



COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

March 2018

From the Mayor's Desk



Our second meeting for the year was held on Wednesday 14 March in the War Memorial Hall at Gulargambone - this has been tradition for many years and gives the Gulargambone residents an opportunity to attend the meeting and address Council on any issues they may wish to raise. As usual there

were a number of individuals and organisations taking this opportunity.

Firstly, we welcomed representatives of the Memorial Hall Committee who drew Council's attention to matters requiring attention at the hall, followed by a presentation on the Pave the Way to Gular Arts Festival concept designs for Council approval.

Update on Joint Organisations (J.O.)

As I reported previously Council decided not to make a decision regarding joining a J.O. At this meeting Council resolved to take no further action deciding there were no obvious benefits.

The financial contributions required from councils who become members of a J.O. are still not known – however Council estimate that the cost could be in the vicinity of \$100,000.

Proposed Public Toilet – Coonamble CBD

I touched briefly on this project last month and can now report that Council will be negotiating the purchase of a building in the main street.

An application for funding will be submitted under the Stronger Country Communities program for \$400,000 and Council resolved that a co-contribution of \$120,000 be committed. If the application is successful Council will then develop a design and construct tender to complete the project.

Coonamble Library Refurbishment

Another project completed through grant funding from the State Library was the upgrade of floorcoverings at the Coonamble Library.

The work was carried out with as little inconvenience as possible to residents and looks wonderful. I encourage residents to take time to visit our local library and be amazed at the diverse range of services it provides and the technology available. It's a great distraction from a busy day – just pop in and have a look around.

Should anyone wish to contact me to discuss issues or concerns, please phone 0427 905 626 - I'm always available and willing to discuss matters.

Cr Michael Webb - Mayor

Sculpture takes pride of place



The "Ghosts of Bullocks Past" sculpture has become a reality, and now takes pride of place in Gulargambone.

The project, an initiative of the Gulargambone Enterprise Community Cooperative came about when the group were looking for something of significance to strengthen Gulargambone's appeal to visitors.

The "two eight two eight" project has been a wonderful and innovative space for Gulargambone and the addition of this sculpture will add to the uniqueness of this passionate community.

The sculpture reflects on the iconic

history of bullock teams, and how they became the backbone of Australia's colonial workforce. Bullock drivers in the region were keeping the bush tradition alive until very recently by nurturing bullock teams.

The concept was developed by Mrs Alison Dent, who was fortunate to engage Mr Brian Campbell to create the life-like sculptures.

The dray was found at Moe in Victoria and the Bullocky is modelled on local identity and retired bullocky, Bill Corby, who also fashioned the bullock whip out of wire.

These bullocks are named after well known bullocks from this district.

Seniors Week Lunch

Seniors Week turns 60 this year and Coonamble Shire Council will be celebrating in style.

On Thursday 5 April, Council will host a free luncheon at the Coonamble Bowling Club, with the theme for this year's event being Boots and Pearls. Along with the great lunch, well known singer Stephen Cheney, will be there entertaining the crowd.

Council will provide free return transport from Gulargambone and Quambone, however bookings are essential.

To book for the luncheon or reserve a bus seat please call Council on 68271900 by 29 March.

Be sure to book your place as this event is sure to be well attended.

By - election scheduled

Residents of Coonamble Shire will head to the polls on 5 May 2018 to elect one Councillor.

Council has contracted its election duties to the NSW Electoral Commission, who have advised that nominations for the election will open on Monday 26 March 2018 and close at 12 noon on Wednesday 4 April 2018.

Pre-poll voting commences on Monday 23 April and concludes at 6.00 p.m. on Friday 4 May, with Election Day being Saturday 5 May between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. All enquiries regarding the by-election should be directed to the NSW Electoral Commission at www.elections.nsw.gov.au or telephone 1300 135 736.

\$1.6m Stronger Country Communities Fund

The NSW Government has recently released Round Two of the Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF). This round has an increased focus on sporting infrastructure and an expanded scope of eligible projects to include street beautification and 'place making' activities, as well as general community amenity projects that help boost the liveability of our local community.

