



STOP PRESS

SHOROC COUNCILS LAUNCH CYCLONE LARRY APPEAL



SHOROC Councils have initiated a fundraising appeal to assist Council employees in the cyclone devastated region who may be in dire straights.

Mosman General Manager Viv May commented that this is a small way we can show our support within the local government 'family'.



Cyclone Larry crossed the coast as a category 5 cyclone last week (Cyclone Tracy was a category 4) leaving hundreds of residents in far North Queensland homeless and thousands without power and water.

Farmers have reported hundreds of millions of dollars' damage and sugarcane and banana growers say about 90 per cent of their crops have been lost.

Please support your Council's efforts in this appeal.



Workshop Attendees: (Back Row L to R) Facilitator Russell Galt, John Carmichael, Jennie Minifie, Chris Barnett, Viv May, Jim Hunter, Kay Clarke, Stephen Blackadder, Lindsay Dyce, Chris Hunt. (Centre Row L to R) Niki Atwell, Mark Ferguson, Sophie Kijias, Max Glyde, Henry Wong, Sue Francis, Beth Lawson, Margie Brown. (Front Row L to R) Gary Thomson, Ross Fleming, Anthony Hewton, Mark Jones, Mark Eriksson. Photo by Andrea Dawson.

EMPLOYMENT, RESOURCE SHARING AND LIVEABILITY THE KEY REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Senior executive staff (pictured above) representing all member Councils met at the Westpac Conference Centre Ingleside on 1st March 2006 to consider the strategic direction of our regional organisation.

While acknowledging SHOROC successes and work currently being undertaken, the workshop focused on the benefits and opportunities of working together as a community of councils.

There was general agreement that we should avoid too many issues and focus on key strategic projects with 'passion and courage' and with a renewed commitment to working cooperatively.

We are currently reviewing the strategic priorities that were identified and look forward to sharing these results with you in the coming weeks. The revised Action Plan will reflect the key issues including Employment & Economic Development; Resource Sharing and Joint Servicing Opportunities; and Community Well-Being.

Regional News

SHOROC CHAIR Cr Denise Wilton Mayor of Mosman



At their November 2005 AGM the Executive welcomed Cr Denise Wilton, Mayor of Mosman, as the new Chair of SHOROC. At the same time they thanked Cr Dr Peter Macdonald, Mayor of Manly, for his representation on behalf of the organisation in the preceding period.

Mayor Wilton's profession is teaching with particular experience in special education and in teaching Aboriginal students.

She has been a Councillor at Mosman since 1999 and has worked to initiate, consult, inform and lobby for community issues such as access; traffic and safety measures; balancing heritage conservation with resident needs and opposing over development.

Mayor Wilton advises that Mosman has a strong commitment to SHOROC and the work done through the organisation to maintain and enhance the quality of life for residents of the region.

The Mayor invites SHOROC member staff to get behind the Cyclone Larry Appeal. She has agreed to match on a dollar-for-dollar basis all money collected at Mosman through the generosity of council staff from the Mayor's Emergency Relief Fund, and she will also be making a personal contribution.

BRIGHT IDEA SAVES POWER ON THE STREETS

The Premier has announced that about 42,000 streetlights will be replaced with energy-efficient alternatives in a deal with 29 councils in Sydney and the Hunter region. These councils have been participating in the Street Lighting Improvement (SLI) Program initiated by SSROC.

The \$4.2 million grant announcement comes as a dispute continues between EnergyAustralia and councils over the cost and standard of streetlighting.

The grant will greatly accelerate the deployment of energy efficient street lighting technologies over the next four years and deliver energy, greenhouse and financial benefits.

Warringah and Mosman residents will benefit from their Council's ongoing involvement in the SLI Program.

The president of the Local Government Association, Genia McCaffery, said the energy efficient lights would raise streetlighting to the standards of other states.

This outcome is a great example of cross regional cooperation.

SUB-REGIONAL PLANNING

Senior Planning staff have attended the first round of Sub-regional workshops lead by Department of Planning Metro Strategy staff.

The purpose of the workshop in March was to confirm the existing hierarchy of centres and centre roles that exist in the sub-region. SHOROC had already undertaken this work in completing our regional inventory.

The Department also addressed issues relating to the proposed process and timing for the preparation of sub-regional plans.

We were advised that they are working towards finalisation and Cabinet Approval by the end of July 2006 and Exhibition of Sub-regional plans in August 2006.

SHOROC was reassured that DoP funds are available for development of our Regional Employment Strategy and we're awaiting final approval of the project brief.

FAREWELL PETER DUFFY



Above: Peter Duffy at his farewell last week.
Photo by Pen Jacobs.

Friends and colleagues, including the Warringah Administrator Dick Persson, Warringah GM Stephen Blackadder and Mosman GM Viv May, met at Warringah Council last week to farewell Kimbriki Manager Peter Duffy and to wish him success and good health in his retirement.

Peter has been a very effective manager who has enjoyed the respect and trust of Kimbriki staff and our community of Councils.

Kimbriki is in good health and good hands thanks to Peter and his team and we thank him for that.

TAFE NSW EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2005



Excellence Awards Presentation L to R: Andrew Cappie-Wood, Director-General Education and Training, and Managing Director of TAFE NSW; Karen Jordan, Margie Brown.

SHOROC was pleased to sponsor the 2005 Northern Sydney Institute *Community Services and Health Student of the Year Award* which was won by a student from the Northern Beaches campus.

