



COOTAMUNDRA-
GUNDAGAI REGIONAL
COUNCIL

COMMUNITY NEWS

71ST EDITION
2nd October 2020

Want to stay up to date with Council happenings?

Like us on Facebook: @CootamundraGundagaiRC or visit our website www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au

PH: 1300 459 689

Variety Livvi's Place Albert Park

Last week Lisa and Kim from Variety – the Children's Charity visited Cootamundra to conduct community consultation with Council on the new Variety Livvi's Place Albert Park. They are working with CGRC to design and build an inclusive playspace at Albert Park for the kids and families of the region. Variety Livvi's Place- Albert Park, Cootamundra will be a place we can all come together, feel we belong, to play side by side and have fun.



Variety met with many children from the local schools, the Mayor and other key stakeholders in Cootamundra to ensure the kids and families share their ideas for their dream playspace and the needs of additional infrastructure to make sure we can all get there, play and stay. Variety were so impressed with the children's understanding of what true inclusion is.

A short survey which will provide this important input to the playspace is available on Council's website and Facebook page for all to complete. Please join our friends of Variety Livvi's Place Cootamundra Facebook group page to keep up to date with the project, see the designs and help create a truly inclusive space we will all be able to enjoy together. Variety also has some grants open that your child might be eligible for. See this link: <https://www.variety.org.au/nsw/how-we-help-covid-19/>



Weed Spraying Notice Council wishes to advise residents across the region that weed spraying will be undertaken. Notification is made in accordance with the Pesticide Regulation 1995. Herbicide application will occur during the months of July 2020 to December 2020 in the town and village streets and lanes, for the eradication of weeds on the roadside and culverts, as well as weed control in public spaces.



Parker Street Spectacular

Parks and Gardens Foreman Steve Lowe took this amazing photo of Parker Street Cootamundra. The trees are awash with twinkling lights that make for a spectacular site at night.

Free Computer Training In Shire Villages

CGRC will conduct a series of free courses in local villages for those would like to become more confident using laptop computers and the internet.

Courses will be presented by council library staff and cover topics including how to operate a laptop, using email and social media, internet safety, and entertainment and communication online.

Each course includes four two-hour sessions. No prior experience is required, and all equipment is supplied.

The first course commences in Adjungbilly at the community hall on Tuesday November 10 at 10am.

The program is funded by Be Connected, an Australian government initiative committed to increasing the confidence, skills and online safety of Australians.

To register or enquire, phone the Cootamundra Library on 1300 459 689.



Free computer training courses for beginners will commence with a four-week course in Adjungbilly in November.

Survey to determine effects of COVID-19 on local business

CGRC and NDP Economic Development is conducting a Vibe Survey to see what the impacts of COVID-19 are on our local businesses.

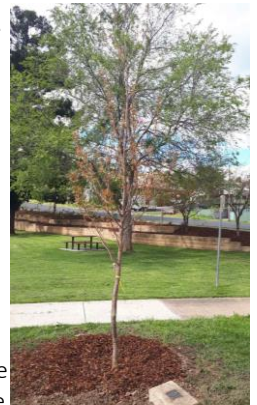
The Vibe Survey is an independent audit to determine the CGRC Local Government Area's (LGA) economic performance and highlight areas of concern and potential growth. The survey will clearly inform on the severity of Covid-19 on our economy, the nature of local business sentiment and guidance on economic development programs and planning. A report will be prepared at the conclusion of the survey and will be presented to Councillors highlighting the critical issues facing the CGRC LGA. Local business owners are urged to complete the survey by following the link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GVLYRQQ>

For more information please visit: <https://www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au/2020/09/29/survey-to-determine-effects-of-covid-19-on-local-business/>

Check out Council's Facebook page for more info.

New Tree for Genevieve

An ornamental Cherry Blossom Tree has been planted in Gundagai's Carberry Park in memory of Genevieve Reardon (Carberry). The tree replaces an older tree that had to be removed due to disease. With the development of the new playground now complete Genevieve's tree could be replaced and stands proud facing Sheridan Street.



COOTAMUNDRA SHOWGROUND USERS GROUP s355 AGM – will be held in Alby Schultz Room Cootamundra on 21 October 2020 at 7pm. Interested persons are invited to attend.

Amalgamation Of Water & Sewer Charging Structures

In addition to the rates harmonisation required by the NSW Government and implemented this year, Council has also harmonised the water and sewer charging and billing structures of the two former Councils of Gundagai Shire Council and Cootamundra Shire Council.

The various water and sewer charge amounts and structures of the former shire councils have been reviewed and consolidated, with uniform charge amounts and structures now applying throughout the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council area.

Council has also reviewed the charges in their entirety, with some changes necessary to meet the current and future funding challenges faced by Council to replace and maintain water and sewer infrastructure, to ensure modern supply and environmental standards are met.

