



Clarence community news

JANUARY 2014



Inside:
Trip to
the tip



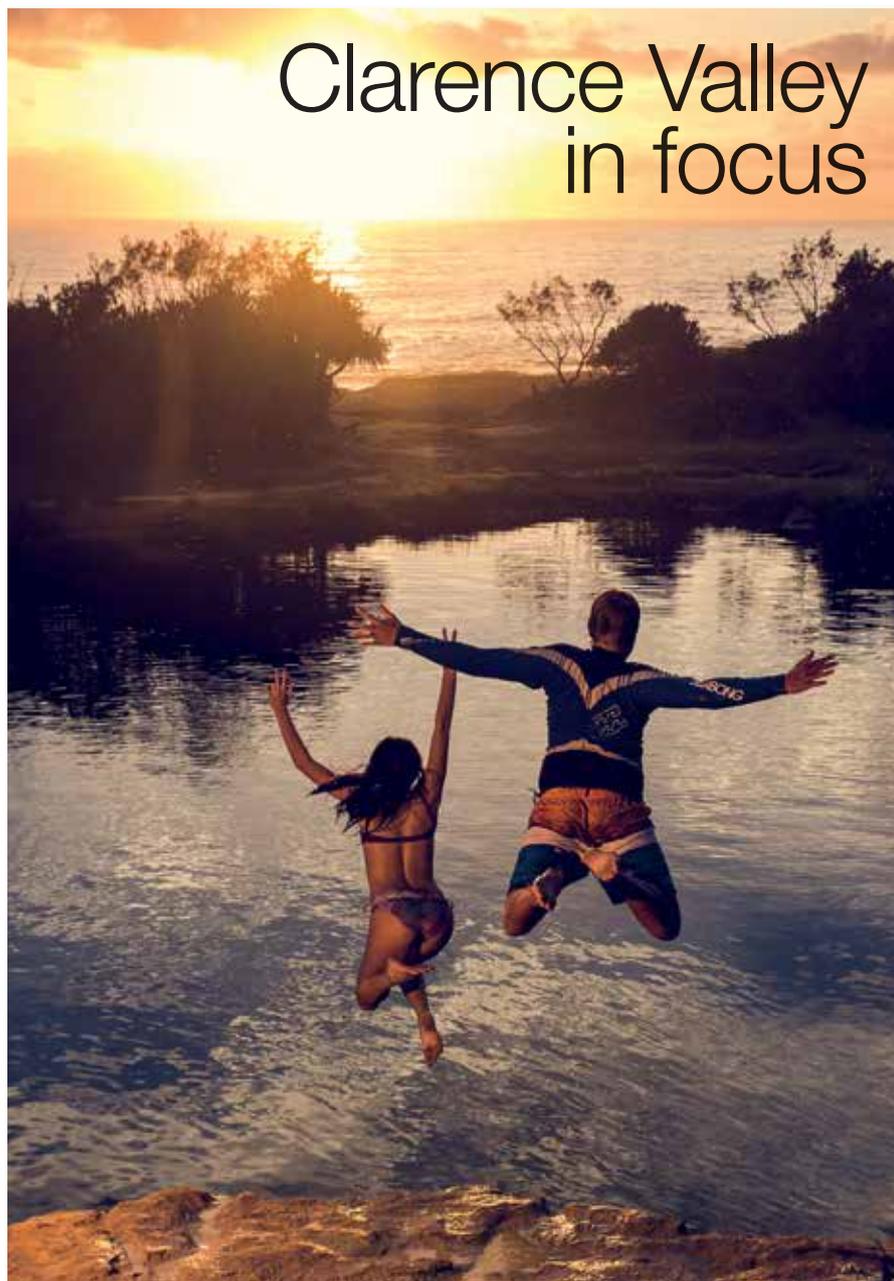
Take
the
PLUNGE



Weed
management
review



Solar
efficiencies



Clarence Valley in focus

Do you like taking photos with your phone? Or are you a professional photographer with a digital SLR? No matter what type of photographer you are, we're inviting you to submit photos of 'Music in the Clarence' as part of the second annual Clarence Valley in Focus photography competition and exhibition.

The competition provides local photographers the opportunity to have their snaps exhibited at the Grafton Regional Gallery. Each finalist will be entitled to \$500 to cover the rights associated with using the photographs as part of the exhibition and future re-exhibitions up until 30 November 2016. All photographs must reference the theme of 'Music in the Clarence'. There are three categories based on the type of camera you used to take the photographs - a mobile phone, smart phone or tablet - compact or point-and-shoot cameras - or those taken with a digital SLR or TLR camera. Each entrant may submit up to three photos.

The finalists' photographs for each category, as judged by a panel of local professional photographers, will be enlarged and reproduced up to two metres high or width on fabric for an exhibition at the Grafton Regional Gallery.

