

# Newsletter

Wentworth Shire Council

October Issue, Page 1



## ALCHERINGA PAVILION OPENING

On Saturday 18 October 2008, the Mayor Margaret Thomson and Mr Nick Cavallo, Deputy Chair of Sunraysia Area Consultative Committee (SACC) officially opened the refurbishment of the Alcheringa Pavilion (Carramar Reserve). The General Manager Peter Kozlowski was Chairman of the Proceedings and advised that apologies had been received from the Hon. Kevin Greene (Minister for Sport & Recreation) and Mr Eric Brooks, Regional Manager, Department of Sport & Recreation Wagga Wagga. Mr Cavallo indicated that Mr Don Carrazza who is Chair of the SACC extended his apologies for being unable to attend the opening. Light refreshments were provided by the Workers Gol Gol Cricket Club for approx. 40 official guests, including Bruce Watson representing the user groups, Daryl Wescombe from Wentworth Bendigo Community Bank, Deputy Mayor Brian Wakefield, Councillors Nichols and Whitfield and other invited guests.

The history of this project dates back to 2004 when the users of the oval and associated facilities formed a committee to design improvements to the complex. With a concept settled on the user group sought funding with the help of Focus Consulting for the construction. The concept was to construct additions to the existing pavilion and the construction of two netball courts. Wentworth Shire Council as trustee of the Alcheringa Reserve is the major stakeholder of the user group partnership. The jointly funded project was supported by Federal, State and Local Governments to the tune of \$484,000. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Local Government being the Federal Government Agency sponsoring the project contributed \$212,000, with the NSW Department of Sport & Recreation sponsoring an amount of \$120,000. The Bendigo Bank sponsored an amount of \$20,000, Fielders Constructions \$1,500, APK Engineering \$2,500, with the Football and Netball Clubs contributing \$38,000. The Wentworth Shire Council contributed \$90,000 in total. (continued page 5)

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Above & Right: Mayor Margaret Thomson & Mr Nick Cavallo (Deputy Chair, Sunraysia Area Consultative Committee)

## DARETON COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTRE OFFICIALLY OPENED

The official opening of the Dareton Activity Centre on 8 October was celebrated with a sausage sizzle and a Tai Chi demonstration.

Formalities commenced after Florence Davidson (Mallee Family Care - General Manager of Client Services NSW) welcomed special guests including, Patrick Shepherdson (Dept of Attorney General), Richard Weston, (from Maari Ma) and Jenny Sinclair (CEO of Itha Mari).

After the ribbons were cut by Mayor, Cr Margaret Thomson, and Des Jones, Chairman of the Community Working Party, representatives from the various organisations involved enjoyed a tour of the facility.

The collaborative effort from all involved has enabled the former Guide Hall to be extensively renovated and the project has taken almost three years to achieve.

A number of groups have already indicated an interest in using the facility including Mallee Family Care, Riverina TAFE, Murdi Paaki Housing, Greater Western Area Health Service and the Community Working Party and bookings can be made by phoning Wentworth Shire on 5027 5027.

The facility is also available to Community groups and enquiries for use can be made to MFC Youth and Family Services on 50 277 600.



***Left: Mayor, Cr. Margaret Thomson, and Des Jones, Chairman of the Community Working Party cut the ribbon to officially open the Dareton Community Activity Centre.***

## BILL TURNER'S RESIGNATION—A LOSS TO THE SHIRE

Wentworth Shire Council will lose the services of a very experienced and skilled engineer and manager. The General Manager, Peter Kozlowski, said that unfortunately in the short term there will be a cost to go through the recruitment process and it may be possible to get a replacement within three to four months. "Recruitment of some staff has been difficult in the last 18 months and this position will be more difficult than most," he said. "Bill Turner has proved to be an asset to the Shire and I was dismayed by some comments leading up to the recent Council elections, including reference of "dud" engineer."

"Bill has been a valued manager and has contributed to pushing forward with a challenging capital works program. I am currently looking at some projects and how these will be affected by Bill's departure. Probably the quality that I admired most of Bill was his ability to be part of the team and willingness to put across his view".

The Mayor said that a man of Bill's qualities are not easy to come by.

His position will be advertised nation wide soon.



## COUNCIL MEETING NOTES—15 October 2008

**Wentworth Shire Council Logo Colours**- the current Wentworth Shire Council logo be modified to incorporate the colour blue to represent the junction of the two rivers, and that a stencilled logo be used for appropriate purposes

**Establishment of the Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG)** - On 18 September the Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, and the Hon Anthony Albanese, Minister for infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, announced the establishment of the Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) to forge a new cooperative engagement between the Commonwealth and local government. The ACLG is a Mayor's only forum and Mayor Margaret Thomson will be attending on 18 November 2008.

