



COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

September 2019

From the Mayor's Desk



On Wednesday 11 September Council held two meetings – firstly the Extraordinary Meeting to elect the Deputy Mayor, fix dates for future meetings, implement a General Manager's Performance Review Panel and elect members to represent Council on various Committees for the next twelve months.

Two nominations were received for the position of Deputy Mayor, Cr. Karen Churchill and Cr Paul Wheelhouse. A ballot was held, resulting in Cr Wheelhouse being elected for the twelve months term to September 2020.

Congratulations Paul – I look forward to working closely with you for the remainder of this Council term.

Council did not change its meeting date, preferring to retain the status quo holding Ordinary Meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, excluding January, commencing at 10.00 a.m. It was also agreed that the March Meeting be held in Gulargambone and the October Meeting at Quambone as has been the practice for many years.

The Ordinary Meeting followed with a full agenda for the day. I know the proposed bore baths is a popular project with most of our residents and am happy to say that Crown Lands Office has indicated it has completed its investigation into the land acquisition and will contact Council with the results shortly. This has been a long and complicated process, Council having lodged the application to acquire the land back in January this year. The design concept for the project is, of course, pending a decision on the land. I will keep our residents posted on progress with this important project.

The Coonamble Streets Ahead Committee approached Council to co-ordinate this year's Christmas Carnivale and this request was approved. The Carnivale is a highlight on the community calendar and Council staff will work hard to ensure it continues to be a popular event.

Should anyone wish to contact me to discuss issues or concerns, please phone **0427 887 666**. I look forward to representing all our residents and encourage your phone calls.

Ahmad Karanauh
Mayor

Feeling creative Coonamble?

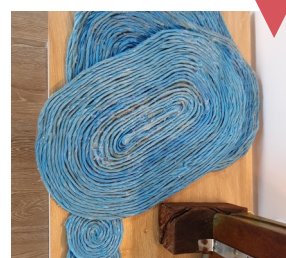
Council recently received some very exciting news that Coonamble will host the 2020 NetWaste and SIMS Metal Regional Waste2Art Competition! The theme for 2020 is *Aluminium and Steel Cans*, so it's time to start thinking about how you can impress the judges with your left over baked beans cans!

The regional exhibition will run from 29 June to 31 July 2020 and will be officially opened on Saturday 27 June 2020. The Outback Arts Creative Centre will host the exhibition and it is anticipated that 150 - 170 pieces of creative artworks will be on display.

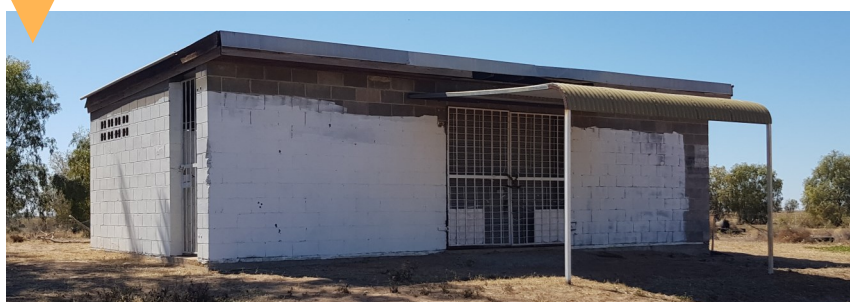
The competition is open to everyone and there will be workshops for schools which will be conducted during the exhibition, focussing on the importance of reusing materials that most would consider waste.

Last year, some of the Shire's local talent came home with Highly Commended awards; Anita Albert, Susan Walker and Karen Flakelar. Darren Shields and Karen walked away with the Winners Prize for their entries.

Pictured - Some exceptional artwork entered by talented local artists in the 2019 Waste2Art Exhibition



Upgraded amenities for Warrena Weir



At the August meeting, Council resolved to submit an application under the Stronger Country Communities Fund - Round 3 to construct new public amenities at the Warrena Weir.

However, at the September meeting, it was decided that no application would be made for this project to give other community groups within the Shire the opportunity to apply for and possibly secure the \$770,071 worth of funding available under this grant program

which closes on Friday 27 September 2019 at 5pm.

Council are now committed to completing a refurbishment of the Warrena Weir amenities block using \$70,000 from Council's Development Fund and the \$32,600 funding under Round 2 of the Stronger Country Communities Fund.

A report of the proposed scope of works will be presented to Council in October.

Meeting mentions

Gulargambone Preschool Inc

The Gulargambone Preschool Committee is still working hard to bring its new facility to fruition after receiving grant funding of \$1.145 million from the State Government.

