

Newsletter

Wentworth Shire Council
The Shire Where the Two Great Rivers Meet

Dip Tin Finds a New Home

Wentworth Shire Council accepted an offer by the Inland Botanic Gardens to locate the Wentworth dip tin sculpture to a site in the Garden grounds.

The Mayor, Councillor Margaret Thomson, advised that the Council considered the issue of the sculpture at its meeting on 20 May when discussing the draft Management Plan.

“The sculpture will be located to the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens in coming months.

The offer by AIBG is a good result for Council as there would have been a number of issues to be addressed if it had remained in its current location,” she said.

The Mayor went on to say that she looked forward to seeing the sculpture in its new surrounds.



Dip tin being erected in 2005



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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.

Community Consultations for Draft

Wentworth Shire Residents are invited to attend the remaining community consultation sessions at which the Draft Management Plan for 2009/2010 will be presented. The Draft Management Plan is also available on Council's website.

TOWNSHIP	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Dareton	Thursday 11 June	7pm	Senior Citizens Rooms (adj to Library)
Buronga/Gol Gol	Monday 15 June	7pm	Midway Centre

DRAFT SOCIAL PLAN 2009-2014 ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION

After community consultation meetings conducted by Jane Brook for the Wentworth Shire Council, the Social Plan includes six specific strategies falling under the following broad titles of:-

1. *Communication*
2. *Safer Communities*
3. *Recreation and Culture*
4. *Economic Development and Sustainability*
5. *Conservation and Protection of the Environment*
6. *Transport*

The strategies will provide the way the Shire can move forward to address the most important and common needs within the Shire's townships. The order of the strategies indicates a general level of importance of each strategy with Communication being the top priority.

Individual actions within these strategies often have differing timeframes for implementation and differ in the linkages to other community groups with potential to be involved in the suggested actions.

The Social Plan outlines the primary needs identified for each of the seven mandatory target groups

1. *Children*

2. *Young People*
3. *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders*
4. *Older People*
5. *Women*
6. **People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds**
7. **People with Disabilities**

and indicates possible actions and timeframes for addressing these needs. There is a high degree of commonality in the needs and thus the suggested actions to address them. Some of the needs of these target groups will be considered within the six (6) primary strategies mentioned above.

The Wentworth Shire Council Actions (now linked to Council Management Plan initiatives) are shown in all strategies, but most strategies require a combination of collaborative actions by:-

- Government & non-government community health, welfare, family intervention and social support service providers
- Government & non-government providers of education, training and employment services

- NSW Departments of Justice and Police
- A range of community organisations (including sporting, special interest and service clubs)
- Private business & developers
- and importantly, funding, via Commonwealth & State government initiatives.

The role of the Wentworth Shire Council is to provide community leadership by:-

- developing specific Council strategies,
- encouraging and supporting the initiatives of other community organisations
- advocating for the provision of service



WENTWORTH 150TH CELEBRATIONS

(Mural Artists – Dareton – April 2009)

In the past month the Committee has confirmed:-

- the route of both the Running of the Sheep and Street Parade,
- involvement of the Wentworth District Hospital
- and inclusion of a flotilla of riverboats to join the PS Ruby at the Wentworth wharf for the duration of the event and is currently working on undertaking risk management plans for each activity during the event.

The Committee meets fortnightly on Wednesday at 6pm, in the Community Meeting Room, Wentworth. Following the response to and success of our first business meeting (March 2009), a second meeting with local businesses and community groups is scheduled for Wednesday, 2nd June 2009.

