

2016

Community Newsletter

Summer



Something for everyone at new Jetty



(L-R) Councillor Christine Paine, RMS Boating Safety Officer Jon Moran, Hawkesbury MP Dominic Perrottet, Councillor Bob Porter, Mayor Kim Ford and Upper Hawkesbury Powerboat Club Commodore John Davoll

Governor Phillip Reserve at Windsor is now home to a new jetty which has vastly improved the recreational opportunities at the existing boat ramp. Funding of \$478,000 towards the project was provided through the NSW Government's Better Boating and NSW Boating Now Programs.

Council also matched funding of \$65,000 through the NSW Government's Estuary Management Program for bank stabilisation at the jetty site.

The new jetty is a multi-levelled facility that allows boat access during tidal fluctuations. The project also improves the capacity of the existing ramp for events and at peak times. A pathway between the boat ramp and the existing pontoon has made the area accessible for all community members, with ramps designed to accommodate wheelchairs and assist those with walking difficulties. It is also a great place to fish and relax.

The second stage of the project will upgrade the boat ramp car park and is expected to be completed in the first half of 2016.

State Government Announces Merger Proposal

On Friday, 18 December the NSW State Government released details of its merger proposals for councils across the State as part of the Fit for the Future Reform Program. This includes a proposal for Hawkesbury City Council and part of The Hills Shire Council to merge.

Details on the NSW State Government's proposal for the merger of Hawkesbury and part of The Hills can be accessed online at www.councilboundaryreview.nsw.gov.au.

Community consultation will be undertaken by a delegate appointed by the Office of Local Government. The results will be reported to the NSW Boundaries Commission.

Council encourages all residents of the Hawkesbury to actively participate in any process seeking community feedback.

Council will continue to deliver quality services as normal to the Hawkesbury community whilst this process is being completed.

Visit www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/getting-council-fit-for-the-future to stay up to date on this issue. The site will be regularly updated with information.

Sydney Blues and Roots Festival



The Sydney Blues and Roots Festival, proudly sponsored by Council, has announced their dates for 2016. The popular Blues Cruises were a sell out last year with patrons already wanting to rebook for the upcoming festival. For more information visit www.sydneybluesandrootsfestival.com.



Hobartville resident Rodney Riddle.

Compost champion

Hobartville resident Rodney Riddle has become an inspiration to many with his great vegetable garden that is testimony to the benefits of composting and worm farming.

In an effort to encourage more residents to compost and reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfill, residents can purchase a discounted compost bin or worm farm as part of the Compost Revolution Program. Residents can save up to 70% off the recommended retail price, thanks to funding from the NSW Government's Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative.

Compost bins cost only \$29.90 and worm farms including worms cost \$44.90. Delivery is free. To get yours today visit www.compostrevolution.com.au/hawkesbury.

Infrastructure highlights

New Footpaths constructed at George Road and Wilberforce Shopping Centre, Wilberforce

Stage 2 of Bligh Park Cycleway completed.

Roadworks undertaken at:

- The Driftway, Richmond
- King Road/Sackville Road, Wilberforce
- Branders Lane, North Richmond
- Mahons Creek Road intersection upgrade with Springwood Road, Yarramundi
- Serpentine Lane intersection upgrade with Bowen Mountain Road, Bowen Mountain

Joint Council and Roads Maritime Services projects:

- Freemans Reach Road rehabilitation, Freemans Reach
- Road shoulder improvement works at Grose Vale Road, Kurrajong
- Road and traffic improvement works at Kurmond Road, North Richmond

Other major works funded by Road to Recovery grants:

- Grose Wold Road, Grose Wold rehabilitation – reconstruction and sealing
- Dunns Road, Maraylya – shoulder widening and sealing

Accessible fitness equipment

The very popular fitness track at Ham Common, Clarendon has been enhanced with additional accessible fitness equipment.

Council received a grant through the NSW Government's Liveable Communities Program to install new equipment which will allow people who use wheelchairs to enjoy outdoor activities.

Eight new fitness machines have been installed and will make Ham Common amongst the best accessible parks in NSW, and a great asset for the Hawkesbury community.

Historical Society celebrates 60 years



Mayor Kim Ford and Museum Curator, Rebecca Turnbull.

A new display at the Hawkesbury Regional Museum marks the 60th birthday of Hawkesbury Historical Society, one of the oldest in Australia. Long-standing members have selected various objects from the Collection that they find the most interesting to display. The exhibition will open on Australia Day and remain open throughout 2016.



From waste to great

Some very talented local school children took recycling to a whole new level in Council's annual Waste 2 Art competition as part of National Recycling Week. Dominic Shamoun from Windsor Public School won first place in Stage 1, Lorretta Sultana from Freemans Reach Public School won first place in Stage 2 and Ashleen Pace from Freemans Reach Public School won first place in Stage 3.

\$4.4 million funding boost

Council has successfully secured \$4.4million in grants since July 2015 for a range of infrastructure programs. These grants enable Council to undertake work that would have otherwise not been funded. In addition to those already mentioned in this newsletter, the following are a highlight of grants received.

