, or coals to start a new fire at the next campsite with minimum effort. The gift carried with it, the well wishes of all from the Hawkesbury.

The exchange visit by members of the Hawkesbury Sister City Association was partially funded by Council and it was a great way for our city to send a message of support, and to further encourage friendship, co-operation and understanding.

Exchange visits to both our Sister Cities, Kyotamba and Temple City, California are organised by Council in partnership with the Hawkesbury Sister City Association. For more information on annual student exchanges and adult exchanges to our Sister Cities, visit the Association website www.hasca.org.au.



National Year of Reading 2012

Australian libraries and library associations are behind a campaign to turn 2012 into the National Year of Reading, linking together all the great things that are already happening around books, reading and literacy, and giving them an extra boost, with inspirational programs and events taking place across the country.

The National Year of Reading 2012 is about children learning to read and keen readers finding new sources of inspiration. It's about supporting reading initiatives

while respecting the oral tradition of storytelling and helping people discover and rediscover the magic of books. Most of all, it's about Australians becoming a nation of readers.

Here in the Hawkesbury, we will be supporting the campaign with all kinds of activities during 2012, starting with lots of holiday fun in January. For more information contact the Library on 4560 4460 or email library@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

Green Spot

Are you Recycling Right?

In a recent audit of 220 households in the Hawkesbury, it was discovered that 17% of rubbish bin content was recyclable material, which should have been placed into the yellow lidded recycle bin.

Recycling has come a long way from just accepting paper, glass and aluminium. When was the last time you checked what's acceptable in your household recycling bin?

Hawkesbury residents should recycle:

All rigid plastics from the kitchen, bathroom and laundry, paper and cardboard including glossy magazines, pizza boxes, windowed envelopes, milk and juice containers, aluminium and steel cans including pet food cans, empty aerosols, glass bottles and jars.

TIP 1: You do not need to remove labels or wash out bottles and cans; just remove the food.

TIP 2: Ignore whether the plastic has a recycling symbol or not.

If you are unsure or have a question contact Council's Waste Education Officer on 4560 4566.

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

With the start of the bushfire season, it is important that families ensure their properties are well maintained.

Currently, much of the state and the Hawkesbury are at an increased risk of grass fires. While the recent rain experienced across many parts of New South Wales has been welcome, it has also led to increased grass growth, as this grass begins to dry out, there is an increased risk of grass fires.

Grass fires can be especially dangerous because they can start easily and spread quickly. It is important to prepare your home and your family and create a Bush Fire Survival Plan and an Emergency Survival Kit.

Access great resources and stay up to date with current fire information by visiting www.rfs.nsw.gov.au, calling 1800 679 737 or by looking for the roadside signs.

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The Luke Worsley Bridge Officially Opened

The Luke Worsley Bridge was officially opened in December at a function which was attended by over 150 people including members of Luke's family, friends and military comrades. The Bridge was constructed by Council for a cost of close to \$700,000 with funding assistance from the New South Wales Government under the Metropolitan Greenspace Program.

The Bridge, which stands at 8.9 metres high, 2.4 metres wide and runs 40 metres in length, provides a link between Deerubbin Park, Cornwallis (Windsor Lowlands) on the western side of Rickabys Creek and Howe Park, Windsor on the eastern side of Rickabys Creek.

After community consultation, the Bridge was named the Luke Worsley Bridge to honour Windsor resident, Private Luke Worsley who was killed in action while serving with the 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (Commando) in Afghanistan on 23 November 2007.

The Bridge also becomes part of the Great River Walk, a visionary undertaking to expand the network of regional recreational trails serving the Sydney basin. The walk will eventually extend for 570 kilometres along the length of the



Worsley family members pay tribute to Luke at the bridge opening.

Hawkesbury Nepean River, from the estuary at Broken Bay to its source in the Southern Highlands and beyond.



