



Message from the Mayor

Welcome to the first Community Connect for 2021.

This year is already off to a busy start with Australia Day celebrations, notification of additional grant funding and preparations underway for the 2021 Murray Darling Annual National Conference which will be hosted in Wentworth Shire from 17-19 May.

Speaking of Australia Day, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their support of Council's decision to host a COVIDsafe event this year. Hopefully we will be in a position to roll out some community events and activities in the coming months.

I am sure you will all agree that the recent easing of COVID restrictions has seen some normality return to our everyday life. So, let's hope that we continue our road to recovery.

I have it on good authority that we will be getting into the 60's groove and heading to a pop-up Drive-In sometime in April, so watch this space for more information!

Council, like many others in the State are working to deliver a significant number of infrastructure projects. At present, we have 141 projects on our books and they have been prioritized according to funding agreement deadlines and contractor availability. These initiatives will enhance our community, assist in growing our tourism sector, stimulate business development and encourage new residents so, I ask that the community be patient, and allow Council time to bring these projects to fruition.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday 17 February 2021 at the Midway Centre Buronga commencing at 10:00am.

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.

Warm regards

**Cr Susan Nichols
MAYOR**

Locals recognised in Australia Day Awards

A crowd of 80 invited guests gathered at the Midway Centre Buronga for the 2021 Wentworth Shire Australia Day Award Ceremony with many other community members watching the live stream.

The COVIDsafe event did not hamper the enthusiasm of guests as they recognised and acknowledged the achievements and commitment of award nominees.

Council's Australia Day Ambassador, Catherine DeVrye presented her address from her home in Manly and 12 year-old Hazel Symonds, a singing and performing arts student and Wentworth Shire local delivered a powerful rendition of Advance Australia Fair.

Mayor Cr Susan Nichols thanked those who had taken the time to nominate their fellow citizens and paid tribute to the many unsung heroes across the Shire.

The 2021 Wentworth Shire Australia Day Citizen of the Year as awarded to Alan McKenzie, Young Citizen of the Year



Wentworth Shire Council 2021 Citizen of the Year Alan McKenzie with Mayor Susan Nichols

to Montana Norris, Young Sportsperson of the Year was presented to Noel Doidge and the Environmental Award went to the Wentworth Rotary Club Community Op Shop.

Congratulations to all nominees and award recipients.

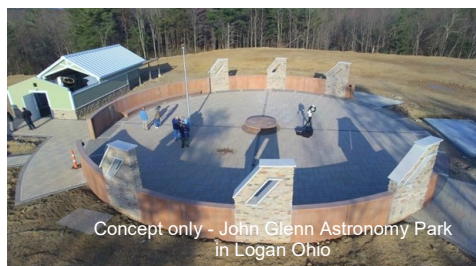
Council secures \$679,316 for astronomy park project

Wentworth Shire is one step closer to becoming a tourism mecca with the recent announcement of \$679,316 for the design and construction of an astronomy park in Wentworth.

Funded under the NSW Government Crown Reserves Improvement Fund, the project will include an astronomy park, interpretive signage and walkways at the Greater Murray Darling Junction Reserve.

The project will be commenced by 30 June 2021 and will include community and stakeholder consultation and engagement, the construction of pathways and installation of site signage.

The main astronomy park will require a detailed design phase prior to construction.



Concept only - John Glenn Astronomy Park in Logan Ohio

YOUNG ENDEAVOUR YOUTH SCHEME

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

Youth from across the Shire now have an opportunity to apply to join 23 young Australians and embark on a life changing, eleven day journey-learning not only how to sail the ship, but how to work together as a team.

The voyage will see participants face their fears, push themselves out of their comfort zone and discover how to rise to the challenges faced.

By the end of the journey the Youth Crew will take command of the ship and put their newly developed skills to the test.

The *Young Endeavour* will resume sailing in February 2021 under a modified program with a number of COVID-19 safe measures in place and applications to join the Youth Crew are now being received.

For an adventure of a lifetime visit; www.youngendeavour.gov.au

Voyages are currently restricted to New South Wales residents only.

EMPLOYMENT

Wentworth Shire Council has an exciting future, and we are currently seeking self-motivated and passionate professionals to join our team.

