



COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

October 2019

From the Mayor's Desk



Council was pleased to visit Quambone last Wednesday 9 October, when it held its monthly meeting in the newly refurbished Memorial Hall. The hall is the hub of the community and is the venue for most events held in Quambone.

It is great that Council staff were able to assist the hard-working volunteers with applications for funding under the Drought Communities Programme - Extended for these improvements. The community was also allocated funding under the same programme for the upgrading of the transformer at the Quambone Racecourse / Sportsground.

During the luncheon adjournment Mrs Margaret Garnsey, on behalf of the Quambone Resources Committee, informally chatted with Councillors and conveyed thanks from the community for Council's ongoing support. She said the community is delighted with the various projects that have been undertaken in the village and I sensed an air of pride from the ladies who catered for the meeting in the recently renovated space.

Mr Adrian Lyons addressed the meeting on behalf of the NSW Farmers' Association on the Inland Rail project and issues relating to connectivity to key locations, which is a complex matter and involves numerous stakeholders. This project has been in the 'pipeline' for many years and there is still a huge amount of research that must be carried out prior to final decisions being made.

The General Local Government Elections will be held in September 2020, at the expiry of the current four year term. Council had to make a decision to either appoint the Electoral Commission of NSW to conduct the elections or assign the task to its General Manager. Council has previously contracted the Electoral Commission which has provided efficient and effective service and we resolved that way again. The General Manager advised that the cost estimate from the NSW Electoral Commission is \$41,548 (Inc. GST). It is pleasing to hear from the Minister for Local Government that the Government will fund core costs, such as staffing payroll, training IT system development and maintenance of the electoral rolls for these elections - taking some of the financial burden away from Councils.

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 Karanough
Mayor

Tour de OROC arrives in town



Coonamble welcomed the riders of Toyota's Tour de OROC on Monday 7 October as the cycling team rode over the bridge finishing their first day of the biennial event.

Community members gathered in front of the pool, flags in hand, cheering on the riders, who began their journey from Dubbo at 7:30am that morning.

The 16 enthusiastic riders will cycle 1100kms over 6 days to raise funds



for the Macquarie Home Stay Dubbo, which provides short-term accommodation for regional patients and family members who have travelled to Dubbo Hospital.

If you wish to donate please visit www.givenow.com.au/tourdeoroc
Congratulations Tour de OROC!

Masterplan one step closer

Council has recently undertaken an extensive expression of interest (EOI) process to progress the Coonamble Shire Masterplan. During the EOI period Council received nine (9) submissions, with four consultants invited to present to the October meeting.

"All presentations were of a high standard and Councillors were impressed with the quality of EOIs attracted," said Council's General Manager Hein Basson.

Following the presentations Council appointed Sala4D to develop the masterplan which will involve extensive community consultation to ensure the community has a voice in the future economic development and prosperity of their local government area.

Councillors and senior staff are looking forward to working with Shah Alford, Celia Baxter and Holly Manning over the coming months.

Two projects funded under the Stronger Country Communities Fund in late 2018, (new visitor information centre and Coonamble CBD public toilet facility) are priority projects within the masterplan scope.



Meeting mentions

Public Holiday for Coonamble Show

After consulting with the community, Council had to make a decision regarding whether to submit an application for a gazetted public holiday on the second day of the Coonamble Show for 2020 and 2021.

Council resolved to apply for the full day public holiday for the Shire of Coonamble on the second day of the show in 2020 and 2021, being Wednesday 27 May 2020 and Wednesday 19 May 2021.

Proposed Skate Bowl in Macdonald Park

Council successfully secured funding to construct a skate bowl in Macdonald Park under the Stronger Country Communities Fund Round Two.

Council has now awarded a contract to Oasis Skate Park Designs to undertake the design and construction of this project. This work will be carried out in conjunction with the masterplan being developed for the Coonamble swimming pool and Macdonald Park precinct.

Warrena Weir Amenities Block

The weir amenities will receive a much needed facelift with Council endorsing the proposed scope of works for Warrena Weir amenities upgrade.

