

# Council happenings . . .

with Mayor  
Glenn Wall

## RTA Regulations

In past Happenings I have written articles with regards to the RTA's regulations relating to School Zones, Changes to Parking Rules, Parking within Pedestrian Crossings Prohibited Zones and Changes to Speed Limits. Unfortunately some Community members may have not been aware of the changes or the current NSW Road Rules. Please be mindful of your responsibilities with respect to the Road Rules 2008.

As most would be aware Council has been constantly lobbying the NSW Police Minister and both Local Area Commanders for a greater police presence with the Shire. Naturally, when the Police and Council's contract Ranger see breaches of the road and traffic regulations they will issue infringements. There are no if's and but's regarding this, and as I have been advised by some, "we've been doing this for years, why the sudden change" is not an excuse.

As I implied above, with greater Police presence comes greater scrutiny. Council also receives regularly from the Roads Minister, matters that the NSW Government want greater enforcement of. Recent School Zone policing is an example of this. With regards to parking in Dowling Street, Council engaged the Community at great length in relation to this matter and the Community consensus was to leave well enough alone.

So please remember, double parking or not parallel parking correctly will incur an infringement as will parking within 20 metres of the approach and 10 metres past a pedestrian crossing.

## Winter Fire Risks

Each year about 5,000 Australian homes are destroyed by fire. Most losses occur in winter due to a 30% increased risk factor associated with home heating, either through electrical appliances or burning of fossil fuels. Now is a good time to take a few simple maintenance precautions to safeguard your family and property. Checking of flues and chimneys is an obvious start.

Appliances such as heaters and electric blankets that have not been used throughout the summer should be checked to make sure they are OK. Don't forget to check electrical appliance cords and for lint build up on clothes dryer filters.

Also, it's worth following those safety tips given in the operating instructions for electric blankets, which can easily be taken for granted. For instance, don't leave them switched on when leaving the house or going to bed, and don't place items on the bed with the electric blanket switched on.

## Executive Manager Infrastructure and Assets

As I advised the Community some time back, our previous Executive Manager Infrastructure and Assets, Mr. Greg McDonald resigned from Council on the 28 November 2008 to assume the position of Manager – Water and Waste Water with Wyong Council.

I am delighted to be able to advise the Community that Mr. Steve Hitchens has been selected as the successful applicant for the position and has subsequently accepted the role as Executive Manager Infrastructure and Assets.

Steve has been with Dungog Council since 1995 and has very capably carried out the duties as Roads "Overseer" and then our Manager Operations. He brings all the knowledge of these past positions into the Senior Engineers role.

On behalf of Councillors and Staff I would like to congratulate Mr. Hitchens on his success in becoming Council's Executive Manager Infrastructure and Assets and I very much look forward to working with Steve over the coming years.

29 April 2009