



COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

December 2018

From the Mayor's Desk



Last Wednesday 12 December Council held its final meeting for the year – the next one is scheduled for 13 February 2019, in keeping with Council's decision not to have a meeting in January. This works well I think, as it gives both staff and Councillors the

opportunity to have time away with their families over the Christmas / New Year break.

This edition of the newsletter is the last for 2018 and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our management team, headed by the General Manager, for its hard work and achievements during 2018.

On 30 November, our General Manager, Rick Warren tendered his resignation from Council and Rick's last day with us will be Friday 11 January. I want to personally thank Rick for the great job he has done in the role of General Manager and for his assistance to me as Mayor and wish him all the best as he starts another chapter of his career.

In total Rick has been with us for 15 years, filling the role of Director of Corporate Services prior to his appointment as General Manager seven years ago.

Another thank you and commendation goes to Council's outdoor staff who do a great job – they keep everything, including parks, gardens, pools, roads and other services, all running smoothly and I thank them for their efforts. We all work as a team and I think it's obvious by what we've achieved this year.

Finally I wish all our residents a safe and happy festive season – if you're travelling, please do so safely. My colleagues and I look forward to having time off, before we get the ball rolling again in February.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

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

Ahmad Karanouh
Mayor



Rental subsidies on the agenda

The Police Housing Subsidy concept was on the agenda again at the December Council Meeting following a recommendation by Mayor Karanouh at the previous meeting.

In November, Mayor Karanouh requested that Council consider providing a rental subsidy of 50% to Police Officers in Coonamble and Gulargambone, however no decision was made at the time.

It was proposed that Council outlay \$60,000 per annum to assist in attracting Police to the Shire.

"Should the Police Housing Subsidy be approved, we must get it right and be very sure of our facts before locking Council funds into a financial commitment", Mayor Karanouh said.

Correspondence from the CEO of the Coonamble Aboriginal Medical Service seeking consideration of assistance with housing and rental subsidy for local doctors was also discussed at the meeting.

"Of course the Police Housing Subsidy



raises a precedent and Councillors decided to support the idea in principle but, in the interim, have talks with both Police Association representatives and the CEO of the AMS to clarify details regarding entitlements those professionals are currently receiving before making a determination.

Hopefully we will have sufficient information to discuss these issues further at the February meeting and make a firm commitment", the Mayor added.

Water available

The drought continues to impact the Shire and a situation has arisen where residents outside the town water area have run out of water.

At the December meeting, Council decided to provide free potable water for household use only.

Mayor Karanouh said "It will be the users' responsibility to ensure the water is transported in suitable containers and a limit on quantity and time of availability will be put in place."

Any enquiries regarding the supply of water should be directed to Council's Director of Corporate and Urban Services, Bruce Quarmby.

It is expected that the finer details of this arrangement will be in place within the next few days.



Christmas Office Closure

Council services will close on
Friday 21 December 2018 at 5.00 pm
and will re-open on
Wednesday 2 January 2019

This includes Council's Administration Centre, Library Service, Visitor Information Centre, RMS Agency Office, Quarry, Depot / Workshop. Staff will be on call to attend to emergencies. Please refer to the emergency numbers below should you have a problem during the close down period.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Water and Sewerage 0428 217 420
Ranger 0427 255 881
Other 0458 271 881



Meeting Mentions

Local donations

Council is always generous when requested to provide support to worthy clubs or organisations. At the December meeting it was agreed to provide \$300 to the Gulargambone Junior Cricket to assist in the purchase of a cricket kit, which will contain all the gear to enable members to participate in the summer competition. It was also decided to provide \$250 to the Gulargambone Junior Rugby League to register a team in the Touch Football Competition being held in Dubbo this month. Unfortunately it was not able to provide the full amount of funds required to register two teams due to other commitments.

A donation of \$1,000 was approved for the Coonamble Community Radio to install sound-proofing panels in the new recording studio. The studio will assist in improving sponsorship announcements.

Update on Bore Baths Proposal

Council representatives meet with members of the Racecourse Trust, Jockey Club and Golf Club recently to discuss the proposal to acquire the land at the front of the track at the racecourse adjacent to the highway for the proposed bore bath facility. Council will now wait on confirmation

from the Land Manager – when this is received Council can move to the next stage of the project.

Tender let for Splash Pad

Council were successful in securing funding under the NSW Government Stronger Country Communities program to install a splash pad at the Gulargambone swimming pool. Council contracted Regional Procurement Initiative to manage the tender process with Council receiving four submissions for the design and construction of the splash pad. Council awarded the contract to Beau Corp Projects Pty Ltd in an amount of \$223,780.

Plant & Heavy Equipment Tender Awarded

While on the topic of tenders, Council also received a report regarding four items of plant needing replacement. In making a decision Council decided to purchase a backhoe/loader, an excavator and wheeled loader from Komatsu Australia Pty Ltd; watercart from Tracserv Pty Ltd and mobile scalper/reclaimer screen from Screenmasters Australia Pty Ltd.

These purchases are in accordance with Council's rolling plant replacement program and within allocated budget.

Boost to Police numbers

The issue of low Police numbers across the Coonamble Shire was high on the agenda at a recent meeting with Police.

Mayor Karanouh met with Superintendent Peter McKenna to reinforce the concerns of Council and the community.

"Superintendent McKenna assured me he is doing all he can for us and informed me that two new sergeants will be joining us shortly – one stationed at Coonamble, the other at Gulargambone – this is great news".

"The Superintendent also advised that Coonamble will shortly have an Aboriginal Liaison Officer and a Domestic Violence Officer both stationed at Coonamble.

"These appointments will certainly boost Police presence in the Shire and will be well received by the communities", Mayor Karanouh added.

SUMMER READING CLUB

Looking for something to do during the holidays?

Well head into the Coonamble Library and register for the Summer Reading Club.

The first twenty registrations will receive a free backpack.

Registration forms are available at the Library and the Club is open to preschool, primary and high school students.

For every book you read and review you will get one entry into the major prize draw in each category!

So register today there are some great prizes to be won.



PROGRAM

8:00am - 9:30am FREE Community Breakfast by Rotary
9:30am - 11:00am Australia Day Ceremony

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD NOMINATIONS

Don't forget there is still time to nominate those worthy citizens in the community who have achieved or made a contribution to our community. Nomination forms can be obtained from Council's Administration Office or at www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au
Nominations close 7 January 2019

School Holiday Program released

The Coonamble Shire Holiday Program will be hosted over 4 weeks during the January school holidays.

The program will run from Monday 7 January until Friday 1 February 2019 at the Coonamble Shire Library: 10:30am - 12:30pm, 2:00pm - 4:00pm and the Gulargambone Youth Centre: 10:00am - 3:00pm.

Activities include skateboard art at the Coonamble Local Aboriginal Land Council, treasure hunt, movie days mask making, tie dye - calico bags at the Library and a highlight will be a visit from the Walkabout Barber.

There will be two excursions on Friday 11 January to watch a movie at the Dubbo Cinema and the other

will be on Friday 1 February to the Water Park in Lightning Ridge.

Permission forms can be picked up from the Coonamble Shire Library and the Gulargambone Youth Centre.

And don't forget the inflatable obstacles at the Coonamble and Gulargambone Swimming Pools from Wednesday 23 January until Tuesday 29 January. (Please note Gulargambone Pool is not open Mondays).

Regular updates on planned activities and additional information will be posted on Council's website www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au and on the Coonamble Shire Library Facebook page.

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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