



# Clarence community news

OCTOBER, 2014

INSIDE



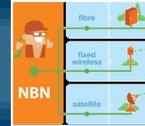
**A pet project**



**Gillian's new role**



**Let's celebrate**



**NBN on a roll (out)**



## MISSION COMPOSTABLE

**Keen to be green? The Clarence Valley Council is introducing new compostable food waste bin liners as another way of encouraging people to cut the amount of organic waste going into landfill.**

**Go nude or wrapped in green? Okay, get your mind out of the gutter, we want it in the bin – or at least in the green waste bin.**

Just before Christmas, Clarence Valley Council will deliver a sample pack of compostable bin liners to each Clarence Valley household that receives an organics service.

We understand sorting and storing food waste can be tricky, and have heard feedback about the challenges involved in collecting and storing food waste in the green organics bin, so we're offering a solution. Using a compostable bin liner in the kitchen caddy may be the answer to preventing unwanted odours and flies, particularly in summer or when you have little other green waste to blend.

The council-provided bin liners meet the Australian Standards for composting and have been designed for

use in our organics recovery facility. You may use other compostable bags in your kitchen caddy but they must meet the Australian Standard AS 4736 and be labelled compostable.

Do not use other bags as an alternative, even if they are labelled biodegradable or display a recycling symbol. Biodegradable and compostable are not the same.

Additional bin liners are available for purchase at some hardware outlets throughout the Clarence Valley. Council also hopes to establish a network of easily accessible sites for you to buy ongoing supplies.

You can keep up to date with news of additional outlets by visiting [www.clarence.nsw.gov.au](http://www.clarence.nsw.gov.au) or phoning our Waste Hotline 1800 335 599. Should you need a replacement kitchen caddy, these can be bought at our Maclean and Grafton council offices.



Of course, if 'nude' or wrapping food waste in newspaper is working for you, continue to use your system or a combination of both.

Our aim is to keep food and garden waste out of landfill, which, in turn lowers methane production, keeps our carbon footprint small, extends the life of our landfill and prevents an increase in waste management fees. So, however you do it, get your organics in the green bin.

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## Mayoral message



As the weather starts to warm and the days get longer, thoughts turn to Grafton's annual Jacaranda Festival which, this year, will be big.

The Jacaranda Festival is the oldest floral festival and this year turns 80.

But despite its advancing years, the festival shows no signs of slowing down.

In fact, probably the opposite is true.

To help commemorate this special anniversary and to make sure the iconic trees will be around for years to come, the Clarence Valley Council has joined forces with the Jacaranda Festival Committee to start replenishing the stock of jacaranda trees.

This year we will be planting 80 jacaranda and flame trees as part of an ongoing replacement program.

It's a great initiative, developed by the festival committee and supported by council.

Of course, the tree plantings will be but one small part of a diverse and extensive festival program.

I encourage everyone to join in and guarantee you won't be disappointed.

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Grafton is not alone in having an exciting cultural festival, with Yamba to kick up its heels with the Surfing the Coldstream Festival on October 18.

This one day spectacular is becoming must-see fixture of the Clarence Valley social calendar.

It's a colourful, vibrant and intriguing festival that brings smiles to the faces of people of all ages and interests.

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While on Yamba, the second annual triathlon last month illustrated the value of community-based sporting events.

It was tremendous, and I congratulate all the participants and organisers for a job very well done.

And, of course, it has much to look forward to. The council's involvement with Sports Marketing Australia is starting to reap real dividends, with the announcement of a series of high class surfing events.

Let there be more of them.

**Richie Williamson, Mayor**

## Giving happy pets a happy home



**Animal control officer Shirley Shoebridge with a bull-Arab cross ready for re-homing.**

**Most dog owners whose animal ends up at what was once called the Pound will be able to reunite with their animal free of charge.**

In August councillors voted to adopt a policy to allow dog owners a one-off free collection, so long as they meet some conditions.

Previously it cost \$82 for a first release of an impounded dog and \$133.50 for subsequent releases but many found it difficult to pay the fee and some were either left for excessive periods or not collected at all.

Under the new policy, the dog will be returned free if it: has never been at the Pound or subject to field release; was not found in a prohibited area; was not involved in an incident like menacing or attacking; has not previously been declared menacing or dangerous and is microchipped upon leaving the Pound and registered, or notice given.

The policy rewards responsible pet owners in the short term and helps facilitate pet ownership, animal welfare and the benefits of animal companionship.

Council has also just launched a Facebook page dedicated to finding new homes for dogs.

The aim is to find homes for 100 per cent of suitable, healthy animals that arrive at the shelter.

All animals will be desexed, registered, microchipped and assessed for behaviour.

Just log onto Facebook and search for Clarence Valley Council Animal Management Facility.

