



COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

April 2018

From the Mayor's Desk



I hope everyone enjoyed the Easter break – the weather was nice and four days off makes it worthwhile to get away and relax, perhaps do a bit of fishing! However, it's back to normal now with our meeting being held last Wednesday April 11 - not a big agenda so we were able to finish prior to lunch.

It was unusual to not have anyone booked to address Council – either during public question time or arranged delegations. I want to remind residents that Council Meetings are open to the public and interested persons are always welcome – the only time the public is excluded is if Council has to go into Closed Session to consider matters that meet that criteria.

During the period since the March meeting I attended the OROC Board Meeting where Joint Organisations (JO) are still the topic of choice. As I have previously reported, this Council resolved to not join a JO – it is the right decision at this point in time I am quite sure.

On 5 April, I attended the *Boots and Pearls* Luncheon for Seniors Week held at the Bowling Club, and what a success it was! Our Seniors enjoyed the meal and the entertainment with seniors from Gulargambone and Quambone offered free bus transport to/from the event. I must congratulate our Community Services staff for their efforts – it was a nice touch also that members of our staff carried out waitressing duties and looked after our wonderful seniors. I'm sure it will have to be an annual event now!!!

Where is the Horse Trough? I was pleased to see on the meeting agenda a letter from two of our longtime residents Mervyn Canham and Doug White, about the horse trough which was moved from the Castlereagh Street roundabout prior to the planting of the tree replacing the Peace Tree. They don't want to lose that part of our history and asked whether Council planned to bring the trough back to the main street.

I agree wholeheartedly with them - the trough is very much part of Coonamble's history and confirm that when the garden is restored the trough will be returned to the roundabout.

Should anyone wish to contact me to discuss issues or concerns, please call 0427 905 626

Cr Michael Webb
Mayor

Seniors kick up their heels



Seniors Week 2018 was celebrated in style on Thursday April 5, when over one hundred and thirty people gathered at the Coonamble Bowling Club for the Boots and Pearls Luncheon.

This year Seniors Week turned 60 and Council took the opportunity to celebrate the contribution that seniors make to our local communities.

The theme this year was "Let's Do More Together" and the event certainly succeeded in embracing that motto.

Entertainment was top notch with musician Stephen R Cheney getting the crowd singing and dancing, while Jean Shields held the lucky number to join Mayor Michael Webb in cutting the Seniors Week cake. Prizes for the Best Dressed Man was awarded to a dapper Phil Ayoub and Val Hooper took home the prize for Best Dressed Woman.

Thank you to everyone who attended, and a special thanks must go to the Coonamble Bowling Club and their staff and to CJ's Country Kitchen for assisting making the day a success.

Vote to increase councillor numbers lost

On March 27, 2018 Council held an Extraordinary Meeting to consider a request to increase councillor numbers from seven to nine.

At the meeting all Councillors had an opportunity to discuss the matter and put forward their views and those of the community who had spoken with them.

Coonamble Shire Council General Manager, Rick Warren said, "the motion to increase councillor numbers was not successful with the vote being two Councillors for the increase and three against.

I must also correct the misinformation regarding the outcome that was published in the Coonamble Times on Wednesday April 4, 2018.

A motion needs a majority of

councillors at a properly constituted meeting to be in favour of the motion to be successful."

"Should Cr Karanough have been at the meeting and voted for the motion, resulting in a tied vote - this is still not a majority," Mr Warren added.

There is also a convention, while not mandated that the Mayoral vote is not used to change the status quo.

Council By - election May 5

Pre-poll voting commences on Monday 23 April and concludes at 6.00 p.m. on Friday 4 May,

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

Council Meeting Snippets

Sponsorships

At the April meeting, Council again was generous with its financial assistance, committing \$1,000 to sponsor a race at the Coonamble Greyhound Racing Carnival on the October long weekend.

As part of Council's Sister City Relationship, Council has committed \$2,500 to the Campbelltown Arts Centre for sponsorship of the *Sculpture Award* which is held in conjunction with the Festival of Fisher's Ghost. Campbelltown City Council has recently provided \$3,000 sponsorship to the Coonamble Rodeo and Campdraft for their event on the June long weekend.

