



# COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

May 2018

## From the Mayor's Desk



The May meeting was a day of big decisions - Council was presented with the draft Operational Plan and Budget for 2018-2019. Fortunately, at the end of the day, we were able to bring in a 'balanced budget' after having to prune \$2.3 million from the draft documents. It is unfortunate that we are not able to include

complete 'wish lists' from various organisations, however I think everyone understands that with a limited budget every worthwhile project cannot be included. Our ratepayers can be assured that Council does its very best with available funds and, without sounding too brash, I think we have runs on the board in this regard.

I congratulate staff on the preparation and submission of multiple funding applications for various projects that will benefit all our communities. Council has been most fortunate in having the opportunity to secure additional funds - without this assistance we would have no possible chance to do the projects identified. So here's hoping our applications are successful.

On ANZAC Day I attended both the Dawn Service and the 11.00 a.m. Service - a wonderful turnout at both - it seems to me that each year more young people are in attendance to honour our War Veterans and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their Country. This is very encouraging, as these young people are the ones who will carry on the tradition into the future. *We will remember them - Lest we forget!*

I would like to report that following the NSW Audit Office's audit of NSW Councils for the 2016-2017 financial year as part of the *Fit for the Future* process, a report has just been released titled *Performance Indicators - Report on Local Government 2017*. There were nine 'performance indicators' and I am delighted to advise residents that our Council met every one - congratulations must go to Council's General Manager, his management team and staff for such a wonderful result. It is interesting to note that many councils failed to meet the benchmark of each performance indicator. I am sure our residents will agree that this is very good news and it reinforces the outcome that our Council is in a sound financial position and fit to "stand alone."

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

Cr Michael Webb - Mayor

## Robert Thomas elected to Council

As the community is aware, the By-Election to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Cr Tom Cullen OAM was held on Saturday 5 May and Declaration of the Poll was declared at 1.00 p.m. on 9 May - which coincided with the May Council meeting day.

"I congratulate Councillor, Robert ("Octo") Thomas on his victory and welcome him as a member of Coonamble Shire Council.

My colleagues and I look forward to working with him as part of our team.

I commend Pat Cullen and Mark Vaughan for their interest in standing for election to represent the ratepayers of our Shire," said Mayor Michael Webb.



"Unfortunately, our new Councillor could not participate in the business of the May meeting, however he sat-in as an observer," Mayor Webb added.

## 2018-19 Draft Plans - have your say!

At the May Meeting, Council resolved to place the 2018-2019 draft Operational Plan, Budget and Fees and Charges on public exhibition as part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework requirements.

Council is required to notify the public and provide the opportunity for submissions regarding these documents. So, if you are interested in knowing what projects Council has planned in the year ahead and how it plans to manage its assets and

programs take a look at these documents.

The documents can be viewed on Council's website [www.council@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.council@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au) at the Coonamble and Gulargambone Libraries, the Gulargambone Rural Transaction Centre, Council's Office and the Quambone Store.

Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager, Coonamble Shire Council, P O Box 249, Coonamble NSW 2829 or emailed to [council@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au)

Comments or submissions will be received by Council up until close of business on Wednesday 6 June 2018.

The Operational Plan and Budget for 2018-2019 will then be adopted at the Council Meeting to be held on 13 June, following consideration of submissions received.



## Organisations seek financial support

Requests for financial assistance from Council continue to be tabled at every meeting – May certainly was no exception!

### Tournament gains funding

The Coonamble Lady Golfers will host the Far West Rose Bowl Tournament on 14 and 15 July - and sought sponsorship of \$4,000. Council was generous in its decision to contribute \$2,500 towards the event.

### Tennis Club requested \$50,000 contribution

The Wanderers Tennis Club intends to upgrade their facility by resurfacing the courts and replacing fencing.

The Club will be seeking grant funding of \$100,000 and requested a contribution of \$50,000 from Council. Taking into account several issues, Council declined to provide financial support. The club has been advised of external funding opportunities.

### No reimbursement for Club

Coonamble Team Penning Club, recently conducted an event at the showground and requested Council consider refunding the hire fee for the venue. Council has made some tough decisions recently about letting this facility free of charge, noting the significant funds spent to keep the area to an acceptable standard. It is also interesting to note that when the Pavilion was built, Council resolved not to waive charges

for any organisation – that's why a much cheaper rate was set for use by not-for-profit organisations. Council resolved not to reimburse the fees.

### \$500 for guernseys

Council also considered a request for assistance of \$1,700 to purchase guernseys and sponsors shirts for a Gulargambone team to take part in a rugby knockout competition. Council agreed to provide \$500 support.

### Request to purchase wire ram sculpture

Gulargambone Community Enterprises Co-operative Limited requested that Council consider purchasing the wire ram sculpture which has been placed adjacent to the bullock team – the asking price is \$1,200, however Council declined to purchase the sculpture.

### \$4,000 for rodeo weekend

Following a presentation by Mr Steven Butler, Secretary of the Rodeo Association, Council resolved to contribute \$4,000 to the cost of hiring portable toilet and shower facilities for the Coonamble Rodeo and Campdraft to be held over the June long weekend. This decision led Council to resolving that a meeting be held with representatives of the Showground User Groups to discuss requirements for additional showers and toilets.

## Council updates

### Staff appointments announced

Coonamble Shire Council General Manager Rick Warren, recently announced the appointment of Kookie Atkins to the role of Director Engineering Services and Siew Neale as the Manager Roads and Bridges.



### Local Government Remuneration Tribunal - Councillor Fees

Each year Council is presented with information regarding fees payable to Councillors and Mayors. This year the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal has awarded an annual fee increase of 2.5% to take effect from 1 July 2018.

Residents should be aware that Councils must set the fees for their members from within the range provided by the Tribunal – it is not permissible for councillors and mayors to forego the remuneration.

This year Council resolved to adopt the increase of 2.5% - resulting in a fee of \$10,414 for councillors, with an additional \$19,762 for the mayor. Council is one of the 57 councils in the "Rural" category for which the maximum fee payable is \$11,860 per councillor plus \$25,880 per mayor.

### Netball Courts a reality

Council has accepted a tender submitted by L-Don Sporting Areas Pty Ltd for the design and construction of four competition grade netball courts in Smith Park Coonamble, complete with lighting, for an amount of \$623,444.40 (excluding GST).

These works have been fully funded through a grant under the NSW Governments Stronger Country Communities program.

## Roads and rates

Unfortunately the dry weather continues and, due to the lack of water needed for roadworks, Council has had to revise road maintenance plans to areas requiring less water, such as its resealing program.

Council is aware that some unsealed roads require attention and staff will continue to address dangerous and extremely rough areas on the unsealed roads, however I know that people are aware of the problems of 'dry grading' roads.

For interest, last financial year Council received \$3.7 million in revenue from

rural ratepayers – the amount spent on Council roads that year was \$5.4 million. This does not include the State Highway.

To the end of March this financial year Council has spent 70% of its roads program i.e. \$4.8 million from a \$6.9 million program – Council's corresponding rural rate income for the current year is \$3.8 million.

As residents and ratepayers can see from the above Council spends much more money on roads than it receives as rate income.

## 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

Coonamble Shire Council:  
T: 02 68271900  
A: 80 Castlereagh Street, Coonamble  
E: [council@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au)

Emergency Contacts:  
Water and Sewerage T: 0428 217 420  
Ranger T: 0427 255 881  
Other T: 0458 271 881

