



COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

September 2018

From the Mayor's Desk



Council's September meetings, three in all, were held on Wednesday 12th – following the Coonamble Common Trustees' meeting, the extraordinary meeting was held at which the Mayor was elected for a two year term, the Deputy Mayor for one year and representatives to various committees for the ensuing

terms. This was followed by our ordinary monthly meeting.

I am proud to say my fellow colleagues elected me to the position of Mayor for the next two years, for which I'm most grateful. I look forward to a challenging period ahead and one which we, as a team, will take on with gusto and achieve the goals already set!! Councillors Webb and Churchill also contested the Mayoral Election and I commend them both. It would be remiss of me to not congratulate former Mayor Webb on his achievements in the top job and to ask for his support during my term.

During Public Question time we welcomed Ms Fiona Ozols, a branch official of the Orana Mid Western North - Police Association of NSW. She suggested that Council may be able to work with the Association in providing suitable housing for senior police because this is a big issue in recruitment and retention of officers in towns that can't offer "special remote" incentives.

Supt. Peter McKenna, Area Commander, addressed Council and the gallery, stating that the incidence of crime has dropped although activities now are more serious. He said he is proud of our local police – they are just unable to meet every demand. Supt. McKenna encouraged the community to report all incidents of criminal activity – saying this is the way we can argue for more police for our area.

Inland Rail Update

I received a call from Mark Coulton, our Federal Member for Parkes, and I requested that he facilitate a forum between Inland Rail representatives, Council and local contractors to discuss opportunities which may be beneficial to our economy. Mark has agreed to organise this meeting and I will keep our residents informed.

Should anyone wish to contact me to discuss issues or concerns, please phone 0427 887 666. I look forward to representing all our residents during my tenure as Mayor and encourage your phone calls.

Ahmad Karanouh - Mayor

Meet your new Mayor and Deputy



Coonamble Shire Mayor, Cr Karanouh and Deputy Mayor, Cr Wheelhouse following the election last week

Council calls for project ideas

Council was pleased to receive advice that additional funding of \$1m per eligible council has been made available under the Drought Communities Program - Extended (DCP).

At the September meeting the General Manager referred to the short timeframe for submission of applications, funding approval and project completion and provided a list of projects that would be eligible for funding.

These included: Wire horse and coach sculpture at the proposed visitor information centre, camp kitchen, ensuite units and new driveway entrance at the caravan park, new town entry signage, rural financial counsellor assistance, new toilet/ kiosk facility in Smith Park, and various other smaller projects at Quambone.

The decision was made that Council engage with the community for potential projects that they may wish to see proceed.

Mayor Karanouh said, "I encourage all residents to have their say and let us

know what you think will be the best way to spend this grant money.

Responses will be reviewed at the next meeting of Council on Wednesday 10 October, where Council will make determinations - so please let us know what you think."

People interested in submitting an idea/concept should carefully read the funding guidelines to ensure the proposed project is eligible.

The guidelines can be viewed online: <http://regional.gov.au/regional/programs/drought-communities.aspx>

Written submissions will be accepted up until 5.00pm on Friday 5 October 2018 and should be submitted to the General Manager via email council@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au post: Coonamble Shire Council, P.O Box 249 Coonamble NSW 2829 or hand delivered to Council's Administration Office.

Tell us what you think...

Meeting mentions

PCYC NSW Visit

Council has been advised that PCYC will visit Coonamble on Monday 8 October 2018 from 3.00 pm to 8.00 pm as part of the Fun for Kids Tour.

The aim of the tour is to support youth in drought affected areas by running free activities and hosting a barbeque.

Activities will run from 3.00pm – 5.00pm in MacDonald Park, followed by a BBQ (5.00pm-6.00pm) and a disco at the Bowling Club from 6.00pm - 8.00pm.

Hopefully, this visit will provide the community with an opportunity to put forward our case for a PCYC in Coonamble – there is no doubt the benefit kids get from this interaction with Police.

Coonamble Saleyards – Funding for Repairs

Earlier in the year Mayor Karanouh requested that a report be submitted to Council identifying a list of repair and maintenance works, costing up to \$100,000, at the Coonamble Saleyards.

The report was included on this month's agenda – Council noted that works listed meet guidelines of the Drought Communities Funding and was pleased to agree to submit an application for funding of \$102,740.

If approved the project would provide assistance to local businesses and contractors and benefit stakeholders at the yards with ease of movement of stock, better lighting, renewal of crush and other more minor improvements.

Council also agreed to include the installation of CCTV at the saleyards in its application.

Coonamble Rodeo Association

An opportunity has arisen for the Coonamble Rodeo Association to submit a grant application under the Club Grants Funding Program, which provides up to \$300,000 per application for sport and recreation infrastructure.

Discussions have been held between Council staff and representatives of the Association and it has been decided that a project to construct a cantilevered structure over the current grandstands at the southern end of the rodeo arena would be appropriate.

Council as land manager of the Showground Trust, was pleased to approve in principle the request by Coonamble Rodeo Association to submit an application for a shelter structure in a total of \$330,000.

The meeting resolved that the design of the proposed shelter be submitted to the October meeting for Council to determine its suitability.

Additional Facilities – Showground

At the August meeting, Council agreed to purchase two additional ablution blocks for the Coonamble Showground.

These units have been delivered and installed and will assist in meeting the needs of ground users during annual events etc.

Progress on bore bath

Council has contracted the services of Regional Development Australia - Orana, to develop case studies and undertake a site assessment for the proposed bore bath facility.

A Councillor workshop was held recently and there was no question as to the preferred site, being Crown Land fronting the Castlereagh Highway and managed by Coonamble Racecourse and Recreation Trust (Land Manager).

It is an area of approximately seven hectares and Council requires consent from the Department of Lands to pursue ownership.

The first step in the process is to approach the Racecourse and Recreation Trust to secure tenure – with this achieved, potential problems in the future will be avoided.

Council has authorised the Mayor and General Manager to negotiate with the Trust to gain tenure and take the necessary steps to convert the land to freehold in Council's name.

This is the very first step in a long and complicated process, but it is important that we make progress as soon as possible.

\$25,000 to Raindance Ball

Council has committed \$25,000 to the Yesterday's Heroes Inc. Committee to assist in hosting the Coonamble Raindance.

The sell-out event will held on Saturday 6 October at the Coonamble Showground - bringing community and visitors together for a fun-packed weekend and an injection of funds into local businesses.

And... don't forget the Coonamble Gold Cup on Sunday.



Drought and well-being

During this difficult period of drought, residents and businesses of Coonamble Shire can access support through government and non-government agencies.

To assist you, Council has created a webpage featuring a directory, links and resources. This information will be updated regularly and can be accessed via the following link:

www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au/Community/drought-and-well-being-support

If you would like to be on Council's contact list to receive monthly grant opportunity emails or if you require support with developing a grant application please contact Council's Grants & Communications Officer;

grants@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au



FOR INFORMATION

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

Rick Warren
GENERAL MANAGER

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