



COOTAMUNDRA-
GUNDAGAI
REGIONAL
COUNCIL

COMMUNITY NEWS

83rd EDITION
13 September 2021

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EXCITING NEW FUTURE AHEAD FOR GUNDAGAI PRESCHOOL KINDERGARTEN:

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (CGRC), in conjunction with Gundagai Preschool Kindergarten Inc are excited that plans have now reached the stage, where tenders are being called for the redevelopment of the Preschool.

Months of planning, and consultation with Council and Preschool members have resulted in plans being drafted to see this exciting new redevelopment take place. CGRC is now seeking suitably qualified contractors to undertake construction at the Gundagai Preschool Kindergarten. The project is to be undertaken in two stages. This is required to allow early childcare and preschool activities to continue uninterrupted and safely during the redevelopment.

Stage 1 will see substantial earthworks, a carpark, and a new preschool building constructed, with staff and children moving to the new building before Stage 2 commences. Stage 2 will see the existing preschool building demolished before final buildings will be constructed. The successful contractor will need to work closely with preschool staff to ensure minimal interruption and safety to staff, children and families.

Once complete, the Preschool will provide up to 80 places for quality preschool education to children 3yrs to school-age, as well as a vital therapy room for children and families who require inclusion and support services. The design includes 3 age-appropriate playrooms, all with separate bathrooms and change areas, a staff room, a dedicated kitchen and dining area where children and educators can take part in interactive cooking experiences. As well as providing preschool education, 1 of the playrooms will offer a therapy space to cater for inclusion services such as occupational therapists, speech pathologists, parenting classes and early childhood courses. The new facility will ensure every child in the community has access to a quality preschool program, 2 years before formal schooling.

The new facility will support growth within the community, activate the local economy, and improve services and community infrastructure. It is vital the project remains on budget and construction falls within allocations. This project would not be possible without the support of NSW Strong Capital Works Program. The tender closes at 2pm, Friday 8 October 2021 with contracts expected to be signed early in November 2021.

CGRC mayor Cr Abb McAlister said he was pleased the final plans have come together. "We've reached the first milestone in what will be a great future development for the Preschool. Council staff along with stakeholders from the preschool have worked together to ensure that the future needs of Gundagai's preschool aged children are met," Cr McAlister said.

This project would not be possible without the support of NSW Strong Capital Works Program and the NSW Stronger Communities Funding Program.



Above: Gundagai Preschool is set to be redeveloped. The tender process has been opened with Council inviting qualified contractors to tender for the construction. CGRC mayor Cr Abb McAlister is pictured with Lauren Eccelston President of the Preschool committee, Stacey Smith, Director, and Kayla Smart (with Faith Smart) committee member.

It is mandatory for people in NSW to sign into businesses and retail venues using the QR code system. Fines are applicable for businesses and patrons who fail to comply. Fitted face masks must be worn when entering an indoor area of a non-residential premises in NSW. Please don't abuse Council staff. This behaviour will not be tolerated. Failure to comply with these public health orders will result in police action.



Above: CGRC crews are constructing footpath/cycle path along Muttuma Creek adjacent to the car park of Ex Services Club in Cootamundra. After construction is completed, this shared footpath/cycleway along the creek will link Parker and Wallendoon Streets and will provide a safer off road travel route for pedestrians, gophers and cyclists.

COVID-19 SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS & SMALL BUSINESS:

If you or your business has been impacted due to COVID-19, there are several of support packages and advice available. Please check out the Australian Government Business and NSW Government Websites. [CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC](https://www.coronavirus.pandemic.gov.au)
Regional Development Australia – Riverina NSW is also assisting with information. Website rdariverina.org.au

COVID-19 Health Advice: www.health.nsw.gov.au



NEW SEATS AND SHADE SHELTER
Gundagai's Friendship Park, has undergone further improvements, with the installation of security fencing, seating and a shade shelter, with picnic facilities. The neighbourhood park has seen new playground equipment installed recently. The new seating and shade shelter will make the area a haven for children and carers. The playground now has the infrastructure to be an ideal venue for birthday parties and other neighbourhood celebrations. Funding for the improvements at Friendship Park have been made possible from the NSW State Governments Stronger Country Communities Fund.

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL: The ordinary meeting will be held on 28 September 2021 at the Gundagai Council Chambers, Sheridan Street Gundagai. 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.

LIBRARY NEWS:The Gundagai Youth Council are holding an online open zoom session at 3.00pm on the 7 October 2021 for anyone interested in joining the Youth Council. Register on the GYC Facebook page or call 0269440270 for more info.

The **Riverina Local Land Services Photographic Exhibition** is on display. Due to the Covid lockdown the display is at the window at the front of the Gundagai library for people passing to enjoy.



HOME DELIVERY SERVICE is available please phone the Gundagai Library 0269440270, or email gundagai.library@cgrc.nsw.gov.au or Facebook message Gundagai Library.

Our libraries offer a wide range of online resources for both research and recreation including audio books, children's storybox, online newspaper access and free ancestry.com access. Did you know you can join the library while in lockdown? Jump onto rrl.nsw.gov.au and under 'Your Library' click on 'Become a Member' and fill out the online form. It really is that simple! And FREE! **STORYTIME ONLINE.** A fabulous online Storytime session will be uploaded to the Cootamundra Library Facebook page each day, courtesy of RRL Childrens Librarian Sharon Smith. Join in the stories, songs, and craft! **DIGITAL BOOKS, AUDIO, AND MAGAZINES.** We have 3 free apps available for downloading online books and audio. Check them out and download them here:

<https://rrl.nsw.gov.au/collection/online/ebooks/>

ASSISTANCE WITH APPS AND ONLINE SERVICES is available from RRL Head Office, 9am-4pm Mon-Fri: ph 02 69269 771. **FAMILY HISTORY.** Research your family history online with our FREE Ancestry subscription. Visit

<https://rrl.nsw.gov.au/learn/research/local-family-history/>. For more information about any of our services, please contact us on (02) 6940 2200.

