



Volume 10, Number 1, January 2006

# Australia Day 2006

## Three ways this year to celebrate what's great

WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL is sponsoring three Australia Day celebrations in the municipality for 2006 in partnership with community groups

The first will be the now-traditional breakfast and flag raising at the Buronga Wetlands; the second the annual citizenship ceremony and lunch on the riverfront at Wentworth and making its debut, an evening event at Dareton in Tapio Park.

The Buronga event will get under way at 7.45am, Wentworth at 10.30am and Dareton's first Australia Day event at 5.30pm. True to the Australia Day spirit, the Dareton festivities have been dubbed "Celebrate what's great" and will feature a barbecue tea and music by Brian Hunt.

Wentworth Shire Mayor, Cr Margaret Thomson, said the Shire was pleased to be able to help its communities celebrate at three locations this year.

"I am hopeful the Dareton event will become as much a part of our Australia Day calendar as the now-traditional Buronga and Wentworth festivities," the Mayor said.

"I congratulate the Dareton/Coomealla/Namatjira Community Action Team

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Wentworth Arts' Cynthia Keenan and Merryl Hale spread the word about the Vardos concert at St John's, Wentworth, by poster.

## Spreading the Gypsy Strings word

WENTWORTH ARTS members have been 'taking it to the streets' during the past few days, spreading the word about the fabulous 'Vardos' gypsy music experience at St John's Anglican Church in Wentworth on Sunday night, January 29 as part of the popular Murray River International Music Festival (MRIMF).

Wentworth Arts is hosting the event as part of the 2006 festival, set to outshine last year's inaugural event with more great artists at more venues

throughout the district.

The tickets for the St John's performance are now available at the Wentworth Visitor Information Centre 5027 3624, the Mildura Arts Centre on 5018 8322 or at the door.

At \$20 each, the tickets include entry to a special 'meet the artists' gathering at Mason's Restaurant, Wentworth, starting at 6pm with drinks and finger food hosted by Wentworth Arts.

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# Three ways this year to celebrate what's great

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for its determination to see something happen in the town to mark what is arguably the most important day on the national calendar as we get together to celebrate what it means to be Australian and our great country.”

The Mayor also thanked other community groups involved in this year's festivities including the Buronga/Gol Gol Lions Club and the Mainstreet Events Committee at Wentworth.

This year's Australia Day ambassador for the Wentworth Shire is world motorcycle race champion Warwick Nowland.

Warwick grew up in country New South Wales at Quirindi, at first riding and racing dirt bikes with his mates before graduating to road bikes when he moved to Sydney to undertake a motor mechanic's apprenticeship.

The racing bug bit hard and for the past few years Warwick has made a name for himself as a champion endurance race champ in Europe, winning the the coveted Le Mans 24-hour race in 2004. Of racing, Warwick says: “I started racing and could not stop. Even now, I can't live without it. I love the sport, I love what it can do for people and I love the 'team' aspect of it.”

Warwick will speak at all three Australia Day events on Thursday, January 26.

Mayor Thomson encouraged residents to be a part of the day's celebrations saying that three events ensured there was one handy for most Shire residents.

“I will be spending Australia Day overseas this year with family in America, but you can be sure we will be celebrtating our national day just as enthusiastically on the other side of the world,” the Mayor said.

“I hope a lot of people make the effort this year to get along to at least one of the three events we have planned in consultation with our respective communities.”

*RIGHT: World endurance race champion Warwick Nowland in championship form.*



*LEFT: World endurance race champion Warwick Nowland aboard his beloved GSXR1000 Suzuki.*

## Shire probes 'degreaser' in sewer

WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL is investigating the source of a significant illegal liquid dumping in Wentworth's sewer system.

The liquid, thought to be heavy-duty degreaser, recently played havoc with the town's sewage treatment system, Wentworth Shire Deputy Mayor, Cr Mark King, said.

“The person or persons responsible may or may not be aware of the ramifications of their action,” Cr King said.

“However we are determined to track down the culprit(s).”

Cr King explained that the treatment of sewage was a finely balanced system and foreign chemicals or other materials had a marked effect on the system's effectiveness.

“With the system in balance the Shire is able to effectively treat the effluent without too many problems,” the Deputy Mayor said.

“The most significant and public indicator that the system is out of balance is a bad smell. The Shire works to avoid that at all costs. It is not good for anyone.

