



# COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

October 2018

## From the Mayor's Desk



In accordance with Council's policy, the October meeting was held in Quambone at the Memorial Hall. It was nice to see the community out in force – Council's visits to Quambone always spark interest with the locals. We were pleased to receive an update on community activities from Mrs Marg Garnsey including progress at the

Quambone fuel depot – it is envisaged that the facility will be operational on Friday 19 October. Unfortunately, at this stage, Eftpos will not be installed, however all community members will have the opportunity to access the facility. The Committee is continuing to lobby for Eftpos.

Mr Shane Wright was also present and raised some issues with Council concerning the fuel depot and the lack of an Eftpos facility. He also sought clarification on how the Gun Club could access the Racecourse toilet facilities. Mr Cecil Hope also addressed Council on what he sees as issues with the fuel depot - I advised that staff would check the conditions of the development application and make sure those conditions were met.

During the month since my election as Mayor I have been busy representing Council and have attended several meetings and functions. In company with Cr Fisher, I attended the official opening of the new Visitor Information Centre at the Warrumbungle National Park.

Early in October our Local Member for Barwon, Kevin Humphries visited Coonamble and met with the General Manager and myself before making a public announcement about Council's successful grant applications under the Stronger Communities Program – the Coonamble Children's Services was also successful with its application.

Mr. Humphries also discussed funding opportunities which would be available in the near future. He said he would strongly support an application from Council for funding under the Fixing Country Roads Program to seal the Tooraweenah Road. I have been trying for a long time to have this major road sealed and this may be our chance. At the gathering we also met the National Party endorsed candidate for Barwon, Mr Andrew Schier. On behalf of Council, I thanked Mr Humphries for his support over the years and wished him well after his retirement from politics.

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

**Ahmad Karanouh** - Mayor

## Where to next?

.. was the question Coonamble Shire tourism staff asked over 1,000 people at the 33rd Camper-van and Motorhome Rally held in Gunnedah from 13 October.

The eight day rally attracted motorhome enthusiasts from across Australia and provided a unique opportunity for Council to showcase the Shire to one of our identified target markets - the grey nomads.

In the weeks following the event, rally goers spend time in the region – usually within a three hour drive of the rally site. With over 100 chapters (special interest groups) within the



CMCA membership, Council took the opportunity to leverage visitation following the rally.

A suite of target specific promotional material was developed for distribution at the rally.

## Community to benefit from \$1.5m grant

Residents and visitors will benefit from over \$1.5m in new infrastructure following the announcement of successful projects under the NSW Government Stronger Country Communities Fund.

Member for Barwon Kevin Humphries was in Coonamble recently to present Council with a cheque for \$1.5m. Council submitted 10 projects and one community project - all 11 projects were successful. Projects include: Refurbish Shire public amenities \$80,000, Playground/gym space – Lions Park, Gulargambone \$135,000, Splash pad & starting blocks –

Gulargambone pool \$200,000, Shire shades and shelters \$100,000, Basketball court/outdoor seating – Gular Youth Centre \$50,000, New public amenities – main street Coonamble \$250,000, Pool blanket & change room upgrade – Coonamble swimming complex \$150,000, Coonamble Children's Services outdoor learning and activity space \$103,454, Irrigation upgrade – Coonamble sports precinct \$80,000, Skate bowl precinct – Coonamble \$120,000 and a New Visitor Information Centre for Coonamble \$330,000.

## Bore bath plans underway

Following a Councillor workshop held in August to progress planning for the proposed Coonamble bore bath, Council was pleased to receive a presentation at the October meeting from Megan Dixon of RDA - Orana, who was contracted to prepare case studies and undertake a preliminary site assessment.

During her presentation Ms Dixon discussed various models and the operational costs of bore bath facilities in NSW and QLD.

A design planning workshop will be held with Councillors in the coming weeks and Council will progress discussions with other stakeholders.

## Meeting mentions

### Joint Organisation

At the meeting Council considered a letter from the Office of Local Government (OLG) responding to Council's advice that it wished to join the Far North West JO.

The OLG said current government policy is to form JOs within the state planning boundaries of which Coonamble is the Central West and Orana region.

The correspondence stated that the NSW Government has not proclaimed Coonamble into the Far North West Joint Organisation, so in accordance with Council's previous decision, Coonamble Shire will remain a "stand alone" Council.

Who knows what will be decided 12 months down the track, when the Government is evaluating the success, or otherwise, of JOs and identifying improvements - which may include a review of state planning boundaries.