And council is just putting the finishing touches to a plan to foster suitable dogs out into suitable homes.

What was the Pound is now called the Clarence Valley Council Animal Management Facility.

It's open Monday to Friday from 8.30am – 3.30pm and can be contacted via 6643 0200.

## New method for rates and water notices

**New measures have been introduced to allow people to have their rate notices and water accounts issued electronically.**

To get electronic notification of rates, sign up to BPAY View using the instructions below.

1. Log into your online banking account.
  2. Look for the BPAY View or View Bills section.
  3. Select Biller: Clarence V Council\*\*
  4. Register to get your Clarence Valley Council notices by entering:
    - The Biller Code: 46318
    - Your BPAY View registration number (the BPAY reference number as shown on the bottom of your rate notice).
    - Your name – exactly as it appears on the first line from the name and postal address section on your latest rate notice.
  5. Please check your details are correct.
- \*\*There may be more than one "Clarence" biller to select from, so please ensure Clarence V Council is

the only biller you select.

A confirmation message or SMS will be sent to you if your registration is successful. Again, please check your details are correct.

Once approved rate notices will be sent automatically to your online banking account. You will not get a paper notice in the mail.

Please note if you change your postal address, you will still need to contact council to ensure the records are up to date and any other correspondence is received by you.

If you wish to set up to receive your water account electronically as well, you will have to register separately as the registration number for the water account is a different number to your rates reference number.

Please make sure you use the BPAY reference number as displayed on your latest water notice. The Biller Code for your water account is: 46318.

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

## General Manager's update



A decision by the Federal Government to freeze increases in the grants it provides to local government will make a difficult budget outlook for the Clarence Valley Council more problematic.

We've estimated the decision could cost council (and ratepayers) about \$784,000 over three years.

Clearly that has an impact on council's ability to continue to provide the current level of services, let alone consider new ones.

Council has to live within its means, but external pressures are making that increasingly difficult.

Under the New South Wales Government's rate-pegging limit, council is only allowed to increase its rate income by 2.3 per cent. Wages, which are one of council's biggest costs, are increasing at 2.7 per cent and other consumables are rising at well above the pegged limit.

So we have the situation where one level of government has frozen any increases in financial assistance grants and another level of government holding us to rate increases that don't keep up with increases in costs.

The council has assets worth an estimated \$1.8 billion and there's a legitimate community expectation for us to maintain that infrastructure and build new facilities to meet the needs of a growing and changing community.

With the constraints in place, that is challenging.

In fact, it is not sustainable.

We have started a process of assessing our service delivery standards with a view to identifying any available efficiency gains.

In the coming months our councillors will be reviewing those service levels.

Almost all councils in rural areas are facing the same pressures and the New South Wales Government has recently announced broad-ranging actions in an attempt to address problems that beset the industry.

**Scott Greensill, General Manager**

## Author honoured by new ambassador role

**Acclaimed author Gillian Mears will use her role as Clarence Valley Ambassador to promote the area to the rest of the world.**

Ms Mears, who accepted the ambassadorship from Clarence Valley Mayor Richie Williamson recently, is an award winning Australian short story writer and novelist.

Her books *Ride a Cock Horse* and *The Grass Sister* were shortlisted in the Commonwealth Writers' Prize in 1989 and 1996 respectively. *The Mint Lawn* won The Australian/Vogel Award. In 2003, *A Map of the Gardens* won the Steele Rudd Award, and in 2012 Gillian went on to receive the Prime Minister's Literary Award for the novel *Foal's Bread*.

She said she was proud to be back "home" in the Clarence Valley.

"It brings back so many memories, especially from my last book *Foal's Bread*," she said.



**Clarence Valley ambassador, Gillian Mears.**

"The Clarence area is where I found my inspiration and I am honoured to receive the title of Ambassador for the Clarence".

Former Clarence Valley ambassadors include; Troy Cassar-Daley (musician), Cameron Pilley (squash player) and Wal King (Leighton's CEO).

## Getting smarter SMARTeconomy

**Clarence Valley businesses are continuing to embrace the emerging digital economy to the extent there's a waiting list to attend the "SMART" economy events.**

Because of the ongoing popularity, additional workshops and information sessions have been made available.

The council's recent social media workshop filled within a week and an additional session was nearly booked out.

There are a range of activities for businesses to participate in, including:

- Co-working spaces. Targeted at small businesses that work in isolation, to collaborate, network, meet new people and share ideas in a relaxed environment.

- SMART information session. In partnership with Enterprise & Training Company (ETC) basic information is delivered on communication technologies such as cloud computing, mobile devices and social media.

- Digital enterprise workshop. In partnership with Coffs Harbour City Council and ETC, workshops presented about how businesses can benefit from effective website design and digital strategies.

Businesses should not miss out on the benefits high speed broadband could bring.