“What the liquid chemical released into the system recently did was kill off a significant number of the beneficial microbes that help break down the sewage into more manageable and environmentally friendly products including water.

“That means the system struggled for some time before the chemical was dispersed and the microbes bred up again.”

The Deputy Mayor made an appeal for residents not to “pour any old thing” into either the Shire's stormwater or sewerage systems.

“It is really up to all of us to take responsibility for the health of both systems,” he said.

# Art honour for volunteers

WENTWORTH Shire residents have been invited to take part in a special arts competition to celebrate what volunteering means to the Sunraysia community.

MADEC community development officer, Tressna Martin, said the competition was a way of promoting future of volunteering and celebrating past efforts.

“It is really about recognising what a great resource our volunteers are and how much they contribute on a daily basis to our communities” Tressna said.

The competition is being sponsored by a partnership between MADEC and the Volunteer Resource Centre.

The competition will be the basis for a public exhibition to show Sunraysia what volunteering means to the community.

The competition categories are:

*Visual Arts:*

## **Painting/drawing**

- Open Painting or Drawing
- Junior (12 years and under)

**Craft Item** (quilting/sculpture or woodwork)

## **Photograph**

- Colour
- Black and white

## Residents urged to create a lasting reminder

*Creative Writing:*

### **Personal story on Volunteering**

(short story, no more than 1000 words)

### **Poetry** (max 40 lines)

- Open Poem (all ages)
- Junior Poem (12 years and under)

Tressna explained the main criteria for judging were:

- Creative use of the medium (innovation & individuality)
- Effective use of the medium (skill in the use of the medium)
- Representation of the theme (volunteering)
- Articulation of the theme (how it articulates volunteering within the word limit)
- Appeal (how does it attract attention to volunteering?)
- Relevance to the audience (can people identify with it?)

“All work must be submitted before 4pm on Monday, March 13 at MADEC, 339 Deakin Avenue, Mildura or the Volunteer Resource Centre, 122 Ninth Street, Mildura,” Tressna said.

“All entries submitted must be the original work of the entrant and submitted with a completed official registration form.

“Judging will take place at the Exhibition Function on March 24 and winners not present will be notified by mail or phone.”

Entry forms are now available from the Shire’s libraries at Wentworth, Dareton and Buronga, as well as the Wentworth Visitor Information Centre, Darling Street, and the Shire’s headquarters in Adelaide Street, Wentworth.

Encouraging Shire residents to enter, Acting Mayor, Cr Mark King, said the competition and resulting exhibition were a great way to celebrate this region’s generous and historical volunteer traditions.

“It never hurts to pause for a minute or two and reflect on how much volunteers contribute to our communities and what our lives would be like without them,” Cr King said.

“They are the backbone of our communities and reflect a commitment to building a strong, dynamic place for us to live and enjoy.”

## Partnership for new Shire art exhibition

WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL has joined forces with Wentworth Arts to stage an interesting exhibition of community-owned art.

All the works now on display in the Memorial Rooms complex in Darling Street, are the property of Wentworth Shire Council, held in trust for the people of the municipality.

The art is usually found adorning the walls of the Council Chambers, but the Shire and Wentworth Arts agreed it was time to facilitate a more public display of the works.

“There is limited public access to the artworks while they are in the Chamber,” Wentworth Shire Mayor, Cr Margaret Thomson, said.

“Usually the community can only view them on Council meeting days.

“This exhibition will allow more people to appreciate the art the Shire

has collected over the past few years.”

It is the first time the collection has gone on public display as an exhibition.

This collection has come from three main sources. The first is the annual



Wentworth Show acquisitive prize sponsored by Council; the second the acquisitive prize Council sponsored for the popular Wentworth Art Prize in 2003 and 2004 and the third as gifts from Wentworth Shire’s Sister City, Azai, in Japan.

Mayor Thomson said it was the wish

of both Council and Wentworth Arts that community members and visitors enjoy the exhibition that is scheduled to hang for the next month to 6 weeks.

“We want to give as many people as possible the opportunity to see the exhibition,” Mayor Thomson said, adding that she hoped those visiting the exhibition would enjoy it.

Wentworth Arts’ Cynthia Keenan agreed, saying the arts group was dedicated to making arts accessible to the wider community and providing a wide range of art experiences including music, sculpture and workshops.

“We want to make art more available and in the spirit of that quest we hope to host a number of art events in Wentworth during the coming months, including the popular Sweat Box Art and Furniture Competition in late June, early July.”