### Greyhound Carnival Success

Mayor Karanouh congratulated the Coonamble Greyhound Racing Club on another successful carnival over the September/October long weekend. He advised Council that he attended the event on Sunday afternoon, 31 September and was amazed at the large crowd in attendance.

"The committee should be proud of the facility - the track is a credit to members who must put in the hard yards to maintain it in such good condition and I have to say that

the boost to our economy over the weekend was significant - so thank you to the greyhound owners and trainers who spend time and money in our town during the carnival weekend," Mayor Karanouh said.

### Sponsorship & Financial Assistance Requests

Council received several requests for financial assistance this month and supported the following activities.

Coonamble Pre School \$1,000 towards building a verandah, Coonamble Branch CWA - \$500 refund of the General Rates portion of its rate account, Castlereagh Women's Rugby League - \$500 sponsorship and Castlereagh Trackers Aboriginal Netball - \$500 sponsorship.

### Inland Rail - Geotechnical Investigations

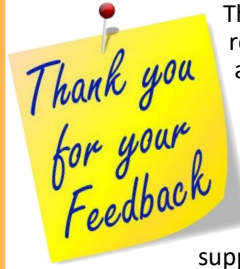
During the coming weeks residents may see geotechnical investigations (test pits and bore holes) being carried out within the Shire's road reserves.

Nine sites have been identified by Jacobs GHD who will be carrying out work in connection with the Narramine to Narrabri section of the Inland Rail project - Council has given permission for this work to take place.

### Spotlight on Water Reservoir

The mural on the Coonamble water reservoir has been put under the spotlight with Council installing lighting to showcase the artwork.

## Funding continues



The NSW Government recently announced a \$75m extension to the Drought Communities Programme, with Coonamble Shire securing \$1m under this fund.

The program will support local community infrastructure and other drought relief projects for communities impacted by drought.

Following the September Meeting Council sought project ideas and suggestions from the community with Council receiving 40 submissions. At the October meeting, Councillors had the most difficult task of selecting projects it felt were the most worthy, bearing in mind several factors which will impact on the funding applications.

Mayor Karanouh said "The Councillors realise that some organisations and individuals will be disappointed that their project or suggestion did not make the cut, but I am happy with the outcome and hope that Council's decisions will be well received".

Projects approved by Council: 1) Coonamble Arts Alive \$60,000 - Upgrade of art studio. 2) Coonamble Greyhound Racing Club \$52,000 Improvements to the canteen area. 3) Coonamble Jockey Club \$49,000 Running rail \$40,000 Committee room kitchen \$9,000. 4) Coonamble Cemetery \$25,000 Construct columbarium. 5) Quambone Resources Committee \$145,000 Sheet ceiling/fence at front of Hall \$50,000, replace transformer - Racecourse \$60,000, airconditioning/provide doors at hall \$35,000. 6) Coonamble Township \$200,000 - entry signs & electronic billboard. 7) Coonamble Clay Target Club \$150,000 - for work on proposed new site. 8) Gulargambone Rural Transaction Centre \$8,000 - Security screen upgrade. 9) Coonamble Hack & Pony Club \$25,000 - Storage shed/upgrade kitchen facility. 10) Coonamble Shire - Events \$30,000 - Conduct community events. 11) Gulargambone Sportsground \$40,000 - Toilets at the oval. 12) Coonamble Children's Services \$50,000 - Fence at Child Care Centre. 13) Gulargambone Community Enterprises \$25,000 - Street beautification works. 14) Gulargambone showground/racecourse \$50,000 - Contribution towards works at show-ground/racecourse. 15) Coonamble Show-ground & Sportsground \$20,000 - Sound system to both locations. 16) Combara Hall \$40,000 - Improvements to supper room and hall. 17) Coonamble Show Society \$ 10,000 - Provision of room dividers/display shelving. 18) Coonamble Shire Council \$25,000 - Artwork (wire horse sculpture)

## Caravan Park redevelopment underway

Council committed \$500,000 in the 2018/2019 budget to progress Stage 1 of the Coonamble Riverside Caravan Park Redevelopment.

In August, Council called tenders for Stage 1 which includes an office/manager's residence and 2 x 2 bedroom cabins. At the October meeting Council accepted the tender submitted by Taylor Made Buildings - Dubbo for \$407,056.35 with the tender process contracted to

Regional Procurement.

Other works to be undertaken at the Park are: widening of the entry, perimeter fencing and relocation of the dump point.

The redevelopment of the park will be a key driver in increasing visitor numbers to the shire and growing the number of overnight stays, which will provide an economic flow-on to our local businesses.

## FOR INFORMATION

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

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GENERAL MANAGER

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