

Community Matters

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SUSTAINABLE LIVING LESSONS

Grade 1 students Stella and Ivy were among a group of Sacred Heart Primary School children who toured the Mildura Eco Village recently, to learn about sustainable living and looking after our environment.

Council offers a range of free environmental education programs which can be tailored to children of different ages. Learn more on page 5.

 facebook.com/milduracouncil

 twitter.com/milduracouncil



Mildura Rural City Council

Meet the women in our *Parks & Gardens* crew

Lindy, Nikki, Rhonda, Courtney and Bree

These five employees represent the largest ever group of women simultaneously working in Council's Parks and Gardens Team.

From managing projects, leading teams, landscaping and maintaining irrigation infrastructure, gardens and turf, to trialling plant species, planting and operating machinery, these women embrace the benefits of working outdoors and take serious pride in the results they achieve for our community.

Courtney and Bree joined Council as trainees and are now employed full-time, having undertaken training on the job and obtained tickets in traffic control, chainsaw operations, front end loader competency and construction induction.

In her 22 years with the organisation, Lindy has worked in almost every corner of our region and loves the satisfaction that comes when hard work and planning comes to fruition. She currently leads a team of nine who establish and maintain parks and gardens for our rural communities.

Rhonda has been on the team for 28 years and oversees Council's nursery; growing and sourcing trees and plants for nature strips, parks, garden beds and other green spaces.

Having grown up on a cereal farm at Werrimull, Nikki always had an interest in the land and worked with the outdoor crew for several years before moving to her current position as Parks and Gardens Administration Officer.

These women are breaking down barriers and showing new generations that gender doesn't determine a person's ability or interests. They bring greater diversity to our Parks and Gardens team which increases innovation and means our outdoor spaces more closely meet the needs of our community.



Rhonda



Nikki



Bree



Lindy



Courtney



Greg Arthur sought heritage advice before renovating his historic Fifteenth Street property.

Do you want to know if your building has significant heritage value? Perhaps there's a public place you've always wondered about or want to preserve? Our free monthly heritage advisory service may be able to help.

Council's specialist heritage advisor is available by appointment one day each month.

Their free services include assessing buildings in the heritage overlay or with potential heritage value, as well as

providing information about maintaining and/or repurposing heritage places, buildings and items.

They also offer pre-planning permit application advice for proposed future developments or works affecting places within the heritage overlay.

For more information about the service or to book a consultation call 03 5018 8100 or visit mildura.vic.gov.au/Heritage

Discover your local library, online!

When you become a member of your local library, you don't just get to enjoy thousands of resources at five library branches.

Your free library membership also includes access to a world of digital resources.

Download an eBook, audiobook, graphic novel, magazine or stream a movie - all from the comfort of your home, office, or wherever you have internet access.

You can even access free online art and craft classes, children's digital literacy resources and other educational activities.

Pop into the Mildura, Merbein, Red Cliffs, Ouyen or Murrayville Library to find out more. Our Library Outreach service also visits Cullulleraine, Walpeup and Underbool regularly.

Visit mildura.vic.gov.au/Libraries or call 03 5018 8350 for more information.



RecSport

proving a HIT at MSP!

RecSport is taking over Mildura Sporting Precinct (MSP), offering locals the chance to get active and social in the best way possible!

Led by the popular RecNetball series, which is about to enter its sixth series, MSP is fast becoming a hub for social and friendly sport.

Played on weekends, RecNetball aims to encourage participation and social connection. It also offers flexibility in providing individual registrations with its 'no team, no problem' motto.

Social sporting competitions traditionally require participants to enter a team to play, but RecNetball allows people a chance to sign up as individuals and then be allocated a team – with that team then managed by the Precinct.

In the case of the most recent series, this led to the creation of the 'Sunday Socials' team, who have gone on to forge fast friendships, and even opted to re-enter Series 6 of RecNetball.

Since RecNetball's inception in 2022, more than 400 people have signed up to take part, with around 42 percent of participants indicating they were trying netball for the first time, while the remaining participants were returning to the sport following a break.

MSP has previously ran RecSoccer and RecFooty and have recently expanded into a 'pop up' style short series for juniors including Jnr Rec Soccer.