Warringah General Manager Stephen Blackadder attended the awards presentation in December with Margie Brown, who assisted Andrew Cappie-Wood, the Director-General for Education & Training and Managing Director of TAFE NSW, in presenting the Certificate of Achievement and prize cheque to Ms Karen Jordan.

SHOROC is continuing to build closer partnerships with the tertiary institutions in our region. Margie was recently appointed as the local government representative on the TAFE NSW Northern Sydney Institute Council.

TAFE NSW and Macquarie University will continue to be key players in growing industry and employment opportunities in our region.

Interim Report on Independent Inquiry into Lgovt NSW

The interim report, titled "Are Councils Sustainable?" has been released for comment by 29 March 2006. You can view the report on the Inquiry website: www.lgi.org.au.

The final report is scheduled to be released by Professor Allan in May.



NEW PRIUS ON WARRINGAH FLEET

The SHOROC Executive Officer Margie Brown has taken up the challenge and is trying to tame a very different style of horsepower – as the Toyota Prius combines a 1.5-litre petrol engine and powerful electric motors.

Margie believes that the Prius is an efficient town car that is more environmentally sustainable. Apparently, the fuel economy is so good 'you get used to NOT checking the fuel gauge'. On a recent visit to the New England area Margie completed a 2,000km round trip on just \$75 worth of fuel. She was also reassured by the car's performance and handling on the open road.

Around town it's the perfect vehicle for parking in even the smallest spot and has an incredibly small turning circle. While it's design is challenging for some people, Margie rejects the ugly duckling tag and invites anyone to take a look inside to check out its unique design features.

Warringah Supply staff will be evaluating the performance of this vehicle over the coming months and we'll share the results with you.

SYDNEY'S NORTH 2030 FORUM

On March 8 and 9 approximately 50 government, industry and business leaders from Sydney's North met to establish a framework to guide sustainable economic growth in our region. Local government was represented by SHOROC and NSROC member councils, and included elected members and professional officers from Warringah, Pittwater, Hunters Hill, Willoughby, Ryde, North Sydney, Ku-ring-gai and Lane Cove.

This was the first step towards the greater Northern Sydney region taking more responsibility and working cooperatively to achieve a better future in supporting industry development and the creation of new jobs.

SHOROC will continue to be involved in this important regional initiative, which is timely given the release of the findings of the 'Key Worker Study' jointly undertaken by Warringah and Manly Councils. We will be seeking ongoing support from our business and industry partners in implementing the findings of the Study and also in developing an Employment Strategy for the region.

A Steering Committee has been formed and the Director of the Chatswood Chamber of Commerce, Richard Sainsbury, is the inaugural Chairman. Richard is Managing Director of LJ Hooker Commercial, North Shore.

LGMA MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the SHOROC team members for their selection and participation in the 2006 LGMA Management Challenge held in Wollongong last week. The team included Lyndall Pickering and Sarah Edwardes (Mosman) Jennifer Pang and Nick Ives (Pittwater); Craig Sawyer (Warringah); and Ray Cook (Manly). The team's efforts were inspired by Jane Broadbent (Mosman) who was their mentor in the lead up to the competition. Jane was also a participant in a previous LGMA Challenge.

Copies of 'Good Riddance' commissioned by Kimbriki are still available. Order at www.kimbriki.nsw.gov.au

SKYJUICE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Skyjuice Foundation Chairman, Rhett Butler, has advised that the first showcase water treatment plant in Indonesia, sponsored by SHOROC councils, is up and running in Meulaboh, Bandeh Aceh, benefiting 250 children.

In supporting this initiative and assisting the ongoing efforts of the AID4 program in this region, the SHOROC Executive wanted to achieve tangible results and demonstrate to the Northern Beaches community that we can make a difference.

The Skystation is a complete, portable water treatment unit, which can supply a village of around 500 people with enough drinking water for 20 years.

Each unit comprises a solar array and pump system, which will take water from a poor quality local source (such as a river or creek) and a Memcor membrane filter housed within a unique Australian high purity water filter. It has standardised fittings and hosing to connect to both the water feed source and storage tanks for treated water.

The large capacity SKYstation is fully self sufficient and at a cost between \$7,500 – \$15,000 can supply people in developing communities with clean drinking water for less than a dollar a day.



Photographs of the water treatment plant in operation in Meulaboh forwarded by the Skyjuice Foundation.

SHOROC WELCOMES NEW OFFICER



Andrea Dawson has joined the SHOROC team as our Administrative Project Officer. She is looking forward to supporting regional project teams and working on some exciting new initiatives in the coming year. As a former Manly employee, Andrea has some established relationships with SHOROC council staff, which is a great benefit.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

Submissions due, Interim Report on Independent Inquiry into Local Government by 29 March 2006

April

- 5 GMAC Meeting (Manly)
- 10 MGP Workshop
- 14-17 Easter Celebrations
- 19 Executive Committee Meeting at Warringah Council

20 LGA Metro Strategy Conference, Hutley Hall, North Sydney Council

May

- 1 Release of Final Report LGI
- 3 GMAC Meeting (Pittwater)
- 18 Transport Steering Committee (Warringah)

June

- 7 GMAC Meeting (Manly)
- 21 Executive Committee Meeting (Pittwater)

Metropolitan Greenspace Program (MGP) Lgovt Workshops 2006

Monday 10 April 2006 @ Quarantine Station, North Head.
RSVP by 31/03/06 to tom.sear@planning.nsw.gov.au

This year the MGP will focus on the planning and development of Sydney's Regional Recreation Trails. This Program has provided over \$17M to more than 300 projects since 1990.