

# Shire Newsletter

Wentworth Shire Council

Volume 1, Issue 11, Page 1

## Celebrating Wentworth's 150 Years in 2009

Twenty-five people attended a public meeting held on 14 November 2007 and resolved to hold one or more events to celebrate Wentworth Township's 150 years since its proclamation.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Sue Nichols, chaired the meeting as the Mayor was unavailable because of another engagement.

A committee was formed and its first meeting is

scheduled during December.

The meeting was keen to see all age groups contributing to the celebrations.

The Wentworth Shire Council will support the new committee by providing secretarial services and the coordination of information gathering.

Each person at the public meeting was given the opportunity to contribute their

ideas and have their say. Some of the attendees advised of the success of the 100 years celebrations in 1959.

The Deputy Mayor said that the meeting was a success and she felt optimistic that the new committee would develop a program that the Wentworth Township would be proud of.

Regular updates on the committee's progress will be reported in this newsletter.



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### Cost Shifting Survey

The Local Government Inquiry confirmed that both State and Commonwealth Governments transfer significant responsibilities onto Local Government and an annual Cost Shifting Survey would provide the

necessary "hard data" about Cost Shifting necessary to support any argument for that practice to end.

Wentworth Shire Council will be completing the survey.

## Rural & Regional Taskforce Meeting In Broken Hill

The Mayor and General Manager represented Wentworth Shire Council at meeting Broken Hill to discuss issues relevant to the State Plan.

Wentworth will back up the meeting with a submission raising over twenty issues.

Some of the issues included

the need for more health services, greater emphasis on rural and regional planning, concern about the lack of drought assistance, and need for more fund being spent on crime prevention.

The Mayor, Councillor Margaret Thomson, said that the meeting was well attended.

"It was a good opportunity to meet the organisers of the Taskforce meeting and talk directly to representatives from the State Government departments," she said.

Feedback from the meeting will be forwarded to the Premier.

### Special Points of Interest:

- Council looks at the Issues on page 6.*
- Staff Profile on page 5.*
- Looking for some photos of previous Mayors and Town Clerks on page 5.*
- CDEP Host Program on page 3.*
- Regional Achievement & Community Awards on page 3.*

## Welcome to new Citizens of the Wentworth Shire

At Council's meeting held 19 September 2007, the Mayor Margaret Thomson undertook citizenship ceremonies for Robert Jones and Walee McRae.

Robert and Walee were presented with their official Citizenship Certificates and also a gift of an Australian native plant from the Mayor.

Walee had many of her friends and relatives attending the ceremony after which a morning

tea was held to celebrate the citizenship ceremonies.

Citizenship ceremonies are usually held at Council meetings



*Mayor Margaret Thomson with new Australian Citizens Robert Jones and Walee McRae*

but the Mayor Margaret Thomson said "it would be more desirable to hold them on Australia Day."

If any citizen would like to become naturalised, they can make applications to the Department of Immigration.

Council also offers the opportunity of downloading application forms for citizens from the Department of Immigration website.

## Australia Day 2008 Nominations

The Wentworth Shire Council are seeking nominations for Citizen, Young Citizen, Sportsperson, Young Sportsperson and Community Group of the year. Council seeks nominees who have made a noteworthy contribution during the current year (1 January to 31 December 2007) and/or given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years. Nomination forms are available from Council's website, can be collected in person from the front counter at the Shire Offices in Adelaide Street Wentworth and also

at Council's 3 libraries. If any resident or ratepayer is unable to access the nomination forms, telephone 5027 5002 and a form will be posted to you. Closing date for receiving nominations is Friday 7 December 2007—so get busy and nominate those volunteers and sports people who deserve to be recognised for their amazing and much valued contribution to our communities. Australia Day events happen at Buronga Wetlands, Wentworth Wharf area, and Sturt Park in Dareton. Council will be

**Become an Australian  
Citizen on Australia Day  
26 January 2008**

advised shortly of the ambassador who will address crowds at the Australia Day ceremonies. Citizenship ceremonies are encouraged to be undertaken on Australia Day also.

