



Receiving the Highly Commended award at the recent 2018 Local Government Excellence Awards from the General Manager of Tamworth Regional Council, Paul Bennett (right) were Tweed Shire Council's Director Engineering, David Oxenham (left) and General Manager, Troy Green.

Award for community flood response

Tweed Shire Council has been recognised for its leadership in responding to the 2017 March flood event at the 2018 Local Government Excellence Awards in Sydney.

Council's Critical Incident Response Group won a Highly Commended award in the 'Special Project' category (population 60,000 and above), up against 16 other council projects from across the State.

The LG Professionals NSW awards highlight the exceptional achievements in local government across NSW and focus on significant areas of the industry including leadership, environment, community, operational performance, partnerships and more.

General Manager, Troy Green, said while the award went to Council, it was reflective of a whole-of-community response to the devastating event.

"This award is recognition not only of the work of Council staff and Councillors but also all the not-for profit and community organisations, the State Emergency Service, churches and individuals who worked tirelessly during and after the flood to help

their community," Mr Green said.

"The outdoor workforce also deserves particular mention as these were the staff at the coal face who worked under trying and stressful conditions to clean up, repair and return essential infrastructure and services for the use of the community."

The Critical Incident Response Group managed the emergency response for Council, implemented business continuity plans for the inundated main depot staff and provided numerous additional services to support community residents and businesses at a time when many felt overwhelmed. The judges said:

"Tweed Shire Council's leadership in responding to the immediate flooding, the clean-up, repairing the damage left in Debbie's wake and preparing for future events has been well-planned, executed and innovative. Many of the initiatives and learning arising out of the Tweed emergency could be implemented by other local government authorities in emergency situations."

The winner in the category was Wollongong City Council, while Georges River Council was also Highly Commended.

In brief ...

Workshop postponed until further notice

The Love Events Hate Waste Workshop has been postponed from this Wednesday 20 June to a yet to be determined date.

For any enquiries, please contact Council's Events Officer on (02) 6670 2735.



Good news for Knox Park

Works has started in Murwillumbah's Knox Park to upgrade and widen the existing pathway and install new pathway lighting from the Nullum Street entrance through to the children's playground, as part of stage 2 works.

A new 2.5-metre shared pathway has been installed with additional park seating and an upgrade to the existing pole lights along this section of pathway.

The lighting is being funded by a grant from the Department of Family and Community Services – Social Housing Community Improvement Fund, while Council is paying for the pathway upgrade.

A new main switchboard will be installed to service the new lights and toilet block and to rationalise aged electrical services through the park. At the same time, the old toilet block next to Nullum House will be demolished. This will avoid the need to run a new power service to the block when it is earmarked for demolition, and also enable this entrance to the park to be tidied while the works are being undertaken.

The proposal to demolish the old toilet block is supported by the Murwillumbah Community Centre (MCC) who have offered the MCC amenities as an alternative until the new facility is completed. The public toilet next to the bus stop will also remain open until the new facility is completed.

It is anticipated that the installation of the new lights will commence this week with the public toilet to be demolished in the first week of July.

Hospital reference group members announced

At an Extraordinary Meeting last Thursday, Council selected members of a Tweed Valley Hospital Development Community Reference Group.

The group has been established to assist Councillors in their deliberations on the site selection of the Tweed Valley Hospital and to explore alternative sites to the one currently nominated at Cudgen.

The community representatives are: Donna Smith, David Brunckhorst, Barbara Roughan, Jenny Hayes, Julie Murray, Lindy Smith (on behalf of the Tweed Heads Residents & Ratepayers Association), Richard Roberts, Brian Keating, Ron Hoffman, Hayley Paddon, Graham MacGillivray Neave, Val Kirk and Ronni Hoskisson. At the time of going to press, meeting dates for the group were still to be determined.



Congratulations to these representatives of community groups who were successful in securing funding through Council's Community Sponsorship Policy.

Winners are grinners

Playgroups, classes for the homeless, support for young people and marine debris clean-up were among the worthy community initiatives to receive a share of more than \$40,000 in funding last week through Council's Community Sponsorship Policy for 2018.

The aim of the Community Sponsorship Policy is to provide financial assistance by way of a sponsorship agreement to local community groups and organisations. These funds are for activities and projects that benefit the health and wellbeing of Tweed Shire residents.

The recipients are:

- Brunswick Valley Kennel Club, \$896
- Open Men's Group, \$1,793
- Centaur Netball Club, \$2,241
- Cudgen Headland Surf Life Saving, \$2,689
- Tweed Valley Early Childhood Intervention Service Inc, \$2,689
- Tweed Valley Woodcraft Association Inc, \$2,689
- Green Heroes, \$3,227
- Agape Outreach Inc, \$4,210
- Murwillumbah Community Centre, \$4,481
- Positive Change for Marine Life, \$4,481
- Uki Public School P&C Association, \$4,481
- Cabarita Youth Service, \$6,274

Applications for the next round of funding open toward the end of this year. For more information, visit www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/GrantsAndFunding