

Newsletter

Wentworth Shire Council
The Shire Where the Two Great Rivers Meet

December 2010

Basin Mayors Go to Canberra

Wentworth's Mayor, Councillor Margaret Thomson, said that the meeting of Murray Darling Basin Councils in Canberra held Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 November could be considered a success, however, in some respects the work has only just begun. Over 100 Councils from the Basin met in Canberra to send a clear message to the government by way of a Declaration of Concern. Mayor Thomson said that at least two dozen politicians from all parties attended the meeting and what they had to say indicated that the message is getting through. "They understand now that the process to date was flawed and the impacts on

the communities more significant than first contemplated," she said. Ministers Burke and Crean from the government, the opposition Leader, Tony Abbott and Tony Winsor, independent, and others addressed the meeting. Mayor Thomson reported that Tony Winsor, who is heading the government inquiry into the MDBA proposals, said he was determined that a balanced outcome should be achieved. "I am happy that the Member for Farrar, Sussan Ley, is now on that Committee to represent our interests". Mayor Thomson went on to say the next step is for the community to continue the momentum and make submissions to the Senate

Inquiry as well as sending submissions to the Murray Darling Basin Authority. "Wentworth Shire Council will be making submissions to both," she said. "I intend to see Tony Windsor when he comes to this region in January. I believe the Senate Inquiry has the potential to influence the government and ensure a plan for the Basin is developed with proper consideration of socio-economic impacts as well as the environment." Mayor Thomson said that I cannot stress too much the importance of "people power". "The reason for a rethink on the proposed Basin Plan is because of the concerns expressed by the community," she said.



The Mayor, Councillors and Staff of the Wentworth Shire Council would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a safe, healthy and prosperous new year.



Special points of interest:

- Council meeting notes
- Christmas Eve Main Street celebrations
- Wentworth Roads Causing Stretched Resources
- Next Council Meeting 16 February 2011
- PS Ruby Voyage of Discovery
- My Thoughts

Christmas & New Year Holiday Period Office/Workshop/ Libraries Closure Times

Wentworth Council Offices	Closed 5pm Friday 24 December – Monday 3 January
Depots and Workshop	Closed Wednesday 22 December – Wednesday 26 January
Wentworth Library Buronga Library Dareton Library Wentworth Library Buronga Library Dareton Library	Closed from 5.30pm Friday 24 December Closed from 5.30pm Friday 24 December Closed from 5.30pm Friday 24 December Reopen 10.30am Wednesday 5 January Reopen 1.30pm Wednesday 5 January Reopen 1.30pm Wednesday 5 January
Visitor Information Centre	Closed Saturday 25 December Open 10am – 2pm Sunday 26 December Open 10am – 2pm Monday 27 December Open 10am – 2pm Tuesday 28 December Open 10am – 2pm Saturday 1 January Open 10am – 2pm Sunday 2 January Open 10am – 2pm Monday 3 January

Council Meeting Notes—Wednesday 15 December 2010

- Council will be considering the resignation of Leon Wagner from the PS Ruby board of Management
- Re-determination of Council's Organisation structure will be considered for adoption
- Council's updated Policy on Levee Banks will be considered
- Repayment Of Loan No. 181 - Buronga/Gol Gol/Dareton/Pooncarie Water Filtration and Loan No. 182 Buronga/Gol Gol Sewerage Augmentation will be considered by Council
- No submissions were received for Council's recently advertised proposed policy update on Categories For Waiving Or Reducing Fees and Charges and will be considered for adoption by Council
- Consideration of Wentworth, Dareton & Buronga Wetlands – Alcohol Free Zones with consistent expiration dates
- Council will consider adoption of the Wentworth Shire Council's submission on the Guide to the Proposed Murray Darling Basin Plan and note actions taken to date
- Strengthening Basin Communities Community Report for December 2010 was submitted for Council's information
- A report to seek Council approval for a budget variation of \$155,000 to fully complete the repainting of the Dareton filtered water tower, Scout Road Dareton is to be considered by Councillors
- A report was submitted to seek Council approval for a budget variation of \$95,000 to fully complete the replacement of sewerage pump station No.1 in Adelaide Street, Wentworth.

