



COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

March 2019

From the Mayor's Desk



Council held its second meeting of the year at the Gulargambone War Memorial Hall on Wednesday 13 March in accordance with its policy to have a meeting at Quambone and Gulargambone each year. In so doing, it provides residents across the Shire the opportunity to meet with Council without the need to travel to Coonamble. As usual the Hall Committee ladies provided a delicious morning tea for Council – thank you ladies.

Just as the meeting started a group of students from the Gulargambone Central School arrived – this is great to see, young leaders of the future, no doubt! Four students Chloe, Preston, Cooper and Jayden addressed the meeting in relation to the feasibility of a native garden in Gulargambone, recycling issues and the recently installed splash pad at the local pool. My thanks to them for their attendance and input – Council promised to look into the issues raised.

During public question time, the Gulargambone Preschool, represented by Director, Ms Amii Marchant and Project Manager, Mr Ash Walker, made a presentation to Council on the new \$1,145,000 Centre and asked Council to consider providing financial support for components of the works. Council inspected the site of the new building and informed the representatives that a detailed report would be prepared for the April meeting for consideration and a determination of what assistance may be forthcoming.

During the month since our February meeting I have had the pleasure of representing Council at several functions – the Seniors Festival Annual Luncheon was a huge success – over 150 guests enjoyed the entertainment and meal. The Welcome to Coonamble Dinner was also a huge success – it's interesting to note this event is in its 33rd year.

I attended the meeting of the Country Mayors' Association in Sydney on 8 March. This is a great networking tool and covers a diverse range of issues – recycling is a hot topic at the moment, particularly with the metropolitan councils and I feel it will be advanced further with the State Government in the near future. A good news story to come out of the meeting is that the Assistant Commissioner of Police mentioned Coonamble in his address – saying they were working on having Coonamble classified "special remote". It's been a long road – Council has been trying to get this classification for many years.

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

Ahmad Karanouh - Mayor

"School Bus" to remain in the community

The community of Coonamble will be pleased to learn that the wire sculpture the 'School Bus' will remain in the Shire.

Council has been fortunate enough to purchase this spectacular piece from talented local artist Brian Campbell.

This acquisition was made possible through funding under the NSW Government Drought Communities Programme - Extended and Council is currently working with Outback Arts to house the sculpture until the new visitor information centre is constructed in Coonamble.

This project was part of the successful grant application; 'Coonamble Shire Council's tourism initiative and improvements to established community assets'.



Pictured above - Brian Campbell's incredible wire sculpture the 'School Bus'

Other initiatives funded under this program include the construction of a new storage shed and kitchen at the Coonamble Hack and Pony Club facility, improvements to the Combara Hall, establishment of a new shooting range for the Coonamble Clay Target Club. Other project announcements are expected shortly.

Funding flows to Shire

Over the past month Council has been successful in securing the following funding to improve the livability of the shire.

- The Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, the Hon Melinda Pavey MP has announced that Council's application under the Fixing Country Roads program has been successful. Works include: \$468,384 for the Baradine Road rehabilitation project and \$302,736 for the rehabilitation of Pilliga Road.
- Kevin Humphries MP Member for Barwon recently announced Council's successful grant application for \$300,000 to asphalt urban shoulders in Castlereagh, Aberford and Namoi Streets under the Drought Relief Heavy Vehicle Access Program. These works are currently in progress.
- \$360,000 has been secured under the Saving Lives on Country Roads Program to upgrade streets in Gulargambone.

Works are scheduled for mid-March 2019.

- The Hon Niall Blair MLC, Minister for Primary Industries, for Regional Water, and for Trade and Industry announced that \$240,000 has been secured under the Restart NSW - Safe & Secure Water Program to undertake the Coonamble Sewerage Treatment Plant - Scoping Study Project. \$141,000 has been approved for a scoping study into Coonamble's water security and to identify strategies to improve the water security for Coonamble and Gulargambone hospitals.
- Transport for NSW has approved funding of \$62,000 for youth transport and youth resource initiatives across the Shire.

Council will be working to deliver these initiatives and the \$1m Drought Communities Programme projects over the next six to eight months.

