

Newsletter

Wentworth Shire Council

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McLEOD OVAL PAVILION YOUTH CENTRE

Council approved a proposed works program to the McLeod Oval Pavilion change rooms on 20 August 2008. The proposed works are part of a project which is being partnered by Council, Summit Personnel, Griffith Skills Training and the Wentworth youth.

The plan is for the change rooms to be redeveloped to accommodate youth programs and to develop the grounds to cater for suitable sporting activities. The Mayor, Cr. Margaret Thomson, said that Council has approved the concept of providing a basketball half-court, BMX mini track and the possibility of a skate park area located within the grounds of McLeod Oval. "The next step is to gain the owners consent which means communicating with the Department of Lands, as Council is trustee of the reserve," she said.

The aim of the project is to engage local community members to participate in upgrading local facilities, therefore giving the community a sense of ownership and ultimately a safe place for community and youth activities.

The Director of Corporate & Community Services, Ms. Terri Maguire, said that the concept of a youth centre is in line with Council aspirations identified in the Crime Prevention Plan, and the Social Plan. "The need to establish a youth facility has also been identified by the Wentworth Community Action Team," she said.



On August 20, Cr Warren Ward & Cr Jim Macri attended their last official Council meeting. Both Councillors have indicated that they will not be seeking re-election at the Local Government elections to be held Saturday September 13.



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Next Council Meeting

Due to the Council elections, the next Council meeting will not be held on Wednesday 17th September. Please note the next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 September 2008 at 2pm. Residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

POONCARIE STORE CLOSURE

The Pooncarie Store has recently closed and is therefore no longer a source of fuel for Pooncarie.

The closest locations for fuel from Pooncarie are Wentworth (120km) and Menindee (125km), however Menindee is an unreliable fuel source. Other locations for fuel if heading north of Pooncarie are Broken Hill (240km), and Ivanhoe (330km).

AUSTRALIA DAY NOMINATIONS

The Wentworth Shire Council is calling for nominations for Australia Day Awards for 2008. The categories are:-

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
COMMUNITY GROUP OF THE YEAR
SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR
YOUNG SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

The Council is seeking community input into the nominations for 2008, i.e. nominees who have made a noteworthy contribution during the current year (1st January 2008 to 31st December 2008) and/or have given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years.

Nomination forms are available from the Shire Offices, Wentworth and also on Council's website and close on **FRIDAY 31st OCTOBER 2008**.

Any enquiries please ring the Shire Offices on 5027 5002.

WENTWORTH SHOWGROUNDS UPGRADED FACILITIES

A Business Plan was completed in July 2007 and was on display at the Wentworth Show last year. Many people in the community are very positive and excited by this project. The Wentworth Show Ground Committee is ecstatic that this project has been supported by the Wentworth Shire Council with a funding commitment allocated in their 2008/2009 budget to enable applications for grant funding to proceed.

The project has been waiting for the Council to confirm that funding was available and now that we have this green light it will be full speed ahead.

Many pledges and donations were received last year and are greatly appreciated. A community fund has been established to accept donations. Donations can be made at the Shire office. The next step is to apply for further funding at State and Federal level to fund the total project.

The support and assistance from the Council will be an asset to the project showing other funding bodies and local community groups that the Wentworth community is planning for the future, and is prepared to commit local dollars to the project.



Aerial view of the Wentworth Showgrounds during the Fergie Rally in 2006.

MULCHING POLICY

Council has included funding in the 2008-2012 Management Plan for assistance to ratepayers for the mulching of naturestrips as a water saving initiative. Once the approved funding within any financial year is expended, there will be no further expenditure unless additional funding is provided by resolution of Council.

A property owner must make application for assistance and provide details of their proposed development of the naturestrip fronting their property. The details should include the area involved, proposed plantings, installation of dripper irrigation and any other features. An undertaking to maintain the naturestrip on completion of the mulching will also be required. The property owner, once assistance and funding has been approved, will be responsible to advise Council on timeframe and program of work, removal of adequate topsoil and spoil (at least 100mm but variable with Council input) for replacement with mulch, installation of dripper system if naturestrip is to be planted, provision and planting of suitable plants as desired and spreading of mulch over the prepared area.

Council will supply and deliver mulch sufficient to cover the area to a depth of 100mm. As part of the application process, the property owner will be required to provide a maintenance agreement, undertaking to maintain the naturestrip once the mulching has been completed.

For further information on Council's mulching policy, please contact the Shire on (03)5027 5027.

TIMBERCORP TOUR OF THE MURRAY RIVER 2008 WENTWORTH A KEY PLAYER IN TOUR'S ENTRY TO SUNRAYSLIA

Wentworth will have their own mini Tour de France when they host the finish of Stage 13, of the Merbein Community Bank's Merbein to Wentworth road race on Saturday September 6, 2008. A wide range of enjoyable activities have been planned to coincide with the finish. Stage 13 starts in Merbein at 1:15pm and finishes in Wentworth at 3pm.

Eddie Warhurst, Chairman of the Tour Steering Committee said that all connected with the event are pleased that the Wentworth community continues to come in firmly behind this prestigious, eight day professional bike race.

"Wentworth is a vital part of Sunraysia and the Wentworth Shire Council is commended for the on-going support of a fixture that does so much to promote our unique region over an extended timeframe.

Of particular importance is the 'All About Bike Program' that will be run in association with the Timbercorp Tour of the Murray and organised by the Wentworth Mainstreet Events Committee. This feature has a real point of difference and deserves strong community support as it blends so well with the spirit and colour of the overall event".

It is important to note that the program has developed from an initiative introduced by Cr. Margaret Thomson, Mayor Wentworth Shire Council, when this tour stage finished in Wentworth on a Saturday afternoon two years ago; clearly it has gone from strength to strength.