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS STOCKINBINGAL AND WALLEND BEEN

Councils contractor Elouera Association has requested to change the operating hours of the Stockinbingal and Wallendbeen village tips.

The changes to the operating hours are:

Stockinbingal Tip – Wednesdays and Sundays, 8:30 am to 12pm (currently 8am to 12pm).

Wallendbeen Tip – Wednesdays and Sundays, 1pm to 4:30 pm (currently 1pm to 5pm).

Effective from Wednesday 6 October 2021.

CGRC COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER LATE EDITION

Council apologises to residents that the Community Newsletter was not delivered in the first week of the month, as per the normal arrangement. The late delivery is due to Australia Post's commitment to the Census and results of the COVID-19 pandemic with staff shortages and restrictions. The normal delivery of the Newsletter will resume in October 2021.

CIVIL WORKS: *Fixing Local Roads Projects:* McKay Street Cootamundra works are completed on the kerb from Onley Street to Hemet Crescent. Footpath reinstatement has commenced at the Poole Street intersection, due to Covid restrictions the contractor has been limited with work abilities. Installation of new culvert at the intersection of Onley Street is expected to be completed soon. The next stage will be pavement rehabilitation in the blocks between Onley and Hemet Crescent. All pavement material on Old Gundagai Road has now been placed and compacted. The next stage of the sealing works will start in warmer conditions. Work will recommence on the Old Hume Highway with gravel resheeting and drain clearing to resume ahead of planned stabilisation and sealing.

Local Roads Community Infrastructure Program: Works on the bridge replacement on Rosehill Road, Cootamundra have seen the all the ancillary drainage works alongside the road completed and the removal of the side-track. Pavement construction of the bridge approaches is underway. While the road is open to traffic, bitumen sealing is expected to take place in early September 2021. This project was being funded from the Local Roads Community Infrastructure program as well as some funds from the Natural Disaster funds from the February 2019 storm event.

Wallendbeen Railway Bridge: Advice was recently received for John Holland Rail (JHR) regarding the expected opening of the temporary bridge over the railway line is now mid-November 2021. Concern has been raised with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) regarding this date due to the extra burden and impact this will have on Council's local road network in particular Stockinbingal Road. TfNSW have advised they are in negotiation with JHR to review at this date to bring it forward early October 2021. JHR are currently assembling the temporary bridge with plans underway to commence construction of the bridge abutments shortly.

Stockinbingal Road Cootamundra: Council is in discussions with TfNSW to cover the additional maintenance on Stockinbingal Road with a positive outcome expected. These discussions include the need for additional heavy patching and pavement rehabilitation due to the severity of the damage being experienced. *Works:* Works are complete on the side-track over the Bongolong Creek on Burra Road, Burra Creek. This was emergency works to provide access to local traffic only with a 5 tonne limit imposed. Preparation works are under way to advertise for the replacement of this structure. Maintenance grading has been completed on Hopewood, Bundarbo, Wee Jasper, Fairview and Cooneys Creek Roads, Jugiong. Gravel Resheeting has been completed on Rosedale Road, Mundarlo. Grading crews will continue onto Cooininee, Hoares, Tabers, Armours, Wambidgee Roads, Coolac, Deltroit and Reef Creek Roads, Mundarlo.

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES: At the Ordinary meeting held 31 August 2021 Council resolved:

RES 180/2021: To have Pioneer Park, Cootamundra be included in a new RV Friendly Town Assessment submission to the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) to have Cootamundra included in the Recreational Vehicle Friendly Town program by submitting a new application to CMCA for approval of the determined sites. On approval the new RV Friendly site will be advertised through Councils usual mediums and RV Friendly Town signs will be installed.

RES 221/2021: The Ordinary Meeting scheduled for 14 December 2021 is to be cancelled. It was resolved to hold an Ordinary Meeting 10 January 2022, being no later than three weeks after election results have been declared as legislated under the Local Government Act.

RES 235/2021: Council will endorse the Bushfire Black Summer Recovery Grant for \$122,000 for the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Entrepreneurs Program.

RES 236/2021: Council adopted the Draft Child Protection Policy and Procedure.

RES 237/2021: Council consider entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Paranormal Entertainment (trading as APPI Ghost Hunts & Tours) to conduct tours at the Old Gundagai Gaol.

RES 239/2021: Council approved the PROPOSED 4MW SOLAR FARM - LOT 8 DP 1244273,167 FIVE MILE CREEK ROAD, GUNDAGAI subject to consent conditions.

RES 240/2021: Council approved the CHANGE OF USE TO DENTAL CLINIC, 2-4 COOPER STREET, COOTAMUNDRA - VARIATION TO DEVELOPMENT STANDARD subject to the consent conditions.

Council business papers, can be viewed on the CGRC Website.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

The Minister for Local Government made an order on 24 July 2021 to postpone Local Government elections until 4 December 2021.

For more information, please visit the NSW Electoral Commission Website.

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