

WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL COUNCIL CONNECTS

Wentworth Shire Council community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

February 2022

Message from the Mayor



Council is continually looking at ways to improve its services to the community. Under the *NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014* Councils are required to develop a Disability Inclusion Action Plan in consultation with its community.

To do this we have created an online survey aimed at people with a disability as well as carers of people with a disability, which will help us determine what needs to be included in the plan.

The aim of the plan is to help people with a disability to fully participate in our great community and be able to safely and easily access services available to all.

If you are a person with a disability or a carer of a person with a disability please take the time to fill out the survey at <https://www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au/survey-people-with-disabilities-and-their-carers/>

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 16 March 2022 at 6:30pm. Members of the public are permitted to attend meetings however Council must adhere to limitations on attendee numbers as directed by the NSW Government.

Attendees must be double vaccinated to enter the Council Chambers for a meeting.

As of 25 February masks are encouraged for indoor settings where you cannot maintain a safe distance from others.

You can also view the live public sessions of each Council meeting on Facebook.

Footage of the meeting can be viewed on the Council website <https://www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au/council/about-the-shire/council-meetings/> following the meeting.

Regards,

Tim Elstone
MAYOR

LEARNING THE TRADE



For new Wentworth Shire Council project engineer Ryan Thomson (pictured left), there is no place like home.

The 22-year-old grew up at Gol Gol and now finds himself back at the Council where he completed his university placement between July 2020 and February 2021.

"The ultimate for me was to get back into the region and immerse myself into the community," Ryan said.

"This is where I grew up, this is where I'm happy to be, I enjoy the area, and coming back to a place I spent close to nine months I am back into a familiar environment and straight back onto the tools and into the work."

Ryan's placement came in the third year of his four-year Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) with Honours at Adelaide's Flinders University. He spent 20 weeks on his placement, even staying on over his summer holidays to continue picking up skills on-the-job.

"I spent quite a lot of time with senior engineers, learnt a lot of skills and techniques and gained knowledge," Ryan said.

"Then had the opportunity to go and prove I've learnt things and am able to do things by myself."

Wentworth Shire Council Director

Roads and Engineering Geoff Gunn said the Council was proud to provide opportunities for young engineers to get a footing in their career.

"Ryan brings fresh ideas to the table and as a local he already has a solid knowledge of the area," Mr Gunn said. "Having previously worked at Wentworth Shire Council for his university placement he has a head start on what his role entails and the processes to work within the organisation.

"We look forward to seeing his career at Wentworth Shire Council progress." Another Engineering student, Mildura's Eli Alabaster (pictured right), recently completed his time with Council.

Eli approached Ryan to gauge the latter's experience with Council and whether it would be the right fit.

"I was impressed with what he told me and then rang Geoff (Gunn) to arrange the placement," Eli said.

"It has been an incredible experience. Being able to immerse myself within a professional environment has been invaluable to my professional career. "Wentworth Shire Council has welcomed and pushed me to extend my skills."

Ellerslie Community Consultation session

Consultation sessions for Council's Community Strategic Plan have been held across the Wentworth Shire region to date. The next session will be held at Ellerslie Fire Station on Thursday 17 March at 4:00pm. Community engagement is at the heart of local government. The Community Strategic Plan is required to be developed and delivered as a partnership between Council, state agencies, business and industry groups, community groups and individuals. It helps communities to be active participants in shaping their own future. Engagement with the community is critical to understand the community's vision for the future and the priorities to be included in the Community Strategic Plan. It will enhance the capacity of Council to make well informed, sustainable decisions that clearly demonstrate community buy-in and support.

WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS SUBSCRIPTION

Do you want to keep up to date with projects and other goings-on in Wentworth Shire? Wentworth Shire Council is offering a quarterly projects eNewsletter direct to your email inbox on top of the monthly Council Connects. Keep informed about our projects, future events and more. Scan the QR code with your phone's camera or a QR scanning app to register your interest in joining Council's subscriber list.



This newsletter has been produced by the Wentworth Shire Council for the benefit of the residents of the Shire and visitors to the region.
Ken Ross
General Manager

Meeting mentions

Buronga Highway Service Centre application refused

At the February Ordinary Meeting of Council a Development Application for an On The Run Highway Service Centre at Hendy Road, Buronga was refused unanimously by Councillors. The refusal came after a Council report made the recommendation on a number of grounds relating to zoning requirements and site constraints.

Donations, Contributions and Grants funding

Council has provided an allocation of \$160,000.00 for the 2021/22 financial year for the consideration by Council, for the funding of requests from the community for financial assistance. 'In this financial year, the total value of request granted so far totals \$132,452.00. The total value of requests for this funding application period totals \$4,447.00 which leaves a balance in the Donations, Contributions and Grants fund of \$23,101.00. The funding requests granted at the February Ordinary Meeting of Council included:

- a \$48 fee waiver for the Wentworth Preschool for hire of the Community Meeting Room
- a \$154 fee waiver for the Pooncarie School P&C for the hire of the Pooncarie Hall
- a \$2000 grant to the Wentworth District Rowing Club for their Easter 2022 Regatta
- a \$2000 grant to the Wentworth Bowling Club to hold two Star Days
- a \$245 fee waiver to the Murray Darling Junction Fishing Club Inc for their licensing agreement.

Development applications continue to roll in

For the month of January 2022, a total of 9 Development Applications and two S4.55 Modification Applications were determined under delegated authority by the Director Health and Planning. The estimated value of the determined developments was \$1,793,176.00. Monthly updates on development applications determined are given at each Ordinary Council Meeting and added to a cumulative year-to-date total.

Wentworth Long Day Care update

A major revamp of the Wentworth Preschool will see the existing Preschool transformed into a Long Day Care Centre and Preschool.

The redevelopment has occurred following more than five years of hard work by a hardworking band of committee members who have actively campaigned and fundraised for a Long Day Care Centre (LDCC) in Wentworth. Preschool committee member Annita Hawkins said after years of fundraising it was great to see the project progressing. "This has all come about after being successful with our grant applications from the Australian Government's

Building Better Regions Fund, the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund, Wentworth and District Bendigo Bank and major contributions from the Wentworth Shire Council, David and Liz Dawes, Bob Jolley and the Community," she said. Wentworth Shire Council Mayor Tim Elstone congratulated the committee on their fundraising efforts and lauded the LDCC's expected impact on Wentworth. "Not only will the centre provide additional employment in Wentworth, but it will provide a service that the Wentworth Township has been missing," Cr Elstone said.

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