There is plenty more in the pipeline! To stay up-to-date with opportunities to participate in fun and social programs, whatever your skill set, register your details at www.bit.ly/MSPRecSports



Container Deposit Scheme coming November 1

The State Government has confirmed a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) will start in Victoria on November 1, 2023.

The scheme will reward Victorians with a 10-cent refund for every eligible can, carton and bottle they return, helping to reduce litter and waste.

Returned containers will be given a new lease on life, with materials recycled and remanufactured into new products, saving them from landfill or littering the environment.

You will receive a 10-cent refund for every eligible container you recycle.

You can choose to keep the funds or donate to a participating charity, community group, environmental group, educational organisation or sports group.

Visy will set up CDS collection points across our region where locals and visitors can recycle their containers, however locations are still to be confirmed. They are currently inviting local businesses, not-for-profits, community and sporting groups to act as collection point operators, meaning you can raise funds and generate employment opportunities for your organisation.

Visit visy.com.au/CDS to register your interest and learn more.



FREE AND FUN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Local kindergarten and school children have been having a ball visiting Mildura Eco Village recently.

Kindergarten children from Country Way Early Learning Centre (pictured) enjoyed fun, hands-on activities, learning all about sustainability, including how to reduce their waste, recycle correctly and grow their own food. They even dug for worms, saw a rubbish truck and picked strawberries fresh from the Community Garden Beds!

Our Environmental Sustainability and Waste Education teams offer a range of free Environmental Education Programs and can tailor activities to suit children of all ages.

Get in touch if you'd like to book in an excursion or session for your school or group.

For more details about programs on offer or to book a session call 03 5018 8100 or visit mildura.gov.au/EnviroEd



Thanking our dedicated Aged Care team

Friday 30 June 2023 will mark the end of an era when it comes to the delivery of home-based Aged Care services in our region.

Mildura Rural City Council will no longer provide services like domestic assistance, personal care, home maintenance and flexible respite on behalf of the Commonwealth and State Governments from this date.

Five new providers will instead take on the task starting 1 July 2023 – bringing an end to a sensational 40-plus year run for Council as an in-home Aged Care provider.

The new providers are:

- > LiveBetter Services Limited
- > Integratedliving Australia Ltd.
- > Annecto Inc.
- > Sunassist Volunteer Helpers Inc.
- > Mallee Track Health and Community Service

And while Council's exit from Aged Care was not an easy decision to make following heavy reform and change in the sector, it's a move that effectively brings to a close the work of Council's hard-working Aged Care team.

The dedicated Aged Care team within Council has spent the better part of 18 months moving towards the transition following a Council decision in May 2022 to exit.



Etera Miller with retiring Community Support Worker Jennifer Ricardi.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone, past and present, who has formed part of our Aged Care team over the past 40-plus years.

We would also like to thank the hundreds of clients and their families who have entrusted us with their care over the years.

Our role in the Aged Care sector will turn to advocacy and positive ageing following the transition, in line with our Community Health & Wellbeing Plan.

For more information visit yoursay.mildura.vic.gov.au/ADS-Update

New strategy to fuel growth in **MOTORSPORT**

Mildura Rural City Council is partnering with local clubs and groups to develop the region's first ever Regional Motorsport Strategy.

The strategy is aimed at capitalising and building on our region's enviable reputation as a centre for motorsport excellence, and the important role this plays in our region's local economy.

It will take a grassroots approach to developing motorsport in our region based on improving and strengthening local clubs and venues. This in turn will increase club membership and capacity of clubs to host major events more often.

About 50 representatives from a range of local motorsport groups met early this year as part of development of the strategy. The meeting was aimed at outlining how the strategy will be developed and seeking early feedback from local groups.

Interviews with local motorsport club representatives have been taking place in recent weeks, gathering information on their respective organisations.

This will help develop strategic, facility and growth plans for each of the clubs, as well as helping to shape the broader strategy.

The strategy, which has attracted support from both the Victorian Government and Motorsport Australia, is expected to be completed by the end of year.



Mildura Mayor Liam Wood and Regional Motorsport Strategy consultant Mike McLaughlin take in Sunraysia's popular Powersports Easter Show and Shine as part of development of the strategy.

