

# Council happenings . . .

with Mayor  
Harold Johnston

## **National Tree Day**

National Tree Day will be held on Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> July, with Schools Tree Day taking place on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> July. Last year over 312,000 people at 3,500 sites state wide dug deep to improve their natural surroundings. Tree Day shows children how easy and fun it is to help our environment.

In our shire last year a number of our schools, including St. Josephs, Clarence Town, Dungog and Martins Creek, participated in Schools Tree Day with over 200 native tree tube stock given away to local residents.

## **Roads and Natural Disaster Damage**

Council's Manager of Infrastructure and Assets has advised that by the end of next week the majority of flood damage will have been repaired. This has required the delay of other projects but this repair work was a safety priority.

The Bruxner Bridge on Summer Hill Road at Vacy remains closed and of major concern as we await a decision from the RTA on whether the bridge is to be repaired or replaced. Again, in the interests of safety, Council has established a speed limit of 70 kph on Lennoxton Road as this road will be subject to increased traffic until the Bruxner Bridge is back in service.

## **Sleepout - Homeless Connect**

Council's Community Project Officer has volunteered to sleep out in an effort to help raise awareness of the homeless problem in the Hunter and to raise money to provide basic toiletries and blankets.

Homelessness is the lot of many in the Hunter and support either by way of a donation or joining in on the Hunter Homeless Connect Sleep out night on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> July, is a great way of showing you care.

## **Renal Dialysis**

I am keen to understand the extent of the need for renal dialysis in our shire. Many people whose well being depends on this procedure are being managed at home whilst others, often involving volunteer drivers, commute to centres away from the shire.

Please contact me on 4992 1419 if you are involved, either directly or indirectly, so that I can get a better appreciation of the situation.

20 July 2011