



COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

April 2020

From the Mayor's Desk



Council's last meeting was held on Wednesday 8 April under extremely different conditions.

How the Coronavirus has changed the way we do things is nearly too hard to comprehend but, by the same token, it is amazing just how we can alter our way of life, compromising and adapting, so we can carry on.

The expertise of Council's IT Support Officer, Amdad, has kept us going in these very challenging times. He ensured my colleagues and I were technologically set up and we conducted our meeting 'remotely'. I'm thinking that this will be the way we have our meetings for some time to come. It was, of course, a first for Council and I'm pleased to say, all went extremely well.

I want to also thank the General Manager and Directors for their co-operation and effort in addressing issues since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis as some decisions have not been easy. We all have a responsibility to protect one another and this will continue for as long as it takes.

Council has staff working from home while others are working behind closed doors to continue servicing the community in these unprecedented times.

I urge everyone to keep safe by social distancing, self-isolation where possible and being aware of our individual responsibilities in these uncertain times. Let our local government area lead the way, keeping Covid-19 at bay!

It was great to have representatives of our consultant, sala4D, Shah and Celia, present to the meeting Stage 2 of our Masterplan. It's very exciting to see our plans moving forward!

Councillors were able to ask questions during the presentation and it was good to hear that the consultants are happy with how the masterplan is progressing. The draft documents will be placed on public exhibition from 14 April 2020 and we are encouraging the community to provide comments and constructive criticism.

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

Masterplan on public exhibition



Artist impression of main street laneway to rear carpark

At the Ordinary Meeting on 8 April, Council approved the draft Masterplan to be placed on exhibition for a period of four (4) weeks from Tuesday 14 April. The draft Masterplan has been developed following extensive community consultation and engagement, and plans for the development of key components and priorities in the Coonamble Local Government Area (LGA).

These priorities include the Coonamble CBD precinct, town and village entrance signage, the Coonamble Visitor Information Centre, Coonamble Bore Bath Complex, tourism and branding opportunities.

Each of these components has been investigated and the community has been consulted to provide the guiding principles for design. These guiding principles include: Baths: Provide artesian baths experience. Nature: Provide for nature-based tourism. Town: Facilitate a vibrant town life. Shade: Provide more shade. Heritage: Enhancement of Aboriginal cultural heritage. Art: Facilitate the inclusion of public art. Pool: Upgrade pool. Amenity: Provide basic public amenity and Visitor: Provide amenity that attracts visitors.

The Draft Masterplan is made up of a suite of images and documents which

describe plans for the long term future development of the Coonamble LGA.

These include a map of the towns and villages of Coonamble, Quambone and Gulargambone with detail notation of proposed upgrades and development, photo montages of what our towns and villages will look like following proposed developments, map views of the Coonamble Visitor Information Centre, Bore Bath Complex and main street precincts, images of the design concept of the Coonamble Visitor Information Centre and demonstrations of how new branding will be applied.

The Draft Masterplan is now available for viewing on Council's website, at Quambone General Store, Gulargambone Rural Transaction Centre and the old Mac's Dry Cleaning building in Coonamble.

If you are not able to access the website and would like a hard copy of the Draft Masterplan posted to you, please email council@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au or call 02 6827 1900.

Comments and submissions are invited in writing before 5.00 p.m. on TUESDAY 12 MAY to The General Manager, Coonamble Shire Council Post Office Box 249 COONAMBLE NSW 2829 or council@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au.

Meeting mentions

Show holiday cancelled

On the agenda for the meeting was an item recommending that, due to the cancellation of the Coonamble Show, Council make application to have the gazetted public holiday for the second day cancelled by the Minister.

However, prior to the meeting, Council was notified by the Department of Premier and Cabinet that the public holiday for the Shire of Coonamble on Wednesday 27 May 2020 had been revoked.

Accordingly, there will not be a public holiday and we will all have to look forward to a bigger and better show in 2021.

Superannuation for Councillors

The Office of Local Government (OLG) has drawn attention to the *Councillor Superannuation Discussion Paper* which has been issued to Councils, with the request that local communities also be made aware of it and asked for their feedback on whether councillors should receive superannuation payments. Currently

councils do not have to make superannuation contributions in relation to fees paid and the reason for this is that councillors are elected to a 'civic office' and not deemed to be employees of councils. Concerns have been raised that ineligibility of councillors to receive superannuation is inequitable and may be a deterrent to more women and younger people making themselves available for election to their local councils.

Based on the current fees paid, the introduction of a superannuation payment to Councillors would equate to an additional \$9,022 expenditure in the current financial year.

Council chose Option 1 as their preferred option which maintains the status quo and does not incur any additional costs to Council. It is also important for the community to provide feedback to OLG. The closing date for submissions is c.o.b. Friday 8 May 2020 and the Discussion Paper is available for viewing on the Office of Local Government website <http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au> Please be proactive and have your say!



ANZAC Day is one very important day that has been cancelled this year because of COVID-19.

Mayor Karanouh met with RSL personnel recently to ensure those whose lives were lost in War are remembered.

As a way to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice, the Mayor is asking the community to stand in front of their homes on ANZAC Day at 6.00 am and 11.00 am.

"We can all play this small part to honour those who served and to acknowledge those who still serve," said Mayor Karanouh.

Lest We Forget

Covid-19 update for residents

As COVID-19 cases increase across the region it is more important than ever to stay up to date with official advice. Stay up to date by checking Council's Facebook page (@CoonambleShireCouncil) and Council's website www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au which are being regularly updated.

Behind the scenes, Council and various Government Agencies are working in partnership and putting measures in place to combat the virus locally.

Council understands that there are some challenges for the community as a result of the limitation of some services and facilities. Please contact Council so that we can help overcome these challenges as they arise.

Closed: The customer service areas for customers and visitors. The different options for the public to make payments are as follows: Use the drop box at the front of the Administration Building for cheque-only payments (this box can also be used if customers need to drop off paperwork). Eftpos payments can be done over the phone

(all Credit and Debit cards are accepted besides American Express). Bpay payments are available for Rates, Water and Debtor Accounts and cheques can be forwarded to Council via Australia Post. Direct deposits into Council's account is available where no other alternatives are available. To access this facility, prior approval is required to be obtained from Council's Customer Service Department. You will need to provide all your relevant customer details.

Also closed are: Service NSW (members of the public may make special arrangements with staff for essential services that need to be performed by calling 6827 1900); Swimming pools; libraries; children's playgrounds; visitor information centre (VIC); museum; youth centres, after school and holiday programs and the caravan park (for new visitors) are closed. Further meetings will be held by telephone or video link up, as far as is possible and visitors will not be permitted at the Council depot or workshop.

Roads during wet weather

After so long in drought it is lovely to finally get some long needed substantial rain fall. But the rain also brings the issues of driving on unsealed roads or locations that have water over the road.

Council recently reviewed procedures for the determination of when roads need to be closed or when special conditions need to be put in place such as open to 4WD only.

While we know that these types of travel restrictions are an inconvenience to many rate payers they are intended to keep residents safe as well as to minimise damage to the roads.

Repairs to damaged roads are not usually possible until the roads begin to dry out and repairs are prioritised to higher trafficked roads and bus routes first.

Council would like to thank the public for the patience and co operation during times of wet weather.



KEEP CALM
AND

#STAYHOMECOONAMBLE
#STAYHOMEGULAR
#STAYHOMEQUAMBONE

FOR INFORMATION

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

Hein Basson
GENERAL MANAGER

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