

# Newsletter

Wentworth Shire Council

Volume 1, Issue 3, Page 1

## A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO WATER RESTRICTIONS

Council at its meeting on 19 March, resolved to modify the water restriction policy to allow watering for a maximum of 8 hours per week with property owners having flexibility to decide watering times between the hours of 6pm and 10am daily.

Watering of residential lawns is not allowed.

The Mayor, Cr. Margaret Thomson, said that this



Minister Nathan Rees

was a welcomed variation to the water restriction policy.

"It is pleasing to see that ongoing discussions between Council staff and the Department of Water and Energy has resulted in a more flexible arrangement," she said.

"A revised water brochure will be distributed to all residents as soon as possible."

The Mayor went on to say that Council was still pressing on with a meeting with the new Minister in relation to the Shire's water restrictions.

Wentworth Shire's submission to Minister Rees will argue:-

- A greater weighting for rural towns when making decisions on water

allocations during drought periods;

- Residents should be able to water lawns within the existing hours of watering;
- There are differences between Wentworth Shire as compared to other Murray River Council areas, particularly with respect to high temperatures and low rainfall;
- Under current restrictions, towns along the Murray only draw upon less than 2% of the Murray-Darling system; and
- The importance of economic, social and environmental considerations.



### Inside this issue:

<i>Western Division Conference</i>	2
<i>Keeping our Children Safe</i>	2
<i>March Council Meeting notes, 150th celebrations and Watering of school grassed areas</i>	3
<i>My Thoughts</i>	4
<i>Sharp airlines</i>	4
<i>Employee gives 40 years of service</i>	5
<i>MobileMuster extended</i>	5
<i>Vi Watts turned 100</i>	5
<i>Development Applications approved Feb 08</i>	5

### Special points of interest:

- *Blue Green Algal Alert*
- *Next Council meeting (5)*
- *Clean Up Australia Day crew*
- *Swimming Pool Closures*

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETINGS PLANNED

As part of an increased focus on consultation by the Wentworth Shire Council the Mayor, Councillors, General Manager and his Management Team will be available at the following locations -

- **Thursday 3 April** - Dareton Senior Citizens Centre
- **Tuesday 8 April** - Wentworth Town Hall
- **Thursday 10 April** - Midway Community Centre

All meetings to be held will commence at 7pm.

All residents and rate-payers are invited to attend the meetings.

Free sausage sizzle will be provided before the meeting

## WESTERN DIVISION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Council was represented at the Western Division Annual Conference 2-4 March 2008, in Cobar, by the Mayor, General Manager and Councillors Ward and Wheeldon.

The following motions put forth by Wentworth Shire Council were passed at the meeting:-

- *That the Shires Association of NSW makes representations to the State Government requesting that it develops a policy to refund 10 cents for each recycled can or bottle.*
- *That the Western Division makes representations to the State Government recommending that it provide sufficient funding to allow the Department of Planning to set up regional planning offices and thereby provide better services to rural councils in relation to planning issues. That the Shires Association of NSW makes representations to the State Government requesting that it provides a greater weight-*



Cr. Warren Ward  
Shires Association  
Executive Committee  
Member (J Division)

*ing than is currently applied to the sustainability of rural villages and towns when making decisions about water allocations, during periods of drought or low storage levels, and that those decisions be based on economic, environmental and social factors.*

- *That the Shires Association of NSW makes immediate representation to the*

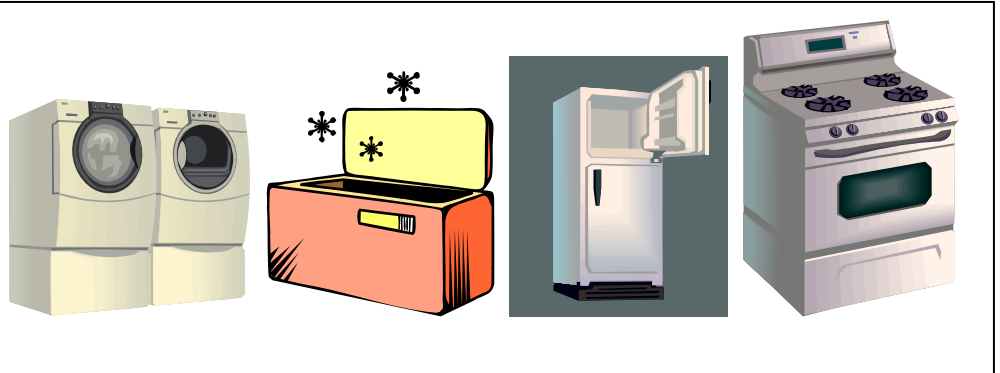
*State Government requesting that it maintains the current state-wide incentive transfer system for the appointment of teachers in NSW to ensure that rural and isolated communities continue to attract adequate, appropriate, quality teaching.*