**Constitutional Recognition of Local Government** - Council approved the attendance of the Mayor and the General Manager at the Local Government Constitutional Summit to be convened by the Australian Local Government Association on 9-11 December 2008 in Melbourne.

**Wentworth Shire Council Community Partnership with the Cancer Council** - Council acknowledged the high level of physical and emotional suffering, premature death and financial burden caused by cancer in this community and by becoming a Cancer Council Community Partner, Council undertakes to help lower the impact of this insidious disease in the community by –

- Learning about and adopting new policies that will help reduce the incidence of cancer in our area.
- Supporting Cancer Council advocacy campaigns that will benefit the people of our community.
- Using our communication channels, venues and networks to help deliver Cancer Council information and education.
- Allowing free use of Council venues and other resources for support group meetings, education programs and other activities that benefit cancer patients and their families in our area.
- Supporting Cancer Council efforts in the local community to raise money for cancer research, prevention and support.

**Annual Financial Statements – Signing and Movements to Restricted Cash Assets** - Council approved the signing of the General Purpose Financial Reports made pursuant to Section 413(2) (c) of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting and the Special Purpose Financial Reports. Council also noted the increase in surplus funds as at 30 June 2008 and also adopted the movements to and from Restricted Cash Assets (Reserves) at 30 June 2008.

**Mildura Tourism Navigation Strategy and Tourism Signage Policy for Wentworth Shire Council**—General road and tourism signage across both the Wentworth and Mildura local government areas has been an ongoing issue for industry and stakeholders. To address this, stakeholders were invited from across both councils, in addition to Tourism Victoria and VicRoads, to form a Navigation Committee for the region. Key issues identified by that committee included a lack of consistency in signage, outdated signage and unclear ownership of existing signs. It was determined by the committee that development of clearer navigation solutions would need to be broken down into manageable stages given the size and complexity of the project. Council accordingly adopted the Strategy.



**Left:**  
*Old Wentworth Gaol proprietor, Paul Swarbrick received his citizenship award from the Mayor, Cr. Margaret Thomson, at the Council meeting held on 15 October 2008. He is pictured with his wife Kerry and daughter, Crystall.*

# My Thoughts

Wentworth Shire Council is committed to improve its services and "My Thoughts" is a valuable way of providing feedback to Councillors and staff. Take the opportunity to write your thoughts down in the area below and drop it into one of Council's libraries in Wentworth, Buronga or Dareton, Visitors Information Centre or the main Council Offices in Wentworth or simply pass it onto a staff member or Councillor.

As a resident/ratepayer of the Wentworth Shire, I would like to offer my thoughts:-

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If you provide a name and address on the following lines we will write back to you with a response within 10 days. In that time your request may be attended to in full and, if not possible, you will be advised as to the action to be taken.

Name: ..... Phone: .....

Address: .....

Date: .....

"My Thoughts" may be ideas, complaints, requests for information or action, observations, comments or questions. If the space provided is insufficient attach your additional information to the back of this page.

Peter Kozlowski, General Manager



Council's newly appointed Deputy Mayor Brian Wakefield and newly elected Councillor Ian Whitfield present at Alcheringa Pavilion opening

## ROADSIDE LITTER PROBLEM

The Road Maintenance Council Contracts between the Council and the RTA includes an item for *Clean Detritus and Litter* from the Sturt and Silver City Highways. The annual funding equates to around \$180 per km per year. Once labour, plant and travel costs are included the funding allows only 2.5 hours per km per year, which is inadequate to keep the roadsides clear. There has been recent interest from a number of community groups including Landcare, Rotary, Apex and Lions to participate in cleaning up roadsides on a voluntary basis. A pre-requisite for all groups to carry out work on roads is public liability insurance.

Roads identified initially include Renmark Road to Perry Sandhills, Silver City Highway to Pomona turn-off, River Road between Dareton and Buronga, Silver City Highway from Buronga to Arumpo Road turnoff and Sturt Highway from Gol Gol to Bottle Bend.

The first clean-ups are currently being planned. The Shire's input will be the provision of collection bags and gloves plus a "volunteer" staff member with a vehicle, trailer and OH&S induction.

## ALCHERINGA PAVILION OPENING (continued from page 1)

The Pavilion Builders were Michael Waters Building Contractors. The original football building was constructed some 20 years ago and required enlarging to accommodate change rooms for netballers. At any one time, the building requires change rooms for up to 6 teams of netballers participating, hence the requirement of the change room. The original building catered only for football and cricket change rooms and a function area. With the new building extension it has widened the use and provided a larger function area with state of the art kitchen facilities.