The competition is open all summer until 5 pm, 31 January 2014, with the exhibition planned to open in March 2014. All photographs being submitted must have been taken after 1 January 2013.

For further information including an artist brief and entry form please visit www.clarence.nsw.gov.au/photocomp

Blake Bodycote, Rise and Fall
Winner - DSLR Category - CV in Focus 2013

clarence
VALLEY COUNCIL

Mayoral message



We all love the Clarence Valley; it's why we choose to live here right? Have you ever thought about what it will be like to live here in ten years time?

We've commenced developing a ten year Community Plan. The Plan will reflect what you want the Clarence Valley to look like in ten years' time and to map out how we are going to get there.

Following on from the Community Survey conducted in December we will be continuing a major community engagement project. Across January through to April we'll be getting the word out to as many people as possible about this project. This is your opportunity for you to share your thoughts and contribute to the Plan.

We're listening and what you have to say is critical. We need to ensure our (that means you, me, all of us, not just Council) Community Plan truly reflects the views and aspirations of the broad community and is affordable to all.

I strongly encourage you all have your say and make sure your vision for the Clarence Valley and your ideas are included in the ten year plan for the Community.

**Councillor Richie Williamson
Mayor**

Trip to the tip

Wooli Public School was able to take their whole school on a 'Trip to the Tip'.

Students from Kinder to Year 6 were amazed to see what happens to all of their recyclables during a tour of the Resource Recovery Facility; following the path of glass, steel, aluminum, paper and plastic bottles being sorted and bundled ready for reprocessing.

'Going green' is a key learning area for the school, so students were most impressed to see Wooli's green waste come into the Organic Recycling Facility (ORF) while they were there. They watched as the organic food and garden waste was mulched and loaded into the tunnels for composting. The green thumbs from Wooli gave a big thumbs

up to the finished product suggesting they would be happy to use such a product on their award winning gardens.



Take the cultural PLUNGE

The time to take the cultural PLUNGE is fast approaching. Each year, Clarence Valley Council's PLUNGE promotion celebrates local arts, culture and creativity in the Clarence Valley.

From 26 March to 26 April this year, residents and tourists will again be able to take the plunge and experience an entertaining and interesting range of events, activities, workshops and experiences and immerse themselves in culture in the Clarence Valley.

The PLUNGE 2014 program will be available from early March 2014.



For further information please visit www.clarence.nsw.gov.au/plunge

Regional livestock selling centre

Grafton regional livestock selling centre services the Clarence Valley and beyond with all livestock sales.

- Prime cattle sales are held each Tuesday.
- Store cattle sales held on selected Thursdays of each month.
- Stud and special sales are held by arrangement.
- Horse sales are held by arrangement.

A modern facility owned by the Clarence Valley Council which returns \$25m annually back into the region.

For further information please contact Chris Moran on 66434190



General Manager's update



Work continues at Council to reach our long term goal of organizational and financial stability.

The fundamental process of restructuring and aligning the organisation to deliver better outcomes has now been achieved and further work continues of the sub-structures.

Part of Council's Strategic Organisational Action Plan is the rationalisation of assets. An outcome of amalgamation is the combination and collection of many assets which in some instances are not needed or significantly under utilised. All assets incur expenses and unless they provide benefit or service to the community, consideration needs to be given to the retaining of them.

In Grafton, investigations are underway with a view to reducing the existing five works depots to one central facility and three administrative offices to one centre. The aim is to reduce overheads whilst continuing to maintain or improve current levels of service. Consolidation of the work locations will commence in earnest in early 2014 and is anticipated to take approximately 18 months to complete.

Council has identified funds within its current reserves, plus anticipates that through sales conversion of rationalised assets all proposed changes will be funded without borrowings or seeking of funding from external sources.

As a result of legal necessity, Council recently undertook a review of tourism services and has consequently resolved to merge tourism services within the organisation from the 1 July 2014. Whilst the report's recommendation identifies efficiency gains, Council has resolved to maintain its financial commitment to tourism.

The combining of economic development, investment, relocation and event promotion, plus visitor services will produce greater synergies to better service the Clarence Valley. In keeping with the review of organisational structures, Council will review the overall tourism services to ensure we meet the needs of the tourism industry stakeholders and visitors to maximize the visitor economy input.

Scott Greensill
General Manager

Kerbside cleanup moves to May/June

Previously held in February, the 2014 annual kerbside cleanup will take place from 26 May to 27 June. Rain has hampered the collection in the last 4 years, rendering a lot of recyclable goods worthless and making the collection difficult for the contractors. The schedule will remain the same.