Windsor Wharf re-construction on track

As part of a jointly funded program between Hawkesbury City Council and NSW Maritime Better Boating Program, \$700,000 of funding has been provided to commence the re-construction of the Windsor Wharf.

Following an extensive design process in partnership with NSW Maritime, it was determined that a floating structure would

be the most appropriate structure for the Wharf.

The new Wharf will accommodate both private and commercial vessels and can survive the various flooding levels that may occur on the Hawkesbury River. It will provide significant access improvement to the River and additional amenities for all boat users.

Work began in November 2011 and it is anticipated that the upgrade will be complete by February 2012. For further information regarding this project please contact Council on 4560 4444 or via e-mail, council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

Contact Us

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



Outstanding Hawkesbury Carers Celebrated

The contribution of carers of the Hawkesbury was recognised at a special morning tea to celebrate 2011 Carers Week.

With the theme 'Anyone, Anytime can be a Carer' the week celebrated the contribution that carers make to our community. Carers are the foundation of many of our support systems for people with disabilities, those with chronic health issues and the elderly. There are 478,000 carers in NSW alone and 10.1% of Hawkesbury residents are providing unpaid care. Without these carers these support systems would not be possible.

Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Kim Ford presented two Hawkesbury carers with NSW Carers Awards. The awards recognise the valuable support people of all ages give to people with a disability, those with chronic health issues and the elderly.

Joy Houston was awarded a Carers Award and has been a carer for over 36 years. She was accompanied by those she currently cares for including three down syndrome children she has adopted.

The Young Carers Award was presented to Nathan Perri, a loving brother and carer. He provides constant support to his two



Award winners Nathan Perri and Joy Houston.

brothers, assists his family who run a farm full time and helps his mother, who is a member of Autism Aspergers Support Group – Hawkesbury.

The NSW Carers Awards and Carers Week celebrations were funded by Carers NSW and the New South Wales Department of Family and Community Services. For more information on carers, visit www.carersnsw.asn.au.



Richmond Swimming Centre Open for School Holidays

The Richmond Swimming Centre is now open, ensuring lots of fun this summer. School holiday opening hours will be 10am - 6pm Sunday to Friday and 8am - 6pm on Saturdays.

The Centre will be hosting Learn to Swim lessons, birthday parties, and squad sessions and swim club nights between October and April. Other opportunities include private bookings, Christmas parties and presentations for sporting clubs and community groups. For information on any of these programs or seasonal opening hours, please contact the Swimming Centre on 4578 1349.

Bargain mulch now on sale

There has never been a better time to improve your garden for the summer months, with Hawkesbury City Council reducing the cost of mulch available from the Waste Management Facility from \$15 per tonne to only \$5 per tonne.

Visit the Hawkesbury City Council Waste Management Facility at The Driftway, South Windsor to get your mulch at a bargain price of \$5 per tonne. For further information contact the Waste Management Facility on 4572 5489.

Emergency warnings directly to your mobile

The Australian Government now has the capacity to provide emergency warnings direct to mobile phones. To receive these warnings, all Australians are urged to update their telephone provider with up-to-date information about their current home address.

If you have changed your address since you first purchased your mobile phone, then you should contact your service provider to update those details. Then, if there is an emergency warning in your area, you will receive a text message to notify you of that emergency.

For further information about how to update your mobile phone service address details, go to www.emergencyalert.gov.au.

Call for entries: Dr Rex Stubbs Memorial Scholarship

Now is the time to start preparing entries for the 2012 Dr Rex Stubbs OAM Memorial Scholarship. An initiative of Hawkesbury City Council, the award was launched to develop interest in the history of the Hawkesbury and support people who wish to showcase local talent in the field of historical research or interpretation.

The annual scholarship is available to residents of the Hawkesbury Local Government Area (LGA), members of historical groups from within the LGA as well as Council's Cultural Services (Museum, Gallery and Library) volunteers.

Entries for the Dr Rex Stubbs OAM Memorial Scholarship can be submitted between 1 June and 31 August each year, with winners announced in September.

