



Message from the Mayor

It is with pleasure that I welcome you to my first column as Mayor of Wentworth Shire Council.

Each month, Council will publish this Community Connects newsletter following the monthly Ordinary Meeting of Council to communicate with you, and keep you informed on Council business and projects.

It's good to see the Victoria border now open and that we are getting back to pre COVID-19.

I would like to say thank you to all residents for your co-operation during this time and I, like everyone else am looking forward to further easing of the restrictions, but most importantly we must all continue to play our part and be COVID normal in our daily lives.

Moving on with business, the agenda for the November meeting included awarding a number of tenders to Oasis Unmatched Pty Ltd for the Buronga Riverfront Nature Play Area and Roger Bath Concreting Pty Ltd for the construction of concrete shared paths in Gol Gol/Buronga.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday 16 December 2020 at the Midway Centre Buronga commencing at 10:00am.

Council will continue to conduct meetings in line with current COVID-19 guidelines.

I invite members of the public to view the meeting live via Council's Facebook page or on the Council website - <https://www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au/council/about-the-shire/council-meetings/> following the meeting.

Our first meeting for 2021 will be held on Wednesday 20 January.

Until next edition - stay safe!

**Cr Susan Nichols
MAYOR
Wentworth Shire Council**

Wentworth Aerodrome soars to new heights



Drone image shows Wentworth Aerodrome upgrade progress

In May 2019, Council was successful in securing Restart NSW Infrastructure funding for the upgrade of the Wentworth Aerodrome to provide an all-weather, 24 hour access facility with the capacity for Code 2B aircraft. The upgrade includes the construction of a new sealed runway, taxiway and apron, aircraft parking areas and the installation of pilot activated lighting.

These works will support the rural and remote emergency and air freight networks, cater for larger charter aircraft used by the mining and government sectors, as well as cater to air charter tours for international and domestic visitors. This will enable better access to Mungo National Park and other tourist attractions in the area.

Last call for nominations

Celebrate the outstanding achievers and unsung heroes within our community by nominating them for the 2021 Wentworth Shire Australia Day Awards.



Australia Day

Wentworth Shire Council Mayor Cr Susan Nichols said "Nominations are now open for these prestigious awards which recognise and celebrate people and community organisations that contribute to making Wentworth Shire a great place to live, work and visit".

Award categories are: Citizen of the Year; Young Citizen of the Year; Sportsperson of the Year; Young Sportsperson of the Year and the Environmental Award (individuals or groups).

Nomination forms are available from Council's Customer Service Centres, the Shire Libraries, and Council's website www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au Nominations will close at 5:00pm this Friday 27 November 2020.



Lyn takes out local writing award

Lyn McKenzie of Buronga has been named the winner of the Wentworth Shire Council, Broken Hill Library, West Darling Arts and Under the Silver Tree Co-op writing competition.

West Darling Arts Executive Director, Cathy Farry travelled to the shire last week to present Lyn with her \$500 prize. Ms Farry said "We were delighted with how many entries we received for this competition and also how many people went online to read and vote."

Meeting Mentions

Council closed 11 December 2020

At the November Meeting, Council resolved to close the Adelaide Street Office, Midway Centre, Depots, Workshop, Landfill sites, Libraries and the Visitor Information Centre on Friday 11 December, 2020 at 1pm for the purpose of an all staff meeting.

Bendigo Bank Agency

As a service to the community, Council has entered into an agreement with the Wentworth & District Community Bank to operate a Bendigo Bank Agency at the Midway Centre.

Financial assistance to community

Each year Council provides financial assistance to community groups and organisations through the Donations, Contributions and Grants fund. In this round, Council received requests totaling \$1,692.58.

All applications were approved with Council supporting the following organisations: Gol Gol Pre School, Vintage Machinery Society of Sunraysia, Palinyewah Public School, Wentworth Public School, SouthWest Water Users Inc., Darling Junction CWA and Red Cliffs Players Inc.

Wentworth Shire on the move

Wentworth Shire is on the move with 15 development applications determined in October 2020 under delegated authority by the Director Health and Planning.

The estimated value of the determined developments was \$1,627,002. This brings the year to date total to 138 Development Applications and 31 \$4.55 Applications approved, with an estimated development value of \$29,082,013.

Project Updates

Council has been successful in securing significant funding over the past 2 years to improve community infrastructure and services. At the November meeting Council received a project status update on a number of projects including;

- Buronga Riverfront - landscaping and nature play installation
- Buronga EDS
- Dareton and Wentworth Sewer Upgrades
- Pooncarie, and Anabranche Hall Painting
- Willowbend Caravan Park
- George Gordon Netball Courts
- Barrett Pavilion
- Wentworth Riverfront BBQ area and nature play space

Library host Christmas craft

Wentworth Library is running a number of small and COVID safe activities for Christmas.

With the festive season soon upon us, it is a great opportunity to get into the spirit of things.

There are some great events for children and families including a movie night, card making and a toddler story time Christmas celebration.

Due to limitations on numbers, booking in advance is essential, so please call 03 5027 5060 to reserve your spot.



\$37,447 secured for fitness equipment

Duty Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) for Murray, Wes Fang, recently announced that Wentworth Shire Council would receive \$37,447 from round three of the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund for the purchase and installation of outdoor fitness equipment at Junction Park in Wentworth.

"This project is exactly the kind of projects the Stronger Country Community Fund round three was designed to deliver and I congratulate Wentworth Shire Council on securing funding for this important project," said Mr Fang.

Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women Bronnie Taylor added, "Projects like this are crucial to ensuring young people can happily live, work and thrive where they live – right now and long into the future."

COVID-19 screening clinics continue

Screening for COVID-19 is available to all residents and visitors.

The clinics are drive-through and Council is urging everyone attending to be patient, drive slowly and obey all directions.

For all enquiries contact Dareton Primary Health Centre on 03 5021 7200.

Clinic locations:

Midway Centre, Buronga Monday to Friday from 9:30am-12:30pm

Wentworth Hospital Monday to Friday from 10:00am-2:00pm

If you have a child under 5 years of age who requires COVID-19 testing, you are required to book an appointment at the Wentworth Hospital by calling 03 5027 5700.



School crossing in safe hands

Recently appointed School Crossing Supervisor, Russ Collyer commenced his duties at Gol Gol Public School - Sturt Highway crossing, just in time for National Road Safety Week.

Remember to slow down to 40km/h when the flags are up and stop for Russ when children are waiting to cross.

Employment opportunity with Council

Wentworth Shire Council offers a rewarding career with excellent conditions and a positive team focused culture. Council currently has the following position vacant.

- **Operations Engineer R2020/18** (Readvertised)
Closing 4:00pm Monday 30 November 2020

For more information on the advertised position and details on how to apply visit Council's website <https://www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au/council/online-services/employment/> or contact Glen Norris, Manager Human Resources on 03 5027 5027. Wentworth Shire is an equal opportunity employer.

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ROAD CONDITIONS

For current road condition information go to <https://www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au/infrastructure/engineering-services/roads-and-traffic/> or call the 24 hour Road Information Hotline on 03 5027 5027

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRES

Main Service Centre - 26 Adelaide Street
Wentworth
Midway Service Centre - Midway Drive
Buronga

T: 03 5027 5027

E: council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au
W: www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au

This newsletter has been produced by Wentworth Shire Council for the benefit of residents of Wentworth, Dareton, Buronga, Gol Gol, Pooncarie, Pomona and surrounding areas.

Ken Ross
General Manager