

# Newsletter

Wentworth Shire Council

Shire Offices: 26-28 Adelaide Street Wentworth

Wentworth Shire Council

## MANAGEMENT PLAN DELIVERS NEW INITIATIVES

Wentworth Shire adopted its Management Plan for the 2008/09 financial period at its June Council Meeting.

The Plan includes a number of new initiatives, maintains existing services and has been presented in a more user friendly document.

Whilst the Management Plan focuses on programs for the 2008/09 period it also looks at the future by including a financial plan and a major projects and capital works program for the next four years.

The Plan has taken into account feedback from consultation meetings, previously adopted Council plans and strategies and current Council policies. Council has been moving to a more integrated approach to its strategic planning over the last twelve months.

The Mayor, Councillor Margaret Thomson said that the process had been more time consuming than other years. "You can expect that when we are facing the need to lead from the front on many issues and balance this with the difficulties faced in the community. The major projects and capital works program puts Council's main priorities into a timeline well beyond next year."

The Plan details a sound financial position, with \$12m in investments, to underpin next year's works and beyond. Council's strategy of increasing its reserve funds significantly over the last few years is now paying off as we are able to maintain our services and move ahead with new initiatives.

The General Manager said that next year's expenditure program contains many new initiatives. "These include a number of sensible environmental and water conservation initiatives, increased and redirected resources to assist community development and local employment opportunities, and a focus on future planning of a number of our assets," he said. "These initiatives will be implemented in parallel with the organisation continuing to strive to deliver its main stream services and compliance requirements at the lowest possible cost. The organisation is going down the path of increasing its accountability by introducing new systems to link performance with the key objectives and actions set by Council."

### New initiatives included in the Plan:

- Investigation into the feasibility of a mulching program
- Water conservation program to encourage better utilisation of water
- Environmental building initiatives to reduce long term expenditure
- Installation of hearing loops to assist those with hearing impairment
- New Traineeships
- Strategic plan to be developed for the George Gordon Oval, Dareton
- Major review of the Midway Centre
- Finalisation of the Murray Street land acquisition and development of the site
- Increased resources in supporting the processing of grants applications
- Increased resources in working with community groups
- Review of public conveniences
- Plan for the beautification of Fotherby Park
- Plan for the Wentworth Wharf
- Finalisation of the Dareton boat landing
- Dareton Skateboard Park (subject to funding)
- Disabled access to Dareton and Wentworth Pools
- Increased funding for maintenance of halls
- Rural property numbering program
- Pooncarie Depot building refurbishment
- Induction of new councillors program
- Further development of Council's 10 year plan
- Review of the Social Plan
- Dareton Guide Hall upgrade
- Many other initiatives .....(continued on page 2)



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Wentworth Medical Practice is open for business from Friday 25 July 2008

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## Mildura Tourism Business Excellence Award Winners

The Mildura region's top businesses were rewarded for their efforts at the Powercor/PRIME Business Excellence Awards held at Settlers Mildura on 28th June 2008. Businesses and individuals within the Wentworth Shire were well represented, winning several awards. Congratulations to all award winners on your efforts!

**Festival & Events Winner**—Wentworth Regional Tourism as host of the 2007 Inland Tourism NSW Awards.

**Outstanding Contribution**—Wilma Bowring.

**Tourist Attraction Winner**—Trentham Estate Winery. **Encouragement Award**—Australian Inland Botanic Gardens.

**Tourist & Caravan Park Encouragement Award**—Willow Bend Caravan Park.

**Unique Accommodation**—AAAH Willandra Houseboats.

**Merit Award**—All Seasons Houseboats.



*A stunning white rose arbour at the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens.*

## 2008 Timbercorp Tour of the Murray River—Murray Tour Stars in Olympic Team

Tasmanian, Mark Jamieson and South Australian, Jack Bobridge—two of the young stars of the 2007 Timbercorp Tour of the Murray River—have gained selection in the Australian cycling team for the Beijing Olympic Games. Both riders will contest the teams pursuit in Beijing, a gold medal winning event for Australia at the 2004 Athens Olympics. “It reinforces the fact that the Murray River tour is a key component in the development of Australia's future cycling champions”, Tour Convener, Cr. Eddie Warhurst said. The Sunraysia region will host five stages of the 2008 Tour of the

Murray River, now firmly cemented as Australia's premier domestic road cycling classic. Stage 13 of the Murray River Tour will be conducted between Merbein and Wentworth on Saturday 6th September and will travel via Red Cliffs, Koorlong, Merbein South, Yelta, Curlwaa and finish in Wentworth at around 3pm. Residents are encouraged to line the road way to cheer on the cyclists and make this year's event, the best yet.