- *That the Shires Association of NSW makes immediate representation to the Federal Government seeking assurances that the \$50m water buy back plan includes adequate compensation for affective rural communities.*
- *That the Shires Association of NSW makes immediate representation to the State Government seeking a review of the processes involved in accrediting doctors in NSW with a view to speeding up the accreditation process.*

These motions will be considered along with motions from other divisions at the Annual Conference to be held in June in Sydney.

## KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

The older members of the community may recall that while they were growing up, there were a number of instances of children being suffocated in refrigerators and freezers left in municipal tips. The actions taken by authorities such as local Councils has meant that thankfully, there has not been an incident for some time. However, the danger still exists. Fridges and freezers left for disposal could trap and suffocate young children. To avoid this danger, doors should be removed from whitegoods and other large airtight containers before disposal.



**Please remember to remove the doors**

# March Council Meeting Notes

## WEST DARLING ARTS

Council noted a report in relation to the Boards' strategic priorities for 2007-09.

## RAMROC WATER AND SEWER ALLIANCE

Council noted a previous report in relation to the inquiry into secure and sustainable water supply and sewerage services for non metropolitan New South Wales.

The Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils, representing 18 Councils, will be putting in a submission in relation to the Inquiry.

## DARETON PUBLIC MEETING

A report on the public meeting held on 12 March in relation to the Dareton Supermarket was received.

Also, Council considered a number of issues raised by the Dareton Coomealla Namatjira Community Action Team.

## WATER RESTRICTIONS

Council was advised that the meeting with Minister Rees will be convened after Easter.

Council has moved to a more flexible watering arrangement for residential gardens.

See article on [www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au).

## FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY CONFERENCE

Councillor Bill Wheeldon reported on his attendance at the Conference held in Wollongong on 28 February 2008.

## WENTWORTH REGIONAL TOURISM INC.

A report on the WRTI meeting

held on 4 February was received by Council .

## RESOURCE SHARING

Council was provided with an update on the second resource sharing meeting held between Barranald and Central Darling Shires at Cobar on 3 March 2008.

## POLICY UPDATE

Council adopted a Library-Unattended Children Policy.

## COMPANION ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Council adopted the Companion Animal Management Plan after the plan was placed on exhibition.

## ALCOHOL FREE ZONE

Council adopted the Dareton Alcohol Free Zone as detailed in the report.

## GEORGE GORDON OVAL

Council resolved to develop a management plan for the reserve in conjunction with the users of the Oval.

## WATERING OF SCHOOL GRASSED AREAS

In consultation with the Department of Water & Energy, the Council has been advised that school ovals are able to water grassed areas where children play and have lunch.

This will now help to provide a safe and healthy play environment for all school children and is welcomed by the Council and no doubt by the school children.

There have also been arrangements made to water the Dareton Football Oval.

*Don't forget daylight saving ends Sunday 6 April 2008.*

## 150th CELEBRATIONS FOR 2009 STEAMING AHEAD

A committee of enthusiastic community people have been meeting each month since December 2007 to plan the 150th anniversary of the township of Wentworth which occurs on the 21st June 2009.

The committee has formed sub-committees to deal with advertising, events, and resourcing of funding. It was resolved that a Co-ordinator be sought to organise the many events that have been put forward by the Events sub-committee.

It has been envisaged to have indigenous and local artists display their artwork in various locations in the Wentworth mainstreet. Shop owners will be invited to participate by decorating their windows and dressing up in historical fashions. There is to be a woolshed dance to be held at the Showgrounds with camp ovens, displays, and entertainment for all ages. The "Running of the Sheep" will be undertaken across the Darling River bridge. Residents will be invited to assist where possible to ensure that all events will be successful and talked about for many years to come.

Copies of the minutes of each meeting that has been held are available from the Shire Offices.



## EMPLOYEE GIVES WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL 40 YEARS OF SERVICE



Roy Harvey (otherwise known as Lockie) completed 40 years of service to the Wentworth Shire Council on 30 January 2008.

Roy commenced with the Council when he was just a lad of 18 and has worked both in the Engineering and Health/Building Departments.