## A pat on the back

COUNCIL'S outdoor staffers have received a pat on the back from Sunraysia Nurseries at Gol Gol.

In an letter to Council, Nursery director, Peter Smith, said: "On behalf of the planning and engineering divisions of your team please accept our sincere thanks from all at Sunraysia Nurseries for the most effective clean up job they have completed relative to the settlement ponds in front of our nursery on the Sturt Highway at Gol Gol."

"All dealings and communications we had with your team were conducted with the utmost courtesy and diligence," Mr Smith wrote.

"Our community is indeed fortunate to have people of such dedication serving our needs."

Director Operations, Peter Turner, welcomed the letter, saying it was reassuring to know the efforts of his outdoor staff were appreciated by the community.

"The outdoor staff work hard to ensure we live in an enviable community environment," he said.

## Shire seeks dip tins

THE Shire and Wentworth Arts are keen to stockpile as many obsolete dip tins as possible in coming months.

The humble, yet iconic dip tin has become one of the most important raw materials for a number of artworks in the area, including the new public sculpture at the entry to Wentworth and for entries in the annual Sweatbox Art and Furniture Competition.

"We are keen to secure more dip tins to stockpile them for the future," Wentworth Shire Mayor, Cr Margaret Thomson, said.

"They are an important resource for our artists and furniture makers and we would like to have a stockpile of them for future use."

Anyone with surplus dip tins available is asked to contact the Shire's Community Services Officer, Grant Maynard, on 5027 5052 to arrange pick-up or delivery.

## January newsletter

**This month's newsletter is smaller than usual due to there being no Council monthly meeting this month to report. Meetings will resume the third Wednesday of each month on February the 15th.**

## Spreading the Gypsy Strings word

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The ticket price includes food while a wide selection of wines and other drinks will be available at bar prices.

For those with a sense of history and the musically inquisitive, 'Vardos' was formed in 1993 by violinist Alana Hunt.

Vardos play gypsy and traditional music with Sofia Chapman on accordion and double bassist Indra Buraczewska rounding out the trio.

Vardos have toured in Australia and internationally and have performed at the Famous Spiegelent in the Edinburgh Fringe and the Nokia

## 'Saturday Shuttle' continues to serve

EVERY Saturday, the new shuttle bus service between Wentworth and Mildura continues to offer district residents and visitors alike a convenient way to access shopping, entertainment and other attractions on both sides of the State border.

While initial passenger numbers have been modest, the Wentworth Shire remains keen to see the bus service become a permanent fixture.

And for Wentworth Shire Mayor, Cr Margaret Thomson, the message is clear and simple: "Use it, or lose it".

"I encourage people to use the bus service as much as possible," the Mayor said.

"I know for many people using public transport in our area means breaking the habits of a lifetime. And I know that is because we haven't had this kind of access to convenient transport in the past.

"But we have to vote for the service by filling the seats. It's that simple!"

The Shuttle is an initiative of the NSW Ministry of Transport in partnership with Wentworth Shire Council and the wider community that was widely consulted on the concept.

Timetables are available from the Shire's libraries at Wentworth, Dareton and Buronga, the Wentworth Visitor Information Centre, Dareton Post Office and Gol Gol Store or for download in PDF format from the Shire's website at [www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au).

/Orange Spiegelent in the Edinburgh International Book Festival in 2003.

The group were nominated for the 2003 BBC Radio3 World Music Awards and returned to Edinburgh in 2004 where they received a 4-star review.

Vardos will appear from 8pm at St John's Anglican Church, Darling Street, Wentworth, on Sunday night, January 29.

Wentworth Arts' Cynthia Keenan, described "Gypsy Strings at St John's" as the event has been dubbed, as a rare opportunity to experience the distinctive gypsy sound in a unique setting.

"I think the synergy of the music and venue will add an exciting dimension to the night's entertainment," Mrs Keenan said.

## Shire contacts

**Shire offices:** 26-28 Adelaide Street,  
WENTWORTH NSW  
2648

**or:** Post Office Box 81  
WENTWORTH NSW  
2648

**Telephone:** (03) 5027 5027

**Facsimile:** (03) 5027 5000

**email:** [council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au)

### Libraries

Wentworth: (03) 5027 5060

Dareton: (03) 5027 4258

Buronga: (03) 5023 3078

**Shire after hours emergency  
mobile: 0428 488 862**

**For matters concerning stray stock  
telephone  
5027 5050**

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浅井町