



Mayors Message

26 February 2008

Harden Murrumburrah Memorial Swimming Pool

It's been a long time coming, even for us, but our very dedicated staff have done a terrific job at the swimming pool and it's now full of water!

To celebrate, this Friday we will be throwing open the gates of the pool; it will be free entry, a sausage sizzle and an inflatable for the kids to play on. So come along and have a look at the new works and enjoy a festive evening in Harden Murrumburrah.

There is still work to be undertaken, this is funded by Council and will occur in the off season.

Congratulations to all the staff involved in this project, it has been long, difficult and sometimes very frustrating but we now have a facility that looks fantastic and will service our community well into the future.

The opening hours for the remainder of the season are: Mondays – Fridays 2pm until 7pm and weekends 11am until 6.00pm. The pool, as in previous years, will close earlier than these times if the weather is not suitable or if no one is swimming.

Nursing Home – Great news

I am really excited that the proposal from Southern Cross Homes to build a new aged care hostel in Harden Murrumburrah has taken another step forward. Alex Shaw the Royal Freemasons CEO has phoned me to advise that between the Freemasons and Southern Cross Homes an amicable agreement has been reached to transfer the land and village to Southern Cross homes to build their facility.

This means it will really happen and is fantastic news for our community – another new facility to assist our residents!!

Recycling Focus Group Meeting

The recycling focus group have scheduled a public meeting for Tuesday 11 March 2008, commencing at 7.00pm in the auditorium at the Harden Country Club. This meeting will provide the outcomes of their research for you to review prior to presenting that information to Council at the April 2008 meeting.

These recommendations will have a direct effect on the proposed recycling and waste charges for the 2008-09 financial year, and some short to medium term options for waste in our Shire. So come along and contribute to the decisions being made in your community!

Jugiong Transfer Station

Council has resolved to restrict the use of the Jugiong transfer station facility. This means that the transfer station will now only be open 2 days per week for 3 hours each day.

The opening days for the station will be decided in conjunction with the Jugiong Progress Association.

Unfortunately, Council can no longer allow the transfer station to remain open unsupervised. There has been significant dumping of waste that is not domestic waste and falls outside the allowable purpose of the transfer station under Council's licence. The self regulation by the local people utilising this service has failed to find any suitable solution, requiring Council to take this action.

The transfer station will now operate under a fee for service as adopted by Council in June 2007. These fees are the same as being levied at the Harden Murrumburrah transfer station site.

Rating Structure Review

Council's current rating structure has been in place for 12 years now and we are commencing a review to ensure our structure is simple, fair and broadly uniform in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993. Councillors will be undertaking a workshop to discuss the structure early in March before formalising any changes that may take place.

It is important for everyone to remember that Council can only increase overall rates by the amount specified by the Minister, so this is not a grab for more money! We are only examining the options, ensuring we are compliant with legislation and more importantly ensuring that all ratepayers within the Shire are rated equally and fairly.

Philip Hockney OAM
Mayor
26 February 2008