



Clarence community news

OCTOBER 2010



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Connecting with our river



Grafton's waterfront is a blank canvas and this is your open invitation to help shape the area into a regional icon! Council has recently engaged consultants, Clouston Associates to develop the Grafton Waterfront Precinct Plan. The precinct area under the microscope is the riverfront between the Grafton Bridge and Queen Street.

We are taking a new approach to connecting with the community and will be hosting a consultation event during this year's Grafton Dragon Boats Family Fun Day on Sunday 24 October and also the new Dragon Boat 2km Turn Race and 'A Touch of Vibe on the Riverside' on Saturday 23 October.

Our project team from Clouston's will be at the event with loads of different activities for the community and visitors to participate in. Come along, share your ideas, enjoy the fun of the Dragon Boat racing and get your hands into a bit of interactive drawing or model making - it promises to be a golden day out for all the family.

Together we can build on what we have, and create important opportunities that will help drive the City's growth and prosperity.

Getting involved is easy - All you need to do is visit the Project Team marquee located in Memorial Park on either Saturday 23 or Sunday 24 October between 11am and 5pm.

Further information contact the economic development team on 02 6643 0200.

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Mayoral message



When you live on a big, bold and beautiful river like ours you do tend to take it a little for granted sometimes - but all that is about to change.

The Grafton Waterfront Precinct Plan is a new initiative, and Council is committed to delivering a plan for the area that is sustainable, is a place for everyone and makes the best use of this prime location. I urge all the community to participate in the consultations being held on the banks of the Clarence on the 23 and 24 October.

The Wherrett Park Sporting Complex in Maclean is nearing completion. It is envisaged the official opening will be scheduled for December with the Australian Government representatives who contributed \$2million towards the cost in attendance. Council is pleased to announce Mathew McKee was the successful applicant of the competitive tendering process. Mathew is a physical education teacher at South Grafton High and well known in sporting circles in Clarence Valley. The Maclean community are well on their way to raising the \$100,000 community contribution and should be commended for their efforts.

Council is already on the front foot when it comes to the 2011/12 Operational plan with planning already commenced. An initial list of all works, projects and activities council will undertake throughout the year has been compiled. Interested residents can view the preliminary information on the website.

Memories of the Victorian tragedies last year have not faded and I would like to remind residents the statutory Bush Fire Danger Period runs from 1 October to 31 March, and if you are planning to light a fire in the open during this time, you will need a permit.

At its meeting held in September, Council endorsed the Clarence Valley Council LEP to be forwarded to the Minister for gazettal. The document represents a significant milestone for this Council, bringing together as it does the many planning instruments of the former Valley councils. Our Council is one of the first to reach this stage under the new LEP template and standard conditions issued by the NSW Department of Planning.

Councillor Richie Williamson, Mayor.

Clarence food month



Celebrating and EATING what's in our own backyard

There is so much to celebrate food wise in the Clarence that our traditional October 'food month' started at end of September and goes to early November - now that's a big month!

Forming part of the Sydney Morning Herald's Sydney International Food Festival again this year, Clarence Food Month includes:

Edible Garden - Uncovering the Mystery

Drop in for a free demonstration and discover how easily we can harvest fresh food straight from our own backyard, balcony or terrace. The edible garden display has fun, educational and innovative activities for old hand growers to people who have just started or are keen to start their own edible garden. Not to forget parents who are looking to do something different with their children that is fun, educational, low cost and simple. Don't miss your last opportunity - Jacaranda Thursday, 4 Nov, 9am - 12pm, Market Square Grafton

Barbecue Madness

Clarence food joined the Sydney International Food Festival's BBQ parties being held all over NSW and attracted plenty of attention adding a twist - a BBQ at Woolli including oysters and a goanna pulling demonstration.

Let's Do Clarence - Brekkie, lunch & dinner

If you prefer to sit back and relax and have Clarence food dished up for you; 'Do Clarence - brekkie, lunch & dinner' and dine out! We all love local and we all love fresh, no one more so than our Clarence Valley chefs. Experience the diversity of Clarence produce scrumptiously prepared, with a local food menu item for \$25 or under.

Further information on Clarence food month contact the economic development team on 02 66430 200 or visit www.clarence.nsw.gov.au

How old will you be in 2020 or 2036?



The trend for the Clarence Valley is for an ageing population, so Clarence Valley Council has started to plan to make sure the Valley's facilities and services provide as much support as possible to make your older years healthy, enjoyable and easy.

During late October a series of World Cafes will be held across the Valley so community members can discuss what they think they

will need as they become older and what Council can do to make the Clarence Valley an age friendly place.

Keep an eye out for the dates and locations of the World Cafes and information about a discussion blog and survey.

Information will be on Council's website and posters at libraries; or contact Community Development Officer (aged/disability) Susan Howland on 02 6645 0001.

Summer youth events



Once again the Award winning Summer Youth Events Program will take place over the Christmas school holidays. Aimed at 12-25 year olds, activities include visual arts workshops, film making, photography and music production.

Workshops are free or low-cost so keep an eye out for the program in school newsletters, local media and on Council's youth website gherkin www.gherkin.net.au

For more information contact Council Community Development Officer (youth) Sarah Ford at sarah.ford@clarence.nsw.gov.au or 02 6645 0002.

Wooli village coastal zone management plan



Preserving and protecting our unique coastal environments and developing plans to ensure this, is a priority action for Clarence Valley Council.

The Wooli Village Coastal Zone Management Plan aims to guide future decision making regarding short and longer term management of the natural and built environment at Wooli Beach and adjacent land. In particular, it addresses the implications of long term erosion of the coastline, how that may be affected by climate change, and how it may impact on existing development

and future development. It contains a range of management options including recommended development controls to guide future building and approvals.

