



November 18th: Students from Richmond River High School arrived in style to their formal on the Dunoon Brigade tanker.

L - R Josie Wivell, Riley Gaclik-Kelly, Dunoon RFB member Owen Balzar and Sarah Small

It's great to see the youth of our community wanting to take part in our brigade. Our young members have matured, contributed and come a long way in the last 2 years. We encourage any other youngies (or not-so-youngies) who maybe interested in what we do, and how we do it, to get involved. We've got a great crew here at Dunoon (even if we do say so ourselves!). All are welcome to come to one of our monthly meetings (held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month) or give me a call on 0409 425 551. You don't have to be on the end of a hose, on the fire ground or up a ladder to contribute. There are many other areas where we need volunteers.

Dunoon Brigade were Charity of the Day at The Channon Markets in October. It was one of the quietest markets we've had, but still a valuable fund raising day for the Brigade. Thanks to the organisers for giving us

the opportunity each year to raise these much needed funds.

It's summer time and fire permits are required. Please see notices to the right of this article. If you live in a village zone (ie. in a 50k area) you are not permitted to burn garden rubbish without written council approval. We, as your local firebrigade, cannot give that approval. It *has* to be obtained from Lismore City Council, despite what the Council person at the end of the phone may say.

On behalf of Dunoon Rural Firebrigade I'd like to say thank you for all the community support over the past 12 months.

Have a very merry and smoke-free Christmas.

*Ross McDougall
Captain, Dunoon RFB*



The Dunoon Skate Park Committee would like to sincerely thank the following businesses and individuals for their very kind and generous donations for its first fundraising raffle:

- The Mullumbimby Music Festival*
- Macadamias International Australia*
- Evoke Designer Yarn and Fabric*
- The Dunoon Sports and Recreational Club*

*The Ferranto family
Carol Shippard
Helen Wallace*

Thanks also to Kristin and Shane at the Dunoon Store for selling tickets. Rebecca Rushbrook won the main prize at the raffle—2 passes to the Mullumbimby Music Festival.

Thank you also to all of you who supported us and bought tickets.

Madeleine Smith



FIRE PERMIT SEASON

Fire permits are required from **Saturday October 1st 2011 until 28th February 2012**

unless notified otherwise.

The permit holder is responsible for notifying all adjoining neighbours and the Fire Control Centre (FCC) **at least 24hr** prior to lighting a fire.

Notification times for the FCC are between 8.30am and 4.30pm

Monday - Friday

(excluding public holidays).

FCC phone number:

6622 6088

Fire permits will not be issued for the period:

**FRIDAY
23RD DECEMBER 2011
TO MONDAY
2ND JANUARY 2012**

**PERMITS FOR NEW YEAR'S
EVE BONFIRES MAY BE
ISSUED AT THE FIRE PERMIT
OFFICER'S DISCRETION.
FOR YOU LOCAL FIRE
PERMIT OFFICER NUMBERS
SEE PAGE 34**

**REMINDER:
SUBSTANTIAL FINES
APPLY FOR PEOPLE
LIGHTING A FIRE
WITHOUT A PERMIT
DURING THE
BUSHFIRE DANGER
PERIOD.**

Lismore Art Gallery

Supporters of a new \$10m Art Gallery for Lismore need to take a reality check, a deep breath and a cold shower. Lismore Council cannot afford a new gallery.

While lovers of art are no doubt fuming at this heinous suggestion it is important to examine how we got to this point. There is no doubt that Lismore needs a new gallery as the current space is too small, inadequate and is in disrepair.

But successive councils have voted to spend approx. \$30m on two state of the art swimming pools which cost council \$3m pa too run. Similarly a previous council decided to spend \$4m upgrading Skyline Road as part of the ring road system. A complete waste of money.

The CBD has had over \$10m spent in recent years upgrading the block street scapes and \$13m upgrading sewage works for new development to maintain Lismore as the regional centre.

Council is currently running a \$6m operating debt and while that will improve over the short term, Council needs to find \$9m pa to maintain its current assets including roads, drainage, buildings water and sewage. Put simply the cupboard is bare. There is no more fat to cut.

During the budget sessions this year I asked council to find an extra \$1m dollars to maintain our road network. Without this funding our roads will deteriorate further. I was greeted with shock and dismay, accused of grandstanding and pushing my 'pet project'. "Where will the money come from" was the cry!