CONNECTING FAMILIES WITH *twins, triplets and more!*

A new support group is providing much-needed connection and community for families of twins and triplets in our region.

Led by a qualified Maternal and Child Health Nurse, Lactation Consultant and twin-mum, the Multiples Support Group meets at Mildura Sporting Precinct on the first Monday of each month.

The group is a space where parents and carers with twins and triplets of all ages are welcome, along with their little people too.

The focus and structure of each session is guided by the needs and wishes of attendees, with the overarching goal

to create a safe, supportive community where families of multiples can connect, share and learn from one another.

Parents and carers can also expect to receive practical and emotional support, covering everything from feeding and mealtimes to sleep, settling and a sense of camaraderie.

Multiples Support Group sessions take place at Mildura Sporting Precinct on the first Monday of each month, running from 9.15am to 11.15am.

For more details or to register your interest please call Council's Maternal and Child Health team on 03 5018 8277 or email mchs@mildura.vic.gov.au



MCH Nurse Margie catches up with local multiples families.

2024 Kindergarten registrations now open!



Visit mildura.vic.gov.au/kindergarten
to register your children for three and
four year-old kinder

REGENERATING Mildura's CBD with 500 new trees

Mildura's CBD will be greener, cooler and more inviting by the end of this year when hundreds of new trees are planted throughout the precinct.

The plantings are part of the CBD Regener8 Project, which received funding through the Victorian Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund, and aims to provide more shade, better amenity, better access and a generally more attractive and inviting CBD for locals, businesses and visitors.

More than 50 trees have already been planted, including one by Victorian Minister for Regional Development Harriet Shing MP, who officially launched the project alongside Mayor Liam Wood and members of our Parks team in April.

Council sought quotes in May to appoint a contractor to plant an additional 300+ trees before the end of 2023.

Species including Bottlebrush (*Callistemon harkness*), Himalayan ash (*Fraxinus griffithii*), and a range of Eucalyptus varieties have been selected to create shade and improve amenity. The new trees will be planted in nature strips along San Mateo, Magnolia, Lemon, Orange, Madden, Deakin, Walnut, Olive and Pine Avenues, as well as Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Streets.

More trees are also earmarked for Eighth Street and Feast Street in Langtree Avenue and will be planted as part of future redevelopment projects in these areas.



New pilot kicking goals in Mildura

For many in our region, your local sporting club is more than just a place for physical fitness – it's a place to connect.

Unfortunately, not everyone in the community, particularly women, girls and gender diverse people, always feel welcome, or experience the social benefits that can come with community sport.

Thankfully, this is something that clubs across the Mildura region are changing through the Gendering in a New Era program – a partnership with Council and Women's Health Loddon Mallee.

Seven clubs in Mildura have come on board to participate in the pilot round of the project seeking to achieve equality, inclusion and respect for all.

Each club has formed an Action Group who have dedicated their time to learning more about gender equality and the various barriers and challenges that women, girls and gender diverse people face.

Participants are currently developing Gender Equality & Inclusion Action Plans which will be rolled out over the next two years with the support of Council. The process has already helped clubs identify actions they can take to ensure women and girls in their clubs are valued and included.

Stage two of the pilot will kick off in June 2023, with several more clubs set to join and benefit from the program.

This program is being funded by the Victorian Government's Preventing Violence Through Sport Grants Program.



ADD itUP

Belinda Fox

EXHIBITION

Saturday 3 June
– Sunday 13 August

Image: *Finding my way 1* (detail), 2009.
Intaglio prints, ink, collage, flocking on paper.
Mildura Arts Centre Collection.

milduraartscentre.com.au



If you need an interpreter we can help. To access an interpreter, call TIS National on 131 450 and ask them to call Mildura Rural City Council on 03 5018 8100. You can also ask for an interpreter when you use any of our services.

T 03 5018 8100

E mrcc@mildura.vic.gov.au
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Call or email us from 8am to 5pm weekdays.

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Madden Avenue Service Centre 108 Madden Avenue, Mildura

Ouyen Service Centre 79 Oke Street, Ouyen

DISCLAIMER

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of event information published in Community Matters. All details were correct at the time of printing.