## Young Endeavour Voyage

Each year the Council gives a young person the opportunity of being a lucky recipient of a voyage on the Young Endeavour sailing ship. The Coomealla High School undertakes an application process for young people interested in undertaking the voyage with a final selection undertaken by a Committee comprising of Coomealla High School teachers and Council's representative Councillor Warren Ward. The lucky recipient has the opportunity of choosing between 10-12

voyages departing from various ports which may include Hobart, Sydney, and Cairns for approx. 11 days. Last year's recipient was Chloe Mackie and at Council's October Council meeting made an outstanding presentation about her voyage. It was obvious that Chloe learnt a great deal about sailing and also about herself. Chloe thanked the Council for the opportunity and presented the Mayor with a framed picture of herself on board the Young Endeavour.



# Notes From the Chamber

## 150 Years Celebrations for Wentworth Township

Council was given a verbal report from Deputy Mayor Cr. Sue Nichols advising 25 people attended a public meeting on 14 November to discuss the proposed celebrations. A committee was formed to pursue an event or a series of events in 2009. The next meeting will be held 13 December.

## Organisational Structure

Council signed off on a revised organisational structure. A number of positions are still under review.

## Quarterly Review of Finances

The result to date is good and thanks were extended to all staff for their contribution.

## Willandra Lakes

Council is to sign a partnership agreement on the Lakes.

## MUROC Meeting

The Mayor and the GM attended this meeting on 1 November 2007. The Minister for Local Government attended.

## Annual Report

Council adopted its draft Annual Report for the period ending 30 June 2007

## January Council meeting

Council resolved to have a meeting in January 2008.

## Successful Grant

Wentworth Showgrounds gets \$49,350 in water grants.

***For removal of snakes ring Stephen Morrow on 0417 167 319***

## Finances Strong

The Shire's auditors made a public presentation on Council's financial statements for year ending 30 June 2007 at its November Meeting.

They advised that finances are strong as reflected by a number of financial indicators.

Progress on the current year was also reported. We are on track notwithstanding the challenges the drought has presented.

## CDEP Host Program

Council has forged an agreement with the Madec Branch to support Community Development Employment Program.

The participants of the Program will be indigenous people.

Jobs and projects are selected without compromising Council's existing programs or activities.

A special thanks to Locky Harvey for his guidance with the Program.

## Regional Achievement & Community Awards—Festival of the Flood

Eighteen outstanding finalists were chosen for the 2007 Regional Achievement & Community Awards for NSW and the ACT. The Awards were established to highlight and reward successful small, medium and large business



*(Pictured L): Mayor Margaret Thomson & Ray Egan receiving the Achievement Award on behalf of Council.*

enterprises & networks, community groups and events, tourism projects, environment & Landcare initiatives, and individuals. The awards program aims to encourage the achievements and recognise the significant positive image of these rural role models throughout regional NSW and the ACT.

The Wentworth Shire Council entered the "Festival of the Flood" as a nominee in the Events and Tourism Awards section. Council received advice that their nomination is one of the top three finalists.

A Gala Presentation dinner was held on 10 November at the Newcastle Panthers Club with the Mayor Margaret Thomson and outdoor Overseer Ray Egan in attendance. Prime Television recognised winners in the Events and Tourism Awards with a Bonus Television Air



*Shown above: Ray Egan accepting the Finalist award from Minister Kelly*

Prize Package with all category winners receiving a magnificent trophy.

Unfortunately our entry did not win this event but to be in the last 3 finalists was a real achievement.



## Staff Profile -Leanne Watmuff

**Position Title:** Library Technician

**Duties:** Organising library programs, cataloguing new items, helping with reference inquiries, assisting the public with family and local history and much much more

**Lives:** Curlwaa

**Family:** Husband Leigh, children Brad and Megan

**Community Involvement/Groups:** Secretary Wentworth Historical Society, Member of the Mildura & District Genealogical Society, Friends of the Wentworth Library Service and Wentworth Main-street Committee member.