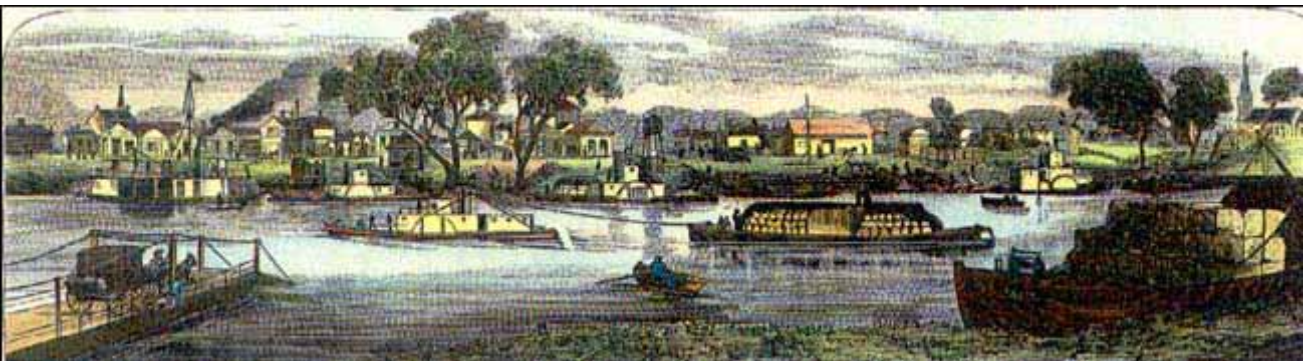
Notification was received (4 May 2009) of the success of recent application to Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD) for event funding - \$15,000 to be spent on the contract employment of an Events Co-ordinator and advertising/marketing for the event. It is planned to produce a generic television commercial promoting Wentworth's attractions, as a part of this funding which will be available for promotion of other events. This television advertising will be based around the concept of "...how long has it been since you visited Wentworth?" and targetted at the nearby visitor markets of Mildura, Broken Hill and the South Australian Riverland.

A further submission for funding has been lodged with Wentworth District Capital Ltd – Bendigo Bank for \$5,500 to be spent on television advertising in Mildura, Broken Hill and the South Australian Riverland in the two weeks leading up to the event. Early notification of this funding has been requested (late May 2009). 150th Committee expects that this event will attract 2000 people to visit Wentworth during the weekend of activities and estimate that it will provide a boost of in excess of \$130,000 to the local economy (based on DSRD financial models) with particular benefit to the accommodation and hospitality sector. See Council's website for full details of the events—www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au

Council Meeting Notes

- RAMROC (Riverland & Murray Regional Organisation of Councils meeting held 6 May 2009 in Mathoura was attended by General Manager & Deputy Mayor Councillor Brian Wakefield
- Councillor Peter Thompson reported on 8 various meetings and events he had attended i.e. ANZAC day at Wentworth, meeting of Sunraysia Rural Counselling Service etc.
- Community Consultation meetings to discuss the draft management Plan 2009-2013 (see page 1 for details)
- A draft Social Plan for 2009-2014 was presented to Council by Jane Brook and will be on public exhibition for 28 days to be formally adopted on 24 June
- New policies that were adopted by Council include Staff Climate Survey, Position Descriptions, Inducting New Employees, Discipline, Work Experience/Placement and Recruitment & Selection Policy, Hardship, Pensioner Concessions, Debt Recovery and Privacy Policy
- A draft Interpretive Plan, Port of Wentworth was adopted by Council and will be publicly advertised for a period of 28 days seeking submissions from the public
- Goods and Services Tax certificate was adopted for signature by the Mayor, a Councillor, General Manager & responsible Accounting Officer to ensure statutory GST compliance requirements are met by approving and submitting the Certificate with the Department of Local Government by 1 June 2008
- Financial Review of Council's 2008/2009 Management Plan as at 31 March 2009 was received and variations adopted
- Performance Report Third Quarterly Review Of Council's Management Plan 2008/2009 (year ending 31 March 2009) was received and noted as well on track
- Draft Management Plan 2009-2013 was adopted (see page 5 for details)
- Declaration of Categories and Sub-categories for Rating Purposes for the 2009/2013 Management Plan were adopted
- Making and Levying of Proposed Rates
- Interest Rate on Overdue Rates & Charges was adopted as 9% as set by the Minister
- Report on Wentworth LGA Community Safety Precinct meeting attended by Community & Economic Development Officer
- CED Officer reported on draft Youth Strategy with public feedback within 28 days
- Council approved request by the Curlwaa Cricket Club for funding in excess of the NSW Sport and Recreation Grant Funding for the completion of cricket nets at **Curlwaa Oval**
- Wentworth 150th Celebrations – 19, 20 and 21 June 2009
- Draft Economic & Tourism Development Strategy presented by CEDO with public feedback within 28 days