Coonamble Shire Council is eligible for up to \$1.6million to progress community infrastructure projects, half of which will be dedicated to sport infrastructure. All proposed projects must meet the funding criteria including a minimum of \$50,000 per project.

Council has identified the following projects, and at the March Council meeting resolved to submit applications for: Splashpad and new starting blocks for Gulargambone swimming pool, public toilet in Coonamble main street, construction of a new Visitor Information Centre in Coonamble, new playground/gym equipment at Lions Park Gulargambone, Refurbishment of public toilet facilities across the Shire, New basketball court for the Gulargambone Youth Centre, Pool

blanket and change rooms at the Coonamble swimming pool, skate bowl for west Coonamble, extension to the irrigation system at Coonamble Sportsground and upgrade of playground shade structures across the Shire.

The fund encourages community organisations who have a project they would like to submit for assessment to notify Council immediately.

To assist organisations in preparing their application, Council has developed an application kit which outlines the criteria, how to submit an application for assessment, the application forms and the submission deadlines. Proposed community projects must be submitted to Council no later than **4.00pm Friday 6 April 2018** for eligibility assessment at the April Council Meeting.

For further information visit: www.nsw.gov.au/strongercountrycommunities or to discuss your project and eligibility please call Council's office on 6827 1900 and speak with either Bruce Quarmby, Director Corporate and Urban Services or Robyn Ryan, Director Community Services.

Around the Shire

Are you on the roll?

In order to qualify for enrolment on the non-residential roll as a non-resident owner, a person must be an owner or nominated by the owner of owners of rateable land within the area. Forms are available at Council's Administration Centre and on the website www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au

Please note: Claims for enrolment as an owner, rate paying lessee or occupier of rateable land in Coonamble Shire Council must be received by the General Manager at Council's Office on or before **6.00 pm Monday 26 March 2018**.

The forms may be lodged by one of the following: Post to: Post Office Box 249, Coonamble NSW 2829. By hand: Council Office, 80 Castlereagh Street, Coonamble NSW 2829 or by facsimile: 02 68 221 626.

Festival attracts strong interest



Gulargambone is about to get the wildest of makeovers....artists from all over the country and overseas are about to head west and transform Gular using its walls and pavements as canvases!

Pave the Way to Gular Arts Festival will take place over four days: 5 – 8th April, 2018 and is the first of its kind in Far Western NSW.

Mrs Annie Haling and Mrs Alison Dent, representatives of the Gulargambone Community Enterprises Co-operative presented the final designs for the artwork on Council-owned buildings and footpaths to the March meeting of Council in Gulargambone, and the Co-operative is continuing community consultation regarding the proposed designs.

Council previously committed a contribution of \$25,000 towards artist fees for Council-owned buildings and the Festival also attracted a grant of \$20,000 through the Destination NSW Incubator Fund.

Find more information on Facebook.

Save on pet desexing

Low income earners will have the opportunity to desex and microchip their pets for less than half the normal price during March and April 2018.

This scheme is supported and subsidised by Coonamble Shire Council and NorthWest Vets Coonamble and numbers are limited and there is a limit of 2 pets per household.

To register for the scheme please contact the vets now! Pet owners will need to bring their Centrelink concession card/Health care card and pay by cash, credit card or EFTPOS.

Further information can be obtained by calling 6822 1381 (Vets) between 8.30am and 5.30pm Monday – Friday.

Buy Local supported

Council's Director of Community Services recently accepted an invitation to attend a meeting of the Coonamble Chamber of Commerce and subsequently met with four representatives to discuss marketing strategies for an ongoing Buy Local campaign.

Some great initiatives came to light which will be formulated into a Buy Local Strategy and Marketing Plan.

To support the initiatives within the Plan Council resolved to include \$25,000 in its 2018/19 budget and the Director will continue to work with the Chamber and other organisations to develop and implement the plan over the next twelve months.

FOR INFORMATION

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

Rick Warren
GENERAL MANAGER

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