



Hawkesbury City Council

community 2011 newsletter

Summer

PROCLAMATION DAY

Celebrations

On Sunday 5 December 2010, Proclamation Day was celebrated to commemorate 200 years since Governor Macquarie named the five Macquarie Towns on 6 December 1810: Pitt Town, Windsor, Richmond, Wilberforce and Castlereagh. Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales, joined Hawkesbury residents attending numerous events throughout the day, beginning with a Thanksgiving Service at St Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor.

Over 500 people watched as Her Excellency and the Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Bart Bassett, unveiled the Council sponsored Windsor commemorative plaque and interpretative signage at McQuade Park, Windsor. A horse drawn carriage then transported the Governor and Citizen of the Year, Ruby Willow from the Park to



Hollands Paddock at which a re-enactment of the Proclamation, sponsored by the Windsor Business Group, was performed. The Parade was escorted by the 73rd Regiment, Mounted Police, Light Horsemen and the Hawkesbury Pipe Band.

Her Excellency concluded her visit to the Hawkesbury after attending a Council hosted Community Appreciation Garden Party at Yarramundi House, UWS Hawkesbury where she was presented

with a thank you gift by one of our joint Young Citizens of the Year, Elizabeth Hitches. The Mayor thanked the many volunteers present for their hard work during the year and the members of the Macquarie 2010 Committee were presented with commemorative Macquarie dictionaries.



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Bicentenary Mosaic Sculpture and Elizabeth Macquarie Iris Launch



Governor Macquarie's wife Elizabeth played an important role in his leadership, including helping to design gardens to beautify the State. To celebrate her involvement in this unique partnership, Council developed an iris in her name which was specially bred by the Iris

Society of Australia, NSW Region. The Iris was launched on 10 October 2010 at McQuade Park, Windsor along with the unveiling of the Bicentenary Mosaic Sculpture. Created by artists Dennis and Franco Colussi, the sculpture depicts landmarks present in each of the five Macquarie Towns, artistic representations of the "iris" and the "Governor Macquarie rose" as well as a silhouette of the lady herself. Also unveiled was the iris artwork created by Botanic artist Elaine Musgrave which is featured on Wedgewood commemorative china sold through Council.

These projects will remain a lasting reminder of Elizabeth Macquarie's inspiring achievements and provide a memento of the Hawkesbury's Macquarie 2010 celebrations.



Award-winning garden design unveiled at Museum



An award-winning vertical garden at Hawkesbury Regional Museum was unveiled by the Mayor and President of the Australian Institute of Horticulture in November 2010.

Designed by local Matthew Donaldson, as part of his studies in Horticulture at Richmond TAFE, the garden attracted a prize of \$10,000 from the Australian Institute of Horticulture and the inaugural Young Horticulturist of the Year Award.

The planting scheme reflects the Museum logo, and is designed to suit the Hawkesbury's climate. Solar energy will be used to power the pump that keeps water flowing in the wall. Residents are welcome to visit and view the vertical garden on their next visit to the museum.

Roads Working for Hawkesbury

The following major capital projects are currently in progress or nearing completion:

- Reconstruction of Thorley Street Flood Evacuation Route, Bligh Park (Funding by DECCW) {Cost = \$2.1million}
- Construction of Wheeny Creek Bridge, Upper Colo (Funding by Council and Auslink) {Cost = \$700,000}
- Reconstruction of Sackville Road (Iron Bark Drive to Ebenezer Public School; and 200m south of the intersection with West Portland Road) (Funding by Auslink and RTA Repair Program involving 50:50 Contribution from Council) {Cost = \$900,000}
- Reconstruction of Comleroy Rd (Bells Line of Road to Oswald Park Rd) (Funding by Auslink and RTA Repair Program involving 50:50 Contribution from Council) {Cost = \$400,000}



RAAF FREEDOM OF THE CITY

2010 marked the 20th anniversary of when Richmond RAAF Base first exercised its right of freedom of entry to the City of Hawkesbury, in February 1990.

It was fitting then that on 22 October 2010, 400 RAAF service personnel accompanied by the RAAF Band assembled at the Pitt Town Public School, where the "Marching on of the Colours Ceremony" took place. As they continued to parade around the block, the RAAF personnel were then "challenged" by local NSW Police members and officially exercised their freedom of entry to the

City. Hawkesbury Mayor, Councillor Bart Bassett unveiled a plaque to commemorate the bicentenary of the proclamation of Pitt Town and the Parade returned back to the School with much pomp and ceremony.

