



Summer 2015

Community Newsletter

RAAF EXERCISE THEIR FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE CITY OF HAWKESBURY

More than 1,000 well-wishers turned out to cheer on defence personnel from Royal Australian Airforce Base Richmond who took part in a parade through the streets of Windsor to exercise their right to Freedom of Entry to the City of Hawkesbury.

The parade of more than 350 RAAF and Army defence personnel, held on 23 October 2014, celebrated the

RAAF's commitment to the Hawkesbury community and our country. The parade was accompanied by the RAAF Band and defence personnel were met with applause from the community who lined the streets, waving Australian flags to show their support and appreciation.

A low level fly past from a RAAF Base Richmond C130 Super Hercules added excitement and amazed the crowd.



Mayor Kim Ford formally inspects the parade

The granting of the Freedom of Entry to a City is a tradition dating back to early European history, when cities were surrounded by walls and the right of entry to outside soldiers was rarely given. Today, the ceremony is representative of the esteem in which the Hawkesbury holds the RAAF Base.



Warrant Officer Scott Biddell displays the deed proclaiming RAAF Base Richmond's Freedom of Entry to the City of Hawkesbury to Police Local Area Commander, Superintendent Steven Eggington

CELEBRATE AUSTRALIA DAY

Celebrate Australia Day on Monday, 26 January 2015 at Council's official Australia Day events. Join Mayor, Kim Ford and Australia Day Ambassador, Don Burke OAM:

- to welcome new citizens at the Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony to be held at the Windsor Function Centre at 9am.
- to congratulate Hawkesbury Australia Day Awards recipients at a Ceremony to be held at Richmond Club at 11:30am.

For catering purposes please RSVP to rspv@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or call Customer Service on (02) 4560 4444.

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

A new weekly column, 'From the Mayor's Desk', has been introduced by Councillor Kim Ford, which can be accessed online at Council's website www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

The column aims to keep our community informed of current matters which may affect them. It features issues dealt with by Council, details of events and information from other levels of government and authorities relevant to our community.



MAJOR PARK UPGRADES LAUNCHED

As part of Council's ongoing commitment to providing high quality open spaces for the Hawkesbury community, Council has invested over \$270,000 towards significant landscape refurbishment for the Bligh Park Community Centre Precinct and Kurrajong Memorial Park.

Bligh Park Upgrades

Bligh Park Community Centre has been fitted with new Parkour obstacle equipment, purpose-built grind boxes and a new multipurpose court.

Parkour is a way of moving within a particular environment and overcoming obstacles of any kind; be they physical or mental. Parkour methods involve running, crawling, jumping, climbing, and other methods of catching yourself, grabbing and hanging, rolling and balancing. It sometimes also includes acrobatic elements.

The grind boxes cater for riders of BMX bikes, skateboards and scooters. The precinct also features a multipurpose court (eg for basketball, tennis etc.), new landscaping, walking paths, lighting and park furniture.

\$120,000 was provided by the State Government under the Graffiti Hotspot Program for the upgrades to the Bligh Park Community Centre precinct and a further \$10,000 provided through the Community Building Partnership Program.

The Bligh Park Community Centre is located at 4 Sirius Road, Bligh Park.

Kurrajong Park Upgrades

At Kurrajong Park, upgrades have included significant improvements to the war memorial, which was used during the 2014 Remembrance Day Ceremony.

Another important addition to the park has been the construction of the new stage facility which can be utilised by the community for future events.

Kurrajong Memorial Park is also home to a very significant piece of history – the local millstones which have received a new shelter as part of the upgrade, ensuring the preservation of this piece of history for future generations.

There has also been planting along the boundary of the park, surrounding the millstones and around the Kurrajong Rural Fire Brigade car park completed as part of the upgrades.

Kurrajong Memorial Park is located at 84 Old Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong.



Councillor Patrick Conolly, Member for Riverstone Kevin Conolly and Mayor Kim Ford at the plaque unveiling at Bligh Park



Dance troop Team 9LIVES entertain families on the Parkour equipment at the Bligh Park opening



Councillor Jill Reardon and Mayor Kim Ford officially open upgrades to Kurrajong Park

BOOK YOUR FREE CAR SEAT INSPECTIONS NOW



Statistics show that two in three baby and children's car seats are not being used properly. Council has a limited number of free vouchers for car seat safety inspections from

January to May 2015. The checks, fitting and installation inspections can be carried out at a time that is convenient to you and the fitter.

Each car seat check will take approximately 15-20 minutes at an authorised Roads and Maritime Services fitter. New seat installations will take 30 minutes. A nominal charge may be required if additional hardware is needed. Participants will also be asked to complete a short survey.

Contact Council's Community Safety Coordinator on (02) 4560 4498 or email safety@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au to determine if you qualify for a free voucher.

2014 GARDEN COMPETITION WINNERS

Thirty eight entries in ten categories were received for the 2014 Garden Competition, with all entries divided into three regions: North, South and West of the Hawkesbury. An overall best garden for each region was determined by this year's Judge, Mrs Hazel King.

Wilberforce Public School won Best Regional Garden - North, Hawkesbury Self Storage won Best Regional Garden - South and Peter and Airdrie Martin from Kurrajong Heights won Best Regional Garden - West.

The top honour of the night was the title of Grand Champion Garden which was awarded to the best overall garden in the Hawkesbury. This prestigious title was won by Peter and Airdrie Martin.

The full list of winners can be found on Council's website at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.



