



**COOTAMUNDRA -
GUNDAGAI** REGIONAL
COUNCIL

COMMUNITY NEWS

Autumn 2017

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Welcome to the first edition of your Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (CGRC) community newsletter, which will be published quarterly and features the beautiful new branding designed with the involvement of many of you from across the region.

Since commencing in the role of Administrator, I have met with people from across the region listening to their views on a wide range of matters, in addition to hearing from Council's support committees, community leaders and business members. These discussions are providing me with a clearer view of community needs and opinions.

My intention is to work with the broader community to ensure that the Council elected in September has solid, community-led foundations from which to deliver this region a dynamic future.

There will be a range of opportunities for everyone who lives, works and invests in our region to provide valuable input into shaping the Council's priorities, including via the Digital Community Panel and a community questionnaire. In addition, the upcoming Listening Sessions at the end of May will give everyone in the community an opportunity to have a say on the Community Strategic Plan. This plan will outline the community's priorities and aspirations looking ahead to 2027. We need to think now about the infrastructure, services and amenity that we want to see in 10 years' time.

Following representations received from the community, I have recommended a variation to the

standard times and dates of ordinary council meetings until September. These changes have been made to address safety concerns for those needing to travel long distances after dark; and testing the viability of different times of days to increase public attendance and participation.

I have also initiated webcasting of Council meetings and invite community members to submit questions to be addressed if they are not able to attend in person or do not wish to be filmed as part of the streaming. Where questions cannot be answered at meetings they will be taken on notice and answers provided in due course. To support sound decision making I have also requested a review of the:

- CGRC consolidated financial accounts and Integrated, Planning and Reporting documents to ensure that the integrity and spirit of the former Councils' plans are maintained.
- Initial CGRC Amalgamation Transition Plan to enable me to further understand the current status of progress and ensure that the Plan is on track; and
- Funding options for proposed major capital projects, including the Gundagai sewerage treatment works upgrade.



I FEEL PRIVILEGED TO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH THE CGRC STAFF AND COMMUNITY UNTIL SEPTEMBER. I WELCOME YOUR INPUT IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

Regards,
Stephen Sykes

REVEALING OUR NEW BRAND

Thank you to everyone who participated in the community consultation for our new branding and for taking the time to share your thoughts on how our new Council should be represented. We are very proud of what we have created together and excited to now share with you our new Council brand, which is reflected across this newsletter.

The purpose of our community consultation was to identify key values and themes within our community and bring them to life through our branding. Over 600 people answered our consultation survey, over 200 came along to meetings and attended logo design workshops, and 173 provided valuable feedback on logo concepts in the design phase.

Themes that arose throughout the process were the value of country living, agricultural landscape and friendly communities.

We feel strongly that our new look captures these attributes, highlighting our rich farming background, beautiful landscapes of running water and rolling hills, and prosperous industries and towns connected by the highway and our roads.

The new design will be rolling out over the next few months on Council signs, buildings, vehicles, letters, uniforms and on our new website and Facebook pages. It is a modern, organic representation of our whole region, reflecting the strong values of our thriving rural communities.

Thank you again for your input, and for helping us shape a strong future direction for Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council. A description of each of the elements of the logo is outlined below.



Outer charcoal ring:

Bound by local industry and the roads that connect us.

Blue ring:

Surrounded by waterways, the lifeblood of the region.

Green centre:

Green pastures and healthy landscapes.

Seeds:

Growth, productivity and healthy community spirit.

We are proud of our roots and look towards future growth.

COOTAMUNDRA-
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COMMUNITY GRANTS

Forty-six community groups from across our region are reaping the rewards of successfully securing over \$1 million in funding through the Stronger Community Fund grants program.

This funding was made available to our new Council as part of the NSW Government's Fit for Future reform program, which goes towards projects that build more vibrant, sustainable and inclusive local communities.

We were very pleased to be able to fund 46 out of the 89 applications received, totalling \$506,219 for Gundagai and surrounding communities and \$602,972 for Cootamundra and surrounding communities.

In the past, we would not have been able to provide this level of

support to so many important initiatives throughout our region.

All applications were assessed by the Stronger Communities Fund Assessment Panel in accordance with guidelines produced by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet.

We look forward to seeing what our Community Groups can accomplish thanks to this funding, and watching these projects come to fruition over the next 12 months.

To find out more about the 46 community projects please visit www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au.



A MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

I feel honoured to include a message in this, the first of Council's new quarterly newsletters, which marks the beginning of a new era of communication between Council and our community.

