



Mayors Message

31 March 2008

TOURISM

I visited the Camping and Caravan show in Sydney last weekend, the Super-Show as they like to call it. Well it was a super show, maybe you were not aware that Harden Shire, together with Young and Boorowa Shires have a small stand there every year and chat to caravaners and campers and give away brochures and such.

This year I was really happy to see Harden Murrumburrah's new brochures on display and for giveaway at the show. I feel it is an outstanding brochure and by far the best I have ever seen of Harden Murrumburrah. It was photographed, edited and set out superbly and you must all make sure you see one. The brochure really shows off our Shire and I thank all of the people involved in this fantastic job. I believe the brochure was put together by John Wade & Co! Well done!

THE KRUGER WELLNESS AND HEALTH CENTRE

One or two of you may have noticed that the Harden Medical Centre is in fact completed and operating. It is just opposite the new centre being constructed.

I have often referred to the new construction as THE Medical Centre or the Harden Medical Centre but it will not be called that. As you are all aware we are deeply indebted to the Kruger Trust who are by far the major financial contributor to the project and it seems only fair that Mr Krugers name is somewhere in the naming of the Centre.

The name is not set in concrete but from now on I will call it the Kruger Medical Centre until the name is set.

CENTROC and SUTHERLAND SHIRE

Harden Council recently joined a Group of councils named CENTROC a regional organisation of Councils. CENTROC speaks for over 236,000 people covering an area of over 70,000sq kms comprising Bathurst Regional, Blayney, Boorowa, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Harden, Lachlan, City of Lithgow, Mid Western Regional, Oberon, Orange City, Parkes, Weddin, Wellington and Young Councils and Central Tablelands County Councils.

Being a member of the group will give our Shire the ability to have better buying power for things such as bitumen and aggregate, better training for our staff at

more competitive rates and be part of a much larger lobby group to ensure we get what we need for our residents.

I still believe that it will not be easy to keep up the services we have and unless the State Government actually starts to think about WANTING to help rural NSW we shall continue to lose out on services. After discussions with the Minister for Local Government I have lost faith in the ability of this Government being even interested in us, never mind supporting us.

This is why our Membership of CENTROC, coupled with our great relationship with Sutherland Shire is so very important. These two relationships will help our future councillors and staff, for many years to come, to struggle with the increasing regulations and still offer our ratepayers the very best that they are able. I feel proud to have been part of these very large steps that Harden Shire Council have made in this term and I thank sincerely Councillors for their support and Staff for their leadership in this regard.

SAM AND JENNY BAILEY

Last week a very well organised visit from Sam and Jenny Bailey to Harden Shire incorporated a chat and book signing at our local library. Sam and Jenny's visit was organised by the Country Crusaders, a group of dedicated women who are energetically pursue and organise activities that 'engage enrich and empower', putting people first.

The gathering of residents at the library were delighted by Jenny's recount of how their book 'Head Over Heels' eventuated. This fantastic book tells the story of Sam's accident and how he has overcome many odds as a quadriplegic since the age 19 and enjoys a rewarding and full life. Sam and Jenny also spent time speaking with our school students and a gathering of residents at St Clements Monastery.

Philip Hockney OAM
Mayor
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