



# Mayors Message

## 29 January 2008

### **Medical Centre**

The steelwork is nearing completion at the Medical Centre allowing us all to gain an insight into the shape of the buildings. It's really looking great, isn't it? In the next few weeks the roofing will be completed, the hydrotherapy pool building steel work will be painted and then the block walls will commence.

The centre is moving along well and in accordance with it's schedule. Council are continuing to work to ensure that the centre operates to the high levels of service that we are all accustomed to.

Don't forget our Medical Centre Sun Screen Competition to design a screen to prevent the afternoon sun heating the glass front area. The screen can be anything you like, but must be located about 1 metre away from the glass paneling.

Council is asking residents to offer suggestions for an unusual design that will show off our centre, yet still offer shade to the waiting room. Ideally materials contained in the design should be maintenance free.

This competition closes on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008. so get your thinking caps on.

### **Harden Murrumburrah Memorial Swimming Pool**

The swimming pool is now nearing completion, all the concrete has been poured, including all new paths around the pool. The tiler is due this week to tile around the edges and Council's staff are still busy painting. Once the tiling and painting is finished Council will begin to fill the pool, allowing us to open for the last few weeks of the season.

Council staff are still tidying around the site to ensure that everything is safe and in order for the opening. The renovation of the change rooms and toilets will occur following the closure of the season.

### **Bike Park**

Large mounds of dirt have been placed at the site of the Harden Shire bike park for molding into the new park. The young locals have been excitedly visiting the site and eager to commence using it.

Once staff can be released from their duties at the swimming pool, they will move onto this site and finalise the preparations to enable full use to occur.

### **Childcare**

The taskforce looking at the future of childcare in Harden has it's last meeting this Thursday evening. We will then be presenting our findings and recommendations to a public meeting on 5 February at the Country Club.

This taskforce has done an enormous amount of work in a small amount of time to enable all members of the community to be involved in making a decision about the childcare services provided within our community.

I urge all residents of our Shire to attend this meeting and voice your opinions, regardless of your current need for childcare. These children are our future, and as a community we are all responsible to ensure that their wellbeing is ensured.

### **2008 – 2009 Management Plan**

Council have been advertising for submissions into the 2008 – 2009 Management Plan and Budget to enable all Councillors and Senior Staff to be informed at a planning weekend with our sister Council Sutherland. We received only 4 submissions from the public, these will be collated with those submitted by Councillors to form the basis of the plan.

Councillors and staff will travel to Sutherland to formulate the Management Plan and Budget. During this visit Councillors and Staff will build the relationships we have built.

Once completed, the Management Plan will be placed on public display for your comments.

### **Council Donations**

Council were pleased to deliver the inaugural Community Initiatives Grants on Australia Day 2008. There are some very worthy organizations who will benefit from this program during 2008, and some fantastic community projects that will occur with Council's assistance.

Benefiting organizations include: Harden Murrumburrah Arts Council, Murrumburrah High School, Harden Junior Rugby League, Wombat Progress Association, Towncare Harden Murrumburrah, Harden Kite Festival, Harden Murrumburrah Gentle Exercise Group, Jugiong Golf Club, Harden Picnic Race Club, and the Harden Murrumburrah Show Society.

### **Australia Day**

I had the pleasure to represent Harden Shire at the Sutherland Shire Australia Day evening festivities for 2008. Sutherland Shire featured a 'Bush to the Beach' theme for 2008, focusing on Harden Shire.

Local produce was utilized during cooking demonstrations during the day, Harden 'commercials' were shown throughout the day from filming activities that took place prior to Christmas. These commercials featured everyday life within our Shire and some local landmarks and were well received throughout the day.

There was great interest from the crowd and the Sutherland information centre issued many brochures showing our attractions during the day.

### **40km School Speed Zones**

As our children return to school this week, please remember that the speed limit is 40km around schools.

**Philip Hockney OAM**  
**Mayor**  
**29 January 2008**