

Shire Newsletter

Wentworth Shire Council
The Shire Where the Two Great Rivers Meet

Australia Day Celebration at the Wentworth Hall

This year the Wentworth Shire Council will be holding its Australia Day celebrations in the recently renovated and air-conditioned Wentworth Hall.

The Mayor Margaret Thomson said that the recent rain has forced our hand and previous sites, such as the Junction Reserve and the Wentworth Wharf, are likely to continue have minor flooding.

“Whilst the forecasted flooding is only minor the decision was made to ensure that no last minute change would need to be made.

The Wentworth part of the celebrations will be



held on **Wednesday 26 January, commencing at 10.30am.**

Nominations

Citizen of the Year

Cathryn Dawes
Audrey McPherson
Richard & Judith Tregear
Alicia Hancock

Young Citizen of the Year

Keely Duncan

Sports Person of the Year

James Watt

Young Sports Person of the Year

Caitlin McLachlan

Caitlin Hancock

Jayden Scadding

Sporting Group of the Year

Wentworth District Junior Football Club—Under 16s

Gol Gol Football Netball Club

Community Group of the Year

NSW Rural Women's Gathering Committee

Environmental Award

William Wheeldon

Celebrations in Summary

Buronga Wetlands

7:45am - 9am

Wentworth Town Hall

10:30am - 12 noon

Dareton Senior Citizen Rooms

3pm - 5pm



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Special points of interest:

- Next Council meeting on 16 February 2011.

Minor Flooding in the Shire

Wentworth's Mayor, Councillor Margaret Thomson, said that the State Emergency Services has advised that preparations are well in hand to deal with the minor flooding that is occurring in the Wentworth area along the

river banks and which is likely to continue for weeks to come.

The Local Emergency Management Officer at the Wentworth Council, Mr Ray Egan, said that he was in daily contact with local SES personnel and being updated

daily by the SES at the State level.

Mr Egan said that at this stage Wentworth Township at the Junction Reserve, Thegoa Lagoon and the Willowbend Caravan Park

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In order to reduce erosion on the banks of our rivers and levee system all boats owners are asked to travel within the speed restrictions, particularly during this period of minor flooding.

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... are experiencing some minor flooding.

He went on to say that advice he has received indicates that there is only a small chance of any water reaching the toe of the Wentworth levee.

"It is likely that minor flooding will continue for some time as flows from the Darling River and Murray Rivers make their way to the Wentworth Shire."

In recent media reports Mr Craig McIntyre, SES Murray acting regional controller, has confirmed that "Wentworth township residents should not be concerned about the slowly rising river which was unlikely to reach minor flood levels."

Mr McIntyre went on to say that he would not expect any sandbagging or evacuations because at this stage the prediction is for a peak below minor flood level.

The General Manager, Mr Peter Kozlowski, said that concerned residents can contact the Council on 50275027 to get the latest update.

"Council is more than happy to field calls to reassure residents."

'The prediction is for a peak below minor flood level'

Mr Kozlowski added that the Wentworth levee had only been inspected before Christmas, including a test of portable levee walls in the very unlikely event of major flood levels.

Council is planning a workshop entitled "Making your business more profitable." It will be held on Thursday 3 March 2011. It will be free. If you are interested let the Shire Office know on 50275027 and ask for Sharon. The location will be chosen based on the level of interest expressed.

The next Council Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 16 February commencing at 9am.

Council website is www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au

Assistance for Farmers & Small Business in Declared Natural Disaster Areas

The Wentworth Shire has been declared a natural Disaster Area by the NSW Government.

This means that the Natural Disaster Relief Scheme (NDRS) will assist primary producers and small business operators affected by flood/fire/storm damage or any other declared natural disaster.

Forms will be available at the Shire Offices in Wentworth. Contact 50275027.

For more information go to www.rfcs-cw.com.au

Mayor Invited to Meet Tony Windsor

Wentworth Shire Mayor Margaret Thomson has been invited to meet with federal member of parliament, Tony Windsor, who is heading up the Inquiry into the proposed Murray Darling Basin Plan.

Wentworth Shire will also be represented at the Public Hearing to be held in Mildura on 19 January 2011. The Mayor is scheduled to meet with Mr Windsor at the Junction Reserve on 18 January.

Mayor Thomson said that these opportunities were important to reinforce the messages conveyed in Council's three submissions on the proposed MDB Plan.