The Wooli Village Coastal Zone Management Plan includes an Emergency Action Plan, Review of Coastal Hazards, and a Wooli Village Coastline Management Strategy Update and Options Review.

Further information Wooli Village Coastal Zone Management Plan contact Scott Lenton of Council's Strategic Planning Section on 02 6643 0234.

Backyard burning

Under the requirements of the Rural Fires Act and Regulations backyard burning is prohibited in residential and village zoned areas. There are a number of exemptions which include;

- A fire for cooking, recreation and for fire fighting instruction.
- Burning of vegetation for agricultural operations or
- A fire for the purposes for instruction of fire fighting.
- Bushfire hazard reduction work under the Rural Fires Act

Applications to burn must be made in writing to Council and permission will only be given where there are no other viable alternatives. An individual can be fined up to \$5,500 for breaching the regulations. Even if Council approval is granted residents will need to check any other requirements from the Rural Fire Service and/or their local fire brigade.

Silver gong for the Grafton regional gallery



In September the Grafton Regional Gallery was awarded a silver medal at the 2010 CountryLink North Coast Tourism Awards for excellence in heritage and cultural tourism.

Five businesses in the Clarence Valley received an award which is an outstanding achievement considering the competition extended from Tweed to Port Stephens.

Reporting crime?

In order to help the community know who to call about a crime they have experienced or witnessed, Clarence Valley Council, on behalf of the Community Safety Precinct Committee, has produced a fridge magnet with all the necessary information on it. The magnet is an initiative from the Clarence Valley Crime Prevention Plan 2008-2010 and funded fully by Council.

Magnets can be obtained from Council offices or by contacting the Crime Prevention Officer on 02 6641 7221.

New look mobile library



During July the Mobile Library vehicle was the canvas for a combined youth art project. This innovative project evolved from a partnership between North Coast Area Health - Youth Health and Clarence Valley Council Library Services.

Under the guidance of local artist Pamela Denise it involved painting a colourful and dynamic mural on the sides of the truck, transforming it into an eye-catching moving art piece.

All the young people involved should be extremely proud of the work which went into this ambitious project and the high standard which they achieved in such a short period

of time. A special thank you to the Coutts Crossing School for providing an excellent all weather "studio" for the artists to work in.

Mobile Library service has been expanded with visits to the communities of Baryugil, Coaldale, Copmanhurst, Lawrence, Woodford Island, Gulmarrad and Brooms Head added to existing stops. In order to incorporate these extra stops some minor changes have been to the former schedule.

Mobile Library schedules can be obtained from Grafton and Maclean libraries or by visiting the Clarence Regional Library website www.crl.nsw.gov.au

For further information please contact Peter on 04 0945 7606.



Contacting your councillors

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Connect with your council

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Be part of something special and grow your own food

Local Food is the hot topic for the Northern Rivers region, with the Northern Rivers Food Links Project propelling the benefits of growing your own food into mix.

At last count, 21 registrations equating to some 147 sqm had been contributed towards the regional tally by members of the Clarence Valley community participating in the Grow Your Own Food 12 Week Challenge.

By supplementing our daily food with vegetables, fruit and herbs from our own backyards we can:

1. Save money
2. Access healthier and fresher food – that lasts longer

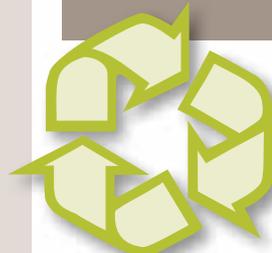
The Northern Rivers Food Links Project, a Council cooperation initiative of the 7 Northern Rivers Councils and Rous Water, is aimed at securing a sustainable food future for the region and is funded through the NSW Environmental Trust.

3. Know what has been done to our food (no sprays/poisons if grown organically)
4. Encourage a great family activity
5. Increase our exercise
6. Lower our carbon footprint (save the planet) by shortening the food supply chain and
7. Enjoy a fun and very satisfying hobby

To register for the Grow Your Own Food 12 Week Challenge go to www.sustainfood.com.au, you will be supported by a week by week guide created by the Garden Guru, Phil Dudman and go into the draw for weekly prize giveaways.

Register now for the 12 week challenge at www.sustainfood.com.au

Changes to the way we do waste



Planning is underway for a new domestic waste collection contract which will commence in 2012. This

includes exploring options to expand the current waste and recycling collection areas, the development of a new regional recycling facility (MRF) and looking at ways of diverting more waste away from landfill.

Currently the Clarence Valley is diverting only 40% of domestic waste from landfill through the kerbside recycling and greenwaste service. The State Government however has challenged Councils to meet a diversion target of 66%. To meet this challenge and to reduce our State waste tax burden, we will need to explore innovative solutions to recover more recyclables and, in particular, more organic material from the waste stream.

Over the coming months Council will be looking for community feedback as we analyse various opportunities, some of which may, at first, appear challenging. To commence this process Council would welcome your ideas on how the current waste collection service can be improved and how more waste can be diverted from landfill.

Council is also keen to hear from rural residents that do not currently receive a kerbside waste collection service but would like to. With the new contract, there is an opportunity to expand the current collection areas. When considering new areas Council will need to take into account the capabilities of access roads, the economic viability and support or otherwise from neighbours.

Any ideas, comments or proposals for new service areas should be directed to the General Manager, Clarence Valley Council, PO Box 23, Grafton 2460, or email council@clarence.nsw.gov.au or visit our website www.clarence.nsw.gov.au feedback page at www.clarence.nsw.gov.au

For all the latest news a weekly information column is published in both the Clarence Valley Review (Wednesday) and The Daily Examiner (Friday).