



COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

June 2019

From the Mayor's Desk



It's hard to believe we are half way through 2019.

At our ordinary meeting held last Wednesday 12 June Council welcomed new General Manager, Mr Hein Basson, who commenced duties on 3 June 2019. Councillors and staff are looking forward to working with Hein to bring to fruition planned projects for the next financial year.

During the meeting Council adopted its Operational Plan, which includes the budget, for 2019/2020. The draft documents have been on public exhibition and Council received two submissions, which of course, were considered in conjunction with formal adoption of the Plan. The General Manager will correspond directly with the two applicants advising the outcome of their submissions.

At Public Question time Council welcomed the Secretary of the Coonamble Rodeo Association, Mr Steven Butler to address the meeting. Mr Butler thanked Council for its support both financial and in-kind and said the event is getting bigger and better every year, with 2020 being the 65th anniversary of the rodeo's inception. Steve made mention of the wonderful condition of the grounds and facility in general – personally thanking our Director of Corporate & Urban Services and his staff for their efforts. The Engineering Department assisted with movement of stock along the highway and the Community Services Division had all guns blazing from the tourism perspective.

In company with the General Manager I attended the rodeo and received numerous compliments to bring back – people from all over Australia were very positive in their comments and praise for such an outstanding facility. Well done Council staff!

Mr Butler informed the meeting that Vision TV is still filming the documentary, which will be aired mid-July on Channel 7. The documentary covers the district as a whole and focuses on the rodeo as one of the major annual events.

Councillors commented that the Committee and the sponsors of the rodeo have done a tremendous job and on behalf of Council and the community wish to formally thank each and every one for supporting the event. This year the rodeo stock was sourced from as far away as Victoria, Wagga and Tamworth. I'm told that some of the bulls were too good for most of the cowboys, but that's rodeo!

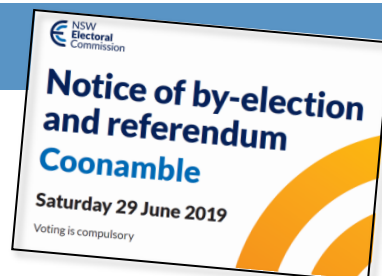
Should anyone wish to contact me to discuss issues or concerns, please phone **0427 887 666**.

Ahmad Karanouh - Mayor

Make your vote count

Don't forget it is compulsory to vote at the Coonamble By-Election being held on Saturday 29 June 2019. Four candidates have nominated and two new Councillors will be elected.

In conjunction with the by-election, a Constitutional Referendum will be conducted. The question will be ... *Do you favour increasing Councillor numbers on Coonamble Shire Council to nine (9)?*



The "Yes" Case is supported by the following:

- * Increase in effective representation - more councillors representing residents of the Shire.
- * May result in rural areas and smaller population centres being more represented.
- * Workload of individual councillors would decrease as the total workload would be shared among a larger number.
- * Increases the number of councillor representatives that can represent on committees and working groups.
- * Increases the probability of maintaining quorums at Council meetings.
- * Less councillors can mean less ideas and debate leading to the possibility of uniformed decision making.

The "No" Case is supported by the following:

- * Increase in costs associated with fees and allowances.
- * Quality of representation is the important issue, not the number of councillors.
- * More councillors can make the group dynamics of final decision making more difficult.
- * Shire population currently 3918 with 7 councillors, equating to 1 councillor per 559 people – additional 2 councillors will decrease the ratio to 1 councillor per 435 people. May be considered excessive representation.
- * A smaller council comes into line with modern business practices whereby the council operates more like a board of management.
- * A smaller number of councillors should ensure an election is held every term. This ensures the democratic process is exercised by the community.

Further information is available at Council's website:

www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au or from the NSW Electoral Commission at www.elections.nsw.gov.au

Drought projects become a reality

With the 30 June completion deadline fast approaching, Council staff, community groups and contractors are working in overdrive to complete projects funded under the Government's Drought Communities Programme - Extended.

The Greyhound Club has undertaken an upgrade of their facility, Combara and Quambone Halls have had a facelift, the Clay Target Club's new facility is taking shape, the Hack and Pony Club has a shiny new storage facility, Coonamble F.I.T centre now has a new floor and bathroom while Coonamble Show Society tested out their new and refurbished display stands and the recent show.

