



Spring 2014

Community Newsletter

COUNCIL RECOGNISED FOR WISE SPENDING

Council has been recognised as the metropolitan Council spending the most money per head of population on maintenance of roads, bridges and footpaths.

The Office of Local Government has reported that in 2012/2013 Council spent \$183 per capita on roads, bridges and footpaths, ranking Council as the third highest spender of all councils in the greater Sydney area out done only by Wollondilly and Camden which are located well outside the metropolitan area.

On average, Council spends in excess of 23% of rates collected from each household directly on the maintenance of roads, bridges and footpaths. Given the high number of road users we have in our region, road conditions will always be a priority for both the community and Council.

TIMBER BRIDGE TRANSFORMATIONS



Upgrade on Bridge Number 7 on Upper Colo Road is now complete.

Some remarkable transformations are taking place as timber bridges throughout the Hawkesbury are replaced or substantially improved with funding provided through low interest loans under the NSW Government's Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme.

Bridge Number 5 and Bridge Number 7 on Upper Colo Road, Upper Colo have been replaced with concrete bridges and are now open to traffic. The timber bridge on Upper Macdonald Road, approximately 24 kilometres from St Albans has also undergone improvements as part of the program.

Council is currently in the design process for the following bridges:

- West Portland Road Bridge, Sackville \$1,600,000
- Stannix Park Road Bridge, Ebenezer, \$480,000
- Wrights Creek Road Bridge, Wrights Creek, \$300,000.

GARDEN ORGANICS CHAMPIONS



Young residents Abigail, Andrew, and Lillian are champion recyclers.

Council's 2014 Domestic Waste Audit showed that the garden organics service is operating with a contamination rate of 0.2% – meaning that 99.8% of what residents are putting in this bin is the correct material!

Residents are also producing less waste, with the audit revealing that households involved generate approximately 10.73kg of material in garbage bins per week on average, compared to approximately 14.04kg in the 2011 audit.

The total amount of contamination presented in the recycling stream is 9% of the stream, which compares to 10.8% in the 2011 audit. The most common contaminates are plastic bags, food and kitchen waste; household chemical bottles and clothes.

We can also recycle much more with 19% of material in the average Hawkesbury garbage bin being recyclable.



BE PREPARED FOR BUSHFIRE SEASON

With spring and summer conditions becoming more conducive to the spread of fire and having seen a relatively dry winter, it is important for residents to prepare for the fire season now.

You can find out if your property is in a 10/50 VCEA and the conditions associated with this law at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au. There are specific requirements and it is recommended you read through the Frequently Asked Questions for details.

New laws are now in place which help people prepare their homes for bush fires in NSW. The new laws generally allow people in a designated 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Entitlement Area (VCEA) to clear trees on their property within 10 metres of their home and clear underlying vegetation (but not trees) on their property within 50 metres of their home, without seeking approval.

When threatened by bush fires, people can leave it too late to make critical decisions and sometimes have few safe options left. Families need to be prepared with a Bush Fire Survival Plan and Emergency Survival Kit. For information on how to prepare these items visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or call 1800 679 737.

MICROCHIP LEADS TO GREAT REUNION

A nine year old stray cat has been reunited with his delighted owner, eight years after he went missing, thanks to a microchip.

Charlie, who went missing as a very young kitten, was brought into the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter after he was found on the streets by a local resident. Having been microchipped as a kitten,



Cat owner, Karen Rankin, delighted to be reunited with her cat Charlie.

Council staff were able to scan for his microchip and locate his owner.

Microchipping is a great way to safeguard your pets and ensure that should they become lost, they have a greater chance of being reunited. Microchipping for cats and dogs is mandatory in NSW.

For more information about microchipping your cat or dog, contact the Companion Animal Shelter at 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave or call (02) 4560 4644.

MAYORAL ELECTION RESULTS

Elections for the position of Mayor and Deputy Mayor were held at the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on Tuesday, 16 September 2014. Councillor Kim Ford was re-elected as Mayor with Councillor Bob Porter elected to the position of Deputy Mayor.

