



COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

February 2019

From the Mayor's Desk



The first Council meeting for 2019 was held last Wednesday 13th - my colleagues and I are pleased to be back into our role following the Christmas / New Year break. Firstly, I wish our residents all the best for the year – hopefully we'll get some much needed rain and move into more comfortable climatic conditions shortly.

Speaking of which, I would like to inform residents that our area recently received much needed hay for stock in the Gulargambone, Quambone/Carinda and Coonamble areas all the way from Esperance in Western Australia. Council has written "thank you" letters on behalf of recipients. What a task to bring to fruition this delivery over such a huge distance, not to mention the time it took for those volunteers. Council commends and acknowledges everyone involved in this huge goodwill gesture.

At an extraordinary meeting of Council held on 10 January, Mr Glenn Inglis was appointed Acting General Manager while the recruitment process for a permanent appointee is undertaken. Council has engaged Local Government NSW to carry out the recruitment task and expect to make a permanent appointment in late April – early May.

Although I had some time overseas visiting family, I have also been busy attending functions and representing Council at events since the last meeting. During December I had the pleasure of attending the Presentation of Awards functions at a couple of the local schools, unfortunately I was unable to attend them all due to prior obligations.

I must also congratulate the organizing committee on the success of the Christmas Carnivale which was held on 19 December – crowd numbers were up on previous years, which was wonderful to see. The weather, however, was not on side - a big dust storm rolled in, followed by rain which provided the kids with delightful puddles to jump in! The biggest downer was the widespread power outage which lasted until early hours of the next morning. That was very disappointing – local businesses always put in extra effort to make the Carnivale night a good one but, with the outage, owners were left with no choice but to close up early. The crowd stayed on and enjoyed the organized entertainment and kids' activities.

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

Ahmad Karanouh - Mayor

\$581,696 for community projects

Residents of the Coonamble Shire Council area will soon see funds flow for drought support, with over \$580,000 worth of projects now approved under the Coalition's Drought Communities Programme (DCP).

Member for Parkes Mark Coulton said he is delighted that Council has had three of their proposed local projects approved.

"I am so pleased to give the go-ahead for Coonamble Shire Council to deliver projects that will greatly benefit the community, especially in the current challenging dry times," Mr Coulton said.

"Council will use this funding to rejuvenate community infrastructure and hold community events in Coonamble, Gulargambone,

Quambone and Combara.

The approved projects to date include:

- Coonamble Clay Target Club \$150,000
- Coonamble Greyhound Club \$49,300
- Coonamble Jockey Club \$48,991
- Quambone Resources Committee \$132,416
- Coonamble Children's Service \$50,000
- Gulargambone Community Enterprises & Gulargambone Rural Transaction Centre \$30,979
- Combara Hall \$39,810
- Coonamble Hack and Pony Club \$25,200
- Horse Sculpture \$25,000 and
- Community events \$30,000.

The outcome of other applications submitted is expected shortly.

Seniors Festival a success

A splash of red and a dash of good cheer was to be found at the Coonamble Seniors Festival 2019 held last Thursday at the Coonamble Bowling Club.

The "A Splash of Red" luncheon attracted over 150 guests who celebrated the contribution seniors make to our community every day.

Being Valentine's Day, Council decorated the venue with red roses (created by the Coonamble Women's Shed) and ensured there were chocolates for everyone.

Guests sang and danced the day away with some great entertainment by Royden Donohue and enjoyed the scrumptious cake made by CJ's Country Kitchen.

The Best Dressed Man prize went to Mr Bill Leonard from Koonambil and Mrs Lola King from Gulargambone took out the prize for Best Dressed Lady.

This year's theme was "Love Your Life"



Pictured above - Mayor Karanouh and Coonamble Women's Shed representative Mrs Mary Eason

and Council hopes that they have done justice to it.

The event was funded through a \$1,000 grant from the Department of Family and Community Services and a financial contribution from Council.

Meeting mentions

Skate Bowl Project

West Coonamble will now have a skate bowl constructed in Macdonald Park .

Cr Walker presented a petition to the meeting, signed by over 40 people requesting that the skate bowl be located on the western side of town.

After considerable debate Council resolved to construct the facility in Macdonald Park adjacent to the Bowling Club car park – this area is easily accessible, well lit and has CCTV cameras already covering the location.

\$20m cost estimate for Tooraweenah Road

Council was presented with a comprehensive report from Ken Wilson & Associates at the February meeting on the approximate cost to provide a sealed road carriageway for the full length of the Tooraweenah Road, a distance of 31.4kms.

The report indicated that a major apportionment of the sealed length is in need of rehabilitation or heavy patching however, some sections are in a serviceable condition and would be retained.

The proposal ultimately is to provide a pavement of 9.9m wide with a 7.5m seal, provision of guideposts and centre-line and edge markings.

Mayor Karanouh said “The consultant estimates that to carry out the work expenditure to the tune of \$20,000,000 would be required – and, of course, Council doesn’t have that amount!

However, as this is an important link road, we decided to request advice from both Federal and State Local Members on grant funding strategies to complete the upgrade.

Riverside Caravan Park Upgrade

The upgrade of the park continues with the perimeter fencing now complete – and how good does it look!!

Other works in hand currently are the construction of the residence / office and 2 x 2 bedroom cabins with an anticipated delivery June 2019.

Entrance landscaping and signage concepts currently being developed.

When these works are completed our Riverside Caravan Park will be an attractive ‘stop over’ and an enhancement to the approach of town.

2018-19 Delivery Program Bi-annual Review

Council’s bi-annual review of the Delivery Program 2018-19 for the period 1 July 2018 to 31 December was presented to Council at the February meeting.

“It is very pleasing to see Council’s achievements over the reporting period”, said Mayor Karanouh.

Highlights include:

- Secured \$1.6m under the NSW Government Regional Growth Fund – Stronger Country Communities
- \$180,000 grant – expansion of Coonamble waste depot
- \$1.38m – levee bank upgrade
- \$43,000 support / donations to community groups / organisations
- Expansion of lawn cemetery
- Construction of new stables at the showground.

Local Government Grants Commission

Members of the NSW Local Government Grants Commission will visit Coonamble on Wednesday 27 February.

The purpose of the meeting is to explain the Commission’s operations and discuss the basis for its calculations of the Financial Assistance Grants. Other issues will also be discussed and may include topics such as rate pegging, capital needs, efficiency, assessment of revenue raising capacity, etc.

The meeting will commence at 1.30pm In the Council Chambers and is open to members of the public who may wish to attend.

New Australian citizens



Council adjourned it’s monthly meeting last week to host a Naturalisation Ceremony.

Mayor Karanouh said, “I had the pleasure of acting as Presiding Officer when two of our locals received their Certificates of Australian Citizenship – big congratulations to Ram and Kedar on becoming fully-fledged “Aussies”.

Ram and Kedar and their families have been part of our community for some time now and it’s wonderful they decided to take the final step in becoming true blue Aussies!

Restricted use of water

Council is requesting residents’ cooperation 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 8:00pm and 8:00am.

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

DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT?

We would love to help promote it!

Contact the Coonamble Visitor Information Centre at tourism@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au & we will share it on our website & 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.

Glenn Inglis
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

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