

LOCATION & HOURS

Council's administration office at 80 Castlereagh Street, Coonamble, is open from 8.30am to 5pm.

Cashier enquiries welcome from 9.30am to 4pm.

ph: (02) 6827 1900 or fax: (02) 6822 1626.

CONTACT COUNCIL

Direct all correspondence to:

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 council@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au

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EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Sewerage: 0428 217 420

Ranger: 0427 255 881

Other: 0458 271 881

Council's April meeting

Council's April Ordinary Meeting will be at the Council Chambers in the Administration Office, Castlereagh Street, Coonamble, on Wednesday, 8 April, from 10am.

Pending COVID-19 restrictions at the time, community members are welcome to attend sections of the meeting not deemed confidential. They attend as observers only unless prior permission to address Council has been given.

The Business Paper is posted on Council's website. Copies of Minutes and Business Papers are also available online.

International cricketer in Coonamble to inspire women to meet challenges

Former International cricketer, Alex Blackwell, visited Coonamble this week to encourage women to nominate for the Council elections in September and for the Youth Council to be re-established in the coming month.

Alex Blackwell was in Coonamble at the invitation of Coonamble Shire Council for its Women's Week activity: Choose to Challenge—an initiative funded through a NSW Department of Communities and Justice grant.

Aunty Gloria Fernando gave the Welcome to Country.

President of both the Australian and NSW Local Government Associations, Councillor Linda Scott, was the opening speaker at the function, joining online from Sydney. She called attention to the fact that NSW has the lowest representation of women in Local Government, being less than one-third of elected councillors.

She reminded women of Coonamble, who may be considering nominating for election at the September ballot, that there is a free and confidential mentoring service for all councillors, regardless of gender, which includes help to draw up a professional development plan for those requiring it.

Coonamble Shire Councillor Barbara Deans commented about the training she received to equip her better to discharge her duties as a councillor and encourages all other women throughout the local gov-



Former cricketer, Alex Blackwell (centre), with Gulargambone Central School Captain, Kaleesha Hammond (left) and Councillor Barbara Deans (right) at the Choose to Challenge Women's Week function, hosted by Coonamble Shire Council.

ernment area to consider this valuable service to the community.

Alex Blackwell's first three pieces of advice centred on choosing to challenge yourself by remembering that you cannot grow without frequent feedback so that you can make adjustments to one's approach, and that if you are not in a good space to hear feedback at that moment, make a time with the person to hear it later.

Alex highlighted that whether for the local council or youth council, decision-making is made more robust by diversity of opinion, which comes from diversity of people and experience, both in terms of gender and age, opportunity and privilege.

She encouraged all, especially women, to consider standing for a role in these local institutions to increase this diversity of voices contributing to debate.

Alex said this will be challenging and people will say things you don't like. Her advice was not to stay at the level of being offended but to elevate the conversation by identifying the common goal; to always respect diverse points of view, and that—if the other person cannot 'go higher' with you—to keep asking questions to get them to explain their position more, so the two of you can identify the key principles of the issue together, rather than stay focused only on the divergent outward signs at its heart.

Waste2Art winners to be announced

Local winners of the Waste2Art will be announced at Outback Arts Creative Centre in Castlereagh Street, Coonamble, on Thursday, 18 March from 5pm.

All are invited to attend the announcement ceremony and to view the exhibition hosted by Outback Arts. Local winners will go on to the Regional Exhibition.

This year's submissions of art and craft produced from aluminium and steel cans are set to catch the eye.

To meet COVID-safe requirements and to organise sufficient catering, all people planning to attend the ceremony are asked to book by 4pm, Tuesday, 16 March or through the Facebook event featured on the Outback Arts and Coonamble Shire Library pages.

Road work planned

Pending favourable weather, work will begin to replace some culverts and to carry out resheeting along Gibson Way.

Maintenance grading of Gulargambone Road will continue, and maintenance grading of Beanbah Road is planned.

Meanwhile, material for the rehabilitation of Carinda Road will be hauled to site in preparation for upcoming work.

Maintenance grading has been completed on Goorianawa Road, along with reforming, resheeting and regrading of Mungery Road. Bramble Road has also been resheeted.