Entries may be written or pictorial, in print or in digital media. There is a category for the 16-26 year age group as well as an all ages category. Further details and an entry form can be downloaded from Council's website via the Library, Museum and Gallery page.

Brochures may be picked up from Council's Administration Building; Hawkesbury Central Library, Windsor; Richmond Branch Library; Hawkesbury Regional Museum; Hawkesbury Regional Gallery and the Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre.

Please contact Hawkesbury Central Library on 4560 4460 if you wish to have a brochure posted or emailed to you.



Mayor, Kim Ford was joined by Kevin Connolly MP, Riverstone, fellow Councillors and Senator Matt Thistlethwaite to celebrate the official opening of the South Windsor Effluent Reuse Scheme.

\$9.8 million Effluent Reuse Scheme now in operation

The South Windsor Effluent Reuse Scheme is now in operation, providing recycled water and dramatically reducing the nitrogen and phosphorous levels being discharged into the Hawkesbury River.

The scheme, which was funded by the Australian Government, involved building a recycled water facility at the South Windsor Sewage Treatment Plant and laying 10 kilometres of pipe to distribute the water to parks and school fields in the Hawkesbury.

The Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Kim Ford said "The continuous source of recycled water to irrigate playing fields will improve playing surfaces and increase safety as well as reducing the amount of potable water required for irrigation purposes."

"There will be multiple beneficiaries of the project and it will assist greatly in helping to maintain and improve our environment. The next step in the process is encouraging the community to use the recycled water and make the most of this great new resource," he added.

The Australian Government has contributed \$9,138,500 to the construction of the \$9.8 million recycled water scheme through the Water for the Future initiative. The project is one of seven that form the Australian Government funded Hawkesbury-Nepean River Recovery Program which is improving river health by increasing the water available for environmental flows and reducing nutrient loads.

Save Power Kits now available for loan

The Office of Environment and Heritage is supporting the community to reduce power use and to be more energy efficient by providing a number of Save Power Kits to NSW public libraries which will be made available for loan to library members.

Consisting of several small measuring devices, the Save Power Kit is a new and innovative library resource which will encourage the community to identify the appliances which are the biggest users of electricity in their own home in a fun and

educational way. The information guide included with the kit suggests simple actions for saving power, saving money and reducing the household's impact on the environment.

Kits will be available for one week loan from Hawkesbury Central Library, Windsor. To find out more contact Hawkesbury Library Service on 4560 4460 or email library@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au. For more information visit the Save Power website www.savepower.nsw.gov.au.

Have your say – building the Hawkesbury together

Having your say is a great way to get involved and work with Council to ensure that the needs and the input of the Hawkesbury community are taken into account.

Council offers community members many ways of providing thoughts, opinions and ideas in response to its decisions and activities.

Many items that are being considered by Council are placed on public exhibition for at least 28 days. Items that appear on exhibition include important reports, plans and documents as well as road naming and tree removal proposals.

During this time the community is invited to provide written comment on the exhibited items, which assists Council in obtaining the views of the community regarding the exhibited matter.

Items on exhibition are advertised on Council's webpage www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au and in local papers, generally the Hawkesbury Courier.

Council encourages everyone to have their say, so we can develop a vision for the Hawkesbury together.

NEW Recycling Station at Council

Ever wondered what you should do with CDs and DVDs that are scratched or you no longer want? Or used household batteries and corks? Even though these items are not accepted in your household recycling bin, throwing them in the rubbish and sending them to landfill is harmful to the environment, not to mention, a waste of resources.



To help residents be more responsible with their waste, Council has set up a recycling station in the Administration Building at 366 George Street, Windsor. Residents can drop off their unwanted CDs and DVDs, household batteries and corks for recycling. This is in addition to the printer cartridge and mobile phone recycling that Council has been involved in recycling for many years.

These items can also be dropped off at the Hawkesbury City Waste Management Facility on The Driftway, South Windsor.

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