After meeting with the Coonamble Aquatic Club and becoming aware of its requirements, Council agreed that both

the toilets forming part of this upgrade be classified 'unisex' to provide an accessible toilet and a shower that can be used by all, with a baby change facility to be located in the accessible toilet area.

The work will be carried out with funds of \$32,600 sourced from Round Two of the Stronger Country Communities Fund, as well as utilizing the \$70,000 allocated from Council's Development Fund. Council will now seek quotations from local contractors to undertake the works for the summer season.

Section 355 Committees of Council

At the October meeting, Council adopted a manual developed by the General Manager to provide guidance and support to its Community Committees.

Most committee members are volunteers giving their time and effort on a constant basis and Council is indeed appreciative of this strong sense of community service.

The new manual is extensive, but will provide guidance and support in all sorts of situations that could be experienced by a Committee of Council.

When familiar with its contents, it will be huge benefit to community committees.

The Quambone Resources Committee has been re-instated as a Section 355 Committee of Council.

Australia Day nominations

Celebrate the quiet achievers and unsung heroes of the community by nominating them for the 2020 Coonamble Shire Australia Day Awards.



Nominations are now open and Council is encouraging the community to recognise and celebrate people and community organisations that contribute to making Coonamble Shire a great place to live, work and visit.

Award categories are; Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Sportsman of the Year, Junior Sportsman of the Year and Event of the Year.

The Awards recipients will be announced at the Australia Day celebration to be held on Sunday 26 January 2020 at the Coonamble Showground pavilion. Nomination forms are available from Council, the Shire libraries or from Council's website; www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au.

Nominations close 4pm on Monday 6 January 2020.

Infrastructure grant on offer

The NSW Government offers grants to communities to support the building, renovation and fit-out of infrastructure. Funding is available for arts, cultural, sport and recreation projects that assist communities with essential infrastructure and disaster readiness.

The November 2019 Round opens on 18 November and closes 5pm on 9 December 2019.

Grant categories are as follows; Arts and Culture (for projects \$50,000 to \$200,000), Disaster Readiness and Community Infrastructure (for projects \$10,000 to \$200,000) or Sport and Recreation (for projects \$100,000 to \$300,000). Proposed projects must meet the funding guidelines.

For further information visit; www.responsiblegambling.nsw.gov.au/infrastructure-grants/infrastructure-grants

Council delivers another fun filled holiday program

The Spring Holiday Program was a hit for kids of all ages, with an array of craft and sport activities. The youth of Coonamble and Gulargambone were spoilt for choice with what to attend during the fortnight.

The first week of the holidays saw 80 kids get creative with making their own slime at the Library. Pot Painting and Planting, held at the Women's Shed was popular with 52 kids attending and taking home their very own decorated pots. Tie Dye at the Library, was back by popular demand with 57 kids designing their own shirts and bags. 5 kids learnt the art of Scrapbooking, offered by Mission Australia and held at Outback Arts Gallery.

It felt like Summer was truly upon us on Friday



4 October when PCYC visited Coonamble and set up their games at Macdonald Park. 70 children enjoyed the afternoon in the Park, a sausage sizzle cooked by the Rotary Club and then the air-conditioning during the Dance Party Disco held at the Coonamble Bowling Club.

A special guest make up artist visited the Library and transformed 33 kids into zombies and sugar skulls!

The remainder of the week kept the kids active with Ball Games held by Clontarf, Mask Making, Pizza Making and Cupcake Decorating hosted by REDI.E and held at their Centre. The holiday program finished off with Halloween Craft and design your own Pet Rocks in the Shire Library!

Council would like to thank all the organisations who collaborated with Council to deliver a fantastic program; Coonamble Women's Shed, Outback Arts, Mission Australia, Rotary Club, Coonamble Bowling Club, Clontarf, REDI.E and PCYC.

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

Coonamble Shire Council:

T: 02 68271900

A: 80 Castlereagh Street, Coonamble

E: council@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au

W: www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au

Emergency Contacts:

Water and Sewerage T: 0428 217 420

Ranger T: 0427 255 881

Other T: 0458 271 881

