

## Madame Flute performance rescheduled for December

The Madame Flute Concert is now scheduled to go ahead on Saturday, 4 December, following the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions.

The concert will be in a different format than originally planned for the winter event.

Those people who paid for tickets have been issued with refunds.

The new format will be a bring-your-own picnic and drinks event for friends and family on the grassed area near the Coonamble Showground Pavilion.

Gates open at 6pm for a 7.30pm start.

Tickets are on sale at [www.123tix.com.au](http://www.123tix.com.au) at a cost of \$35 per person.

Jane Rutter performs regularly in Paris and around the world, at the Sydney Opera House, music festivals, theatres and cabaret venues.

The Australian Elizabethan Trust awarded Jane a fellowship grant that culminated in a DVD and soundtrack album, *An Australian In Paris*, which topped the Classical charts in Australia.



*Internationally recognised flautist, Jane Rutter—Madame Flute—will perform in Coonamble on Saturday, 4 December.*

## Sportsground cricket pitch replaced

The cricket pitch in the centre of the Coonamble Sportsground is being replaced and the immediate surrounds levelled as part of ongoing project work under the Federal Government's Drought Communities Program.

The program has already funded new irrigation, lighting and grandstand renovations, with remaining work to

include levelling, installation of irrigation and re-turfing of the north-west corner of the sportsground (near the corner of McCullough and Dubbo Streets), and replacement of the internal fence.

Total funding for the project, granted under the Drought Communities Program, was \$1 million, with a further \$59,000 co-contribution from Coonamble Shire Council.

## Levee upgrade and other infrastructure work progresses

Some property owners on the east side of Coonamble are receiving letters in relation to Stage 5 of the flood levee upgrade.

Letters have been sent regarding the creation of an easement for the levee and the compensation being offered to each property owner.

For those residents who have indicated agreement, another letter is being sent with the deed for each individual property. This is among the first steps in registering the easement for the levee on their property.

Public Works Advisory is managing this project on behalf of Council.

Residents with questions can contact

either Public Works Advisory on (02) 9240 8500 or Council on 6827 1900.

The levee, encircling Coonamble on its eastern side, is to reduce the likelihood of flooding of the town when waters from Warrena Creek and the Castlereagh River come together.

In other infrastructure work, Transport for NSW is preparing engineering designs for the intersection of Warren Road and the Castlereagh Highway.

For the major project of sealing of Tooraween Road, the earthworks specifications have been derived with more accurate traffic numbers being used to calculate the depth of pavement required for optimal durability.

## Are you ready to choose nine community leaders?

Local Government elections will be held across NSW on 4 December, between 8am and 6pm.

Voters for the Coonamble Shire Council will be choosing nine Councillors for a shorter term (serving to September 2024), up from the seven Councillors of the current Council. The shorter term is to maintain the intended rhythm of the elections every four years—this current election having been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## December 11 Christmas Party

Saturday, December 11, has been set as the date for the Coonamble Christmas Street Party.

Local businesses are asked to follow Council's website and Facebook pages for updates on times and opportunities for involvement.

## MARK THESE DATES

**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).

**4 December** – Madame Flute concert in Coonamble.

**11 December** – Coonamble Christmas Street Party.

**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 are 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)

# Opportunity for public comment on draft policies and plans

Members of the public have the opportunity to comment on four draft policies and plans in the interests of open, transparent and participative local governance.

The draft documents on exhibition are:

- Draft Drought Management Plan.
- Draft Water Connection Policy.
- Draft Backflow and Cross Connection Policy.
- Draft Evaluation of Menacing or Dangerous Dog Declarations Policy.

Council has recently adopted new guidelines from the Office of Local Government to exhibit draft documents for 28 days (four weeks), while allowing members of the public to make any submissions within this period and for a further two weeks afterwards (six weeks in total).

## Drought Management

The purpose of the Drought Management Plan is to provide a framework to assist staff and our customers in the management of the water

supply during future droughts. This document is a requirement for Council's Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy that is also currently in development.

## Water Connection

The Water Connection Policy suggests a more systematic, consistent and transparent approach to the process of water connection to a property.

## Backflow and Cross Connection

The Backflow and Cross Connection Policy aims to ensure the safety and quality of Council's water supply through a consistent and transparent approach.

## Menacing Dogs

The Evaluation of Menacing or Dangerous Dog Declarations Policy aims to give more clarity about roles, responsibilities, obligations and duty of care in relation to the declaration of a dog as menacing or dangerous.

## Disaster relief funding available for farming enterprises

Special Disaster Assistance Grants are available to primary producers to help pay for the costs of clean-up and reinstatement of primary production enterprises that have suffered direct damage as a result of the storm and flooding disaster of March 2021.

Authorities officially recognised the event as a natural disaster for Coonamble Local

Government Area last month. The maximum grant amount per affected property (subject to conditions), is \$75,000.

Funds of up to \$15,000 will be provided to eligible, approved applicants, without the need to provide invoices at the time of application. See further details on the Grant Opportunities page of Council's website.

# Who are you nominating for an award?

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

Who has helped the 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?

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.

Mayor 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 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)
- Sportsperson of the Year (for outstanding achievement in sport, aged 18 and over)
- Junior Sportsperson 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.

From the Mayor's Desk:

## Plans to upgrade rail line to carry heavier trains



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

## Rail upgrade

Cr Bill Fisher, the General Manager and I participated in a zoom meeting regarding the potential upgrade to the Coonamble-Gilgandra rail line.

The upgrade will allow for heavier trains, connecting with the Inland Rail line at Curban, for freight from both Coonamble and Gilgandra.

## Rural Fire Service meeting

I attended the local Rural Fire Service meeting at the Coonamble Fire Control Centre, where the upcoming 'fire-season' was one of the major topics on the agenda for discussion. Also on the agenda was the Community Protection Plan updates for both Gulargambone and Quambone.

## Welcome to Daniel Noble

I would like to formally welcome Mr Daniel Noble to the position of Executive Leader Infrastructure, replacing recently retired Kookie Atkins. Daniel comes to Coonamble from the Gunnedah Shire Council. He brings with him extensive knowledge and experience from working at Gunnedah Shire and Tamworth Regional Councils.

Daniel is no stranger to the Central West, as he started his local government career with Warren Shire Council. Daniel's wife and three children will be joining him in Coonamble in the near future.

## Vaccination Rates

Of the 2,444 eligible residents in the 2829 postcode area and the eligible 637 people in the 2828 postcode area of Gulargambone and district, in the order of 90% have received their first shot and 75% are fully vaccinated.

People are still welcome at the Coonamble Aboriginal Medical Service and Ochre Medical Centre for first or second-dose vaccinations.

The Coonamble Local Government Area is and has been a front runner within regional NSW as far as vaccination rates are concerned.

I would like to commend our local health professionals and front-line workers for their efforts servicing the people of our Local Government Area during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It has been a challenging time, and their commitment and professionalism has been outstanding.

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

**Ahmad Karanouh**  
Mayor

**COONAMBLE**  
SHIRE COUNCIL

*Australia Day Awards 2022*