MANAGER TECHNOLOGY SERVICES - R2021/01

Full time permanent position
Closing 4:00pm Thursday
18 February 2021

Commencement salary of \$102,304.80 plus 9.5% superannuation.

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT OFFICER - R2021/02

Full time permanent position
Closing 4:00pm Thursday
18 February 2021

Commencement salary of between \$72,467.20 and \$84,380.40 (dependent on skills and experience) plus 9.5% superannuation.

For further information on advertised positions and details on how to apply, go to www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au/employment.

Wentworth Shire Council is an equal opportunity employer.

TENDERS

Wentworth Shire Council is seeking Tenders for the supply of the following:

Disposal of Operating Cool Room WSC2021

Tenders will close 4:00pm Monday
8 February 2021

Wentworth Shire Council is seeking tenders for suitably qualified contractors to provide Bitumen/ Asphalt Surfacing and Linemarking works for the following:

Wentworth Aerodrome – Stage 2 Upgrade PT2021/06

Tenders will close 3:00pm Friday
19 February 2021.

Interested parties should contact the Roads and Engineering Department on 03 5027 5027 to request copies of tender documents.

TODDLER STORYTIME

Toddler Storytime will recommence at the Wentworth and Buronga Libraries this month. Starting: 11 February - Buronga Library and 12 February - Wentworth Library.

MEETING MENTIONS...

Change to May Council Meeting Date

In 2020, Council was successful in attracting the Murray Darling Association Annual National Conference.

The conference will be held in Wentworth from 17-19 May 2021 and will see approximately 110-150 delegates converge on the Shire for the three day event.

As the Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled for 19 May 2021 Council resolved at the January meeting to amend the date from 19 May 2021 to 12 May 2021 to allow Council to host the conference. This will still allow appropriate time for the Operational Plan to be placed on public exhibition prior to the June 2021 Ordinary Council meeting.

Barkandji Consultation Working Group

Council received correspondence from NTSCORP on behalf of the Barkandji Corporation seeking to form an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) Working Group with Wentworth Shire Council.

The Barkandji Corporation have nominated three directors being Betty Pearce, Kathy Potter and Warren Clark to represent them on the working group with Council nominating the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and General Manager as Wentworth Shire Council representatives.

MEETING MENTIONS...

Funding for community infrastructure

Council received notification from the NSW Government advising of an additional funding allocation of \$1,037,539 under the NSW Government Local Roads and Infrastructure Program Extension Phase 2. Council considered a report at the January meeting and endorsed the following projects for government approval; Wentworth Riverfront Sheet Piling \$200,000, Buronga Riverfront Stage 2 - Playground equipment \$100,000, Wentworth Showground Race Tower and Shade Structure \$250,000 and Wentworth Library Outdoor Riverfront Gathering Space \$487,539. It is envisaged that a (4) to six (6) week assessment period will apply to all applications with no work to commence prior to approval.

Development Applications

In December, 23 Development Applications and three (3) S4.55 Modification Applications were determined under delegated authority by the Director Health and Planning. The estimated value of the developments was \$5,061,940.00. This brings the year to date total to 179 Development Applications and 38 S4.55 Applications approved, with an estimated development value of \$36,002,326.00.



Testing and screening clinics continue in the Shire

Screening for COVID-19 is still available to the community.

The clinics are drive through and we urge everyone attending to be patient, to drive slowly and obey all directions.

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

Wentworth Hospital hours - COVID TESTING

Monday to Friday 10:00am – 2:00pm

No testing on weekends or public holidays

If you have a child under 10 years of age who requires COVID testing, you will need to book an appointment at the Wentworth Hospital.

Please contact 03 5027 5700 to schedule a time.



Join the Wentworth Book Club this month

Join the Wentworth Book Club on Thursday 11 February at 6:00pm for a discussion of the book 'The Midnight Library' by Matt Haig, a journey of self-discovery and forgiving our mistakes. All welcome.

There are limited spots due to COVID guidelines, so booking is a must.

All activities are free of charge and materials are provided.

Bookings for Wentworth can be made by calling 03 5027 5060.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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 the Shire and visitors to the region.

Ken Ross
General Manager