

COMMUNITY NEWS

78th EDITION 3rd May 2021

COOTAMUNDRA-GUNDAGAL REGIONAL Want to stay up to date with Council nappenings?
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SENIORS ENJOY TEA WITH CGRC

Senior Citizens from across the Local Government Area (LGA) were entertained by CGRC staff and Councillors at morning teas in Cootamundra and Gundagai as part of Seniors Week 2021. The senior citizens at the respective centres enjoyed a lovely array of slices, scones, and sandwiches. CGRC General Manager Mr Phil McMurray took to the cook book and baked a delicious sponge cake, adorned with raspberries and passionfruit for the Gundagai reception.

Mayor Abb McAlister welcomed the groups and opened the floor for a question-and-answer session which covered topics such as the villages strategy that was adopted by the Council, more street tree planting in Gundagai and the Dog on the Tuckerbox redevelopment, funding for senior events and the demerger situation.

Cr McAlister sincerely thanked the attendees for coming along to the morning tea events and showing interest in council issues.

"This year's theme of Seniors Week is 'In Our Nature', and I know that for years it has always been in our seniors' nature to help our community and get involved," Cr McAlister said.

"We really thank you for that and we thank you for continuing to contribute to our community in so many ways. It's very much appreciated." Cr McAlister added.



Seniors Tea at CGRC. Above: Carmel Reardon with CGRC GM, Phil McMurray. Top Right: GM Phil McMurray and Mayor Cr Abb McAlister taking questions. Bottom Right: Don Elliott, Eddie Jarrott, Arthur Ward and Mayor Abb McAlister enjoy a chat.

WALLENDBEEN BRIDGE BURLEY GRIFFIN

<u>WAY</u>: Following the failure of the bridge Council has been in consultation with John Holland Rail (owners of the bridge) and TfNSW about detours and the replacement of the bridge. Currently negotiations are underway to have the Stockinbingal Road approved as the temporary detour with plans to undertake some pavement rehabilitation completed shortly if the route is approved. This work and the bridge replacement will be at the expense of John Holland Rail.



COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

At the Ordinary meeting held 27 April 2021 Council resolved to thank RSL Sub Branches in Cootamundra and Gundagai on their successful Anzac Day Events.

Notice of motion from Cr Leigh Bowden to write again to NSW Local Government Minister and various NSW Government MP's seeking a decision on the demerger proposal.

Development applications approved for March totalled nearly \$2.5 million this and \$11.135 million for the year to date compared with \$2.889 million by this time last year. Council has received approval for a \$50,000 grant to implement the requirements of the NSW Planning Portal.

LED replacement of street lights will be happening in the coming year.

CALLING ALL LOCAL TRADIES:

Have you registered as a supplier on VendorPanel yet? If not, you might miss the opportunity to quote for Council projects. We are currently looking for Contractors to do a Roof Replacement & Renewal in Cootamundra and Stone Pavers to be supplied in Gundagai. There are also Tenders to be advertised shortly for Wet & Dry Plant Hire, Products & Services. Go to http://www.vendorpanel.com.au/cgrc/tenders to register & receive invitations to quote.





BOUNDARIES COMMISSION REPORT DEMERGER PROPOSAL UPDATE.

As most residents would be aware CGRC and concerned residents made submissions to the Boundaries Commission in November last year in relation to the proposal for a demerger of the current Council (CGRC).

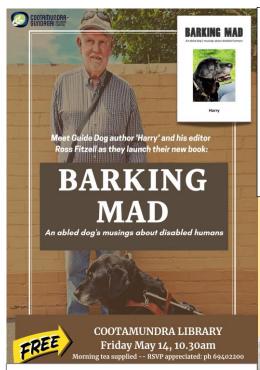
A delegation from CGRC represented Council and the communities at meetings with NSW State Parliamentarians in February.

The Boundaries Commission report was submitted to the Minister for Local Government Hon Shelley Hancock MP, in early February. Council wrote to the Minister in March, asking for a decision regarding the Boundaries Commission report and the proposition of demerging the Council. A reply was received from the Ministers office advising that the decision will be taken in due course. At the time of going to press, Council has had no further announcements from the Minister for Local Government

CGRC mayor Cr Abb McAlister said he was disappointed that a decision either way has not yet been made.

"The situation at present is frustrating and hampers Council's ability to look to the future, Council has applied for a Special Rate Variation to assist with the financial stability of the Council operations. We have to look, at present, with two scenarios going forward, Council remaining as it is or in a demerger situation. This is both challenging and time consuming for staff and puts us all in a position of uncertainty whilst raising complex issues. All we need is a decision," Cr McAlister said.

Council will endeavour to keep residents notified as this situation evolves.