To achieve its goal, the Committee has requested additional financial assistance from Council.

At the September meeting, Council considered a list of works provided by the Committee totaling \$196,000 to finalise the project.

Council is aware that the DA fees totalled \$9,500, and decided to reimburse the Committee a further \$4,500 after having previously given \$5,000 to offset those fees. Council also agreed to assistance with fully the connection fees of water and sewer to the facility.

The Committee hopes to lodge an application under the Stronger Country Communities Fund – Round 3. If this application is unsuccessful, then Council potentially will reconsider the amount of its contribution.

Coonamble Sportsground Lighting Upgrade

Council received a report on a potential lighting project for the Coonamble Sportsground. A decision was made to concentrate on the No 1 Oval initially to facilitate night football games in Coonamble.

It was agreed to develop a project brief, including a scope of works and costing estimates, for the upgrade of lighting at the No 1 Oval at Coonamble Sportsground and when grant funding opportunities are identified, submit an application for funds to carry out the

construction costs of the project.

2018-2019 Operational Plan Review

Council was advised of the progress of its principal activities as at 30 June 2019 against the actions within the Operational Plan and towards meeting the outcomes in the four year Delivery Program.

Within the report and accompanying document were details of the significant grant funding received by Council under the various programs during the reporting period.

Council has been able to achieve many great outcomes for the community. During the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, Council was successful with applications for a range of projects including:

Stronger Country Communities Fund - \$1.6m

Coonamble Netball Complex Construction, funding secured for Coonamble's new VIC, establishment of new Clay Target facility, installation of a splashpad at Gulargambone Swimming Complex, and funding secured for construction of skate bowl in Coonamble.

Drought Communities Programme - \$1m

Enhancement and expansion of Coonamble Cemetery, upgrade of the Gulargambone Youth Centre, purchase of Brian Campbell's "School Bus" sculpture, refurbishment of Combara, Quambone and Gulargambone Halls, installation of new running rail at Coonamble Racecourse, and the Gulargambone Wacky Window public art project.

Public Holiday in 2020/21

Do you want a public holiday for the second day of the Coonamble Show in 2020 and 2021? Whether your answer is Yes or No, please advise Council in writing. Before Council can make an application for a public holiday for the Show, it must have sufficient written evidence from a majority of residents within the area that they favour a public holiday on the second day of the Coonamble Show.

The dates in question are; **Wednesday 27 May 2020** and **Wednesday 19 May 2021**.

Please let Council know what **YOU** think. If sufficient positive response is not received, no application will be made.

Long Weekend Shutdown

Council services will close for the October Long Weekend on **Friday 4 October at 5pm** and reopen on **Tuesday 8 October**. This includes Council's Administration Centre, Library Service, Visitor Information Centre, RMS Agency, Quarry, Depot / Workshop. The Library will be open on Saturday 5 October from 10am - 1pm.

Staff will be on call to attend to emergencies;
Water and Sewerage - 0428 217 420
Ranger - 0427 255 881
Other - 0458 271 881

Council will also publish a What's On flyer advertising events over the weekend, as well as business opening hours.

Drought Buster Dollars

The Drought Buster Alliance wishes to remind the community that Round Two of the Drought Buster Dollars is open. The Dollars are given in the form of 'monopoly money' that can only be spent in businesses in the Coonamble Shire area. Businesses are then reimbursed from the fund managed for the Alliance by Council. If your income has been seriously affected by the current drought you may be eligible for up to \$300 of Drought Buster Dollars. If you received dollars in Round One, you are eligible to re-apply under Round Two.

What is different in Round Two?

You can choose to receive the \$300 worth of Dollars directly or have it paid on your behalf towards an outstanding account with a business within the Shire.

Want to find out more?

Further information and Nomination Forms can be found on Council's website;
www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au/Community/drought-and-well-being-support

Who's ready for the holidays?

The Spring school holidays are fast approaching and Council, in conjunction with other organisations has put together another fun-filled fortnight of activities for all ages. The program will be offered in Coonamble and Gulargambone.

The PCYC Fun for Kids Tour will visit Coonamble on Friday 4 October 2019 for an afternoon of sport activities in McDonald Park followed by a barbeque in the park and the PCYC Disco at the

Coonamble Bowling Club.

Don't miss out on the other exciting activities such as Pot Decorating and Pot Planting at the Women's Shed, Pizza Making and Cupcake Decorating with REDIE and Halloween Craft at the Coonamble Shire Library!

The Holiday Program will be published on Council's website and Facebook page and is available from Council's Administration Office and Coonamble Shire Library and Visitor Information Centre.

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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