- \$2.7million – Natural Disaster Funding – Roads and Maritime Services – repair of storm damage
- \$665,000 – Roads to Recovery Program 2015/2016 – Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
- \$300,000 – NSW Boating Now Program, Roads and Maritime Services – Macquarie Park Kayak Launch
- \$170,000 – Better Waste and Recycling Fund, New South Wales Environmental Protection Authority
- \$135,000 – Safer Roads Program, Roads and Maritime Services – Kurmond Road from Meadows Road to Wire Lane, North Richmond
- \$80,000 – NSW Boating Now Program, Roads and Maritime Services – Colo Park Kayak Launch
- \$64,000 – Through the Door and Beyond Grant, Wentworth Healthcare Limited – to fund a program of education for mental health professionals to assist residents with issues of squalor and hoarding



Sweeper hits the streets

Council has purchased a new street sweeper to assist with cleaning in town centres. The new City Cleaning Crew is out and about in the Hawkesbury every week day cleaning Windsor and Richmond Town Centres and Council carparks.

Council has already received positive feedback from the community on the improvement in the cleanliness of many of our public areas.



Mayor Kim Ford, Federal Member for Macquarie Louise Markus and Police Local Area Commander, Superintendent Steven Eggington.

CCTV deters vandalism

Richmond Park is now safer with a CCTV camera system installed in and adjacent to the park. The project is supported by the local Police and Council and it is recognised as a major initiative in preventing and detecting crime in the Richmond Central Business District.

The system will deter acts of vandalism to the play equipment and surrounding buildings and businesses. Lighting within the park has also been upgraded to act as an additional deterrent.

Council received a \$150,000 grant from the Australian Government under the Safer Streets Program for the installation of the cameras.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Council has successfully secured funding to maintain the landfill gas capture and flare system at our Waste Management Facility over the next seven years.

More than 47,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions will be saved from entering the air over the seven years.

The successful funding application for the maintenance of the project will result in cost savings of \$536,000 at the Facility over its term including an investment of \$200,000 in 15 new wells and collection infrastructure. The maintenance of the existing 15 gas wells will also be maintained at no cost to the community as part of this project.

Support for community initiatives

Each year Council supports community groups and individuals through its Community Sponsorship Program. Council has given away \$12,279 in the latest round of the Program. Wisemans Ferry Community Men's Shed was successful in receiving \$3,000 to assist with construction of their new Men's Shed. Hawkesbury Community Kitchen, a key support organisation in our community, received \$2,530 towards improving showering and laundry facilities and St Matthew's Anglican Church received \$3,000 to produce a commemorative book to celebrate its bicentenary in 2017.

An additional \$16,095 was awarded to 11 successful applications under the 2015/2016 Local Heritage Assistance Fund to restore cemetery monuments in the Hawkesbury. The program, which is jointly funded by Council and Office of Environment and Heritage, focuses on minor maintenance works to cemetery monuments.



Congratulations and thank you to all the kind people who donated gifts for the 4th Annual Mayoral Christmas Appeal. Pictured: Councillor Jill Reardon; Mayor Kim Ford; three year old Noah with his mother Amanda Sammut; and Jenny Shaw of CWA – Kurrajong.

Better development advice services

To improve its service to the public, Council has employed a dedicated Duty Officer to answer basic development and building enquiries. No appointment is necessary for the 'face-to-face' enquiry service which is provided at the front counter of the Administration Building 366 George Street, Windsor from 8:30am until 1pm Monday to Friday (except public holidays).

For customers who are unable to visit Council during working hours, arrangements can be made for the Duty Officer to contact you by calling Customer Service (02) 4560 4444.

Amenities block constructed in record time

A new accessible amenities block, which took only six days to construct thanks to an innovative pre-fabricated design, is now open in Windsor. Completed in early December, the new amenities block in the Kable Street Carpark is a welcome update and will service the Windsor Town Centre and Windsor foreshore.

The \$160,000 project is a major step towards Council creating accessible friendly facilities for the community. The block contains one wheelchair accessible and two ambulatory cubicles. It now complies with current access codes and standards and has been designed to deter vandals.

Australia Day

If you are looking for something to do this Australia Day, check out Council's Australia Day Events Calendar listing all the events happening in the Hawkesbury. The Calendar is available online at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

Online services

Did you know that your Council now has a variety of online services? You can report damaged bins, missed services and request changes to your bin service as well as report illegal dumping at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au. Council is continually rolling out more online services to make it easier for residents to do business with Council.



Denise Handcock, Executive Officer Peppercorn Services Inc. with Debbie Durrington, Manager Community Wellbeing at the Hawkesbury Leisure and Learning Centre.

Transforming community space

The construction of the Hawkesbury Leisure and Learning Centre, Richmond is now complete. The \$2 million extension and refurbishment has transformed the building into a broad purpose community space.

Peppercorn Services Inc. which will manage the Centre on behalf of Council, is currently offering space to leisure groups such as exercise, yoga, dance, drumming, art, floristry and education, business and not-for-profit organisations to utilise the upgraded facilities. Interested parties can contact Peppercorn Services Inc. on (02) 4587 0222.



From the Mayor's Desk

Stay up to date with what's happening at Council by visiting the Mayor's weekly online column at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/from-the-mayor.

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