



COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

August 2018

From the Mayor's Desk



Last Wednesday 8 August we put another meeting behind us.

I would like to report on my attendance at the Country Mayors' Association meeting at Parliament House in Sydney on Friday 3 August.

In a presentation by the Hon John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW, Minister

for Skills and Minister for Small Business he said that the Government is supplying significant funding to the regions in conjunction with local government. He also pointed out that the Regional Vision Statement was launched recently and funding from the sale of the Snowy Hydro will, in total, go to the regions.

The Premier, the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, was also at the meeting. She said we need to speak up for poor communities as the Government will listen to concerns and ideas. She also said probity is important and announcements need to be delivered as quickly as possible. Ms Berejiklian said \$1 in every \$3 is spent in regional areas.

My activities on behalf of Council during the month have included a tour, conducted by Santos, of the Narrabri Gas Project area, in company with Crs Thomas and Walker, where we inspected well site facilities, water treatment and storage facilities and the power station operating in the area. The General Manager is now making arrangements for us to visit and see first-hand the alleged devastation caused by mining in Queensland and as soon as possible we'll be going north!!

Along with our General Manager and Crs Walker, Thomas and Fisher, I attended the Planning Focus meeting conducted by the Department of Planning and Environment concerning the EIS for the section of Inland Rail between Narramine and Narrabri. It was made very clear that the line will not come to Coonamble, nor will consideration be given to any submission to this effect.

Council has always lobbied for connectivity to the rail line from the Coonamble line - it was good to hear that this will happen, thus enabling the region's produce access to markets. It's expected that in about 12 months, the environmental assessment will have identified a 40 - 60 metre wide rail corridor within the current 2 kilometres wide route study. It will be some time before tenders are called to design and construct the railway.

During Public Question Time, Mr James Nalder presented to Council on behalf of the Yesterday's Heroes' Ball Committee. Mr Nalder spoke of a concerted effort by many individuals and organisations to host a weekend event that coincides with the Gold Cup Races. Plans include a Drought Relief Ball and farm tours allowing city people to see the impact of the drought - first hand. There are talks of having a "tent city" at the showground to house the expected visitors.

This sounds like a wonderful event and Council encouraged Mr Nalder to keep it abreast of progress - I did say also that Council will assist in any way it can to make the event a success.

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

Cr Michael Webb
Mayor

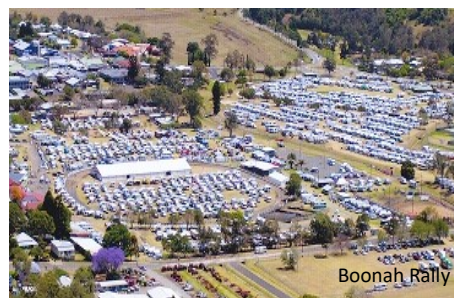
Showcasing the Shire

With over 1,200 motorhomes and campervans converging on Gunnedah in October for the CMCA National Rally, Council will take the opportunity to showcase Coonamble Shire.

In the weeks leading up to the event, rally goers spend time in the region - usually within a three hour drive of the rally site, and stay in the region for up to a month at the conclusion of the event.

Council has secured an exhibit and will be liaising with businesses across the Shire in the coming month to develop target specific collateral including packages and itineraries to distribute over the eight day rally.

In another tourism first, Coonamble and district will feature in the summer 2019 edition of the Central West Lifestyle magazine. Council have committed \$9,000 towards the 50 page feature.



Over the next three months, Council will be working with the community to develop a 5 year action based Tourism Strategy. The strategy will aim to grow visitation to the Shire, facilitate the development of tourism product and assist in attracting funding.

And on a final note - Council will meet in the coming weeks to progress the concept planning Coonamble bore bath project.

Joint Organisation

Joint Organisations (JO) were again a topic for discussion at the August Council meeting.

In July, Council unanimously resolved to join the Far West (North) Joint Organisation and made representation to the Deputy Premier and the Office of Local Government.

The Far West (North) JO was proclaimed recently, and includes the Shires of Bourke, Cobarr and Walgett with Cobarr Mayor Lilliane Brady OAM elected Chair of the new JO at the organization's first meeting in Bourke. Cobarr's General Manager Peter Vlatko will perform the role of Interim Executive Officer.

Mayor Webb, said "it has been conveyed to me that Council's request to join the Far West (North) JO is being considered and we will be advised of the outcome shortly. It's still very much 'a waiting game' or a 'work in progress' - whichever way you want to look at it and any news will be conveyed to our community as soon as it is received."

At the recent Country Mayors' Association Meeting in Sydney, Mr Ken Gillespie, the Regional Infrastructure Coordinator, NSW Premier and Cabinet, stated that Joint Organisations are an important part of the State's future and they need to be successful. He advised that funds are now being made available and distributed to Joint Organisations to get the ball rolling and start doing what they've been set up to do!

\$9,000 to Foundation

The Coonamble & District Education Foundation has secured \$9,000 to assist in hosting the *Classic Wallabies* program which will include a junior development clinic, a match against a regional representative side in Coonamble, and a local game of rugby followed by an evening cocktail party and auction.

It is envisaged that the event will attract approximately 1500 rugby enthusiasts and the funds raised will assist the Foundation to deliver their scholarship program.

Council holds \$6,000 in Trust for the Foundation, being two years' contributions and a further \$3,000 is due for this financial year. Council resolved to provide the Foundation with \$9,000, however no further contribution will be made during the 2018/19 year.

Council has, since its inception, financially supported the Education Foundation annually and will continue to do so.

Service NSW Office Closed

The community is advised that due to circumstances beyond Council's control, the Coonamble Service NSW Office will be closed on **Monday 20 August 2018**.

