

Council happenings . . .

with Mayor
Glenn Wall

LG Elections Information.

Anyone considering standing for the Local Government election needs to be aware that you will have obligations and responsibilities under law that you should be aware of. The Electoral Commission of NSW will be holding Candidate Information Seminars during May. The only Hunter Valley Seminar will be held at Newcastle City Hall on the 22 May, 2008 commencing at 6.00pm.

Even if you have been a candidate in the past or; are a Councillor seeking re-election, you should attend. No pre-registration is required; simply turn up on the night.

Major topics discussed on the evening will include; the election timetable, who can be a candidate and how to nominate, Groups of candidates and political party names on ballot papers and election advertising and 'how-to-vote' material and public scrutiny of candidates.

Information will also be disseminated regarding complaints handling by NSWEC, Voting, Counting ballot papers, Scrutineering and Election funding obligations. If anyone is unable to attend the Information Seminar the NSWEC will have information relating to the seminars on their website www.elections.nsw.gov.au including speaker's notes and the powerpoint presentations. A Candidate Handbook will also be available prior to the Seminar.

Given the recent publicity regarding Political Donations and Electoral Expenditure, I would also urge any prospective Candidates and elected Councillors to visit the Election Funding Authorities site at www.efa.nsw.gov.au. This will ensure that all candidates are familiar with their obligations with respect to maintaining accurate records of political donations received and electoral expenditure incurred.

FRRR/ANZ Seeds of Renewal Program

The Seeds of Renewal is a small grants program providing funding to small, rural not-for-profit organisations for projects and activities to aid the growth of their community.

Independently administered by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) and proudly supported by ANZ, the program aims to assist small rural and regional communities working towards a more sustainable future.

This program aims to be simple, with a straight forward and swift application and approval process. Communities that have a population of 15,000 people or less can apply for Projects with a charitable purpose with Grants made in amounts up to \$10,000. Applications from not-for-profit organisations with an ABN can also apply.

Priority will be given to applications renewal and sustainability within drought affected communities in an EC (Exceptional Circumstances) declared region

Preference will be given to applications that contribute to the development of communities in one or more of the following ways; Creating community well-being, Supporting volunteer initiatives at a local community level and Diversifies local economies

To apply, applications must be postmarked by the 14 May 2008. Applications can be submitted to FRRR by post only. Further enquiries can be made on Freecall 1800 170 020 or email info@frrr.org.au. Application forms can be downloaded from www.frrr.org.au
9 April 2008