The aim of the current program is to give a warm Wenty Welcome to the tour riders as they finish around 3pm.

As a build up to the conclusion of Stage 13, the 'All About Bike Program' will include such prior activities as bike orienteering (Primary and Secondary age categories), a treasure hunt for pre-school and under 8s; a safety session, an obstacle course and bike races from parents to pre-schoolers, decorated bikes (the prettiest to the 'way-out'), face painting, bike safety checks and engraving with helmets to give away.

There will be show bags, a colouring competition, a sausage sizzle, soft drinks, afternoon tea and coffee. Also, don't miss the unicycles and the Bike Barter Pit.

" All of this worthy endeavour by the Council and the Wentworth community deserves enthusiastic support as the finish of the Merbein to Wentworth road race of 82 kilometres sets the stage for the final day of the Tour of the Murray River in Mildura on Sunday September 7", Mr Warhurst noted.

For further enquiries please contact the Shire on 5027 5027.

OACC E-GRANTS

The Outback NSW Area Consultative Committee has provided the Shire with a list of grants that are currently available to apply for and also a list of grants that are ongoing. For further information contact oacc@inet.net.au or phone (08) 8087 8383.

A list of these grants is also available at the Shire offices front counter at 26-28 Adelaide Street, Wentworth.

The following websites are also great resources for grant information:

- www.grantslink.gov.au
- www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au
- www.business.gov.au
- www.ausindustry.gov.au
- www.philanthropy.org.au
- www.ourcommunity.com.au

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 done an assessment.

More details are available from the SAWM website at www.smartwatermark.org

BRAVEHEARTS INC. CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

Child protection week is this year being held from the 8th-13th September with a special emphasis on White Balloon Day to be held on Tuesday 9th September. By encouraging communities, businesses, schools, Councils and the general public to display white balloons, Bravehearts Inc, a child protection agency, is hoping to promote awareness of child protection issues. For more information on Bravehearts, visit their website at www.bravehearts.org.au.

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

Libraries:-

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

We're on the Web:
www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au

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.

The Shire Where the Two Great Rivers Meet

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A KEY ONLINE SURVEY

The National Rural Women's Coalition invites those in rural and remote Australia to participate in an online survey to support a submission to the Federal Office for Women, on the topic:

'Health Infrastructure and Access to services in Rural and remote Australia, particularly focusing on maternity services and their contribution to sustainable rural communities'

The National Rural Women's Coalition is a collaborative national voice for women living in rural, regional and remote Australia. Established in 2002, they seek to ensure better social and economic outcomes for women in rural townships and on farms.

The survey is an online document found on the National Rural Women's Coalition Home Page at web site: <http://www.nrwc.com.au>

COMMUNITY PHOTO BANK AWARDS

Wentworth Shire residents have a unique opportunity to help paint a picture of our local community in the nation's mind by submitting a photograph as part of a new national awards program.

Photographers also have the chance to provide a welcome financial boost to a local community group, school or kindergarten as part of the 'Our Community Photo Bank Awards' program, which is offering prizes of \$2,500 to be shared by the photographer and their nominated group.

Prizes will be awarded for the most popular photo, and the photo that most exemplifies the work of the Australian community, with the photographer in each category winning \$1,000, as well as \$1,500 for their nominated community group.

Photographs will be stored and displayed on the Our Community Photo Bank website and made available under a Creative Commons licence for others to use. This enables local community groups to download photos from the online Photo Bank to use in their brochures, annual reports and other materials.

Images might be generic or reflect a particular aspect of life in the Wentworth Shire.

The competition, which is open to both amateur and professional photographers, closes on the 22 October 2008, but the Photo Bank will remain as a permanent resource for community groups around the country and a permanent showcase for the communities that contribute their images.

The Photo Bank and awards are an initiative of Australia Post and 'Our Community', a national social enterprise that provides resources, training, advice and tools for Australia's 700,000 community groups.

To find out more about the Photo Bank awards or to see some of the pictures already on display, go to www.ourcommunity.com.au/photobank.



These 3.5 metre long roots were removed from one of the old earthenware sewer mains on Wednesday 27th August.

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

September Council Meeting

The ordinary meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday 24 September 2008.

Report on Credit Cards

Council noted a report in relation to the process and conditions associated with Council credit cards.

Quarterly Performance Reports

Council noted two reports for the period ending 30 June 2008.

Murray Street Land

Council resolved to classify Murray Street land as "operational" land in accordance with Section 31 of the Local Government Act.

Wentworth Subdivision

Council approved a Twelve (12) Lot Subdivision in Wentworth.

McLeod Oval Pavilion

Council approved proposed works to the McLeod Oval Pavilion change rooms for conversion to a functional use facility.

Ruby Constitution

Council approved the P.S. Ruby Constitution for a period of 3 years.

Water Usage

Council noted a report from the Director Infrastructure & Assets in relation to water usage figures for the 2007/08 financial year.



Students from Wentworth Shire's Sister City, Azai, Japan, mingle in the Council Chambers after meeting their hosts from Coomealla High School. The students toured the area during the first week of August.

GRADER OPERATION INFORMATION SESSION

On Friday 15 August Wayne Follett, Council's Grader Operator, conducted a Grader Operation information session for seven students in years 10 and 11 at Coomealla High School.

The session provided students with an invaluable insight into the skills needed to operate the machine and an introduction into a potential future career pathway for interested students.

Wentworth Shire Council will continue to work with the Coomealla High School in providing opportunities for students to gain experience and knowledge in the variety of career opportunities Council can provide.

Thankyou must also be given to Russell Elliott and Pauline Smith from Coomealla High School for their efforts and assistance in coordinating this event.



Wayne Follett (pictured left) with students from Coomealla High School.