How stunned I was to read that the mayor will find \$10m dollars' within the next 4 to 5 years to build a new gallery. Unless the Mayor is planning a rate rise or a huge injection of funds from State and Federal Government council will have to borrow \$10m. That would cost council \$1m pa. in repayments per year.

So council can't find \$1m p.a. for roads but can find \$1m p.a. for a new gallery.

Come on Madame Mayor let's get real!

Lismore Lake Pool

No doubt supporters of the Lismore lake pool will also be bemused by the potential funding of a new art gallery especially when council decided to keep the pool closed due to a shortfall of \$600,000.

However, this was not any easy decisions past councils have neglected the pool – another council asset crumbling due to lack of funds for proper maintenance.

Staff insist that the cost to re-open the pool is approx. \$350,000 with a further \$250,000 to repair the pool.

Most of the costs are associated with increase

compliance associated with Workcover and OH & S issues. We all know how rules and regulations have increased since the '70's. It's no different for the Lake Pool which was built in the '70's. Since the pool has been neglected Council is now required by State government regulation to upgrade the pool to the same standard as the Memorial Baths and GSAC. That means lifeguard supervision, no alcohol or smoking and prohibition on a range of activities associated with the carefree past of the Lake Pool. Council could choose not to charge an entry fee but that would mean ratepayers would subsidise the operating costs as they do now. And the question must be asked can we afford three state of the art pools when other infrastructure needs attention? I know that the lake pool is much loved and is full of nostalgia for the care free days of the past. But those days are sadly gone due to the tightening of rules and regulations out of council's control. Council cannot ignore that fact no matter how much we might wish that the Lake pool could stay open, relaxed and free finances and regulations are against us.

Finances

Council finances are tight with a short term deficit of \$6m due to incorporation of the Richmond/Tweed Library and recognition of the full value of council's assets. Councillors have done two budget reviews. Efficiency in planning and asset management have occurred and more reviews of staff activities will occur under the new internal audit system. As councillors we must balance the best way to achieve the needs of all ratepayers with limited funding available.

Council cannot continue to rely on rates to deliver services. Council raises \$22mpa in rates yet runs a \$100m business. Time is ripe for constitutional recognition of local government. That way councils could access, for example GST revenue. Without access to revenue other than rates councils will be doomed to reduce services and cut maintenance. That's not a nice thought.

Draft LEP is back on exhibition until the end of January with several major and many minor changes. (see pg ???)

RU2 rural landscape zones will be drastically reduced, while the inaccurate overlay maps will be removed. Environmental zones have also been reduced while the riparian and waterways clause has been removed. Optional subclause regarding DA approval for tree removal in large lot rural residential, E2 zones and E3 zones has also been removed. These changes have been as a direct result of concern from within the

rural sector of our community and I believe it is important to get the balance right. However the LEP only affects those land owners who wish to submit a development application for buildings or change of property usage. Existing usage rights still prevail over the new LEP and routine agricultural activities are exempt. I believe these changes will go a long way to alleviating the fears and concerns of our rural sector. But I urge all residents in the LGA to take the time over the next two months to examine the Draft LEP document available on-line and at council offices.

Koala Plan of Management (KPoM)

The KPoM was due to go on exhibition after the November council meeting. However a last minute glitch in interpretation and a subsequent rescission motion has stalled the process.

The KPoM is designed to assist planning while preserving the Koala population in the SE region of our LGA. It aims to protect core Koala habitat from over development. Land holders in the SE region will be required to access whether any development that is proposed affects core koala habitat. There are various offset measures that can be required to ensure core Koala habitat is not significantly reduced. Again as with the Draft LEP this only affects landholders who wish to build or significantly change land usage. Existing use rights still apply and routine agricultural activities are exempt. The stakeholder group consisting of rural landholders and environment groups will reconvene to re-assess the interpretation of the offset measures. Council will revisit the issue at its December meeting.

It's nearly Xmas another year has flown by and we will all look forward to the holiday season. Next year is election year for council held in early September. I plan to run again if I have the communities support.

Early in the first quarter I will be holding meetings for those interested in helping with the campaign. If you feel inclined to support my attempt at a second term please contact me.

Thank you to all those people who have supported me over the last year and I look forward to the New Year and the many challenges ahead on council.

Have a happy and safe Xmas/New Year.

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and not necessarily Lismore City Council.



David Yarnall
Councillor - Lismore City Council

1050 Terania Creek Rd
The Channon, NSW 2480

phone: 0429 886 206
email: david.yarnall@lismore.nsw.gov.au