The Council hosted event was supported by RAAF Base Richmond, NSW Police, the Pitt Town Progress Association, Pitt Town Public School, local churches and businesses in association with the Pitt Town Festival which was held 23 - 24 October.

Oasis Gymnasium Extension Opening



The nearly \$550,000 upgrade of the Hawkesbury Oasis Aquatic Centre Gymnasium at South Windsor was officially opened by the Mayor on 11 December 2010. The Centre has been managed and operated by the YMCA since 2004.

The 234 sq metre upgrade includes increased floor area in the gymnasium and

an expansion of the crèche, with two new toilets and office space being provided within the existing gymnasium area.

Council approved the extension in June 2010 with works on the upgrade completed on a tight schedule, ahead of time.

The upgrade was funded in part by \$209,000 from Council. Council was also successful in receiving a grant of \$117,200 under Round 2 of the Regional and Local Infrastructure Program provided by the Australian Government.

The remainder of the funding was provided through grants applied for by the YMCA. They successfully received two equal grants totalling \$220,000 from the NSW Department of Community Services Area Assistance Scheme 2009 and the NSW Community Building Partnership Program.

Sewerage system now available

Sydney Water's Priority Sewerage Program (PSP) has been working for the past two years to provide a new reticulated sewerage system to the townships of Agnes Banks, Freemans Reach, Glossodia and Wilberforce. Connections to the new system are now available in all four townships. Residents in the red zone of Wilberforce will be able to connect from January 2011.



Ham Common Fitness Trail

A new community fitness trail along Ham Common at Hawkesbury Valley Way, Clarendon, consists of eight stations of specially designed equipment distributed along the Richmond end of the pathway. The trail is designed to promote physical fitness training and better health.

Ham Common has proved to be an excellent location for the newly created fitness trail as it is easily accessible with plenty of parking available (even accessible via the local train station, Clarendon or a walk from Richmond) and visible enough for people to see it is freely available for use.

In addition to being able to walk or jog along the path between exercise stations, the new equipment now allows for specific forms of physiological exercise.



The flat course embraces the concept of an outdoor gym, containing traditional gym equipment specifically designed for outdoor use:

Ab-Hip Swinger – works lower back and abdominal muscles

Butterfly Press – workout of the pectoral (chest) muscles

Cross Trainer – full body workout

Cycle seat – cardiovascular workout as well as quadriceps, hamstrings, calves, abdominals

Leg-press-chin ups – lower leg/workout for arms, shoulders, back

Rowing machine – complete cardiovascular workout

Shoulder press – helps develop shoulder and tricep muscles

Stepper – helps develop quadriceps, hamstring and calves

Each piece of equipment includes a sign with instructions for use. The \$40,000 project was funded through the Australian Government's Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program Round 2.

HAWKESBURY CENTRAL LIBRARY

Children's Literacy Day @ the Library

The Hawkesbury Library Service recently hosted a Children's Literacy Day to promote the Western Sydney Early Words Project in conjunction with Peppercorn's Family First program, proudly supported by the Western Sydney Young People's Literature Project.

The Literacy Day was aimed at the Library's youngest members aged 0-5, as well as their parents and carers.

Eddie, a giant yellow echidna gave away free library bags and books before Rhymetime. At morning tea participants met award winning picture book illustrator, Sarah Davis.

Early Words is a New South Wales Government initiative funded by Families NSW, to encourage the development of



literacy skills in children from their early years. It provides resources to parents at various stages of their child's first five years.

The Hawkesbury Library Service is part of this project and both Windsor and Richmond Libraries have information sheets and DVDs available for parents. A free library bag and book is available to new parents wanting to take part in the program.

Sydney Water and Council are encouraging residents to connect as soon as possible to ensure the important environmental and social benefits of the scheme are achieved quickly. Council requires an immediate connection if an existing on-site system is failing.

To learn more about how to connect to the new sewerage system, residents in Freemans Reach, Glossodia and Wilberforce can call Sydney Water on 1800 558 552 and Agnes Banks residents can call 1800 242 184.

Mosquito monitoring

The Arbovirus (mosquito) Monitoring Program has monitored mosquito populations within the Hawkesbury for numerous years. Fluctuations in mosquito numbers can alert authorities of a mosquito borne virus outbreak before any reported human infections can occur. In previous years, viruses isolated through this program include Ross River virus (RRV), Kokobera virus (KOKV) and Edge Hill virus (EHV).