**Council's Annual
Report 2009/2010
is on the website**
www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au

Free help to save up to 20%
off your power use—Most
Pensioner Concession, Health
Care and Veterans' Affairs
card holders can call 1300 662
416 **NOW** to get a free home
power assessment or visit
www.savepower.nsw.gov.au*

Christmas Eve Main Street Celebrations

Once again in 2010 the Wentworth Shire Community and visitors will come together in Darling Street on Christmas Eve, Thursday 24th December, to share seasonal greetings and enjoy a FREE night of entertainment for the whole family as another year draws to a close. This event would not happen without the generosity of major sponsors who assist each year – Wentworth Shire Council, Country Energy, Wentworth and Coomealla Services Sporting Clubs, and Wentworth & District Community Bank, along with donations & sponsorship from business operators and individuals each year guarantee the success of the Wentworth Christmas Eve Mainstreet Party. Steve Cooper is filling in for Guido this year as our host, he will start proceedings at 6.30pm, when registrations will be accepted for

the famous 'Water Brigade' relays along Darling Street starting at 6.30pm. A Talent Quest follows at 7.15pm with (trophies & cash prizes for Senior, Intermediate & Junior sections). Registrations can be made now by ringing the VIC on 5027 3624 and will also be taken on the night up to 6.30pm at the registration table. Please bring own backing tapes! Santa pays a visit, the monster hamper raffles will be on again – an opportunity to win several prizes. There will be a FREE fun castle & kids' activities, a coffee van and alfresco dining, etc. The finale is always a fabulous fireworks display (courtesy of the Wentworth Shire Council) when we all head to the Darling river for a spectacular view.



All proceeds from the night go to support families who have a child needing medical treatment outside the area. In the past the party proceeds have helped several families. A great help in very trying times especially around Christmas. For more information regarding the Wentworth Christmas Eve Mainstreet Party, or to offer sponsorship please contact Karen, at the Wentworth Visitor Information Centre on 03 5027 3624.

Once again a very big thank to whole Sunraysia district – businesses & individuals who each year give so generously to this very special event at Wentworth. PLEASE BRING OWN CHAIRS and enjoy some -MUSIC! -FUN! -LAUGHTER!



Wentworth Roads Causing Stretched Resources

The significant amount of rain in the last couple of months has had a considerable impact on the condition of Wentworth Shire roads.

At the present time, there are currently 28 roads closed and 2 open with the notation "with caution".

The Mayor, Councillor Margaret Thomson, said that residents have been very understanding that some jobs may take a little longer with the number of issues to deal with as a result of the weather.

The Director Development, Mr Ken Ross, said that roads will only be opened if they are safe and can be travelled on without further damage. "A crew will be available over the Christmas break to deal with urgent issues," he said.

The Mayor went on to say that staff had done a great job considering the issues involved. "It has simply not been possible to get around to all of the road and drainage issues quickly enough. The General Manager has engaged contract staff to assist the current situation," she said.

Whilst staff have been addressing numerous drainage and road issues the subject will be discussed at the December Council meeting. Council may decide to reallocate funds for urgent works to ensure that crops can be taken from properties etc.

"It is likely that some of the planned capital works for this financial year may be delayed as funds are redirected to more pressing needs."

Council reviews unsealed road conditions daily. Updates are also available by phoning (03) 5027 5090. This Unsealed Road Condition Report will be re-issued only when unsealed road conditions change.

Persons driving on closed roads will be subject to fines and may be charged for any works necessary to rectify damage.

To be included on the list of recipients for this report please contact council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au or phone: (03) 5027 5027



Status of Wentworth Shire Roads

<http://www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au/services/RoadClosures.php>

Status of RTA Regional Roads

<http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/trafficreports/regionalnewsouthwales/index.html>

Status of Central Darling Shire Regional Roads

<http://www.centraldarling.nsw.gov.au/roads/1091.html>

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 2011

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 February 2011 at 9am.
Residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

PS Ruby Voyage of Discovery

The PS Ruby Paddlesteamer commenced steaming on one of its most ambitious
journeys since becoming commercially operational earlier this year.

Wentworth's Mayor, Councillor Margaret Thomson, said that the inaugural Voyage
of Discovery which left the Wentworth Port Wharf on Monday 6 December and
return on 8 December was a fantastic coup for Wentworth.

"On board were 15 aspiring young leaders which were part of an innovative pro-
gram delivered by the locally-based Alternative Motivation Life Academy.

Mayor Thomson said that it was pleasing to see the educational and leadership
component of PS Ruby's business plan come to fruition. "It was an enormous feat
to organise such a program and partners of the event, Rotary Club Mildura De-
akin, Wentworth Shire Council, Mildura City Council and the other sponsors
should be applauded," she said.

The PS Ruby Board, which is a Wentworth Shire Council Committee and largely
made up of community members, was absolutely thrilled to see the significant
project get off the ground in PS Ruby's first year of operation.

The Mayor said that the Voyage of Discovery was a great achievement and she
looked forward to many more.

"I would like to acknowledge Rotary Club Mildura Deakin as one of the main driv-
ing forces of the venture in collaboration with the hard working volunteer members
of the PS Ruby Board", she said.

Details on the Voyage of Discovery project can be found on the website
www.rotarynews.info/Club3797/r.i

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:-

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

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