If you have any enquiries regarding the Wentworth stage of the tour, please call Locky Harvey on 5027 5027.



*The finish line of the 2007 Timbercorp Tour of the Murray River in Wentworth.*

## Management Plan Delivers New Initiatives (Continued from page 1)

Council adopted the budget at an extremely challenging time for the community. General rates have increased by 3.2%. Adjoining councils have increased their rates in the range of 3.2% to 5.0%. Water rates and domestic wastes charges will remain at last year's levels in order to offset an increase in sewerage rates.

The increase in the sewerage rates was needed to cope with significant infrastructure needs identified in Council's Strategic Business Plan for Sewerage Services. The overall increase in the water and sewerage rates will be 3.2%.

Council's Director Corporate and Community Services said that Council's overall expenditure increased by 5.3% in operational works attributed to an increase in resources required to maintain road, footpath and sewer infrastructure and some backlog works. Council has also initiated three trainee positions to provide for local employment and to potentially address skill shortages in the long term.

Capital works have increase by 18% overall. “Extra income has been received from DOTARS and the CMA for the Pooncarie Weir and the Thegoa

Lagoon Inlet Regulator. This has allowed Council to increase its overall expenditure. Council's decision to engage a Grants Officer will enhance the ability for Council to attract new grants that will provide additional opportunities for infrastructure improvement, extension or rehabilitation within the Shire,” she said. “Council's adopted Management Plan can be found on our website [www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au).”

Enquiries about the Management Plan can be made by contacting the Director Corporate and Community Services on 50275027.

# JULY COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

- **Western Division Workshop, Sydney**

The Mayor and General Manager attended a meeting of Western Division Mayors and General Managers in Sydney on 2 July 2008 in Sydney to discuss and develop a strategic plan for the Western Division. The workshop was successful and will prove to be a milestone in the development of a stronger and more strategic focused Western Division.

- **Council Decision Making Prior to Ordinary Elections**

The Department of Local Government has produced DLG Circular No.08-37 indicating that major decisions by Councillors affecting their areas should not be undertaken during the period leading up to ordinary elections (13 September). The DLG advise that Councils are expected to assume a "caretaker" role during election periods and should commence from the date of the close of rolls

- **Policy for Mulching of Nature Strips**

The Management Plan includes funding for the mulching of nature strips as a Council contribution to the implementation of water saving initiatives. This funding is intended to provide assistance to property owners and the policy addresses this aspect. The 2008 – 2012 Management Plan includes funding of \$30,000 in 2008/09 with \$20,000 in each of the following three years

- **Revised Model Code of Conduct**

Under the Local Government Act 1993, NSW Councils are obliged to adopt a Code of Conduct that incorporates the provisions of the Model Code. Council resolved to review the revised Code after the Council Elections with a view to amending it if necessary .

- **Policy for Refunds for Cemetery Reservations**

Council adopted a policy on refunds for Cemetery Reservations as Council considered it is not unreasonable in circumstances where genuine reasons exist.

- **Smart Approved WaterMark Scheme**

The Smart Approved WaterMark Scheme is a voluntary endorsement initiative that Councils are encouraged to use and recommend to their communities. The Smart Approved WaterMark (SAWM) Scheme is a voluntary not-for-profit program that enables people to make an informed choice about saving water around homes, gardens and pools. The SAWM label on products and services indicates that an independent technical expert panel has undertaken an assessment.

- **Location Health One Initiative**

Council supports the Health One Initiative by facilitating negotiations with the Department of Lands for the site located at the corner of Silver City Highway and Pitman Avenue Buronga for the purpose of the initiative.

- **Application to Grant Curlwaa Lease 398031, Little Manly Reserve**

The purpose of the report was to provide requested information to Council regarding lease costs for access and camping at the Little Manly Reserve and sought Council's approval to sign the Department of Lands agreement.

- **Lease of the Old Wentworth Gaol**

Council entered into a three year lease agreement with the current lessees of Reserve 85572 Old Wentworth Gaol.

- **Use of McLeod Oval for Kanga 8s and Super 8s Cricket Competition**

Council approved the use of McLeod Oval at no charge for the Kanga 8s and Super 8s cricket competition on 12 November 2008 subject to the suitability of the ground arising from watering restrictions which may be imposed between now and the event.

- **Alcheringa Oval Project**

The Director Development & Environment provided an update to Council on the final project costs associated with the Alcheringa Pavilion and requested Council to consider the need for floor coverings for the pavilion.

- **Indicative Costs for Sealing Wentworth Aerodrome Runway**

The indicative cost of sealing the main runway varies from \$0.95M to \$1.27M depending on the runway width and transverse slope details that are constructed . It was suggested that further consideration of the social and community benefits is required before any commitment is made to proceed with the project .