Council will be continuing the Arbovirus (mosquito) Monitoring Program, in conjunction with the NSW Health statewide program over the coming summer months. Recent rain, followed by warm weather is predicted to lead to an increase in mosquito populations in the Hawkesbury. Trapping sites for the program are located at Wheeny Creek, McGraths Hill, Yarramundi and Sackville. For more information on the program contact Council's Environmental Health Section on 4560 4565.

Re-use scheme on track

The design of Council's largest current externally funded project, the development of the South Windsor Water Recycling Scheme, is underway.

Council received just over \$9.1 million from the Federal Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts for the \$9.8 million Recycled Water Treatment Distribution System. This is one of seven projects in the Hawkesbury - Nepean River Recovery Program which is funded as part of the Australian Government's Water for the Future Program to improve the health of the river.

The project includes the design and construction of a recycled effluent treatment plant at the existing South Windsor sewage treatment plant and a distribution system to supply recycled water to Council Reserves (14 hectares) and schools (6 hectares) in South Windsor and Bligh Park for irrigation.

A contract was signed in November 2010 with Murphy McCarthy & Associates for completion of the project. Construction will commence in early 2011.

Want to get involved?

To become a volunteer at the Library, Gallery or Museum, where you can get great training and development opportunities, contact rebecca.turnbull@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or Ph 4560 4439.

Portraiture exhibition

Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, in the Macquarie town of Windsor, had the last word in Macquarie's Bicentenary year with its major exhibition for 2010 opening on Friday 10 December.

The exhibition displayed portraits of Macquarie and his contemporaries as a starting point for a broader examination of portraiture in general. The centrepiece of the exhibit was the iconic portrait of Macquarie painted by Colvin Smith, found at the Courthouse at Windsor. This portrait is the centre of some controversy in the Hawkesbury. Was Smith really the painter and was it really a painting of Macquarie?

Go along to the exhibition to see what you think of the artwork of well renowned portraiture artists: Ben Quilty (Moran Portrait Prize winner 2009) Guy Maestri (Archibald Prize winner 2009), Luke Temby, Izabela Pluta and Anne Zahalka. The exhibition closes 6 February 2011.



A \$400,000 Conservation Management Plan implementation process for Richmond Park in 2010 has seen the reconstruction of a 19th century pathway system, as well as the rejuvenation of the gardens and furniture of the Park. The project was jointly funded by Council, Department of Local Government, Heritage Council of NSW and the NSW Department of Planning.

The completion of the project was celebrated on 7 November 2010 with heritage themed activities, local musicians, stilt walkers and theatrical actors dressed in heritage costume transporting local community members back to the 19th century.

The Richmond Commemorative plaque, celebrating the bicentenary of Governor Macquarie naming Richmond as one of the five Macquarie Towns, was unveiled as part of the day's celebrations by the Mayor, Councillor Bart Bassett. The renewal of Richmond Park has enhanced this community space, providing a fun and exciting place for family and friends to gather.

Enjoy the visual arts or local history – or want to know more?

Contact the Hawkesbury Regional Gallery or Museum and be added to email alerts about exhibitions and activities. There are lots of fun things for the children to see and do. Contact galleries@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or museum@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

MACQUARIE TRAIL

Want to get to know your own area better?

Contact Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre for any of the following brochures with maps and concise information:

- **Macquarie Driving Trail - Recently Released** - this directs you in and around the four Macquarie Towns - Richmond, Windsor, Wilberforce and Pitt Town plus Clarendon. With a map and information about sites of significance to Macquarie and his times, it is a thematic tour aimed at history and heritage enthusiasts. 
- **Hawkesbury Bushwalks** - details of many of the most popular bushwalks in the Hawkesbury area, catering for those after a leisurely stroll to experienced walkers looking for rugged treks.
- **Hawkesbury Cemeteries - Recently Released** - from 1810 sites were set aside for burial grounds in the Hawkesbury and they now provide a record of the people who established and lived in this district. There is a range of intriguing headstone designs within the local cemeteries. 
- **Drives in the Hawkesbury - Recently Released** - seven scenic routes, following winding roads throughout the Hawkesbury, will appeal to sightseers. The drives - Gateway to the Mountains, Riverland History, Wisemans Ferry Meander, Link between drives 1, 2 and 3, Foothill Villages, Windsor Richmond Explorer, The Edge of the Wollemi - are in a handy map and information format.
- **Windsor Heritage Walks - Recently Released** - there are four precinct walks - The Peninsula, Thompson Square, The Mall and McQuade Park precincts - to follow and learn more about the history of the township.

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