



# COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

November 2018

## From the Mayor's Desk



On Wednesday 14 November Council held its ordinary meeting – just one more to go before the end of 2018 – where has the year gone! One of our long serving employees, Raymond “Icy” Canham, decided to retire after 22 years’ service and it was a pleasure to have him

and his wife Judy join us for lunch so Council could thank Icy for his service and wish him well in retirement.

I’ve been very busy since the last Council meeting, attending functions and representing Council. The Local Government NSW Conference was held in Albury from 21 to 23 October – it’s always good to be represented and to have a finger on the pulse. Cr. Webb and the General Manager also attended the Conference with me.

Another important meeting I attended was that of the Country Mayors’ Association in Sydney on 2 November – this provides a valuable forum for issues localised in regional and rural areas and a great networking medium. I moved a motion that the Country Mayors’ Association, in conjunction with Local Government NSW, facilitate a Question and Answer Session on 8 March 2019 between leaders of the major NSW Political Parties and Mayors and General Managers of NSW Councils.

In my report to Council, I made a recommendation that Council provide a housing subsidy of 50% to Police Officers in Coonamble and Gulargambone – money-wise this would equate to approximately \$60,000/annum, but it would, I think, be a great incentive to get officers to come to the area and ride out their term before moving on. If there is no way of having our region classified ‘rural remote’ and offering incentives to officers, I am pleased that Council has seen fit to consider this matter further when negotiations are held with the Police Association. I realise this is a significant contribution – but I think it’s one worth pursuing. Should it come to fruition, one could say another government responsibility being shouldered by Council!!!

Should anyone wish to contact me to discuss issues or concerns, please phone **0427 887 666**.

**Ahmad Karanouh** - Mayor

## Inland Rail opportunities discussed

Mayor Karanouh with Garth Taylor, General Manager, Community and Industry Inland Rail, Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities at the recent Inland Rail forum held at the Coonamble Bowling Club.

“A comprehensive report on my Inland Rail Roundtable meeting was featured in the local press, however I just want to say that I think it has opened the doors for some of our local suppliers who are now aware of the procedure in tendering for goods and services in the future,” Mayor Karanouh said.



## Australia Day nominations open



Celebrate the quiet achievers and unsung heroes of the community by nominating them for the 2019 Coonamble Shire Australia Day Awards.

Nominations are now open and Council is encouraging the community to recognise and celebrate people and community organisations that contribute to making Coonamble Shire a great place to live, work and visit.

Award categories are: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Event of the Year, Community Group of the Year, Sportsperson of the Year

and Junior Sportsperson of the Year.

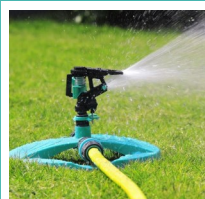
**Australia Day**

The Awards recipients will be announced at the Australia Day celebration to be held on Saturday 26 January at the Coonamble Showground pavilion commencing with a free community breakfast at 8.00am.

Nomination forms are available from Council, the Shire libraries or from Council’s website [www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au)

Nominations close 7 January 2019.

## Restricted use of water - Coonamble



With the weather warming up and this summer being drier than average, water usage is starting to increase as summer approaches.

Council is requesting residents’ co-operation this summer by being mindful of their water use and being as efficient as possible with the water they use. Please ensure that fixed hoses and sprinklers are used only between the hours of

8:00p.m. and 8:00a.m.

This will reduce the strain on Council’s water supply infrastructure, including water supply bores and the water treatment plant.

## Meeting mentions

### *Tenders – Water Main Replacement for Coonamble and Gulargambone*

Council has accepted tenders for its water main replacement program in Coonamble and Gulargambone. The successful company for the Coonamble contract is Laser Plumbing Dubbo – the work in Coonamble is to be carried out in Castlereagh Street, from Tooloon Street to Macquarie Street for a price of \$117,826.50.

The Gulargambone contract was awarded to Jake Jones, a local contractor – for work in Munnell Street, from Muraiman Street to the showground. The tendered amount for Gulargambone was \$117,900.00.

### *Coonamble Streets Ahead Committee*

This year Council was requested to provide financial support towards the Christmas Carnivale. The Committee has a big program of entertainment organised for the event which will be held on Friday 19 December.

Council agreed to provide financial assistance of \$4,800, which was the amount remaining in the budget for the Streets Ahead Committee.

Council is mindful that this is a community event and, in the past, has been well attended. The Christmas atmosphere will provide some relief to our country residents from the worries of drought. It will also provide a boost to local businesses, which remain open for late shopping.

### *Closure of Services Christmas and New Year Period*

At the November meeting, Council again agreed to close its office which includes the library, RMS and Visitor Information Centre, over the Christmas / New Year period.

The services will close at c.o.b. Friday 21 December and re-open on Wednesday 2 January 2019. Council has been doing this for many years.

Residents are urged to get in early if they have business with the RMS and also to get a good supply of books for the holiday period.

### *Skate Bowl in West Coonamble*

Quite some time ago, a young person from West Coonamble approached Council to consider building a skate park on the western side of town – Council took on board his suggestion and made application for funding under the Stronger Country Communities Program.

The application was approved and \$120,000 was allocated to build the facility, which was estimated to cost \$157,000.

The question now is where? Councillors suggested a couple of sites, but did not make a determination – preferring to consider further options in a report that will be provided to the December meeting.

### *Drought Relief Heavy Vehicle Access Funding*

Council has been informed that the NSW Government has introduced a Drought Relief Heavy Vehicle Access program of funding to contribute to the cost of maintenance and minor improvements on roads and road sides.

The Roads & Maritime Services will administer funds and is calling applications from eligible councils.

Council agreed to make application for the maximum per council of \$300,000 for remediation of portions of Castlereagh Street parking lanes, Aberford Street and the two intersections of Namoi/Castlereagh Streets and Railway/Aberford Streets – this project will cost \$400,000. Council has agreed to contribute the additional \$100,000.

This is a great incentive and one which will be delivered within the stipulated time frame.

## Drought Buster Dollars

Coonamble Drought - Buster Dollars is an initiative of numerous local charities who have banded together to provide support to drought - affected people in the community, while keeping the money circulating within the local business sector.

The Drought Buster Dollars have been made available through generous donations from individuals and organisations across Australia and can be used at any business with an ABN registered in the Coonamble Local Government Area.

If your income has been impacted by the drought or you know someone who has, financial assistance is now available.

Just complete a nomination form available for download on the Council website [www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au) or contact: Amanda Glasson - 0438 082 731, Anita Murray 0428 221 001 or Tracey Harvey 0427 484 180. All requests remain confidential.

*What stays in town... goes around!*

## Coonamble Drought

# Free FUN DAY

***This Sunday 25 November 2018***

11am to 4pm

Coonamble Showground

***Bring the family along for a great day out***

FREE.... BBQ, Fairy floss, Popcorn, Fruit salad, Ice blocks and Beverages

**\* LIVE ENTERTAINMENT \* JUMPING CASTLE  
\* WATER SLIDE \* BALLOONS  
\* KIDS ACTIVITIES \* LUCKY GATE PRIZES**

BYO chair or rug

Free buses running from Gulargambone and Quambone - bookings essential by Thursday to Council on 68271900

*Event hosted and funded by Rotary and local charities and organisations*

## 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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Emergency Contacts:

Water and Sewerage T: 0428 217 420

Ranger T: 0427 255 881

Other T: 0458 271 881