Council also determined the appointment of Committees, delegates and representatives for the 2014/2015 Mayoral Term at the Extraordinary Meeting.

Council's committee structures are based on four broad committee types – Committees of Council, Statutory Committees, Committees in which Council has a Financial Interest and Other Committees. They come directly under Council's strategic program areas of Planning, Community, Infrastructure, Employment/Business Development and Environment.

100 WRAPS FOR CHARITY



Morvyth Goldstein reaches century knitting milestone.

Ninety-four year old Morvyth Goldstein, from Oakville, reached a knitting milestone at Hawkesbury Library's 'Knit with Friends' last month when she completed her 100th rug for 'Wrap With Love', the charity which distributes these beautiful warm handmade wraps to the needy worldwide.

She started knitting the wraps with the Windsor Girl Guides almost 20 years ago, when they were the first group in the Hawkesbury to take up knitting for this worthy cause. Since then she has completed an average of five wraps each year (that's about 140 squares) which she donated to Hawkesbury Library when it became a Community Drop off point in 2006.

The Library's Knit with Friends group meet on the last Friday of each month between February and October, from 10am to midday at Hawkesbury Central Library, 300 George Street, Windsor. Knitters of all ages, both male and female, are welcome to drop in and knit.

If you can't make it on the day all donations of completed squares and wraps can be left at Hawkesbury Central Library, Windsor or Richmond Branch Library. Instruction leaflets are available at the Library or on our website www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library

LARGEST TREE GIVEAWAY AT HAWKESBURY COMMUNITY NURSERY

Local Government Week and National Tree Day was celebrated in August with the largest tree giveaway ever from the Hawkesbury Community Nursery.

More than 1,000 native plants were given away to the hundreds of residents who made their way to the Nursery.

The Nursery propagates Hawkesbury indigenous plants, which are then sold to residents.

The Nursery is located at 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave, next to the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter.



Zac and his Uncle David Gauci from Grose Vale claim their free plant at the Hawkesbury Nursery from Mayor, Kim Ford.

WESTERN SYDNEY RESIDENTIAL ASBESTOS DISPOSAL SCHEME

Council is participating in the Western Sydney Residential Asbestos Disposal Scheme. This is an Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) program which will reduce the collection and transport costs for residential amounts of asbestos waste and includes a rebate payment of \$120.90 per tonne plus a one-off \$50 contractor use rebate.

The Scheme is trialing cheaper and easier disposal for small amounts of wrapped bonded asbestos to reduce the incidence of illegally dumped asbestos in the Hawkesbury. The limit for each household under the asbestos trial is five tonnes.

Hawkesbury ratepayers are required to register online and meet the program's conditions as set out by the EPA to be eligible for the Scheme.

For information view the Western Sydney Residential Asbestos Disposal Scheme Frequently Asked Questions on Council's website, www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

CORRECT STREET ADDRESS A MUST

Incorrect and missing street numbers for properties can lead to delays in emergency assistance such as ambulance, police or fire services and the delivery of mail.

Council has conducted an extensive street number audit which identified issues including no number on display, incorrect numbers or using a lot number. Lot numbers are not unique and generally have no logical numbering sequence in a street.

Ensuring your street number is clearly visible day or night from the street and from the entrance of the property is also important. People with more than one road frontage should display the number to the road to which the street address has been assigned.

Residents are urged to review their property numbering and ensure that they have their correct street address on display. For queries about your street address phone Council on (02) 4560 4444.

NEW MULTI-FUNCTIONAL CENTRE AT RICHMOND

Residents of all ages will soon benefit from a major facelift to the Hawkesbury Seniors Centre at Richmond, which will be known as the Hawkesbury Leisure and Learning Centre. The new name will better reflect the Centre's broader purpose of providing a shared community space to support a range of recreational, learning and active lifestyle pursuits.

The reconstruction will include an extension to the existing centre to create multi-purpose activity spaces including a wet-area, craft/art studio and a dividable activity hall with a sprung-wooden floor to accommodate exercise classes, dancing and other physical activities. The activity hall will have a removable wall allowing for one large open space and each activity space will incorporate a storage room and kitchenette. It will also include a reception area, additional female and male toilets, a laundry/cleaning storage room, a meeting room and larger staff offices.