Also incorporated is an upstairs meeting room and timekeepers box. The area can also be used as a viewing area for sports albeit a small number. The front verandah was placed right across the front of both the existing and the new building to provide an undercover viewing area for all sports which could accommodate approximately 200 people during inclement weather. The netball courts were constructed by GBM Construction with the Plexi Pave synthetic surface being applied by Advanced Sporting Surfaces, South Australia Pty Ltd. They are now an all weather netball surface which complies with the Government requirement of having no netball played on grass surfaces by the end of 2010. The surface and courts are much in demand by the general community.



## Ceremony to Dedicate MacCabe Corner

MacCabe Corner was named after the surveyor Francis MacCabe who mapped the rivers of the Murray-Darling between 1848 and 1852.

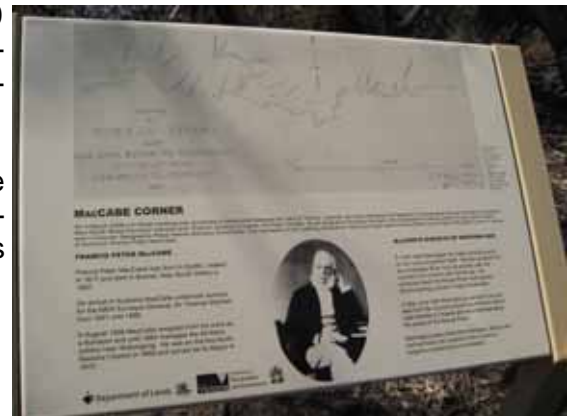
MacCabe had made a significant contribution to the later mapping of the borders by linking a survey of the Murray to other colonial border surveys.

A ceremony to dedicate MacCabe Corner was held on 6 September and was attended by the New South Wales and the Victorian Surveyors-General. Wentworth Shire Council was represented by Mayor, General Manager and partners.

The ceremony was held on the actual site at the junction of NSW, Victoria and South Australia, adjacent to the Murray River, situated 82km west of Wentworth.

The ceremony was attended by approximately 50 people. MacCabe's grandson, Michael MacCabe, attended the ceremony.

The dedication marked the last of a series of dedications of strategic markers on the NSW/Vic border



## Wentworth Shire Council

The Shire Where the Two Great Rivers Meet

### 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.

## Next Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 November commence at the 9am. Residents are welcome & encouraged to attend

## Christmas Office/Outdoor Staff Arrangements

A report setting out the staffing arrangements for Council Office and Depot closures over the Christmas and New Year period was tabled at the October Council meeting. All arrangements took into consideration minimal disruption as possible to the community whilst allowing staff the opportunity to reduce excess leave entitlements. It is proposed that the following office closure arrangements will be in place:

Wentworth Council Office	Closed Thursday 25 December – Friday 2 January
Depots and Workshop	Closed Monday 22 December – Monday 26 January
Wentworth Library Buronga Library Dareton Library All Libraries	Closed 12.30pm Wednesday 24 December Closed Wednesday 24 December Closed Wednesday 24 December Reopen 10.30am 2 January
Tourism Information Centre	Closed Thursday 25 December 08 Open 10am – 2pm Friday 26 December 08 Open 10am – 2pm Thursday 1 January 09

During the Christmas and New Year period certain staff will be performing on call and critical duties to ensure essential services are still maintained. Details of office, library and depot/workshop closure arrangements will be advertised prior to Christmas.

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

## Transfer Station Opening Hours—Changes

Transpacific Cleanaway have proposed changes to the hours for the Wentworth and Coomealla transfer stations. (Hours for Pomona are not proposed to change). The proposed changes, which were reported to Council on 15 October, allow for each site to be open daily except Saturdays with the Wentworth site open from 8.00am - 12 noon Sunday to Friday and Coomealla open 1.00pm–5.00pm also Sunday to Friday. For both sites the changes mean each site would be open for 24 hours per week (rather than 22.5 & 18) and can be accommodated within existing costs.

The major change is that both sites will be open 6 days per week but both will be closed on Saturdays. The proposed changes will be publicly advertised to determine the level of support or opposition to the changes. Once feedback has been received the details will be reported back to Council for a final decision. With the suggestion that ratepayers be given “free” access to transfer stations, some further work will need to be done before the details and a recommendation can be considered by Council. The Contractor currently retains all revenue and if access becomes “free” a variation to the contract will have to be negotiated. In ef-

fect this will mean the monthly payment to the Contractor for managing the transfer stations will have to be increased by the level of lost revenue. There are however, two factors that will also have to be considered. If access is “free” there may be increased usage by people from outside of Wentworth Shire who currently have to pay for refuse disposal elsewhere. A possibility is that only residents or ratepayers who can prove their entitlement would get “free” access. There is also a strong suggestion that waste management should be considered as a “user pays” service in the same way as water and sewer.