Crown Land Reform

Council has been advised that when the new Crown Land Reform legislation commences in 2018 it will introduce significant changes to the way councils manage Crown Lands under their control. Under the new Act dedicated or reserved Crown Lands will be "vested" in councils to manage the land as if it were public land under the *Local Government Act 1993*. Most of this land is expected to be classified as "community land" under the Local Government Act – which means that councils will be required to develop it

and have plans of management in place.

Although the new Act reduced the number of Acts councils have to comply with regarding management of Crown Land, it has increased the burden and associated compliance for councils.

SCC projects prioritized

With \$1.6m on offer under the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities (SCC) program, Council agreed to submit the following applications: Splash Pad and new starting blocks at Gulargambone swimming pool, upgrade to the irrigation system at Coonamble Sporting Oval, pool blanket and change room at the Coonamble swimming pool, basketball court at Gulargambone Youth Centre, playground/gym equipment for Gulargambone, skate bowl for Coonamble, playground shade across the shire, new public amenities for Coonamble business precinct, new visitor information centre in Smith Park, improvements to the infrastructure at Coonamble Children's Service and a refurbishment of public amenities across the Shire.

An outcome is expected in August.

Around the Shire

Redundant Cattle Grids

Council is seeking community feedback from local landholders with redundant cattle grids on public roads. With this information, Council intend to undertake a removal and rehabilitation program. Information is sought from landholders who wish to have redundant or unserviceable cattle grids removed permanently. Please provide Council with your contact information and details of proposal.

Coonamble Show Public Holiday

The Minister for Industrial Relations has declared Wednesday 16 May 2018 as a Public Holiday within Coonamble Shire – being the second day of the Coonamble Show.

Storytime at the library

National Simultaneous Storytime @ the library will be held on Wednesday 23rd May commencing at 11am sharp. The Library is delighted to host this event which is an annual campaign that aims to encourage more young Australians to read and enjoy books. Everyone is welcome and a guest reader will bring the story of Hickory Dickory Dash to life.

Accolades for community groups

Over the past month numerous community organisations have delivered some great events and activities. Congratulations go to the organisations listed below and others who work tirelessly for the community:

The Royal Far West Coonamble Branch - Raised \$8,000 at the Annual Auction.

Gulargambone Co-Operative - Pave the Way to Gular Art Festival.

Gulargambone Lions Club - Redecking the footbridge at Lions Park under the guidance of Col Ryan.

Gulargambone Show Committee and helpers- Hosted a barbeque at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney recently, raising over \$6,000 for the Gulargambone Show.

Receiving the Council newsletter?

Council publishes the Community Connect newsletter each month following the Council meeting. The newsletter is delivered via Australia Post to all households within the Shire. If you are not receiving the newsletter monthly, or you know of someone that is not receiving it at all please contact Council on 68271900.

An electronic version of the newsletter is available for viewing on Council's website www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au and on Facebook.

Gallery created



Gulargambone has been transformed into an open air gallery following the success of the Pave the Way to Gular Art Festival in early April.

An initiative of the Gulargambone Co-Op, the festival drew the interest of ten talented artists who worked their magic to create some spectacular artworks. The festival was officially opened by Kevin Humphries MP, Member for Barwon and the event was supported by Destination NSW - \$20,000, Coonamble Shire Council \$25,000 and Coates Hire, Outback Arts, Regional Arts NSW, CRT and Home Hardware.

Holiday program

With Youth Week 2018 activities well underway in the Shire, Council has now released the program for week two of the school holidays.

A copy of the program can be picked up from the Coonamble Library, viewed on Council's website www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au or on Facebook.

Planned activities include tie dye workshops, 3 on 3 basketball, movies nights, pool competitions, canvas painting and numerous craft activities.

For further information please contact the Coonamble Library on 68271925 or call Council's Youth Officer Nathan Thurston on 0437 303 824.

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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