I am particularly proud of all the Council staff over the past 12 months who have put in a tremendous effort to adapt to changes within the Council while ensuring that you, our residents, continued to receive the high level of services you've come to expect.

This has required an absolute commitment by all staff, and in many cases countless additional hours and effort in bringing new systems and processes into operation. Often times, Council's staff are working anonymously behind the scenes, without fully being recognised for delivering a raft of essential services, without which our community could not function.

Basic amenities like roads, footpaths, sewerage and waste collection, and lifestyle amenities like parks and gardens, libraries and swimming pools - these are the things that we sometimes take for granted in our society. Yet all of them rely on the dedication of Council's staff to continue to deliver them in the manner we have all come to expect.

Council staff get the work done on behalf of our region, however like everyone in the community, they rely on future-focused, considered and dedicated elected members who have the best interests of our whole community at the forefront of decision making.

To this end, I hope that you, as an active member of this community, will consider a variation on JFK's famous words -

"ASK NOT WHAT COUNCIL CAN DO FOR YOU, BUT ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR COUNCIL"

- and consider nominating for election as a Councillor.

We must constantly strive to ensure the future is a constant improvement so if you have a vision for our region and want to make a difference, please contact me to discuss how you can stand for election in September.

Regards,

Ken Trethewey

MUTTAMA CREEK MAINTENANCE

The missing link in the Muttama Creek Shared Pathway project was completed in late April, with the construction of a 165 metre long, two metre wide pedestrian and bicycle pathway.

This pathway will provide much needed access to Muttama Creek between Wallendoon Street and the bird walk, greatly improving accessibility to this area for locals and visitors to the area.

Council was very pleased to be able to grant \$45,045 from the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund for this shared initiative, with three interest groups responsible for the successful grant submission.

These included The Muttama Creek Regeneration Group, The Cootamundra Bicycle Users Group and The Cootamundra Garden Club, along with supporting groups Heart Foundation Walking Club and Cootamundra Toy Library and Mothers' Group.

This new pathway will enable all members of the community to utilise the two kilometres of pavement safely in all weather, and caters for the different needs of the community with ramps and bike grabs installed. It also makes use of approximately 3000 m2 of Crown Land behind the Police Station that was previously inaccessible due to overgrown vegetation and lack of an all-weather path.

Now that it is complete, community groups plan to further enhance the pathway with a beautification project, including native plantings and garden formations to be carried out by working groups. This will complement the work already undertaken by The Muttama Creek Regeneration Group, who do a fantastic job of taking care of the creek and maintaining all public land.

Council is committed to supporting initiatives like these that preserve Muttama Creek, while still respecting limitations set by the NSW Department of Water and Fisheries regarding dredging and removal of debris, and ensuring the natural run of the creek is not disrupted in any way that could have a negative effect on fish habitats and ecosystems.

We are delighted that this beautiful space is now able to be enjoyed by residents and visitors. We believe this will help foster a healthy community culture and encourage residents to take advantage of the beautiful natural scenery we have available in our region.

MAINTAINING OUR SURROUNDINGS

Keeping our community well-maintained is a high priority for Council, which has driven a number of major repairs and roadworks throughout the Cootamundra-Gundagai region.

As part of this philosophy, the CGRC Operations teams responded to the flooding and storm events in the latter half of last year, ensuring that roads were made safe, access to properties was maintained and that any storm damage that was a hazard to the public was cleared as soon as was practicable.

Council's swimming pools have operated successfully over the summer period with good patronage at the facilities in both Gundagai and Cootamundra.

Grading in recent weeks (since the first rainfall) has included Rawilla, Sheepstation Creek and other roads in the Brawlin and Muttama area. General maintenance grading is currently underway on Brawlin Springs Road, Nashes Lane and Snowball Road.

Work has recommenced on Back Brawlin Road reconstruction, which is part of the Roads to Recovery Program, with primer sealing completed in early May.

The Cowcumbra Street/Gundagai Road project has also progressed, with drainage culverts installed from Gundagai Road down towards Muttama Creek.

In regards to major projects — Council has completed the repairs on Muttama Road near Coolac, which was delayed due to the wet winter last year, as well as storm damage repairs. This has seen improvements to a 1km section of narrow deformed pavement on this highly trafficked road.

The Gobarralong Road upgrade, also funded through Roads to Recovery, is nearing completion seeing repairs to a two kilometre stretch of road near the Hume Highway.

The internal Cemetery Road and Community Recycling Centre at Cootamundra Landfill have been resealed, and the water main in Temora Street was completed at the end of April, with kerb

and gutter to be finalised by contractors in May and roadworks to take place in June/July.