Meeting mentions

\$5,000 for Wacky Windows

Council has supported the Gulargambone Community Enterprises Co-operative Limited with a \$5,000 contribution to cover project management and promotional and marketing expenses for the Gulargambone Wacky Windows project.

Council supports Let's Dance Carinda

Mrs Judith Regan addressed Council on behalf of the Let's Dance Carinda Tribute Committee regarding financial assistance towards the October long weekend event.

At the meeting Council resolved to provide \$5,000 from its donations vote to assist this hard working Committee to grow their event this year.

Grants to be investigated for Club

A request for assistance with insurance renewals – amounts of \$2,289.80 for Professional Indemnity and \$1,036.30 for Material Damage was made from Coonamble Aquatic Club.

The club pointed out that current climatic conditions have prevented any income being generated from memberships and currently the Club is not in a healthy financial position.

Council will investigate grant opportunities that might be able to provide help.

Golf Club seek \$18,000 for pump

The Coonamble Golf Club Ltd submitted a request to Council to assist with the purchase of a diesel pump (\$18,644.67).

The Club pointed out that the installation of the pump would reduce the cost of pumping water to the course by one-third. Again, this was something that Council resolved to investigate and if the proposal is cost-effective Council will look at what funding sources can be recommended for an application to be lodged.

Funding sought for Rodeo and Campdraft

Council received correspondence from Coonamble Rodeo Association saying that marketing and advertising for this year's event will be in the vicinity of \$12,000 and asking Council to contribute upwards of \$6,000 towards the cost.

Mr Steve Butler was at the meeting to speak to this matter – he pointed out that the marketing would promote the area as a whole and include businesses and other events, as well as the annual Rodeo and Campdraft. It was mentioned that marketing for this year should already be well underway – however Council resolved to ask for a copy of the financial statements of the Committee prior to making any determination.

Community information

Have you heard about

The 'My Community Project' fund gives individuals in NSW the chance to put forward their project ideas and vote for their favourite ones in their electorate.

Projects with the most votes will receive funding to deliver the project in their community.

Projects must align with one or more of the these categories; **Accessible Communities, Cultural Communities, Liveable Communities, Revitalizing Communities, or Safe Communities.**

Each project requires a Sponsor who will receive the funding and be responsible for delivering the project. Applications open 2 April 2019. Further information can be found online at; nsw.gov.au/mycommunityproject

ON-FARM EMERGENCY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE REBATE SCHEME

The Australian and NSW Government are working together to deliver \$12 million in Federal rebates to drought affected livestock farmers for the purchase and upgrade of on-farm water infrastructure. Primary producers in the grazing industry can claim a rebate of 25% for new water infrastructure.

Find out if you are eligible for this rebate; www.raa.nsw.gov.au/grants/emergency-water-infrastructure-rebate-scheme



NSW STATE ELECTION

SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2019

elections.nsw.gov.au



The NSW State Election is just around the corner, now is the time to prepare for how you will vote. If you are eligible, early voting can be cast online, over the phone (1300 135 736) or at the early voting centre in Dubbo, Election Manager's Office, 70 Talbragar Street.

You can cast your vote on Election Day at the Coonamble High School from 8.00am - 6.00pm, and why not grab a bacon and egg roll for breakfast between 8.00am - 11.00am.

Integrated Planning & Reporting process

It is that time of year again when Council has to set dates for the orderly process of its draft budget and operational plan, which includes the budget for the 2019/2020 year.

At the March Meeting, Council decided to hold a Councillor Workshop to develop the draft budget and

operational plan. The draft documents will then be presented at the May meeting.

The public will be kept informed of the process via the newsletter, Facebook, Council's website and through the local press.

Date	Function
TBC	Council workshop to discuss Draft Budget and Operational Plan
8 May 2019	Draft Budget & Operational Plan to be considered on 8 May and placed on public exhibition from 9 May 2019
14 May 19 at 7PM	Public meeting for Operational Plan presentation to the Community
5 June 2019	Submissions from the public close
12 June 2019	Budget & Operational Plan adopted (at the monthly Council Meeting)

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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