

Council happenings . . .

with Mayor
Glenn Wall

Hunter Councils Board Advisory Groups

In March of this year the Board of Hunter Councils resolved to amend its constitution in order to facilitate a more powerful and proactive approach by the Board to issues of regional advocacy. The changes to the constitution included restricting membership of the Board to the Mayors of the member councils, increased meeting frequency and the introduction of strategic advisory groups to assist the Board in identifying and actioning responses to key issues affecting our region.

The areas of focus for the strategic advisory groups are derived from the Hunter Councils Constitution and comprise Economic Development and Infrastructure, Community and Cultural Development and Environment. Their roles and responsibilities will comprise the following: *To have input to the development and implementation of strategic, regional positions that will enhance (economic development and infrastructure / cultural and community development / the environment) within the Hunter Region ; To identify areas of opportunity and priority in relation to (economic development and infrastructure / cultural and community development / the environment) and to recommend to the Board appropriate responses to those areas of opportunity and priority; To provide a forum for discussion of regionally significant (economic development and infrastructure / cultural and community development / environmental) issues and; To receive input from outside agencies in relation to areas of the Advisory Group's responsibility and to determine the potential for that input to inform wider Board deliberations on those matters.*

The strategic advisory groups will not, in themselves, determine Board policy or position on a matter. They will, however, have a critical role in assisting the Board in its deliberations and in its wider development, review of and advocacy for adopted strategic priorities and goals for our Region.

Dungog Shire Councils representatives on the Strategic Advisory Groups are Cr. Peter Ainsworth (Economic Development & Infrastructure); Cr. Robert Booth (Community & Cultural Development) and Cr. Harold Johnston (Environment).

Commonwealth Bank provides \$10,000 Grants to Local Community Groups.

The 2009 Community Grants Program will provide over \$500,000 in individual grants of up to \$10,000 for programs to improve the health and wellbeing of Australian children. The Community Grants Program is one of the largest grant initiatives in Australia and has contributed over \$1.5 million to over 200 charities to fund local community initiatives since 2007.

The Commonwealth Bank Staff Community Fund is Australia's longest running employee contribution program with 4,000 current and retired Bank staff making regular salary contributions to support children's charities in Australian communities.

The Commonwealth Bank Grants programmes support community initiatives ranging from financial literacy, Indigenous programs, sport, welfare, the environment and the arts.

The Grants have benefited charities of all shapes and sizes, from a national to a local level. These charities range from centres for disadvantaged youths, sports clubs, education centres and groups that provide equipment for sick and disabled children.

Applications opened on the 15 June and close 31 July 2009.

To apply, visit

<http://www.commbank.com.au/about-us/in-the-community/employee-giving/staffcommunity-fund/local-grants.aspx>

1 July 2009