

From the Mayor's Desk:

Reaping optimism and positivity from local harvest activity



I would like to comment on the wonderful atmosphere resulting from a great harvest which is creating a huge buzz around the town and district. It is many years since we have seen such activity in our shire.

The grain delivery sites are like mini-cities in the night, with lights illuminating the areas with the never-ending arrival and departure of trucks carrying the grain.

A big thank you to my colleagues who interrupted their harvest duties to attend the meeting.

Lest We Forget

Our November Meeting coincided with Remembrance Day. The meeting was adjourned for Councillors and staff to pay their respects to our fallen heroes.

The service was very different this year due to restrictions on numbers because of COVID-19, although it was wonderful to see some school children present along with members of the public. After a short address, wreaths were laid and the service concluded.

Grants projects inspected

Mark Coulton MP, Federal Member for Parkes, paid a visit and inspected the project that is grant-funded by the Federal Government. One of special interest was the upgrade of Coonamble Sportsground.

On the same topic, Council awarded a tender for the design, supply and installation of sports lighting at the sportsground to O'Brien Electrical Dubbo, valued at \$617,120.

Increased lighting scope over outlying areas will give flexibility for future reconfiguration of playing fields and car parking.

This funding is part of Council's successful application to the Drought Communities Program—Extension.

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

Ahmad Karanouh
Mayor



Blockwork walls rising on Visitor Information Centre

The new Visitor Information Centre is taking shape, with the blockwork walls rising on the foundations laid at the northern end of Smith Park.

Westbury Constructions anticipates delivering the completed centre by mid-2021. As work progresses, council staff are

scheduling civil works and landscaping.

The new Visitor Information Centre is a key deliverable of the Coonamble Shire Council Masterplan, aiming to increase the number of overnight stays by travellers and their spending within the Coonamble Local Government Area.

Council facilities closed for holiday period but you can still keep your cool at the pool

Coonamble and Gulargambone pools will be open throughout the Christmas-New Year holiday period, except for Christmas Day and Boxing Day (25 and 26 December).

Users of the Coonamble Swimming Centre will be able to take advantage of the new changeroom facilities and shade sails funded by the Stronger Country Communities Fund of the NSW Government.

Toddlers at Gulargambone Pool can also enjoy the new splash pad and shade sail, developed through the same funding program.

The new shelter built in the Lions Park at Gulargambone—also developed through

a grant under the Stronger Country Communities Fund—will provide a sun-safe and COVID-safe facility for local families to come together in an outdoor setting while maintaining social distancing.

Council offices and services will be closed from Christmas Day to Sunday, 3 January 2021 (inclusive). This closure affects the administrative offices, libraries, Service NSW agency, the Visitor Information Centre, Council Depot, tips and quarry.

'On call' staff will be rostered to deal with any emergencies, with contact numbers provided in local media and on Council's website.

All Council services will resume normal operations on Monday, 4 January 2021.

New activities revitalise Christmas Party

Live entertainment, market stalls, fun activities and competitions will be among the attractions at this year's Community Christmas Party in Castlereagh Street, planned for Saturday, 12 December, 9am to noon.

The event management proposal from *The Coonamble Times* suggested new event features, including involvement of businesses outside the main street, additional entertainment and activities and a designated food court area.

COVID-safe strategies will be in place for the event. Anyone interested in having a stall, busking or selling from their car boot should contact coonamblechristmas@hotmail.com or phone 0429 022 860.

Clay Target Club to move Rural Fire Service shed

Coonamble Clay Target Club will relocate the old Rural Fire Service headquarters building from its current location in Buckley Drive to 'The Meglo'.

Following the construction of the new headquarters on the site, the old building was made available to Council to recover and move.

Council invited expressions of interest from not-for-profit sporting clubs and organisations in the area, receiving only one submission from the Coonamble Clay Target Club. Council resolved to gift the building to the club, who will have the responsibility to dismantle the building and remove it from the site at its own expense.

New street name for Gular

Council will apply to the Geographical Names Board to formalise the naming of a section of road in Gulargambone as 'Ryan Street'.

A Gulargambone resident requested Council name the section of road running north-south on the western side of Munnell Street as Ryan Street.

Council agreed and advertised the proposal, calling for public comment. One response was received, suggesting other names. After giving the matter consideration, Council resolved to proceed with the name of Ryan Street.

Galloping horses to screen new CBD amenities block

Councillors have opted for a design concept by Alison Dent to cover and screen the new amenities block in the Skillman's Lane car park.

Alison Dent's design features galloping horses with a River Red Gum background.

The concept is to 'wrap' the toilet block in

a photograph of a local River Red Gum scene, with a privacy screen of cut steel, showing a scene of galloping horses.

Seven submissions were received for the project.

The new block is scheduled to be built in December.



ABOVE: The design concept adopted by Council for the new amenities building in the Skillman's Lane car park, Coonamble.

Council appoints public art sculptures project manager for town 'branding'

The public art sculptures project of emus, galahs and egrets is moving forward to distinctively brand the towns of Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone.

Council voted at its November meeting to appoint Zest Events-Donald Cant Watts Corke to manage the project for the design, construction and installation of the public art surrounding the new Visitors Information Centre and at the entrances

to the towns of Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone.

The project was identified as a priority in the Coonamble Shire Masterplan and will be funded through a Drought Stimulus Package grant of \$200,000.

The project will commission local artists and metal workers to design and construct the sculptures to reinforce consistent branding across the LGA.

Support local businesses to win cash prizes!

Are you doing your part to be in the running to win some of the \$14,000 to spend locally, thanks to Coonamble Shire Council and the Chamber of Commerce?

This year's Buy Local campaign offers 12 prizes, with one remaining draw on 26 November (2 x \$500) and the final, major draws on Saturday, 12 December, of \$6000, \$2000, 2 x \$1000 and 2 x \$500.

Simply collect receipts from this month's shopping to a total value of \$150 from par-

ticipating stores, place them in an envelope on which you have written your name and daytime contact details, and drop them into the barrel at Joe's Quality Meats or in the box at Gular RTC/Post Office or the Quambone Store/Post Office.

Winners must spend their prize by 30 April, 2021, at participating businesses.

Coonamble Shire Council has contributed \$8000 towards the Buy Local campaign, for both promotional expenses and prize money.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council will be held on Wednesday, 9 December 2020

Emergency contacts:

Water and Sewerage T: 0428 217 420

Ranger T: 0427 255 881

Other Emergencies T: 0458 271 881

Website for all details: www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au