



New public amenities in Skillman's Lane.



Visitor Information Centre building.

## Project milestones reached

Delivery of Council's Operational Plan has been challenged during 2020 and 2021 by the restrictions associated with COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns. This has impacted access to materials and suppliers.

In the past month, however, Council has been able to reach some key milestones in various projects, including:

- Completion of the public amenities in the Skillman's Lane car park behind Coonamble's main street. These are now open for public use. This project has been funded under the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund.
- Completion of the new Visitor Information Centre building and landscaping. Interior displays are again delayed due to a lockdown affecting manufacture of those displays and the travel to Coonamble of the contractor commissioned to complete the work. This work has been funded through the NSW Government's Stronger Country

Communities Fund and its Local Drought Stimulus Package.

- Completion of the Gulargambone Youth Centre refurbishment by a local contractor through funding from the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund.
- Sealing of the Smith Park car park, and disabled parking space near the new Visitor Information Centre, through funding from the NSW Government's Drought Stimulus Package and its Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund.
- Installation of a new on-site cabin with disabled access at the Coonamble Riverside Holiday Park, through funding from the NSW Government's Drought Stimulus Package.
- Completion of fencing by local contractors at Smith Park netball courts, funded through the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund.



Gulargambone Youth Centre renovations.



Sealing of the Smith Park car park.



New cabin at the Riverside Holiday Park.



Fencing at the Smith Park netball courts.

## Museum collection policy displayed for comment

Interested members of the public are invited to submit comments on the draft Coonamble Museum Under the Bridge Collection Policy on public exhibition until Friday, 17 October, 2021.

Council resolved at its September meeting to move forward with the development of the policy by calling for public comment on the proposed document.

One of the aims of the museum is to maintain a collection of local history and to display part of that collection as a unique tourism product.

"The museum stimulates thought, study and interest in the culture and history of the Coonamble Local Government Area through the conservation, exhibition and interpretation of objects, documents and photographs committed for safe repository and public access," the draft policy reads.

The draft document can be viewed and downloaded from Council's website and viewed at Council's Administration office and at Coonamble and Gulargambone libraries and the Quambone Store.

## MARK THESE DATES

**13 October** – Ordinary Meeting of Council in Coonamble.

**25 October** – Close of the electoral roll for the Local Government election.

**3 November** – Close of candidate nominations.

**5 November** – Caretaker period starts.

**10 November** – Ordinary Meeting of Council in Coonamble.

**4 December** – Local Government election day (8am to 6pm).

**11 January** – Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Council in Coonamble to elect new Mayor and Deputy Mayor and appoint committee members. (May be brought forward if election results declared in early December.)

## Emergency contacts:

**Water & Sewerage** 0428 217 420

**Other Emergencies** 0458 271 881

**Ranger** 0427 255 881

**Website for all details:**

[www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au)

## Australia Day Awards 2022

## Who are you nominating for an award?

Who will you nominate for recognition in the Australia Day 2022 Awards?

Who has helped the Coonamble community through a creative and resilient response to the COVID-19 pandemic? In those few months when sporting activity was allowed, who showed great talent?

Regardless of the pandemic, is there a person or organisation in the Local Government Area who stands out for their contributions to the community or their achievement in sport during 2021?

You can nominate people and organisations now for the Australia Day 2022 Awards.

Coonamble Mayor, Cr Al Karanouh, said, "We are fortunate to live in a community where people go above and beyond every day, generously dedicating their time to improving the lives of others. The Coonamble Australia Day Awards are an excellent way to recognise and applaud the work of these people that make our area a great place to live, work and visit."

Award categories are:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year (aged under 26 years on 26 January 2022)
- Community Group of the Year (for outstanding events or achievements in 2021)
- Sportsman of the Year (for outstanding achievement in sport, aged 18 and over)
- Junior Sportsman of the Year (for outstanding achievement in sport, aged under 18 years on 26 January 2022)

Award nomination forms can be completed online at Council's website and Facebook page or as a printed form available at Council's Administration Offices, at the libraries in Coonamble and Gulargambone and at Quambone Store.

Nominations for the 2022 awards close at 4.30pm on Wednesday, 5 January 2022. Recipients will be announced at the Australia Day celebrations in Coonamble on 26 January 2022.

To all the staff at the  
Coonamble Shire,

Thank you  
from Staff and Students  
at St Brigid's School.  
Thank you for our wonderful  
holiday packs! We can't  
wait to use them!



Staff and students at St Brigid's School have written to thank Council for the School Holiday Fun packs, distributed this week in time for the school holidays.

## Students offer thanks for holiday fun packs

Children of St Brigid's Catholic School, Coonamble, have sent a thank you note to Coonamble Shire Council after receiving their School Holiday Fun Activity Packs.

Council normally organises a two-week program of face-to-face activities during each school holidays.

This was not possible these holidays due to the statewide lockdown that, while lifted in Coonamble itself, still affects many of the

suppliers and activity organisers who would normally have been invited to deliver parts of the program.

In place of the face-to-face program, Council staff organised a Holiday Fun Pack for every infants and primary school student throughout the Local Government Area.

The packs were delivered to schools in Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone for distribution to students.

## Nickname billboards on the move

Coonamble's Nickname Hall of Fame billboards will be concentrated in Skillman's Lane and the laneway opposite, beside the Coonamble Times office.

Visitors have expressed the expectation that the posters would be in a 'hall'. The move will concentrate the billboards in two laneways off Coonamble's main street.

From the Mayor's Desk:

## Good health the focus of our recent efforts



I have pleasure in reporting on my activities in the role of Mayor since the August meeting.

## Mental Health

The General Manager and I have discussed the perception that seems to exist that all personal and mental health difficulties that people may have suffered from during the drought have also disappeared after the good rainfall we have thankfully received.

Our community's experience shows this is sadly not the case, and it can take years for some people to regain their balance after having suffered the stresses associated with a prolonged period of adverse conditions.

On our community's behalf, the General Manager has been in contact with the Federal Member for Parkes, the Hon. Mark Coulton, in relation to obtaining a Mental Health Professional to service our Local Government Area.

Mr Coulton has informed Council that the Australian Government is investing \$2.3 billion in the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan—the largest Commonwealth investment in mental health in the country's history.

Mr Coulton advised that the commitment includes creating a landmark national network, including up to 57 additional mental health treatment sites for adults.

The plan will also fund more centres for youth and children through the Head to Health and Headspace programs.

Mr Coulton advised that a \$2.3 billion investment is the first phase of the response to the findings of the Productivity Commission's inquiry into National Suicide Prevention Adviser's Final Advice.

## COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination

Our community is to be commended for responding so wholeheartedly to the COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinics that have been held throughout the Local Government Area.

Latest figures suggest that almost 90% of us have had a first vaccination, and more than half of us have had our second vaccination.

The work of the Coonamble Aboriginal Medical Service; Ochre Health Centre; the staff of our Multi-Purpose Centres in Coonamble and Gulargambone; the staff of the Western NSW Local Health District, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Loxley Health; Coonamble Bowling Club; and Council's own staff in setting up the vaccination clinic at the showground and in coordinating communications is appreciated in helping us achieve such great vaccination levels, for testing us and keeping us as healthy as possible.

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

**Ahmad Karanouh**  
Mayor

## Opening of pools delayed

Pool season will be delayed this year as Council complies with health restrictions in place to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19.

Pools would normally open during the school holidays.

An announcement on the opening of public pools will be made as restrictions lift.