A special morning tea was organised for Roy on Tuesday 18 March in the Council Chambers with many of the outdoor staff in attendance.

Roy was also given a lunch by the Councillors at Masons Restaurant on Wednesday 19 March and was presented with a gold watch which was engraved with his years of service.

Roy's wife Noelle also attended the luncheon with the Councillors were surprised with a visit from their daughter Kate who just arrived from America the day before.

Melanie, Glenn and children Chloe and Mia also attended the special occasion.

## Turn your redundant CDMA phones into fence posts - network shutdown looms

With the closure of the CDMA network extended to April 28, (AREA) residents who have yet to recycle their soon to be redundant CDMA handsets can still do their part for the environment by recycling them now .

MobileMuster will recycle all CDMA mobiles handed in and recover over 90% of the plastics and metals. The recycled materials can then be turned into plastic fence posts, jewellery and stainless steel products.

"As a community it is important to conserve our environment and by recycling old mobile

phones, batteries, chargers and accessories we are reducing our demand on natural resources, saving energy and helping protect the planet," said Mayor Margaret Thomson.

"Mobile phones, batteries, chargers and accessories are not biodegradable and should not be thrown in the rubbish bin as they contain small amounts of potentially harmful substances that could pollute our environment if they end up in landfill," added the Mayor. By leaving a redundant CDMA handset lying around at home or the office, tonnes of useful

metals like copper, gold and silver, as well as plastics are going to waste,

Recycling these materials means the CDMA mobile you are using today could be part of a plastic fence post you are installing next year, or the jewellery you buy your loved one on their birthday.

MobileMuster and Council are encouraging Wentworth Shire residents to round up and hand in their redundant CDMA mobiles now and do something positive for their planet.



## VI WATTS TURNED 100 ON 17 MARCH 2008

Council held a special morning tea for Vi Watts on Monday 17 March 2008 with John Williams Local Member in attendance as well as many of Vi's friends and relatives. The Mayor Margaret Thomson welcomed all guests and spoke of some of the wonderful things Vi had done during her life. Vi received messages from Queen Elizabeth, the Australian Governor General, Prime Minister, Premier of New South Wales, the Hon. Sussan Ley and of course Mr Williams MP. A beautiful sponge cake was made by local lady Linda Clifford which was very much appreciated by the crowd.

## 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

## SWIMMING POOLS—CLOSURE DATE

Residents and ratepayers are advised that the Wentworth and Dareton Pools closed for the season on Easter Sunday (23rd March 2008)

## BLUE GREEN ALGAE IN LOWER DARLING RIVER

*The Sunraysia Regional Algal Co ordinating Committee (SRACC)* have today (26 March) issued a red alert for the Menindee weir pool.

"The scum that was reported on 12 March in the Menindee town weir pool has been positively identified as potentially toxic blue green algae," said Owen Russell, Chair of the Sunraysia Regional Coordinating Committee. Under a red alert people are reminded not to drink, cook or swim in the water while the alert is in place. Algal toxins are not destroyed by boiling the water or treating it with chlorine. Alternate water supplies should be made available for stock and any fish taken from the water body should be gutted immediately and washed thoroughly in water taken from a treated town supply.

Further scums have been reported in the Lower Darling River at the Wentworth and at Tapio.

As a precaution all water users in the area are advised to avoid all contact with this water until tests can be carried out to confirm the composition of the scums.

All water users between Wentworth and Menindee are advised to be vigilant and avoid contact with any water that appears discoloured or has a surface scum. Blue green algae are potentially toxic and may cause gastroenteritis, dizziness, nausea, and vomiting if consumed. Skin rashes and eye irritation can occur with significant contact. If any health effects are experienced from contact with water affected by this bloom, medical advice should be promptly sought. For the latest information on blue green algae in your area, ring toll free 1800 999 457.

Media Contact: Bunty Driver (DNR) 03 58983910 Mobile 0407403234

## DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS APPROVED BY COUNCIL-FEBRUARY 2008

The attached table indicates the development applications approved under delegated authority by the Director Development & Environment for the month of February 2008.

Month	DA's Approved	Value	Average
November	9	\$402,990	\$44,777
December	17	\$1,866	\$109,769
January	9	\$1,302,116	\$144,680
February	6	\$432,000	\$72,000
Total	41	\$2,138,972	\$371,226

For the month of February there were 6 Development Applications approved under delegated authority by the Director - Development & Environment. The estimated cost of the approved developments is \$432,000.

The following data and graphs indicate comparison of values and numbers for previous months .