The old and damaged footpath in Cooper Street is being replaced, and will now include ramps at the intersection with Bourke Street. The last concrete abutments have been poured on the Back Station Creek Bridge, with deck work and guardrails completed in early May.

We intend to continue this momentum with current and upcoming projects, including:

- Burley Griffin Way will undergo two weeks of heavy patching in May
- Cowcumbra Street will have causeway works throughout May/June and roadworks during June/August
- Three-way bridge will be re-gurdered to reinstate full load capacity; and
- Nangus Road, approximately 2 kilometres east of Nangus Village, will be widened and reconstructed.

STOCKINBINGAL – RSL CENOTAPH RELOCATION

The Stockinbungal community was able to commemorate ANZAC Day this year with a brand new Wall of Remembrance in King George V Park.

This was thanks to a successful application lodged by the Cootamundra RSL Sub Branch for \$58,586 funding in the 2015/16 Community Development War Memorials Grants program, which Council saw through to fruition in late April.

Council staff met with the Stockinbungal community as well as members of the Cootamundra RSL Sub Branch throughout the development process to determine the location and scope of the new cenotaph. Parts of the old memorial were utilised in the design of the new

memorial and carried over to the new location, King George V Park. This is the main park in the village, meaning the cenotaph will be valued and viewed often by the Stockinbungal community, and being adjacent to the school, will enhance the learning process for students who are researching the history of their village.

The memorial was completed just prior to ANZAC Day, allowing the Stockinbungal community to once again hold services in their own village, which had not been possible with the unsafe nature of the old memorial. The dedication ceremony of the new cenotaph was held during the service that same day.

Further landscaping works and additional

lighting will be completed in May, with the total cost of the project expected to be \$64,500, covered by the grant funding and an additional \$6,000 contributed by the Cootamundra RSL Sub Branch, the Stockinbungal Community and Council.



JOIN THE CGRC COMMUNITY DIGITAL PANEL

WANT TO HAVE YOUR SAY? BECOME PART OF COUNCIL'S DIGITAL COMMUNITY PANEL.

Council Administrator Stephen Sykes is assembling a digital panel of interested community members to gain insight into the main issues and opportunities across the region.

Council wants to hear from a broad cross-section of representatives within the community to ensure all groups have the opportunity to be engaged and involved in raising community ideas and solutions. This local knowledge and insight will support the continuation of the good work that has already been done in building a strong future-focused Council. With your input and support, we can continue to ensure that the elected Council in September has solid, community-led foundations from which to deliver this region a dynamic future.

If you would like to make a difference and become a part of this panel, please register your email address at: digitalpanel@cgrc.nsw.gov.au.

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The NSW State Government has provided \$9 million in funding for amalgamated Councils to use for Major Infrastructure Projects that provide benefits across the region.

Council has identified some signature projects for funding including a new Sewer Treatment Plant for Gundagai, Water Main replacements in Cootamundra and redevelopment of facilities at the Dog on the Tuckerbox site, including new public toilets.

Council has further identified some targeted projects required including footpath renewals in Cootamundra, Gundagai and surrounding villages, and Stormwater replacements in Cootamundra and Gundagai.

Project information will be placed on public display, in our facilities and on our website and your input is welcomed.

A further list has been prepared which identifies a range of infrastructure improvement projects. Some examples include large scale playgrounds, park exercise equipment, water splash parks, and park lighting upgrades.

Following this initial scoping work, Council will be shortly seeking community feedback in order to test and prioritise investment decisions – see the article in this newsletter for further details on how to get involved through the questionnaire or Listening Sessions.



GYM AT GUNDAGAI

After receiving \$316,242 in funding under the Club Grants scheme in April 2015 to provide a gym at Gundagai Pool, Council is thrilled to see the grand opening has arrived.

Following an Expression of Interest process open to the local community, management of the gym was awarded to Gundagai Personal Training for Health, who we are confident will run a fantastic community facility.

The new gym is part of an extension to the pool kiosk that was initiated by Council early last year and completed in February 2017, creating a centralised health and fitness hub for the region that we are excited to see now open to the public. Funding also went towards thermal blankets for the main and toddler pools, as well as upgrades to the playground area.

As well as standard treadmills, cross trainers, bikes, rowers and weights, the gym will offer weekly classes for members at all fitness levels or personal training sessions, which can now be easily tied in with a trip to the pool.

The gym held its opening weekend on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 April, and is now open for business from 6am-9pm, 7 days a week.

GUNDAGAI MAIN STREET UPGRADE

Works are progressing well on the \$5.4M Sheridan Street project in Gundagai.