THE DRAFT COOTAMUNDRA-GUNDAGAI AGRITOURISM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY:

is now on public exhibition. Submissions/feedback should be forwarded to the General Manager CGRC and submitted by 5pm 18 May 2021 by post to Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, PO Box 420, Cootamundra NSW 2590, delivered to Council's offices at Cootamundra or Gundagai or by email to mail@cgrc.nsw.gov.au. To view the draft strategy please visit Council website.

2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS:

Are you thinking of running for this year's Local Government Elections? The NSW Electoral Commission's Bulletin for Political Participants has now been released and is NSW available on the Electoral Commission's website. The Bulletin is aimed at candidates, parties, lobbyists and third-party campaigners. The Bulletin highlights the series of candidate webinars which are to be screened. These webinars have been designed specifically for candidates for the upcoming September 2021 ordinary elections.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: ALBY SCHULTZ MEETING CENTRE ROOF REPLACEMENT AND RENEWAL PROJECT: Council is seeking expressions of interest from licensed trades for removal of existing roof iron, flashing and battens and replace with new to the Alby Schultz Meeting Centre Cooper St Cootamundra. Scope of works can be obtained by visiting Council website. For further information call the Project Officer Darrell Edwards on 1300 459 689. EOI Close 5pm 10 May 2021.

COUNCIL CANDIDATE'S FORUM: Have you ever thought about representing your community by becoming a Councillor? Council will hold open forums to assist people interested in running for the upcoming September, 2021 Local Government Elections. The forums will be held at 6pm 11 May 2021 at the Council Chambers Gundagai and at 6pm 8 June 2021 in the Alby Schultz Meeting Centre Cootamundra. No booking required.

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS CAN NOW APPLY FOR DONATIONS: Applications from Community Organisations looking for donations/in kind support are now being invited for the 2021/2022 financial year. Applications close 5pm Friday 21st May 2021. For more information, please visit Council website.

THE DRAFT DOG ON THE TUCKERBOX MASTERPLAN: is now on public exhibition. Submissions/feedback should forwarded to the General Manager CGRC and submitted by 5pm 11 May 2021 by post Cootamundra-Gundagai Council, PO Box 420, Cootamundra NSW 2590, delivered to Council's offices at Cootamundra or Gundagai or by email to mail@cgrc.nsw.gov.au. Council is holding a drop-in information session for the community at Council Chambers Sheridan Street Gundagai on Friday 30 April 2021 from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Information about the masterplan is available on Council's website.

WOW for SES: CGRC will be supporting the NSW State Emergency Service, (SES), with the Wear it Orange Wednesday, (WOW) day. Council is encouraging staff and business houses to celebrate and honour the contribution SES volunteers make to our communities by wearing orange on Wednesday 19 May 2021.

WEED SPRAYING NOTICE Council advises 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 January 2021 to June 2021 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.

Did you know you can register your email address to Council and receive newsletters, media releases and other information delivered directly to your inbox? REGISTER VIA MAIL@CGRC.NSW.GOV.AU Mark Send Me Media in subject line.



COOTAMUNDRA LIBRARY PH: 6940 2200

June 11, June 25 @ 10am

WHATS ON AT OUR LIBRARIES -COOTAMUNDRA: Digital Detox: escape your screen for an hour of creative and reflective activity. Free program for kids and adults. Every second Saturday, 10.30-11.30am. No booking req. May 1, 15, 29. Baby Bounce: sing, dance, and read with your bub. Free program for children aged 0-2 years. Every second Friday, 10am. April 30, May 14, May 28. Storytime: free program for 2-5 years, every Wednesday in term time at 10am. A different theme each week. Mother's Day craft: after-school craft sessions to create Mother's Day gifts. For primary aged children. \$2 per child. May 3-7, 3.30-4.30pm. Bookings required. Author talk: meet Guide Dog and author 'Harry' and his editor Ross Fitzell as they launch their new book 'Barking Mad'. Friday May 14, 10.30am. Morning tea provided. Free event, RSVP appreciated. Take home craft kits: learn the art of silk paper making in the comfort of your own home. Pick up a kit from the library for \$10. JP service: the library has 3 accredited Justice of the Peace members. Free service available most days 9am-5pm. No appointment required. 8. Free computer tutoring: learn to use a computer with our free one-on-one lessons. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Bookings essential. For all bookings, phone the library on 6940 2200. **GUNDAGAI LIBRARY NEWS: Author talk:** Anita Heiss at the Gundagai library for the release of her new novel Bila Yarrudhangalagdhuray on 13 5pm. Anita's new novel opens with the great Gundagai flood. Dr Ray Luckie Writing Workshop Wednesday 26 May. Call the library on 0269440270 for all library enquires and bookings.

<u>ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL</u>: The ordinary meeting will be held on 25th May 2021 at the Gundagai Council Chambers starting at and livestreamed from 6pm. COVID restrictions as determined by the NSW State Government will be in place and enforced, please refer to Council's website or call Council for information on meeting restrictions prior to attending open forum. Meeting agenda on CGRC website.