



COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

March 2020

From the Mayor's Desk



Last Wednesday, 11 March 2020, Council held its ordinary meeting at Gulargambone and I would like to thank the Memorial Hall Committee for providing morning tea for us, and as always it was delicious!

Before reporting on outcomes from the meeting I would like to congratulate all groups and individuals who were involved in organizing another very successful *Welcome to Coonamble Dinner* at the Golf Club on Saturday evening 29 February.

The new residents were keen to get to know the locals who gave them first-hand answers to their questions. This event has become a bit of a tradition here in Coonamble, with some of the new arrivals saying they have not experienced this sort of welcome anywhere else and were very impressed with Coonamble's special style of hospitality!

In promotion of the Country Racing Championships which were held on Sunday 15 March, I was involved in a film commercial. A representative from Racing NSW was in Coonamble with a film crew and I had the opportunity to promote our area. Congratulations to all concerned, it was a wonderful weekend.

The influx of visitors boosted not only our economy, but also our spirits with their very positive comments. The racing was great and I'll bet a lot of first-time visitors will return to Coonamble in October to experience our Gold Cup!

The supermarket and public amenities were on the agenda again this month. Council is now negotiating to buy a suitable option to erect the public amenities in Castlereagh Street. Hopefully we can get this sorted in the short term so that work can start. Unfortunately it appears, at this stage, that a supermarket in the main street will not go ahead, Council having been advised that the proponents are not proceeding due to personal reasons. I will keep our residents updated on progress of the public amenities.

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 Karanouh
Mayor

Centre design underway



Coonamble Visitor Information Centre concept design

The detailed design of the Coonamble Visitor Information Centre is currently being finalised.

The 215m2 building layout incorporates a retail and information area, two interpretive spaces and an outdoor terrace with potential for a sculptural garden.

The Visitor Information Centre will be built at the northern end of Smith Park, opposite the water tower, and will provide an opportunity for travellers to stop, enjoy the river setting and learn about what our local government area has to offer.

Over the next few months, the detailed design and construction documentation will be finalised so

that tenders can be called for construction.

Our community has recently recognised economic development and tourism as major priorities with untapped potential.

A key component of the Masterplan, the Visitor Information Centre will directly address that community concern by providing a contemporary and accessible building for visitors to source information and stories about our local areas.

As our tourism market grows and diversifies, the Visitor Information Centre will support additional economic, social and recreational opportunities.

Water restrictions lifted

The restrictions imposed limiting the use of fixed hoses and sprinklers between the hours of 7.00 pm and 7.00 am have now been lifted. The use of these devices is now unrestricted.

Since the recent rain there has been a significant drop in the use of water.

Council sincerely thanks residents for their co-operation during the period that the use of fixed hoses and sprinklers was restricted.



Meeting mentions

Representatives on Council's Roads Committee

A further three expressions of interest to participate on Council's Roads Committee were endorsed at the March meeting. Council now has five (5) local landowners who have put their hands up to be part of this extremely important Committee.

The five (5) appointed delegates are Allan Deans, Don Schieb, Paul Fisher, Paul Underwood and Alana McHugh.

Council would like to thank these people for agreeing to give their time to provide an advisory role to Council.

Their tenure will expire in September 2020 when the next general election of local government occurs.

Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement

Council noted progress with the development of its Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP and A Act), and was pleased to have received two (2) submissions.

Taking comments contained within the submissions into account, Council will prepare a final LSPS which will be presented to Council on 13 May 2020.

The final document will then be submitted to the Department. This document will bring together and build on the planning work found in Council's

other plans, studies and strategies and will be used to update key components of these plans to present a consistent strategic direction for Coonamble Shire.

General Revaluation – Coonamble Shire

Council was presented with information on the outcome of the recent revaluation of land within the Shire.

This exercise is carried out by the Valuer General who supplies land values to Council for use in calculation and levying of rates and the process occurs every three (3) years.

The new land values will become effective in the 2020/21 financial year – Council has been advised by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). For the 2020-21 financial year Council has been advised that it will be able to increase the revenue collected from rates by a maximum of 2.6%.

It is interesting that, in summary, the unimproved capital value of land within Coonamble Shire has increased from \$1,026,781,256 as at 1 July 2016 to \$1,388,929,370 as at 1 July 2019.

Overall this represents an increase of 35.3% over the past three years and I suggest that if any of our ratepayers are not happy with the new land values they write to the Valuer General requesting a review of the valuation. It is important to note that Council cannot change the land values supplied by the Valuer General.

Tech savvy seniors



The Library will be hosting a number of Tech Savvy workshops to assist our Seniors to better utilise their smartphones and tablets.

The sessions will be delivered on the following Wednesdays from 10.30am – 12.30pm. Introduction to Tablets 18 March, 25 March and 1 April. Each session will cover the same material.

Please bring your own device and any questions you have.

This is a great opportunity, so reserve your place now by calling 02 6827 1925.

Numbers are limited. This is a NSW Government initiative in partnership with Telstra.

Pool closures

Council would like to advise the community the 2019/2020 swimming season is coming to a close and Council's swimming pools will close on Sunday 29 March 2020.

Expressions of interest

Council is inviting expressions of interest for the demolition of the decommissioned ablutions block and the design and construction of one x two-bedroom accessible cabin at the Coonamble Caravan Riverside Caravan Park.

The scope of works for each project is available from Council's Office or website: www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au

For further information please contact the Project Manager, Wayne Mulholland, on 0419 436 699.

Please provide written quotes in envelopes marked: *Expression of Interest – Coonamble Riverside Caravan Park* – addressed to the General Manager, Coonamble Shire Council, PO Box 249, Coonamble NSW 2829 on or before Thursday 2 April 2020.

Financial assistance for community

Applications for funding under the second round of Council's Financial Assistance Policy closed on 21 February. The Donations Committee met prior to Council's March Meeting and provided recommendations for consideration. The following is a determination of the requests received: Marthaguy Picnic Race Club - \$2,500 for a free community luncheon at the Marthaguy Picnic Races. Quambone Polocrosse Club Inc - \$1,500 for assistance with expenses in conducting the annual carnival in Quambone. Quambone Resources Committee - \$550 to fund accommodation for a member in Sydney to attend the 2020 Charity Brunch event. Coonamble Community Radio Inc - \$5,000 funds to moving transmitter and maintenance of radio station.

Coonamble Women's Shed Inc - \$150 to hosts a morning /afternoon tea for a social get-together and 'yarn up'. Gulargambone Bowling Club Ltd - \$2,000 to assist in maintaining and beautifying their greens and grounds. Coonamble Show Society - \$5,000 for community entertainment at the 2020 annual show. Let's Dance Carinda Tribute Committee - \$3,000 to sponsor an additional band at the Festival.

Requests from the Coonamble Rotary Club (to conduct a free fun day in November) and the Campbelltown Art Centre (for increased sponsorship) were pre-approved from the 2020/2021 Donations Budget. The next round of funding will be open in late May / early June.

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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