- **Suspension Of Alcohol Free Zone – Wentworth**

Council suspended the operation of the alcohol free zone in the area of Darling Street between Sandwych and Adelaide Streets on the day of August 30<sup>th</sup> 2008 for the Wentworth Show Society's "Quick Shear Competition" and advertise the fact in a locally circulating newspaper.



## NEW DOCTOR FOR WENTWORTH

Wentworth Council welcomes Doctor Fola Bello and Dr. Kola Orundami to Wentworth.

The Wentworth Medical Practice will again be re-opened to the Community and run by two experienced general practitioners as a private practice by Dr. Fola Bello and Dr. Kola Orundami.

Dr. Fola Bello has been in private practice covering the Medical Clinic and Hospital in Ouyen for the past five years since relocating from Charters Towers in Queensland.

Dr. Kola Orundami is currently working at the Leongatha Medical Group where he has serviced the community for five years in Gippsland. Both doctors are keen and committed to providing sustainable services to rural communities and both Dr. Bello and Dr Orundami are looking forward to the challenge of starting a new practice in Wentworth.

The Mayor, Councillor Margaret Thomson, said that twelve months has been a long time without a doctor but now the wait is over.

“Whilst it has been a difficult and sometimes traumatic time Council and its staff have always kept a positive outlook that a doctor would again set up a practice here,” she said.

“ I know residents have had to make alternative arrangements but I hope they give Dr. Bello and Dr. Orundami a go to ensure that the practice thrives and Wentworth never has to endure a gap in medical services again.”

## Timetable Local Council Elections—13 September 2008

Advertise close of rolls	Twice during 60 days before close of rolls, by Council's General Manager.	Between Thursday 5 June and Monday 4 August
Close of rolls	6pm on 40th day before polling day.	Monday 4 August
Call nominations	Advertised in newspapers not later than a week before nomination day.	Monday 4 to Friday 8 August
Close nominations and payment of candidate deposit		Wednesday 13 August
Nomination Day	5th Friday before polling day.	Friday 15 August
Withdrawal of nominations	11:00am, nomination day.	Friday 15 August
Application to form group and group voting square on ballot paper	By noon, nomination day. Applies for election of two or more Councillors. Deposit must have been paid by close of nominations.	Friday 15 August
Ballot paper draw	After noon, nomination day.	Friday 15 August
Applications for registration of how-to-vote material	Between nomination day and eight days after.	Friday 15 August to Monday 25 August
Pre-poll voting	Starts Monday, two weeks before polling day.	Monday 1 September
Close of postal voting applications	5pm, Monday before polling day.	Monday 8 September
Close postal voting (receipt of ballot papers)	6pm first business day after polling day.	Monday 15 September
Visit declared institutions	Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before polling day.	Monday 8 to Wednesday 10 September
Polling day for ordinary elections	The second Saturday in September in every fourth year from 2008.	Saturday 13 September
Polling day for by-elections	As fixed by the Electoral Commissioner.	

## 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](mailto: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, dog matters, stray stock and cemetery emergencies.

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



A cheque presentation was made to Mayor Margaret Thomson from Sergeant Dennis McLaughlin, Detective Sergeant Scott Jones, and Inspector Steve Walker for the Wentworth Community Chest for kids from the Dareton Police and Fire brigade Charity Golf Day. This fabulous donation to the Community Chest will go a long way to assist local families in local communities who have experienced a particularly major upset, e.g. children diagnosed with a serious disease, etc.

## COVER LOADS WHEN TRAVELLING WITH TRAILER TO A COUNCIL LANDFILL OR TRANSFER STATION

Under the Australian Road Rules Section 292(a) it is an offence to drive a car with a trailer load unrestrained—the fine is \$324 (3 demerit points) and is enforceable by the Local Laws Officers and the Police.

## NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 August at 2pm. Residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL 150 YEARS CELEBRATIONS

On Thursday 7th August 1858 the first recorded game of Australian Football took place, and to mark the Australian Football 150 Years celebrations, and as part of Kick Around Australia day, primary and secondary schools in our communities will be completing one of the football themed programs that have been developed in line with the AFL Schools Curriculum. Schools will hold football activities on the day, with students taking part in kicking and handball competitions and wearing their footy colours to school.

Businesses and community organisations are invited to participate in the celebrations and encourage employees to wear their footy colours and bring footballs to work on Thursday 7th August.

For further information please visit the Kick Around Australia website [150years.com.au](http://150years.com.au) or contact Jessica Ries from AFL (NSW/ACT) on (02) 8333 8032.