Please be aware this closure includes the **Roads & Maritime Services Agency Office**.

Council apologises for any inconvenience to clients.

Council meeting update

Street Trading Policy

The draft Street Trading Policy has been on exhibition and attracted feedback from the Coonamble Chamber of Commerce.

In formally adopting the Policy, Council included the following:

"That advertising structures, including A-Frames, flags, balloons and the like, on public roads, footpaths and road related areas may be permitted with consent".

This was a grey area and one of the concerns raised by the Chamber of Commerce. By including this wording Council hopes that the intent of the policy is clarified.

A question was also raised about the responsibility of cleaning the footpath – of course Council will continue its usual street cleaning, however it also expects that business premises, especially those serving food and using the footpath as a dining area, will also do their bit in keeping frontages clean and tidy.

Additional Facilities at Coonamble Showground

Following input from representatives of the Showground User Groups, Council has resolved to purchase two additional ablation blocks. The amenities will cost \$86,620, delivered to Coonamble, plus installation. The new facilities will be located on the southern end of the ground. After building an amenities block at the caravan park previously, which cost in the vicinity of \$400,000, Council felt it was cost-prohibitive and decided that portable facilities would service the need adequately.

Council also agreed to erect a new block of stables consisting of 20 boxes – approximately 2.7m x 2.5m in size – similar to those at the southern end of the ground. The new stables will be built on the northern end of the ground along the river fence north of the river toilet block.

Council has applied for funding of \$50,270 from the Drought Communities Program to fund this project.

Both these projects will benefit all users of the ground and will certainly tick boxes in Council's ongoing endeavours to provide a top class facility that will avail itself to many uses. Of course, there is always a "wish list", but it is getting smaller!

Drought Communities Funding

Our residents would be aware that Council was allocated \$1.5 million under the Drought Communities Funding.

Several projects identified under this program have now been completed including: community fencing (showground, sportsground, pool), amenities at Combara Hall, Quambone Hall improvements, earthworks at the Quambone fuel outlet and installation of a new section at the Coonamble lawn cemetery.

Sealing of the Coonamble Golf Club car park and entrance to the Airport and hangar site have also been completed.

Kerb and guttering construction, repairs and upgrade to Gulargambone Youth Hall, refurbishment of Gulargambone Memorial Hall, fencing of the extension to the Coonamble waste depot and the caravan park are projects yet to be completed.

Coonamble Clay Target Club

The Clay Target Club has approached Council to assist with identifying suitable sites for the Club's activities. It is estimated that approximately 40 acres of land is required and the site must comply with legislative requirements.

A potential site has been identified and Council has decided to offer the land to the Club, whose responsibility it is to determine the suitability of the site for shooting activities.

For your information

Tender - Works at Gulargambone Swimming Pool

Tenders are invited from suitably qualified persons to carry out the following works at Gulargambone swimming pool:

- Re-clad amenities building
- Provide and install new guttering and downpipes
- Provide and install new eaves capping around building.

Any person interested in lodging a tender should inspect the site prior to making a written submission. Please contact Council's Senior Technical Officer, Mr Peter Hurst, on 0427 271 922, to arrange an inspection. Tenders close with the General Manager at 5.00pm on Friday 24 August 2018.

Lease of Coonamble Pool Kiosk

Written expressions of interest, closing at 12noon on Friday 31 August 2018 are invited for the lease of the Coonamble Swimming Pool Kiosk for the 2018/2019 swimming season.

The successful applicant will, in addition to providing the kiosk service, be required to supervise the turnstiles. A draft lease agreement, which the successful applicant will be required to sign, is now available from the Cashier Section of Council's Administration Centre.

Pensioners' Rate Concessions

To enable Council to allocate correct rebates to pensioners, all persons who hold a Pensioner Concession Card are required to bring it to the Council Office for sighting and notation if they have not already done so. Pension card holders are required to present cards to Council every year when new cards are issued.

Persons not having received their pensioner rate concession or those who have received only a 50% rate rebate must bring their cards in to Council as soon as possible. This will enable the correct rebates to be allocated. Until cards are presented the rebate on rates cannot be given. For those who cannot bring the card personally, it may be sent by mail or messenger.

For pensioners living at Gulargambone they may take their card to the RTC where it will be copied free of charge and the copy forwarded to Council.

Tender Caravan Park Redevelopment

On behalf of Coonamble Shire Council, Regional Procurement is calling Tender: SPT161819COO Coonamble Caravan Park Redevelopment. Tenders are invited and will be received up to 10.00am on Tuesday 28 August 2018. Contact: Mark Kentish at Regional Procurement on 02 49784017 or Support Services on 02 49784046.

To download the tender documents for a non-refundable fee of \$50.00 visit www.tenderlink.com/regionalprocurement

Bi-annual Review

Council must endorse its Delivery Program Bi-Annual Review as at 30 June before presenting it to the community – the report provides action statements and progress indicators for strategies contained in the 2017 – 2020 Delivery Program.

A few of the highlights of the 30 June 2018 reporting period are the: Commencement of Stage 3 of levee upgrade, Funded Flood Study for west Coonamble, Rehabilitation works – Warren, Baradine and Carinda Roads, funding application for a new Visitor Information Centre in Coonamble and completion of major works on the State Highway west of Coonamble and west of Gulargambone on behalf of the RMS.

Council meetings

Residents are reminded that all correspondence to be included on the agenda for Council meetings should be received in Council's Office by 5.00pm ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

Correspondence received after that date may, at the discretion of the General Manager, be included as "urgent business", however there is no guarantee that this will be the case. It will then be tabled at the meeting held in the following month.

Council's meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, excluding January.

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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