The existing building will be refurbished to create dedicated spaces for a seniors' café, an informal lounge and reading area, a technology room and a small audio-visual theatre. This refurbishment is intended to update the existing Seniors Centre to improve its functionality and to create a more contemporary facility which can better respond to the changing needs of our residents.



NEW TOURIST MAP

Visitors calling in to the Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre will now have access to a free regional map and guide to help them enjoy a spectacular scenic drive through the Hawkesbury along Bells Line of Road through to the Blue Mountains.

The map has been produced with support from the Visitor Information Centres from the Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Lithgow working in collaboration to provide a broader regional approach to offering experiences to people visiting the greater Blue Mountains.

This map is free and now available at the Visitor Information Centre located at Ham Common, Hawkesbury Valley Way, Clarendon.

HAWKESBURY COMPOST CLUB

Following the success of Council's roving compost and worm farm workshops earlier this year, Hawkesbury EarthCare Centre has started a Compost Club.

The Compost Club is held every Tuesday and Saturday at the Hawkesbury EarthCare Centre at the University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury Campus.

If you are interested in attending a session please phone 4567 8424 or 0438 731 712.

Compost workshop participants happy to get their hands dirty.



WHAT'S ON AT COUNCIL THIS SPRING

FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE CITY

RAAF Base Richmond exercises its right to Freedom of Entry to the City of Hawkesbury on Thursday, 23 October at McQuade Park, Windsor. Celebrations will commence from 10.30am. For more information visit www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

RICHMOND POOL TURNS 50



Richmond Pool is turning 50 and a family fun day will be held to celebrate its birthday on Saturday, 8 November from 11am to 2pm. There will be a giant water slide, the U-Rippa wave generator, a free sausage sizzle, plant giveaways plus activities and games for all ages. Richmond Pool is now open. For opening hours visit www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

KURRAJONG MEMORIAL PARK UPGRADE OPENING

Upgrades to Kurrajong Memorial Park will be official opened at a community event on Saturday, 15 November from 11am to 2pm. More details about the event to come. For event updates, visit www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

LIBRARY (02) 4560 4460

WASTE 2 ART DISPLAY 10 - 16 November

Artworks by local primary school students made entirely of used/recycled materials will be displayed by Council to celebrate National Recycling Week.

150 YEARS OF BLACKTOWN TO RICHMOND RAILWAY LINE 12 November 10 - 11.45am

From the late 1850s citizens of the Hawkesbury lobbied the NSW government for an extension of the railway line from Blacktown to Richmond with funding set aside in the 1860s. Hear about the planning and the history of this line which was officially opened 29 November 1864.

MUSEUM (02) 4560 4655

EXHIBITION: FLOOD!

A survey conducted in the Hawkesbury in 2001 showed that only one in five people knew they lived on a flood plain. This new temporary exhibition looks at the significant history of flooding in the Hawkesbury-Nepean.



HOW TO SAVE YOUR PRECIOUS THINGS IN TIMES OF FLOOD 8 November 1 - 4pm

As part of the Flood! Exhibition, this special hands-on workshop will show you how to plan and prepare to preserve your precious family heritage. Cost: \$40 per person, includes afternoon tea. Bookings essential.

GALLERY (02) 4560 4441

PERFORMANCE IN THE GALLERY 7 October - 9 December

Every Tuesday 10.30am and midday
For people with mild-to-moderate intellectual and physical disabilities. \$10 per person per class. Bookings/enquiries phone Katy on 0416 482 151.

LOLA GREENO: CULTURAL JEWELS 17 October - 7 December

This is the latest exhibition in the Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft series, initiated by Object Gallery to celebrate the achievements of the most influential and iconic figures in the Australian crafts movement.

ART AFTER SCHOOL X 4 Every Thursday in October and November

Art classes for school age children. Each week explore a new medium and discover its individual characteristics. Learn new techniques and how to apply them. Cost: \$10 per class.

Contact us:



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