



COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

July 2018

From the Mayor's Desk



As I write this column I can't believe that we've passed the half-way mark of 2018 – Council's July meeting was held last week on Wednesday 11th. After a very full agenda for June it was good to see a smaller business paper, with not so many pressing items to address. Such is not the case for Council's management

team and staff who are now working through all end of financial year procedures and requirements.

During Public Question Time, Council welcomed Ms Karen Flakelar on behalf of a group of ladies working hard to establish a *Women's Shed* in Coonamble. Council is 100% supportive of this proposal having had feedback from other areas where the like facilities are up and running with great success. To support the establishment of a Coonamble Women's Shed as a 12 month pilot project - Council resolved to provide \$120/week towards the rent of appropriate premises, together with \$2,000 towards operational costs – a total contribution of \$8,240. The group is also endeavouring to source grant funds should the opportunity arise.

Mrs Anne Kennedy was also present to address Council, informing us of an important Health Forum to be held in Narrabri in August. Councillors were personally invited to attend this meeting which will be an open forum. Mrs Kennedy said the conference will be preceded by a Pilliga Gasfields Tour on Tuesday 14 August. She referred to the high profile speakers engaged for the meeting, Dr Helen Redmond, Dr GERALYN McCarron, Mrs Shay Dougall, Dr Methuen Morgan and Professor Melissa Haswell – who will answer questions from the public. I informed Mrs Kennedy that Council would be represented at this forum.

One of our long serving employees has decided to 'call it a day', retiring after 39 years' service. At the meeting we said goodbye and thank you to Brian Fernando who is leaving his job as a plant operator with us later in the month.

I would like to personally thank Brian for his long service and wish him a fulfilling retirement. Brian accompanied Council to lunch and I'm told he'll be farewelled by his colleagues at a special function in a week or so – he will also receive a \$500 voucher to spend at a local business.

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

Cr Michael Webb
Mayor

Government seek community feedback

In May, Council submitted eleven applications under the Stronger Country Communities Program seeking \$1.6m in funding.

Council has been advised that all projects have progressed to the next stage of assessment - choice modelling surveys.

A representative sample of residents from across the Shire will be asked to 'state' their preference in a survey in order to quantify the community's preference for each proposed project. This process will be conducted in person by government personnel over the next few weeks.

Splash pad and blocks - Gulargambone	200,000
Irrigation - Coonamble Oval	80,000
Pool Blanket/Change Rooms - Coonamble	150,000
Basketball Court - Gulargambone	50,000
Playground/Gym Equipment - Lions Park, Gulargambone	135,000
Skatebowl - Coonamble	120,000
Playground Shade - Across Shire	100,000
Toilet Block - Coonamble CBD	250,000
Visitor Information Centre - Coonamble	330,000
Coonamble Children's Service	104,000
Refurbish Toilets - Across Shire	80,000
Totals (\$)	1,599,000

Watch your step!

Over the past months Council has noted that many of the wheel stops in the Castlereagh Street business precinct have been damaged. It would appear that significant damage is caused to the wheel stops when 4WD vehicles are backed over them.

Council wish to advise the community that works to repair and or replace the stops will commence shortly.

Residents are asked to take care when parking heavier vehicles and advises that parking correctly within the lines will minimize the wheel stop exposure.

Important notice for library patrons

The community is advised that the Coonamble Library will be closed from Monday 6 August to Saturday 11 August for annual stocktake.

The library will reopen on Monday 13 August at 10.30a.m.

The return chute at the front of the library will be in operation during the closure for your convenience.

Council apologise in advance for any inconvenience.

Gular says thank you



The Gulargambone community has thanked Council for its financial and in-kind support of the *Pave the Way to Gular Art Festival* held earlier in this year.

At the July meeting of Council, Mrs Annie Haling presented Mayor Webb with a canvas collage showcasing the art works created during the festival.