Member for Macquarie Louise Markus with Best Heritage Garden winner, Ms Jacoby Weaver of Richmond and her daughter Eleanor and Councillor Jill Reardon

RICHMOND SWIMMING CENTRE TURNS 50

Perfect spring weather complemented the many activities as over 750 people enjoyed the free 50th birthday celebrations at the Richmond Swimming Centre on 8 November 2014.

Children played with free souvenir beach balls and enjoyed free entertainment, while all enjoyed the free sausage sizzle and birthday cake.

The U-Rippa wave generator, which teaches participants how to swim out of a rip was very popular and the Zumba pool demonstration drew plenty of participants.



Mason Bullock (centre) is all smiles at Richmond Pool's 50th birthday with her friends, twin sisters Ella and Lara de Haan

Over \$1 million in upgrades provided to the Richmond Swimming Centre by Council and the State Government over the last decade have enabled the Centre to continue to meet modern standards.

The Swimming Centre is open seven days from September to April. Located at East Market Street, Richmond, it includes a shaded baby pool, an intermediate pool, a six lane Olympic pool, change rooms as well as a shaded children's playground.

For season opening hours or more information, visit Council's website www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or call the Richmond Swimming Centre on (02) 4578 1349.

ROAD FUNDING INCREASED

Council has received a significant increase in its allocation under the Australian Government's Roads to Recovery Program. Over the next five years, Council will receive \$4,659,522 which is an increase of \$613,258 above the previous allocation for the 2009 - 2014 periods.

Next year, the \$776,587 annual funding is planned to be spent on rehabilitation of failed sections of road on Bull Ridge Road, East Kurrajong; Tizanna Road, Ebenezer and Terrace Road, Freemans Reach.

The great news is that in the 2015 - 2016 financial year, funding will be doubled to \$1,533,174. This will allow Council to address some of its infrastructure backlog in an expanded program of road works for that period.

The condition of roads is a very important issue for our community. This funding will be of tremendous benefit to our residents and road users in general.

NEW ASBESTOS DISPOSAL SCHEME

A landmark asbestos clean-up program for Western Sydney, funded by the NSW Environment Protection Authority, was launched by the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils as part of National Asbestos Awareness Day.

As part of this program, qualified contractors were booked in to remove small amounts of loose, stored asbestos sheeting from 30 Hawkesbury homes, free of charge.

Those who were not able to be part of the free asbestos collection can still register for the Western Sydney Residential Asbestos Disposal Scheme rebate program which will run until 12 August 2015.

For information visit www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

DON'T BE A 'TOSSER'

Council has secured a \$90,000 grant to rollout a litter prevention program across the Hawkesbury.

The 'Hey Tosser' campaign will target littering hotspots with an education campaign aimed at reducing public littering.

As part of this campaign, 10 new large capacity bins will be placed at North Richmond Shopping Centre car park plus 16 bins at Windsor St, Richmond. A trial of five small cigarette butt bins will also be installed to reduce cigarette butt littering at these sites.

Council Enforcement and Compliance Officers will monitor littering across the Hawkesbury and issue fines where necessary. Residents are urged to do the right thing and not to be a 'tosser', otherwise fines will be incurred.

CHRISTMAS GIVING IN THE HAWKESBURY



Ramin, 2 and Laleh, 3, with their mother Naz Marashaian, hand presents to Mayor Kim Ford for the Mayoral Christmas Appeal

Christmas 2014 had a special focus on giving, thanks to the launch of the third annual Mayoral Christmas Appeal. Run in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Richmond, the Mayoral Appeal collected more than 350 gifts which were distributed by the Rotary Club of Richmond to the Salvation Army, Hawkesbury Community Services, St Vincent de Paul and many other smaller agencies.

The Christmas Appeal was launched at Hawkesbury Central Library in Windsor where residents enjoyed the harmonic sounds of the Hawkesbury U3A singers as well as a talk by author and historian, Daryn Graham who took everyone on a tour back through time to discuss the very first Christmas.

Council also held its Annual Hawkesbury Community Appreciation Party where more than 150 volunteers and carers were thanked for generously giving their time to make our community a better place to live.

WASTE 2 ART COMPETITION

Council held the inaugural Waste 2 Art Competition at Hawkesbury Central Library, Windsor as part of National Recycling Week in November 2014. The competition focused on reuse by encouraging students to give waste a new purpose as art.

Students were judged by school stages (Stage 1 to 3) with the winners receiving free art classes for one year, and runners up receiving an art supplies gift voucher. Winners were Andre Wikaira-Paul from Windsor South Public School (Stage 1), Lorretta Sultana from Freemans Reach Public School (Stage 2) and Marissa Jacklyn Denne from Grose View Public School (Stage 3).



Council's Waste Education Officer and Mayor Kim Ford with students proudly displaying their Waste 2 Art participation certificates

LOCAL HERITAGE ASSISTANCE

A Local Heritage Assistance Fund, jointly supported by Council and the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, has been established to assist property owners to conserve slab barns within the Hawkesbury area.

The aim is to encourage the retention and conservation of Hawkesbury slab barns through promotion and heritage awareness.

A total of 12 applications for funding were successful, with many barns being over 150 years old and still in use today.

Council also offers a free heritage advisory service for owners of heritage items and other significant sites or structures. Contact (02) 4560 4444 to find out more.



Town Planner Kathryn Saunders and Council's Heritage Advisor, Otto Cserhalmi at the launch of the Local Heritage Assistance Fund

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