Block 1, between Otway and Homer Streets, has taken shape with a complete streetscape upgrade including pavers, lights and landscaping.



Block 2, between Homer and Byron Streets

Block 2, between Homer and Byron Streets is advancing with paving being completed at night on the southern side to avoid disruption to business operations.

Most of the Kerb and Gutter construction

has been poured and backfilled on the northern side past the Blue Heelers hostel. Footpath sub base construction has commenced in front of the courthouse and will progress along the street.

The Yarri and Jackey Jackey sculpture plinth and surround landscaping are being installed in readiness for the sculpture to arrive and be unveiled on Saturday, 10th June 2017.



Yarri and Jackey Jackey sculpture plinth

VILLAGES ENGAGEMENT

Council would like to hear your thoughts on the CGRC Villages Strategy, which will inform re-zonings, development design guidelines, economic strategies and long-term financial planning specifically for the villages within CGRC.

There are a number of ways you can get involved.

Round 2 of our Villages Strategy Listening Sessions will be held from 5-8 June. Alternatively, you can provide feedback through our survey at www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au (hard copies available at both Council offices) or with a written submission sent to planning@cgrc.nsw.gov.au or: Town Planning, PO Box 420, Cootamundra NSW 2590.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY (FESL)

From 1 July 2017, the NSW Government will abolish the current insurance based Emergency Services Levy and replace it with the Fire and Emergency Services Levy (FESL) charged alongside Council rates.

For more information about the FESL, please visit <http://fesl.nsw.gov.au/>

REGISTER FOR A COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) – LISTENING SESSION

We would like to invite individuals and group representatives from around the region to attend one of the following community listening sessions to provide valuable input into the Council's strategic planning process.

Please register your interest to attend a session relevant to your area of interest as soon as possible via www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au.

These interactive sessions will cater for up to 25 people and will be closed for registration once places are full. To ensure that a broad cross-section of the community have the opportunity to attend, we ask that you only register for one session.

There will be additional opportunities to provide feedback to the Council, including via a community questionnaire. You can complete the questionnaire online via www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au or pick up a hardcopy from your local council office.

For further information or questions please contact:

Cootamundra Office on 02 6940 2100 | Gundagai Office on 02 6944 0200 or email to mail@cgrc.nsw.gov.au

All Gundagai listening sessions will be held at Gundagai District Services Club, Room 2, 254 Sheridan Street.

All Cootamundra listening sessions will be held at the Cootamundra Ex-Servicemen's and Citizens' Memorial Club, Wattle Room, 299 Parker Street.

	Location	AM Session 10am – 12.00 noon	PM Session 1.00pm – 3.00pm	Evening 6.00pm – 8.00pm
Monday 29th May	Gundagai	Community Services	Open to the Community	Education, Business/ Employer
Tuesday 30th May	Gundagai	Health & disability, Youth and Aged Care	Arts & Culture, Sport & Recreation	Open to the Community
Wednesday 31st May	Cootamundra	–	–	Open to the Community
Thursday 1st June	Cootamundra	Open to the Community	Community Services	Education, Business/ Employer
Friday 2nd June	Cootamundra	Arts & Culture, Sport & Recreation	Health & disability; Youth and Aged Care	–

AERODROME RESEALED

The Cootamundra Aerodrome is an important facility within our region, from its heritage as an air base in World War II, to its use today for aviation and motoring events like helicopter rides, balloon flights, parachuting and motor sport competitions.

The Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council contracted Boral to undertake the resealing of the Aerodrome, as part of the regular programmed maintenance that is required every 10-15 years in order to maintain the integrity of the seal on the airstrip.

The resealing of the runway will ensure the strip remains at the highest standard of safety for another decade, and the Aerodrome continues as a prime event location within the region.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Council's 2017/18 Draft Operational plan is being finalised for public exhibition during the month of June, and we are inviting feedback from residents and ratepayers.

All documents will be available on our website and at Council's offices and libraries.

The draft plan includes Council's budget, proposed capital works programs, revenue policy, and draft fees and charges.

Please take the time to review the draft plan in June and share your thoughts with us.

Council is keen to refine the draft plan incorporating community feedback to ensure it provides the right services at the right level reflecting our community expectations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- CSP Listening Sessions
29 May – 2 June
- Villages Strategy Listening Sessions
5 – 8 June
- Council Meeting Gundagai
29 May, 4.00pm
- Council Meeting Cootamundra
26 June, 12noon
- Council Meeting Gundagai
17 July, 10.00am
- Council Meeting Cootamundra
7 August, 4.00pm

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