

Council happenings . . .

with Mayor
Harold Johnston

NAIDOC Week

This year we will continue celebrating the culture, history and achievements of our indigenous people during NAIDOC Week which will be held on July 3-10.

The 2011 national NAIDOC theme is about taking responsibility for the future. Council will be displaying in the foyer an indigenous artwork that was painted by local indigenous students from our shire.

Last year, in partnership with Dungog Youth Service, indigenous elder and artist, Les Elvin, held an art workshop at Dungog Hitt for indigenous students both from the high and primary schools.

In both school foyers there are other pieces of artwork on display for the public to view. Your support and encouragement would be welcomed.

Community cabinet meeting

On Monday of last week general manager Craig Deasey and myself met with Minister for Roads Duncan Gay at the community cabinet meeting held by the State Government at Newcastle.

At this meeting the funding commitment for the road from Raymond Terrace, through Clarence Town and onto Dungog (MR301) was discussed.

Also discussed was the issue of the cost of timber bridge replacement. Council has 47 timber bridges to replace over the years to come.

Council has been successful in gaining financial assistance grants, local Roads to Recovery monies and loan proceeds.

This has reduced the timber bridge numbers from 73 in 1996 to 47 in June 2010.

Council is nearing the point that the cost to replace the remaining bridges will be beyond the financial means of this community, with the capital cost of some of the bridges being 1.5 to 2.5 times the total annual rate income.

6 July 2011