



Clarence community news

JANUARY 2011



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Council excelling



2010 was an award winning year for Clarence Valley Council. Recognition through awards is testament to the focused commitment to continued improvement and acknowledgement of the skilled individuals employed by council.

The diversity of awards and their criteria are an example of the range of initiatives council is undertaking.

The awards demonstrate the excellence achieved by Clarence Valley Council from local awards to international associations:

■ **Clarence Valley Coffs Harbour Regional Water Supply Strategy**

2010 International Water Association - Project Innovation Award

■ **Affordable Housing Strategy**

NSW Planning Institute Awards (PIA) for Excellence - Excellence Award Social and Community Based Planning and co-winner of President's Award

■ **Clarence River Way Masterplan**

Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Award for Excellence awarded to CLOUSTON Associates

■ **'Taking Action on Climate Change' Package**

LGSA Excellence in Environment Awards - Energy Saving and Climate Change Adaptation/Mitigation

■ **Lake Wooloweyah Erosion Control Project**

LGSA Excellence in Environment Awards - Natural Environment Protection and Enhancement: On-ground Works

■ **Grafton Maclean Lawrence Townsend Ilarwill sewerage augmentation project management**

Australian Institute of Project Management (AIPM) - NSW Project Management Achievement Award in Regional Development

■ **2010 CountryLink North Coast Tourism Awards**

Silver Medal for excellence in heritage and cultural tourism

■ **Smoke Free Outdoor Areas Policy**

2010 Heart Foundation Local Government Awards Highly Commended - Programs and policies that reduce exposure to tobacco

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Mayoral message



All ratable properties in the Clarence Valley have been revalued and the property owners advised. The NSW Valuer General's notification of the Valuation includes information on appeal processes, and those matters are dealt with by the Valuer General's Office.

My reason for raising the matter in this community newsletter is to reassure ratepayers that an increase in the valuations does not automatically mean an increase in your rates in 2011/12. The reasons are simple; Council is restricted in the amount of money it can raise through general rates in any year. This limit is called the 'Rate Peg Limit' and it has been notified as 2.8% above the total general rates levied this year (2010/11).

If the total of all the land values in the CVC area increased by, for example 40%, Council's rate income would still only increase by 2.8% due to the rate pegging imposed by the State Government. The effect on individual ratepayers would be different in that some may increase by more or less than the 2.8% (depending if your land increased in value more than the average increase of all land values, or decreased and by how much) but overall Council cannot exceed the amount raised this year plus the rate pegging increase.

This matter caused a lot of confusion that was evident at the public meetings held late last year when the Special Variation of the general rates was under consideration.

Once all of the new valuations are known, and the council has provided some direction for the rates structure 2011/12, we will provide information to residents that will assist in the calculation of your likely rates for that next year.

**Councillor Richie Williamson
Mayor**

Let's all go country

In true traditional Aussie style, billy tea and damper will be on offer when the Clarence Valley Australia Day heroes are announced at the official ceremony at Copmanhurst sports grounds.

Dust off the Akubra, grab the family, friends and neighbours to go bush and enjoy the pioneering demonstrations, exhibits and activities planned for this relaxed and enjoyable day. The big day, on Wednesday 26 January commences at 9am and will include a 'Welcome to Country' plus a flag raising performed by the army cadets.

**For further information visit
www.clarence.nsw.gov.au**



Celebrating meals on wheels

The Maclean Lower Clarence Meals on Wheels celebrated Christmas and International Volunteer Day at the Harwood 'Hilton' Hotel.

There were over 70 volunteers in attendance. Thalia McPherson and Audrey Robinson revealed our new National Meals on Wheels logo – cake style!

Thalia and Audrey were our nominees in the Inaugural NSW Government Hidden Treasures Honour Roll for Rural Women Volunteers.

Hidden Treasures recognises the crucial role women play as volunteers in rural, regional and remote communities. It is not an award but pays tribute to rural women who donate their time and energy to help others by formally acknowledging and celebrating their community spirit and unpaid contributions.

For further information on Meals on Wheels contact Julie Karklis at Community Support Services on 02 6645 3669



Grafton waterfront

Once upon a time the Grafton community were strongly connected to the beautiful Clarence River and the water's edge a hive of activity.

Rebuilding the connection and revitalising the river precinct are key goals of the draft Grafton Waterfront Precinct Plan. The Plan creates a place of character and quality, creating both a tourism asset and a boost to Grafton's amenity.



The draft Plan is on public exhibition from 24 January until 21 February and the community are invited to provide feedback and input into the draft concepts. The Plan can be viewed at Council offices in Grafton and Maclean, Grafton Shopping World or on Council's website www.clarence.nsw.gov.au.