Draft Interpretive Plan Port of Wentworth



19th Century View of the Port of Wentworth: Source Shire of Wentworth Council

The current Council Management Plan identifies that an interpretive plan was to be prepared for the Port of Wentworth.

The interpretation plan was prepared in accordance with the guidelines of the Heritage Office of New South Wales.

The draft Interpretation Plan identifies the unique historical and cultural themes of the town of Wen-

worth and looks to explain and identify methods for their interpretation. This plan is also the basis for an application to the Heritage office for funding to undertake and implement the recommended interpretation works. To date an amount of \$17250 has been awarded to Council for the works associated with this plan. This document is intended to support an additional funding appli-

cation to allow implementation. The draft Interpretive Plan recommends that a Plan of Management for Wharf Reserve and Fotherby Park including the Wharf and the PS Ruby. This is currently being prepared by the authors of this document Mr Garry Stanley (Council's Heritage Advisor) with assistance from Jane Rothschild.

Draft Management Plan 2009-2013

Wentworth Shire adopted its draft Management Plan for the 2009/10 financial period at its 20 May Council Meeting. The Plan includes a number of new initiatives and maintains existing service levels. Whilst the draft Management Plan focuses on programs for the 2009/10 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 Mayor, Councillor Margaret Thomson said that the draft plan is currently on public exhibition. "Three consultation meetings to present the draft plan will be held," she said. "The draft plan continues to maintain a strong capital works program and the development of a number of strategic documents to support Council's major projects."

Consultation meetings will be held in Wentworth (Memorial Rooms on Tuesday 9 June), Dareton (Senior Citizens rooms on Thursday 11 June) and Buronga (Midway Centre on Monday 15 June). All meetings start at 7pm and will be attended by staff and councillors.

The General Manager said that next year's expenditure program contains a number of new initiatives and these are listed below. Some of the initiatives included in the Plan are:

- Funds allocated to encourage better utilisation of water in our community
- Completion of Council's asbestos audit on its buildings
- Netball Courts and lights for George Gordon Oval Dareton
- Development of Murray Street land for residential purposes
- Wentworth Wharf extension
- Stage 2 of the rural property numbering program
- Development of the Dareton town square in the main street
- Gol Gol Waterfront development plan
- Alcheringa Oval improvements
- Street Lighting Upgrade
- Aerodrome Runway upgrade
- Wentworth Aerodrome redevelopment plan
- Junction Island Bridge Board Walk



Council adopted the draft budget at an extremely challenging time for the community. General rates have increased by 3.5%. Domestic waste charges will remain at last year's levels with water access charges reducing 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, domestic waste and sewerage rates will be 3.3%.

Council's Director Corporate and Community Services said that Council's overall expenditure increased by 6% in operational works attributed to an increase in resources required to maintain road, footpath, water and sewer infrastructure and some backlog works. Capital works have increased by 10.6% overall. "The increase in Capital works is necessary in 2009/2010 to implement works identified in Council plans, to address risk issues and to complete unfinished works from 2008/2009," she said. "Council's adopted Management Plan can be found on our website www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au."

