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**CAREER DREAMS REALISED:** At 16 years of age, Grace Neale has started her career as an Apprentice Diesel Mechanic with CGRC. CGRC Plant Foreman Garry Scifleet said Grace brings enthusiasm and passion to the role. A student from Cootamundra High School, Grace undertook the TVET program with TAFE and school that helped build her practical skills and industry specific knowledge. Grace will now be under the tutorage of Mr Scifleet and CGRC Plant Mechanic Marc Bickerdike as her apprenticeship progresses. "This girl is no stranger to hard work, washing trucks for a trucking firm and working at a supermarket as well as holding down her job here, is a testament to her work ethic," Marc said. Her first job with CGRC was to carry out a 1000-hour major service on an earthmoving machine. "Whilst we are excited to have the first female apprentice mechanic on board, Council does have other females in typically male dominated industries, it's never been about gender for us, it's all about the ability, the drive and the passion for the job that counts," Garry said. Grace will commence her formal TAFE studies in the new year, giving the team at Council's workshop months to ensure she is TAFE ready and has a head start on the basics.



**DOING US PROUD:** Tourism Development Officer Casey Polsen (pictured below) has made it through as a regional finalist in the Trainee of the Year category of the 2022 NSW Training Awards – Riverina/Murray region. The awards will be held in Griffith in June. A wonderful achievement!



**A FEELING OF BELONGING:** At a ceremony held on Monday 16 May 2022, Arianna Watts was warmly welcomed as an Australian citizen. Ariana took the pledge and stood proud as the Australian national anthem played. CGRC mayor Cr Charlie Sheahan presented Ariana with a Citizenship Certificate and a native plant. Ariana along with husband Jon and three children have made Cootamundra their home. "I now feel like I belong!" Ariana said after the ceremony. (pictured above).



## LIVVI'S PLACE PLAYSACE IN ALBERT PARK

**COOTAMUNDRA:** The all-inclusive playspace has been attracting interest from residents, travellers and interest groups since construction commenced in September last year. With much of the work now complete preparations are underway to formalise an opening date. It is anticipated that the new playground will be ready by no later than July. Council will be arranging for a formal and informal open events. The informal will involve Council and our community whilst the formal will involve all persons/groups in the playground's development including political dignitaries. (Pictured Above).

**VISIT BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW PRESIDENT:** On Monday 2 May, 2022 Local Government NSW President, Cr Darriea Turley, AM and Chief Executive Scott Phillips, travelled from Sydney to introduce themselves to Cr Charlie Sheahan (Mayor), Cr Leigh Bowden (Deputy Mayor) Cr Abb McAlister, Cr Trevor Glover, Les McMahon (Interim General Manager), Glen McAtear (Acting Deputy General Manager) to discuss local issues. (pictured right).

Cr Turley invited the Mayor and Councillors in attendance, to raise any matters or challenges that were of significant concern for discussion. The Mayor raised the current Local Government Boundaries Commission's review of the proposal to demerge Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council to the former council area. The issue was discussed at length with all parties. Cr Turley and Mr Phillips advised they would take all the concerns mentioned back to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Wendy Tuckerman and advocate on behalf of CGRC.



**JUNE 2022 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING:** The next Ordinary Meeting will be held on Tuesday 28 June 2022 at the Alby Schultz Centre, Cooper Street Cootamundra commencing, and livestreamed from 6pm. Meeting agenda on CGRC website.



## FROM THE MAYOR:

May has been a busy month for Council. As Mayor one of the most rewarding jobs is to conduct citizenship ceremonies and welcome people who have made our region their home. This month I was delighted to welcome Ariana Watts as a new Australian Citizen, meet her family and hear her story. Cr Leigh Bowden and I attended the Cootamundra Aboriginal Working Group Cultural Awareness Day at the Cootamundra Public School it was good to have a yarn and catch up with everyone present. Councils new interim General Manager, Les McMahon is settling in and getting to know everyone.

Preliminary discussions with the developer regarding the proposed development of the Dog on the Tuckerbox precinct were very positive and this looks to be a very exciting proposal that will breathe life into that historic site.

We are now in waiting mode for the Boundaries Commission to make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government in regard to the de-merger proposal that saw the Commission hold hearings in Cootamundra and Gundagai last month. For now, it's business as usual, and I ask residents to treat Council staff with respect as they carry out their duties. There is no need for abuse, nor criticism directed at staff.