**For further information contact
Elizabeth Fairweather on
02 6645 0292 or email
elizabeth.fairweather@clarence.nsw.gov.au**

Commitment to training and development

Clarence Valley Council has a strong commitment to the training and development of its workforce including our many apprentices and trainees.

With a dedicated and experienced workforce, we provide support and learning opportunities to apprentices and trainees, assisting them to succeed in their chosen field. Since 2005, Council has steadily increased opportunities for trainees and apprentices within the organisation. Council is proud to be presently hosting 5 apprentices and 12 trainees.

Recently, fourth year plant mechanic apprentice, Rick Kelly won the coveted title of Novaskill's 2010 Apprentice of the Year. Rick also won the title in 2008 and he accredits this to hard work as well as dedicated supervision and support of his co-workers.



Al Wallace (Novaskill) congratulates Rick Kelly on his award



Sewerage planning, management and innovation

Ten years in development and planning was recognised with the opening of the \$77.5 million Grafton Maclean Lawrence Townsend Ilarwill sewerage augmentation project.

Despite extensive wet weather and the 2009 flood, the project was completed within its pre-construction estimates. The infrastructure project has been recognised by various New South Wales planning and engineering awards. The innovative project provides recycled water to various sporting facilities including Grafton race course and greyhound track, Frank McGuren sporting complex, Grafton golf course and Maclean golf course in the future.

Out of the Box – youth infrastructure and skate parks



If you live in or near Yamba, Wooli, Coutts Crossing or Copmanhurst keep your eye out for the next round of skate park consultations.

Small skate parks will be developed in each location as part of the 'Out of the Box' project. In December, skate design specialists Convic, met with young people across the

valley to understand their preferences for local skate parks. Near the end of January Convic will be back again to present designs for each park. So make sure you have a look and have your say before they go into construction. Keep a look out for days and times in the newspaper, at your local shop, on the radio and in your local newsletter. Or go onto facebook at CVCskate to find out more.

Up and about



Pat, one of the first people in the Clarence Valley to join our new 'Up and About' Program has come a long way in her recovery from a stroke several years ago.

She attends various community health programs and has a fairly active social life. However, Pat lacked confidence in undertaking some tasks of daily living. Through assessment, the 'Up and About' program identified several actions that would increase her independence in an eight week period. One of her goals was to share the cooking with her daughter.

Now the program is complete, Pat cooks regularly to help give her daughter Lindy a break. The program has given Pat a real confidence boost, she is less dependent on her daughter and Lindy intum has more confidence in her mother's abilities.

The 'Up and About' program is for people over 65 that are motivated to work towards gaining more independence.

For further information contact Sue Bowling at Clarence Valley Council Community Support Services on 02 6641 7321

Kerbside cleanup

The annual kerbside cleanup kicks off on 14 February 2011.

The cleanup is available to all households currently receiving a weekly garbage collection service throughout the Clarence Valley Council area.

Of course, if you can think of a way of reusing or recycling your excess items instead of leaving them out to be landfill, that would be preferable. There are many options for the reuse and recycling of items including donating to charity organisations and using the Clarence Valley Freecycle network (visit www.clarencevalleyfreecycle.org)

The volume of waste per household should not exceed 2 cubic metres and be no longer than 1.5 metres. Residents are reminded that certain items will not be collected. These include green waste, tyres, dangerous or hazardous materials, industrial or trade waste, concrete, gas bottles and e-waste.

**For collection dates visit www.clarence.nsw.gov.au
For more information contact Clarence Waste Solutions on 02 6641 4980**

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Heritage food and fun

The viability of the Barn at the Grafton Showground as a centre for events took a great step forward with the announcement that The Gallery Foundation in collaboration with the Grafton Showground Trust, was successful in obtaining a \$100,000 Community Building Partnership grant from the State Government.

The funds will see the Barn receiving significant renovations including; the kitchen enlarged and upgraded to allow for the presentation of events such as Gate to Plate which has over 300 people sitting down for a 6 course degustation lunch. The existing toilets will also have a minimal upgrade. Future plans are afoot to replace the toilets and improve the street view and existing grounds to continue the development of the Barn into a heritage function and event centre.



Gorgeous garden

The cottage style garden at the Grafton Regional Gallery looks so good due to the efforts of our wonderful garden volunteers, Glenice and Harry Moy, Ken Inglis and Garry Jamieson.

Echoes of the garden's heritage are seen in quite a few of the original trees and plants of the garden before the gallery was established in 1988. These include the outstanding old ivy tree, a very prickly

plant to deal with, and the more amenable camellias, gardenias and hydrangeas.

Some azaleas have been put into service of art using the traditional topiary techniques to create the classical square, cylinder, sphere and pyramid. Cass Samms sculpture Spare Parts in Sphere, the two heritage wells and the gas lamp that once graced Prince Street are some of the more unique features of our garden.

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