Gulgargambone's Rural Transaction Centre has made updates to their premises and

the Co - Operative has been busy dressing up the main street with their 'Wacky Windows' initiative. Other projects are well on target for completion by the deadline.



Quambone Hall refurbishment

Meeting mentions

Councillor Fees for 2019/2020

Each year the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal sets fees for councillors with an additional allowance for mayor. Coonamble Shire Council remains within the Rural Category for this determination. This year the Tribunal awarded an annual fee increase of 2.5%, which will take effect from 1 July 2019. The Tribunal provides a minimum and maximum limit for each category and Council can resolve to set their fee for the following year.

Council currently pays councillors a fee of \$10,414, with an additional \$19,762 for mayor. It was resolved that Council increase its fees by 2.5% equating to \$10,674 for councillors and an additional \$20,256 the mayor.

Proposal to Name Street

Council received a request from a Gulargambone resident to consider naming the road that runs east / west on the western side of Munnell Street.

This request came about due to concerns residents in the vicinity have experienced with emergency services not being able to identify the location of residences in urgent situations.

Council staff advised that the street was referred to as Fergusons Lane on some old documents. It was decided to advertise the proposal that the street be formally named Fergusons Lane.

Financial Assistance

Council again was generous with sponsorships and financial assistance this month. A request was received

from the Girls' Academy to assist an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student attend the four day Year 12 Summit in Sydney during NAIDOC Week 2019. The cost per student is in the vicinity of \$2,500 and Council resolved to provide a \$1,500 contribution to help one of our local girls attend.

Another request for assistance was received on behalf of a local boy, Ned Hoath who has been selected to the NSW State Combined High Schools U17 Water Polo Team touring Canada and the USA next month. Ned goes to school in Tamworth, but started his swimming career in Coonamble. He is the sole country player to be selected and this has resulted in media interest. To help Ned achieve this goal, Council was pleased to contribute \$1,000 to help with expenses which are in the vicinity of \$7,000.

Service Recognition

On meeting day Council recognised eight long serving staff members who have each served in excess of 25 years in our workforce. Some joined Councillors and senior staff for lunch at the Bowling Club where they were thanked and commended on their service, not only to Council, but more importantly, the community.

Policies adopted

The draft Code of Conduct and draft Code of Meeting Practice were formally adopted by Council at the meeting following a 28 day public exhibition period. No submissions and/or comments were received.

Celebrating our volunteers



The National Volunteers Week Celebratory Morning Tea, hosted by Council and held at the Coonamble Bowling Club was well attended on 23 May.

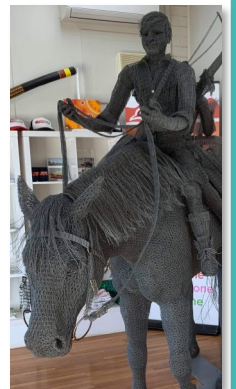
Council's Librarian, Raquel Pickering, was the official MC with guests happy to share their volunteering stories with everyone. Coonamble Museum Curator, Angie Little recited the poem "I said yes", along with three cheers to all volunteers within the community.

Mayor Karanouh acknowledged the significant contribution volunteers have made to the local community and thanked them for "making the world of difference."

'School Bus' on show

The dust has settled and the School Bus is back - now located in the Visitor Information Centre at 84 Castlereagh Street.

If you haven't already seen this amazing piece of work by our local, very talented Brian Campbell, we invite you to pop in and have a look. Council arranged to have it on display at the local show and received great feedback.



Local Waste2Art exhibition



The recent NetWaste SIMS Metal Annual Waste2Art competition hosted by Outback Arts and Council was a huge success with over thirty entries from both amateur and professional artists.

This year's theme was baling twine and strapping, along with 16 other categories. The fourteen winners will go on to the regional competition in Oberon next month.

Pictured left - Mayor Karanouh and a scarecrow

ANIMAL WELFARE

SELLING OR GIVING AWAY A CAT OR DOG IN NSW?

FROM 1 JULY 2019, NEW RULES WILL APPLY

You will need to include a microchip or breeder or rehoming organisation number in your ads

For more information visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/companion-animals



FOR INFORMATION

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

Hein Basson
GENERAL MANAGER

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