People can sign up for the economic development team's electronic newsletter (e-news) to stay in the loop for new upcoming workshops or visit [www.clarence.nsw.gov.au](http://www.clarence.nsw.gov.au)

## Let's celebrate your achievement

**Each year the Clarence Valley celebrates the achievement and contribution of eminent Australians through the Australia Day Awards ceremony by profiling leading citizens who are role models for us all.**

The Clarence Valley Council is again calling on nominations for the 2015 Australia Day Awards.

Are you proud of someone living in the Clarence Valley who deserves recognition for their achievement?

Now is the time to nominate any Clarence Valley resident – a young citizen, a citizen of the year, a community group, or just a great local hero, that you believe is deserving of an award.

Making a nomination in the 2015 Clarence Valley Australia Day Awards is your opportunity to acknowledge and honour active and committed citizens.

The awards are the foundation of the Australia Day celebrations and they provide encouragement,



**The 2014 Australia Day awards winners.**

motivation and inspiration for the whole community.

Nomination forms and guidelines are available online at [www.clarence.nsw.gov.au](http://www.clarence.nsw.gov.au) or from council's customer service centres in Grafton and Maclean. Nominations close Friday, November 21, 2014.

Winners are announced at the Australia Day Awards Ceremony dinner held at the South Grafton Ex-Servicemen's Club, Thursday, January 22, 2015.

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## Contacting your councillors

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### KAREN TOMS

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## Connect with your council

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

for all inquiries: 6643 0200

### AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY

CONTACT: 6626 6858

**POSTAL ADDRESS:** Locked Bag 23,  
Grafton, 2460.

**FACSIMILE:** 6642 7647

### STREET ADDRESS:

Grafton office – 2 Prince St  
Macleans office – 50 River St

**EMAIL:** council@clarence.nsw.gov.au

**WEB:** www.clarence.nsw.gov.au

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## Getting tough on illegal dumpers

Residents and visitors are reminded of the need to dispose of their rubbish responsibly.

Last month a Grafton woman received penalties of more than \$800 after being found to have dumped rubbish illegally.

The penalty should serve as a warning to others about the seriousness of the offence and council's commitment to reducing the amount of roadside waste in the area.

Council rangers spend a lot of time cleaning up after people when, if they did the right thing, there would be no need.

Rubbish is not just unsightly. It can block drains, wash into our waterways where it's a risk to marine life or can be a danger to native and domestic animals.

Council has bought a series of infra-red cameras that will be deployed in known trouble spots and will prosecute anyone found to be dumping waste illegally.



**A woman was fined for dumping this rubbish.**

Most people do the right thing, but those who don't will be prosecuted wherever possible.

## High speed broadband for Maclean

### Many Maclean residents should have access to high speed broadband before Christmas.

Fixed wireless is one mode of delivery of the high speed broadband network and will serve the outlying properties surrounding Maclean.

People who live in town, will be served by a fixed line solution (determined by the NBN).

There are three types of technology available - fibre, fixed wireless and satellite.

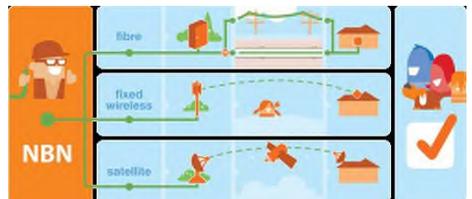
- **Fibre network.** Fibre is the future-proof solution that will enable access to superfast broadband and allow for future technological advances.

- **Fixed wireless.** Because of the size of our country, fixed wireless and satellite technology are used to connect those premises that do not fall into

the fibre footprint. Fixed wireless services are developed to build a more predictable number of users in a given area. The antennas are installed so they are directed towards the fixed wireless base station.

- **Satellite.** Provides access to broadband services to people in homes, small businesses and indigenous communities in some of the most remote areas of Australia.

For more information visit [www.nbnco.com.au](http://www.nbnco.com.au)



## Reaching those who need care

**Clarence Valley Care and Support Services has launched a new Facebook page to provide another way of keeping people informed of news and events in the aged care and home and community care areas.**

Care and Support Services offers a range of packages to help people remain in their homes. In the aged care services area this can include services like nursing, domestic help, in-home respite, personal care, transport to appointments, social support and shopping assistance.

In the home and community care area, respite care, social support, domestic assistance, home and garden maintenance, dementia care, personal care, meal preparation, palliative and end-of-life-care, case management, podiatry and meals on wheels are some of the services provided.

If you are on Facebook, simply search for Clarence Valley Care and Support Services and you can find all the latest news and other items of interest to consumers and their families. Care and Support Services can be contacted by phone on 6645 3669 or email [supportservices@clarence.nsw.gov.au](mailto:supportservices@clarence.nsw.gov.au)



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