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

Draft Economic & Tourism Development Strategy

Twelve months ago Council resolved to produce a Tourism Strategic Plan. Since the appointment of Paula Mastroppolito, Community and Economic Development Officer, in early 2009 it has been possible to develop a joint strategy covering the two areas of economic development and tourism. The draft strategy provides a high level framework with which this Council can launch its bid for further support for the Council and the area in driving the directions contained in the document. The reality of our economy, like any other economy is that one of three things can happen: it can expand, it can stagnate or it can contract. Never before has the Council embarked on such a bold strategy to propel it forward into the future, exploring ways to harness the energy and drive of the community as a whole, working together to achieve lasting economic development across the Shire. The Economic and Tourism Development Strategy Document provides the framework, and outlines various strategies and actions through which we can establish a sound basis for long term and sustainable economic expansion.

Planning Assessment Commission

(by Local Government Association of NSW and Shires Association of NSW)

The State Government is getting ready to seize even more control over Wentworth Shire planning decisions, with the Sydney-based Planning Assessment Commission to take control of much of our local planning from 1 July. The Commission, which has no local representation on it, will begin making decisions on all major development in Wentworth Shire anything over \$10 million as well as community infrastructure and so-called 'ecotourism' developments over \$5 million.

That sort of money doesn't cover much in terms of development, so this means they could step into the construction of a local aged care facility, a two storey building in the town centre, or even extensions to our local library. While some regions along the coast will be judged by a Joint Regional Planning Panel, which includes only two local positions on a Panel of five, two thirds of the state – including us – will be even worse off with only this faceless Commission in Sydney making decisions for us. Planning Minister Keneally is once again showing no hesitation in snatching more and more control from local councils and little inclination to listen to local concerns.

Meanwhile our local representatives are likely to wear the brunt of our frustration about unpopular decisions. There are better ways to achieve a transparent, accountable and efficient DA process in NSW, and many councils are already using them - Independent Hearing and Assessment Panels (IHAPs).

IHAPs conduct a proper hearing into controversial or complex DAs, making sure that everyone has the opportunity to be heard, and then make a report and recommendation to council.

That way, we get to make local planning decisions, and we are answerable to our local community.

The Planning Assessment Commission certainly won't be !!!

Wentworth LGA Community Safety Precinct

The first meeting of the Wentworth L.G.A. Community Safety Precinct was held on April 28, 2009. Monthly forums with the reference committee will be conducted by local Police to disseminate specific intelligence based crime data, with representatives from the community, service providers and local government assisting to identify issues and develop strategies pertaining to the local community needs.

Dareton Inspector of Police, Kylie Smith emphasized to meeting attendees that Police will attend to all reported incidents. Local Police will provide the Community Safety Precinct committee with detailed monthly statistical information, and will work with the committee to develop strategies and actions that target crime preven-

WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL has recently adopted the draft Management Plan and contains a four year strategic focus which identifies 5 strategic themes. These are:

Sustainable Organisation

Delivering Quality Services

Sustainable Communities (Social)

Our People

Sustainable Communities (Economy)

Growing our Wealth

Sustainable Environment

The Place Where We Live

Sustainable Infrastructure

Our Assets

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION APPROVALS JANUARY TO APRIL 2009

For the month of April there were 5 Development Applications approved under delegated authority by the Director, Development & Environment. The following data indicates comparison of value for previous months of this financial year.

Month	DA's Approved	Value	Average
January	10	\$206,300	\$20,630
February	5	\$244,700	\$48,940
March	14	\$999,690	\$71,406
April	5	\$9,000	\$1,800
Total	34	\$1,459,690	\$142,776

Fast Facts.....

- Total Resident Population 7079
- Median Age 40
- Mean Household Size 2.6
- Median Weekly Household Income \$775
- Median Monthly Housing Loan Repayment \$900
- Median Weekly Rent \$105
- Dwellings fully Owned* 37%
- Dwellings being purchased* 31%
- Dwellings being rented* 25%
- Lone person households 24%
- Lone Parent household 11%
- Household Internet connections 54%
- Post secondary qualification 23%
- Employed Full-time 2114
- Employed Part-time 1031
- Looking For Work 171

Source: ABS 2006 Census Data