Some examples of major capital projects are:

- Replacement and upgrade of a significant part of the Cootamundra water mains network
- Gundagai Sewerage Treatment Works replacement

Also, Council is required to comply with best practice pricing requirements for water supply, sewerage and trade waste, so that water is conserved and used as efficiently as possible, and so that significant cross-subsidies are eliminated and all customers pay a fair price for water supply and sewerage services.

The two most significant changes that have been brought by this ongoing necessity for compliance with best practice are:

- The introduction of a uniform "stepped tariff" for water consumption, whereby a limit is set as to the amount of water that is consumed at a lower per unit (kilolitre) cost, and water usage over this limit is then charged at a higher rate. This tariff threshold is now set at 39 kilolitres (39,000 litres) per quarterly billing period.
- The introduction of Liquid Trade Waste charges for non-residential (business) properties that discharge to the sewerage system in the former Cootamundra area. Properties within the former Gundagai area have been subject to these charges for some time, and to ensure uniformity, the same method of charging has been applied throughout the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council area.

These changes and increases will impact all water and sewer assessments to some extent, and some ratepayers will see significant changes in the amounts of their water and sewer charges compared to previous years.

Whilst Council is unable to vary or reduce the charges payable, or the due dates, ratepayers who may experience difficulty in paying their charges by the due date are encouraged to contact Council to discuss a mutually acceptable periodical payment plan to ensure that overdue water and charges are brought up-to-date within a reasonable period.

Some of the main features of the new uniform water and sewer charges for most ratepayers in the most common charging categories are set out below.

Note that most access charges are applied per meter, and higher charges are applicable for water service connections greater than the standard 20mm size. A full list of the charges may be found in Council's 2020-2021 Operational Plan at:

<https://www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/03-Revenue-Policy-2021-Part-3.pdf>

Water Usage (Consumption) Charge

The first 39 kilolitres (kl) of water usage per quarterly billing period \$2.00 per kl

Water usage over 39 kl per quarterly billing period \$3.00 per kl

Water Access Charges (per meter)

Water Access Charge 20mm (per meter) \$400.00 (\$100 per quarter)

Sewer Access Charges

Residential Sewer Access Charge \$600.00 (\$150 per quarter)

Non-Residential Sewer Access Charge 20mm \$500.00 (\$125 per quarter)

Non-Residential Sewer Usage Charges*

All usage per kl \$2.65

Liquid Trade Waste Charges*

Liquid Trade Waste Annual Charge \$231.00 (\$57.75 per quarter)

Liquid Trade Waste Usage Charge per kl (Category 2 Business) \$4.00

(* Sewer and Liquid Trade Waste Usage charges are calculated by applying a discharge factor to the amount of water usage measured, and multiplying this result by the price per kilolitre.

Discharge factors are dependent upon the type of business at the property).

Vendorpanel Marketplace

Council is launching a platform that makes it easier for Council buyers to invite local suppliers to submit quotes and proposals for their projects and works. VendorPanel Marketplace is free for suppliers to use. Once registered, suppliers will receive invitations to quote on work across dozens of categories, from advertising to waste management. The platform manages all communication between Council buyers and suppliers, reducing admin, saving time and ensuring best practice procurement processes are followed. In addition to VendorPanel, Council will also be introducing the "Vault Contractor" system. The Vault system is an online risk management platform that supports a broad range of risk management processes including a self-service portal for contractors to enter their WHS, environmental and insurance details. The system will also support Council in its commitment to worker safety. Invitations have been sent out to our existing suppliers and to those suppliers who have previously expressed interest in doing business with Council.

 VendorPanel

Australia Day Award Nominations

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, in conjunction with the Australia Day Council, proposes to present its Annual Australia Day Awards on 26th January 2021, at two separate ceremonies: one to be held in Gundagai and one to be held in Cootamundra, for each of the following categories: 1. Citizen of the Year 2. Young Citizen of the Year 3. Sportsperson of the Year / Sports Achievement Award.

Nominations of persons considered suitable for these Awards are invited from organisations and members of the public. All residents from the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council area are eligible for nomination. Nominations are to be in writing (by letter, or on the form available from Council Offices and website) and received by Council no later than 1pm Friday 20th November 2020. The Citizen of the Year Award is for all persons of any age, whilst the Young Citizen Award is for persons aged up to 25 years as at 31 December 2020. The Sportsperson/Sports Achievement Award is open to all ages. Persons who have been nominated previously but who have not won an award are eligible for re-nomination.

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Residents are advised the Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday 27 October 2020 in the Alby Schultz Meeting Centre Cootamundra. The meeting Agenda will be available from Council website prior the meeting. Livestreaming will commence at 6pm.

Mayor Abb McAlister, Deputy Mayor Dennis Palmer, Cr Leigh Bowden, Cr David Graham, Cr Gil Kelly, Cr Penny Nicholson, Cr Doug Phillips, Cr Charlie Sheahan, Cr Craig (Stewie) Stewart Visit <https://www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au/>