For further information please contact Suzanne Lynch on 6643 0223

Week 1

May 25-30

Armidale Road – Elland, Coutts Crossing, Blaxlands Creek, Nymboida

Gwydir Highway – Waterview Heights, Seelands, Eatonsville, Ramornie

Orara Way – Braunstone, Levenstrath, Lanitza, Kremnos, Glenreagh

Pacific Highway – Cowper, Ulmarra, Swan Creek, Tucabia, Pillar Valley, Wooli, Minnie Water, Diggers Camp, Bom Bom, Glenugie, Wells Crossing, Halfway Creek

Week 2

June 1-6

South Grafton, Clarenza, Grafton (Villiers St to Clarence River)

Week 3

June 8-13

Grafton (other than Villiers St to Clarence River), Junction Hill, Mountain View, Southgate and Lower Southgate

Clarence Way – The Whiteman, Copmanhurst, Fineflower, Baryulgil

Summerland Way – The Pinnacles, Gurrangang, Banyabba

Week 4

June 15-20

Yamba, Palmers Island, Angourie, Wooloweyah, Harwood, Chatsworth, Iluka, Woody Head, Ashby, Woombah, Tullymorgan, Warregah

Week 5

June 22-27

Maclean, Lawrence, Townsend, Gulmarrad, Brooms Head, South Arm, James Creek, Woodford, Brushgrove, Tyndale

Funding for the Clarence Valley



The Federal Government has announced that funding for important infrastructure projects in the Clarence Valley has been approved; McLachlan Park (\$1.1 million), Airport upgrade (\$2.1 million), Wherrett Park (\$950,000), Grafton Hockey (\$560,000) and McKittrick Park goal posts (\$13,750).

Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Warren Truss MP, announced that all projects under Rounds 3 and 4 of the regional infrastructure program will be funded, even if contracts haven't been signed. Funding will be issued for these projects under the Coalition's new Community Development Grants Programme.

Now that there is no longer doubt hanging over these projects, Council can get on with

the job. These projects along with others in the pipeline will be a great boost for the Clarence Valley economy.

STOP PRESS: NSW Better Boating Program funding success for a second pontoon at McLachlan Park, Maclean (\$130,000). The McLachlan Park project highlights the benefits of all three levels of Government working together with the community to achieve a project valued at nearly \$1.2million.



Contacting your councillors

RICHIE WILLIAMSON, MAYOR
p: 6643 0245 m: 0427 457 382
e: richie.williamson@clarence.nsw.gov.au

CRAIG HOWE, DEPUTY MAYOR
m: 0429 403 344
e: craig.howe@clarence.nsw.gov.au

ANDREW BAKER
m: 0418 453 434
e: andrew.baker@clarence.nsw.gov.au

JEREMY CHALLACOMBE
p: 6642 3336 m: 0421 224 464
e: jeremy.challacombe@clarence.nsw.gov.au

SUE HUGHES
m: 0401 862 202
e: sue.hughes@clarence.nsw.gov.au

JASON KINGSLEY
m: 0422 828 156
e: jason.kingsley@clarence.nsw.gov.au

MARGARET MCKENNA
m: 0419 421 066
e: margaret.mckenna@clarence.nsw.gov.au

JIM SIMMONS
p: 6645 3083
e: jim.simmons@clarence.nsw.gov.au

KAREN TOMS
m: 0403 195 178
e: karen.toms@clarence.nsw.gov.au

POSTAL ADDRESS:
Locked Bag 23, Grafton 2460

Connect with your council

CUSTOMER SERVICE
for all enquiries: 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
Maclean Office - 50 River St

EMAIL:
council@clarence.nsw.gov.au

WEB:
www.clarence.nsw.gov.au

clarence
VALLEY COUNCIL

Weed management review



The effectiveness and efficiency of weed management arrangements is the focus of a review undertaken by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC).

The review investigated existing good practice, opportunities and barriers that exist within current arrangements and ways to overcome those barriers. The draft report will be available for viewing by the end of February 2014.

Council Weeds staff, in partnership with the local community, is often the front line of defence against weeds and assist in

the protection of valuable assets including agricultural land, bushland, recreational facilities, private property and waterways. Local Government has a strong capacity to deliver weed management locally and meet community expectations.

Weed Management is a shared responsibility and Council encourages the community to be involved in the review process and comment on the draft report. The draft report will be available for viewing (end of February) at NRC website and public comment is invited for one month.

For further information please visit www.nrc.nsw.gov.au

Solar efficiencies

With the financial support of the Federal Government's Local Government Energy Efficiency program, Clarence Valley Council has been able to replace fifteen outdated and inefficient electric hot water systems at sports facilities throughout the Valley.

The grant of \$45,000, from the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism, assisted in installing energy efficient solar hot water heaters.

The new solar systems will see an average decrease of around 85% of greenhouse gas emissions as well as an 80% reduction in the cost of water heating overall. The network of

sports facilities sites will form a pilot project for Council to monitor changes in electricity consumption and undertake a cost benefit analysis to explore the sustainability of expanding the solar hot water network.



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