



# COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

February 2018

## From the Mayor's Desk



Welcome to the first newsletter for 2018.

Before the start of business at Council's meeting on Wednesday 14 February 2018, Council stood in one minute's silence in remembrance of the late Councillor Tom Cullen, OAM who passed away after a long battle with illness. Tom

was elected to Council in 1986 and served continuously until his death. Council conveys its deepest sympathy to Tom's wife, Anne and family.

This meeting was Council's first for 2018 – my fellow Councillors and I are happy to be back on deck - we're looking forward to another productive year and the challenges that, no doubt, will be thrown our way. With strong opportunities of grant funding being available in the early part of the year we are very hopeful that our Shire will be successful in its applications for some special projects earmarked for our communities.

In a bid to offset electricity usage charges, Council has been considering the use of alternative energy, being mindful that energy costs are expected to rise significantly in the future. Council has the potential to reduce its energy consumption costs by 80% by using solar panels on two of its buildings – the administration building and the library. These two areas have substantial demand for lighting and air conditioning requirements and the technology available today has a lifespan of 15 years, so Council would recoup its capital cost over three years and have substantial savings over the remaining 12 years. The decision to include \$80,000 in the 2018/2019 budget to install solar panels on Council's two buildings was unanimous.

The General Manager of the Castlereagh-Macquarie County Council (the Weeds Authority for our Shire) contacted me recently advising he has had discussions with the Office of Local Government regarding reducing Councillor numbers from two per council to one per council. So this can be achieved, our Council resolved to agree to the proposal – so instead of two delegates, each of the constituent councils will have one representative each.

I hope you find this newsletter informative and should you wish to discuss any community matters please phone me on 0427 905 626.

Cr Michael Webb - Mayor

## New addition to museum



An important relic connected to Coonamble's early commerce has recently been donated to the Under the Bridge Museum.

Derek Smith, formerly of "Woodside" Coonamble, was accompanied by his two children, Alexander and Wilhelmina, when he handed over a Perram and Firth Sulky to Coonamble Shire Mayor Cr Michael Webb on behalf of the Smith Family.

It is believed that this sulky originally belonged to his great grandparents,

Will and Jane Smith of "Old Woodside" (Carinda Road).

Perram and Firth commenced their Coach Building operations in 1901 and were well known along the Castlereagh for their quality gigs, sulkies, buggies and coaches. The business closed in 1925.

Council thanks the Smith family for their generosity in allowing this piece of local history to be housed at the museum.

## Library closure

The Coonamble Library is getting a facelift!

Actually, it's a bottom lift as Council is installing new floorings.

In order to prepare and install the flooring, the Library will be:

**Closed from 6pm on  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
and will reopen at 10.30am on  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**

Any items due on those days will be extended and the chute at the front of the building will still be operational for returns during this time.

Council apologise for any inconvenience the closure may cause.

## Youth Centre donation



Last Friday the Gulargambone Youth Centre was a hive of activity and excitement with the arrival of a new pool table. Well known couple Alan and Deidre Walker arrived in town to deliver the pool table, sporting equipment, floor rugs, cushions, books and art and craft supplies. The welcoming party of students from Gulargambone School, Centre Workers and helpers thanked the Walkers for their generous donation with a morning tea.

# Drought Communities Program update



## Cemetery improvements

The future interment needs of the community have been assured following the near completion of two new lawn cemetery rows at the Coonamble Cemetery.

Constructed by Coonamble Shire staff, the upgrade is part of a \$140,000 State Government Drought Communities Programme funded project and includes other improvements such as a public toilet and kerbing of the entry boulevard.

David Burtenshaw from Burtenshaws welding has been tasked with fabricating the public toilet while Jake and Ben Jones have each had a hand in laying of the slab and rubble pit. Laying of turf on the last section and placement of the toilet is expected to see completion of the project before the end of this month.

## Funds flow across the Shire

The Drought Communities Program has also funded various projects across the Shire including fencing at the showground, sportsground and pool, and the amenities at Combara Hall.

Projects awaiting approval are fencing at Gulargambone Cemetery and cricket nets at Gulargambone, sealing of the apron at the Aerodrome and sealing of the Coonamble Golf Club carpark.

Three additional projects have been identified as being eligible for the program – the refurbishment of Gulargambone Youth Hall, and Memorial Hall and the erection of 1.5km of fencing around the extended waste depot area. Approval of these projects is expected in March 2018.

## Facelift for Quambone Memorial Hall

Quambone Memorial Hall is the latest Council asset to benefit from the State Government's Drought Communities Programme funding.

The project was undertaken by local builder Wayne Mulholland with electrical work completed by Michael Morrissey.

The \$42,000 project involved the resheeting of the interior of the hall with corrugated Colorbond ©, painting of rafters, installation of new lighting and new fans. In addition, new stairs for the stage were also purchased and the windows received new roller blinds.

As well as a short term construction project, the revamp is intended to boost community interest in the hall and make it more attractive for staging social events and ensuring its longevity as a key community hub.



## New residents dinner

Each year representatives from the local service clubs, social, sporting and church groups organise a gathering to welcome new residents to Coonamble and district.

The event is an opportunity for new residents to "meet the locals" and find out more about what Coonamble has to offer.

The 2018 Welcome to Coonamble Dinner will be held on Saturday 3 March at the Coonamble Golf Club commencing at 7.00pm. So, why not take this opportunity to learn about your new community.

To book or for further information please contact Terry Jurgens on 0419 121 679. RSVP by 23/2/18

## News in brief

### Australia Day Award Recipients

The Coonamble and Gulargambone 2018 Australia Day celebrations held on Friday, 26 January attracted strong crowds, who gathered to recognise the achievements of people and groups in the community.

The 2018 Coonamble Australia Day Awards recipients are: Helen Rackham Citizen of the Year, Lane Lewis Young Citizen of the Year, Mick Williams Sportsperson of the Year, Mitch Nalder Junior Sportsperson of the Year and Coonamble Rotary Club Community Group of the Year.

The Gulargambone Australia Day Awards recipients are: David Frazier Citizen of the Year, Shakira Russell Young Citizen of the Year, Tallis McEwen and Zac Russell Sportspersons of the Year, MPS Group of the Year and Big Al's World Event of the Year.

Congratulations to all nominees and award recipients!

### Proposed community projects endorsed

As mentioned earlier, 2018 will see an increase in funding opportunities which will provide Council with an opportunity to undertake community infrastructure projects that enhance the livability of the Shire's towns and villages.

At the February meeting, Council resolved that applications be submitted for funding under the NSW Government Regional Growth Fund - Stronger Country Communities for the following works – pool splash pad at Gulargambone and the construction of new public toilets within the Coonamble CBD.

### Funding sought for new Visitor Information Centre

A new purpose-built visitor information centre could become a reality if Council is successful in securing external funding to match the \$250,000 Council contribution. This decision came about due to the relocation of the Service NSW agency office back to the precinct that currently houses the VIC. Since it has been operational at the site, there has been an increase in vehicle and pedestrian traffic and this is impeding on visitor parking and accessibility to the visitor information centre.

The proposed location for the new centre is the northern corner of Smith Park.

## FOR INFORMATION

This newsletter has been produced by Coonamble Shire Council for the benefit of residents of the Coonamble, Gulargambone, Quambone and surrounding areas.

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GENERAL MANAGER

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