On behalf of all Councillors, I'd like to extend my congratulations to Tourism Development Officer, Casey Polsen for making it through as a regional finalist in the Trainee of the Year category of the 2022 NSW Training Awards – Riverina/Murray region. Casey is based in the Visitors Information Centre at Gundagai and will travel to Griffith in June for the awards presentation. Good luck Casey, we wish you well with the next stage.

There are a lot of things happening in both towns which is providing great opportunity for the future of this region, with road works, footpath replacement programs and a host of projects progressing along. The Livvi's Playspace in Cootamundra's Albert Park is a very exciting project, we should see this park opened by early July. At date is still to be finalised, and the finishing touches are now being applied.

A new initiative I have implemented is the video recording that briefly wraps up the Council meeting, check it out on the CGRC website. Cr Leigh Bowden and I recorded our first wrap up for the April meeting and the next one for May will be on the website now.

Until next month, stay safe, stay positive and stay nice.

Regards,  
Cr Charlie Sheahan,  
Mayor: Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council



The Gundagai Community Garden members will be enjoying pizza with a new pizza oven being installed.

Thanks to a NSW Government SCCF Grant.

**COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS & INDIVIDUALS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR COUNCIL SUPPORT:** Council has traditionally supported local sporting clubs, community groups and individuals through the provision of financial, and in kind, support. CGRC continues to provide that support to its communities now and into the future through its Community Donations Program. Last year Community Organisations such as Cootamundra Girl Guides, Stockinbingal Heritage Room, and Gundagai Busking Competition applied for funding, for very different community events for varying amounts, and were successful. Council was pleased to fund all the successful applicants and donated \$30,000 in total across the local government area. To be considered for a donation community organisations and individuals must submit an application for donation and meet the criteria detailed on the applications. Applications can be downloaded from Council's webpage or by attending an administration centre. Applications for support are now being accepted for the 22/23 Financial year, and close at 5pm 10 June 2022.

<https://www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au/community->

*Mayor Charlie Sheahan, Deputy Mayor Leigh Bowden, Cr Les Boyd, Cr Logan Collins, Cr Trevor Glover, Cr David Graham, Cr Gil Kelly, Cr Abb McAlister, Cr Penny Nicholson, Visit <https://www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au/>*



## CHANGES TO RIVERINA REGIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE FROM 1 JULY 2022

### What is changing?

Wagga Wagga City Council will no longer be a member of the Riverina Regional Library network from 1 July 2022. The Councils of Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Federation, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart, Snowy Valleys and Temora remain.

### What library services will change?

The Wagga Wagga City Library will move to a stand-alone model and the RRL Mobile Library service will cease at Collingullie, Humula, Ladysmith, Tarcutta and Uranquinty. Further details can be found on the Wagga Wagga City Library website.

From 1 May until 30 June 2022, members will be unable to reserve items via the online catalogue. Items can still be reserved by attending or contacting your local library branch.

### Can I still borrow items?

Yes! All NSW library members enjoy reciprocal borrowing rights with all libraries across NSW. Any RRL library member will still be able to attend Wagga Wagga City Library to borrow items after 1 July 2022 and vice versa, however, limits and restrictions apply. See our website for more details:

[rri.nsw.gov.au](http://rri.nsw.gov.au)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Cootamundra's Bradman Cottage is looking for volunteers. Volunteering can be on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.

## IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW THINKING ABOUT STUDYING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG?

The Riverina Joint Organisation, of which CGRC is a member, has employed a student at the University of Wollongong to serve as a Student Ambassador. This Student Ambassador role is to represent careers in local government to university students, however, the role may also serve our local high school students' information needs regarding 'What it's like to study at university?' or 'Which university courses are in demand by local government employers?' If someone in your family, or someone you know is thinking about studying at university in 2023, and the University of Wollongong in particular, you are welcome to contact RivJO's Program Coordinator (Paul Worsfold, [paulworsfold@riverinajo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:paulworsfold@riverinajo.nsw.gov.au)) who will help with making contact with our Student Ambassador.

**WEED SPRAYING NOTICE:** Council wishes to advise residents across the region that weed spraying will be undertaken during the months of May to June 2022. Notification is made in accordance with the Pesticide Regulation 1995. Herbicide application will occur on roadsides, culverts, town and village streets and lanes, and weed control in public spaces. Motorists are asked to be vigilant and look out for signs and spray vehicles.