**What do I enjoy about my job?** It is not often that you can combine your hobby with your career. I feel fortunate that I have been given the opportunity to help other people start their family history and watch them find ancestors and living relatives. It is very rewarding to see new mums and babies use the library and watch the children progress through, Toddler Story Time, Pre-School activities and then onto Primary School. If we still have them coming as teenagers we are doing our job.

**Other interesting facts:** I was born in Orbost in East Gippsland and



moved to Sunraysia in the late 1970's. I enjoy hiking, gardening, craft and family would say I am obsessed with family history.

## COOMEALLA HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION



Coomealla High School made a presentation to the Wentworth Shire Council in relation to their visit to Japan in 2007.

Teachers and students took it in turns to speak to a very professional power point presentation highlighting the main experiences of the visit.

Wentworth Shire Council has a sister city relationship with the City of Azai.

### Council Meetings

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 December at the new time of 2pm.

Residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

An Ordinary Council meeting will also be held in January 2008 commencing at 2pm.

### PHOTOS OF PREVIOUS MAYORS AND TOWN CLERKS NEEDED

Council is still searching for photographs of previous Mayors and Town Clerks to complete the Wall of Fame in the Council Chambers.

If you can assist with a photo of any of the listed distinguished Council gentlemen please contact Jill Davidson on (03) 5027 5002 or alterna-

tively email: [jill.davidson@wentworth.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jill.davidson@wentworth.nsw.gov.au)  
Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

WILLIAM H PENGELLEY, Mayor 1890  
RICHARD HARVEY, Mayor 1895-96  
AJ COWLING, Mayor 1930-31  
JOSEPH HIGGINS, Town Clerk 1879-1885  
WILLIAM McDIARMID, Town Clerk 1919-1933  
TJ MURRAY, Town Clerk 1933-1934  
CC LAWRENCE, Town Clerk 1939-1945

## Wentworth Shire Council

### Shire Offices:

26-28 Adelaide Street Wentworth 2648  
Or  
PO Box 81 Wentworth NSW 2648

Phone: 03 5027 5027  
Fax: 03 5027 5000  
email: council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au

### Libraries:-

Wentworth: (03) 5027 5060  
Dareton: (03) 5027 4258  
Buronga: (03) 5023 3078

### Shire After Hours Emergency Number:-

(03) 5027 5091 (Marshall Security)

For all water, sewerage, rubbish tip hours, emergency dog matters, stray stock and cemetery emergencies.

**We're on the Web:**  
[www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au)

The Shire Where the Two Great  
Rivers Meet

## Some Interesting Facts

Month	Shire DA Approvals	Value
July	11	\$855,950
August	13	\$1,375,832
September	10	\$1,115,138
October	21	\$1,283,583

Note: DA means Development Approval

### Combined RSL & Wentworth Shire Council Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Wentworth Cenotaph—11 November 2007



## Looking to the Future for the Wentworth Show Grounds

Council has supported the Show Grounds' upgrade in principle subject to suitable funding being obtained by the Wentworth Show Grounds Committee.

The Show Grounds Committee recently completed a Business Plan which detailed proposed new facilities, including a new pavilion. A consultation process was undertaken as part of the development of the Plan.

The Wentworth Show Grounds is a significant local asset with an extensive history as a focal point for community sport, recreation, social events, celebra-

tions together with the Wentworth Show.

Many of the buildings and facilities are old and require major repairs.

The preparation of the business plan was funded by the Council.

### Council Looks at the Issues

During November Councillors and managers conducted a workshop to review its short and long term objectives.

Over the next two months Council's Strategic Plan will be amended with a view to reporting it to February's Ordinary Council Meeting.

After Council's consideration the Plan (may be called a "Community Plan" in the future) will be presented to the community through a number of meetings in March 2008.

The Plan is about the vision for the Shire and the actions to make it happen. All previous plans developed by the Shire will be integrated into this one plan.

Council will formally adopt the first year of the Plan in June 2008.