

Council happenings . . .

with Mayor
Glenn Wall

Save Our Rail NSW. Inc Presentation.

The Save Our Rail NSW Inc organisation will be giving a presentation to all Councillors and staff at the Council Chambers at 5.00 pm on 16th June, 2009, prior to the June Ordinary meeting of Council. All members of the Public are welcome to attend.

Save Our Rail NSW Inc. has been involved in a continuous campaign to raise support for the Newcastle rail service that the State Government is considering modifying. SOR have organised a number of public meetings, rallies and protests in support for the maintenance and improvement of the Newcastle Rail Service.

Given the crucial service that the rail link from Dungog to Newcastle provides, this is an opportune time to avail ourselves of all the information available, to make an informed decision with regards to the rail network and "How Best" we can make suitable submissions to Government regarding this critical infrastructure.

No one doubts that all transport linkages are essential to the longevity of the Newcastle City precinct, and as users of the rail infrastructure we need to become involved in this process.

Dungog Shire to hop into RabbitScan

Dungog Shire residents are being encouraged to join a national challenge to record data about rabbits, from at least 5000 sites across Australia.

May is RabbitScan month, and Council is encouraging individuals and groups in the Shire to help scientists map rabbit populations by scanning their local area for rabbits and signs of their damage, and adding that to a Google Map.

Although rabbit numbers are increasing, populations and locations are not yet fully understood. This is a great opportunity to provide grassroots information about the distribution and abundance of rabbits. Scientists will use the RabbitScan information to help determine future control options.

Log on to the RabbitScan website and you'll receive a guide on how to find and map local rabbit threats, using Google Maps technology. You can also report rabbit sightings via SMS. Send a text message with your name, phone number, location, date and number of rabbits seen to 0421 690 892.

Rabbits are a menace to the agricultural industry as they eat crop pasture and spread weeds. They are estimated to cause \$200 million damage to agriculture each year. They are also a great environmental concern because as few as four rabbits per hectare can stop regeneration of native plants. They even destroy vegetation in urban and coastal areas.

The RabbitScan Month Challenge is an initiative of the Rabbit Management Advisory Group and the Invasive Animals Co-operative Research Centre (CRC).

The RabbitScan website is available at www.rabbitscan.net.au for people to easily record their observations.

20 May 2009