"The event was a success and Gulargambone is really reaping the benefits, with visitors stopping to explore the works and the community," Mrs Haling said.

Mayor Webb congratulated Mrs Haling, the Committee and the Gulargambone community on delivering another great event and enhancing the tourism product of the Shire.

The collage will be on display in Council's Administration Centre.

Council meeting update

Council provide sponsorship to Hayden Page

Hayden Page, Coonamble born and bred, advised Council that he has recently been selected to represent Australia at the first ever *Last Man Stands* (LMS) Cricket World Series in England. The series will be held in August 2018 and Hayden sought support of Council by way of sponsorship.

Council resolved to support Hayden through a Major Sponsorship of \$2,000. This will include Council's logo on his Player Card which will be prominent during the series – Hayden will also verbally thank Coonamble Shire Council when conducting media commitments.

Coonamble Challenge and Campdraft supported

Another request for financial assistance tabled for consideration by Councillors was from the Coonamble Challenge and Campdraft.

The Committee hosted a successful event in March this year and have again sought the support of Council for their event in 2019. Council resolved to take up a \$2,000 Gold Sponsorship Package as per the 2018 event.

Council is continually receiving requests to financially support a myriad of organisations and events and does the very best it can within a limited budget.

Tender for Mains Replacement

Tenders were invited for supply of materials and replacement of water mains at selected locations in Coonamble and Gulargambone.

At the July meeting, Council resolved to award the contract to Interflow in a total amount of \$202,785.24.

It is expected that the work will take 24 weeks to complete and the two sections for work to be undertaken are Coonamble (Castlereagh Street, from Tooloon Street to Macquarie Street) and Gulargambone (Munnell Street, from Muraiman Street to the racecourse).

State Emergency Service Facility

For some time now Council has been looking at ways to upgrade the State Emergency Service facility in Coonamble.

One option was that it be included in a new shared facility at the NSW Rural Fire Service headquarters on the Walgett Road.

However, at the meeting Council was presented with a draft Master Plan outlining the new shared facility, which unfortunately was \$70,000 over the budget of \$420,000.

Other challenges have also arisen during the investigation process and one that was identified recently is the delay of up to 18 months for the commencement of construction of the shared facility.

Council has committed \$200,000 from internal reserves to fund the development of a new SES building in Coonamble and application has been submitted for grant funds of \$150,000.

Councillors resolved that the best outcome for Coonamble and district is to proceed with renovations and upgrading of the current SES building and take no further action in relation to the construction of a shared facility.

Funding Opportunity - Resources for Regions

Council considered a report from the General Manager on funding opportunities under the NSW Government Resources for Regions program, which is for mining-related communities

The report indicated that Council's quarry is a mine and damage caused to the Tooraweenah Road as a consequence of heavy vehicle movements could be an eligible project.

Council is very mindful that competition for this funding will be strong from shires like Cobar, Bogan and perhaps Walgett.

However it was decided that Council submit an application for \$1m for reconstruction on the sealed section of Tooraweenah Road, from town to the Mt Magometon Quarry, citing social disadvantage and making a co-contribution of \$100,000 (the contribution will come from Council's Sealed Roads Reserve).

Staff are currently preparing the expression of interest as the first part of a two stage application process.

Events - Up in lights



Promote your community event or sporting activity on Council's new LED community noticeboard located within the sportsground at the corner of King Street in Coonamble.

This is a great opportunity for you to have your event up in lights all you have to do is provide information in writing from your club, group or organisation.

Written requests can be lodged at Council's Administration Office or via email to: council@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au

Be quick - first in, best dressed – so get those community events and activities organized and up in lights for everyone to see!!

Employment



Council currently has the following positions vacant

Water & Sewerage Services Operator

Youth Workers - Casual
(Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone)

For further information please contact Council's Human Resources Section on 6827 1900 or visit

www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au

Applications close:
5.00pm Friday 27 July 2018

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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