



# Community Matters

ISSUE 41 | December 2019

## Celebrate New Year's Eve!

Welcome in the new year and decade at Mildura's Nowingi Place on Tuesday 31 December.

The New Year's Eve celebration will feature entertainment by local artists and two fireworks displays.

For more details see Page 2.

 [facebook.com/milduracouncil](https://facebook.com/milduracouncil)

 [twitter.com/milduracouncil](https://twitter.com/milduracouncil)



Mildura Rural City Council

Enjoy an evening of free family entertainment!

# NEW **Year's** EVE

FEATURING

**REVIVE**

**BOB THE BUILDER**

**THE OCTONAUTS**

**IWAN & ANDREA | JUST US**

**JETT CHARMAN**

INCLUDING

**TWO FIREWORKS DISPLAYS**

**FOOD TRUCKS | JUMPING CASTLES**

**ALCOHOL, SMOKE & GLASS FREE EVENT**

**KICKING OFF AT 7PM**

The Nowingi Place, Hugh King Drive, Mildura  
[www.mildura.vic.gov.au](http://www.mildura.vic.gov.au)  
03 5018 8100



Mildura Rural City Council



## Major milestone for sporting precinct

**Preliminary work has now started on one of the biggest and most eagerly anticipated infrastructure projects in our region - the Mildura South Regional Sporting Precinct (MSRSP).**

It follows the official sod-turning ceremony and announcement of lead contractor Commercial Industrial Construction Group in October.

These milestone steps have paved the way for the start of construction of the precinct, which is one of four Mildura Future Ready (MFR) initiatives.

MFR is Council's strategy to drive employment, economic and social development in our region through infrastructure investment and development.

It comprises four key projects – the MSRSP, the Mildura Motorsports and Community Precinct, Stage 2 of the Mildura Riverfront Redevelopment and advocacy for the return of passenger rail services to the region.

In the two years since MFR was launched, it has attracted \$17.5 million from the Australian Government and \$3 million from the Victorian Government for the MSRSP. Council's contribution to the MSRSP is \$9.5 million.

The MSRSP will be home to a host of indoor sporting user groups while providing national-standard indoor and outdoor sporting facilities for the community.

The first stage of the precinct will be completed in 2021, allowing Mildura to host state and national sporting and other major events.

The first stage of the MSRSP will include:

- six-court indoor stadium, including change rooms, foyer, reception, administration offices, public amenities, storage and spectator seating, cafe/kiosk
- an AFL-standard oval, including a turf wicket, separate pavilion, including change rooms, kiosk/canteen, public amenities, spectator seating and storage
- second floor of stadium, including function rooms, social/club rooms, public amenities and storage
- external amenities, including car parking, drainage, pathways and landscaping.

For more information visit [www.mildura.vic.gov.au](http://www.mildura.vic.gov.au)



The official sod-turning



Corner Onatrio Ave and Thirteenth St



Corner San Mateo Ave and Twelfth St



Corner Deakin Ave and Seventeenth St

# Major roadworks program to make our streets safer

Road users may have noticed that there are several major roadworks projects under way across our region at the moment. We've provided a snapshot covering three of the larger projects.

## Ontario Avenue medical precinct

Works are progressing in the Ontario Avenue medical precinct following the start of a major package of works designed to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety.

A roundabout will be installed at the intersection of Thirteenth Street and Ontario Avenue, while five pedestrian crossings will be established at key points in the medical precinct.

Time-based 40km/h speed zones will also be introduced on both Ontario Avenue and Thirteenth Street.

The works are among a \$3 million suite of projects announced last year, which includes \$2.1 million funded by Transport Accident Commission (TAC) and the State Government of Victoria through the Safe System Road Infrastructure Program (SSRIP).

The initial stage of works have started with an extension of Thirteenth Street to provide 41 additional parking spaces. Traffic in the immediate vicinity is limited to 40km/h during the works.

## Plans to increase safety, reduce congestion in San Mateo Avenue

Council is embarking on a new suite of works to make a stretch of San Mateo Avenue safer for nearby businesses, residents, pedestrians and cyclists.

The works will focus on reducing congestion and improving safety along the increasingly busy

San Mateo Avenue precinct between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets.

Measures will include a combination of safe turning lanes, reducing the speed limit to 50km/h between Seventh and Fourteenth Streets, signed bike lanes and raised safety platforms.

There will also be additional angle parking established in this precinct, near the intersection of San Mateo Avenue and Thirteenth Street, to help ease congestion.

A raised median in San Mateo Avenue near this intersection will also be installed to prevent drivers performing dangerous u-turns and help separate both lanes of traffic. This will also reduce the risk of head-on crashes and provide a safe mid-point for pedestrians to wait when crossing the road.

A report co-authored by the Australian Road Research Board found that threshold treatments, such as the raised safety platforms and raised islands being used on Mildura streets, cut crashes by 26 per cent and reduce the number of fatal and serious crashes by 23 per cent.

## Progress on new truck route roundabout

Regional Roads Victoria (formerly VicRoads) is progressing with construction of a new roundabout at the intersection of Seventeenth Street and Deakin Avenue.

As a result of this major project Seventeenth Street between Benetook and Walnut Avenues is closed to general traffic. In addition, the Sturt Highway has been closed to Mildura-bound traffic for much of November to allow for the current stage of the works and is expected to reopen in early December. Letter drops and face-to-face meetings with residents in the immediate area have been carried out by the contractor.

Detours are expected to remain in place until January 2020. For more information about this project visit [www.regionalroads.vic.gov.au/map](http://www.regionalroads.vic.gov.au/map) Residents seeking more information should contact Works Manager David Young on 0409 525 711 in the first instance, or Project Manager Matthew Dols on 0438 967 781.



## Make sure you don't suffer 'thunderstorm asthma'

While the spring and early summer months may be a time to take advantage of the warmer weather and enjoy the outdoors, they also usher in grass pollen season.

During this period, the combination of a high pollen count and certain types of thunderstorms can trigger what is known as 'thunderstorm asthma'.

For people with asthma or hay fever, especially those who experience wheezing or coughing with their hay fever, thunderstorm asthma can be sudden, serious and even life threatening.

Grass pollen season in our region runs from October through to December.

If you've ever had asthma, consider speaking to your doctor about how you can protect yourself. For hay fever sufferers, consider visiting your pharmacist or doctor to consider a hay fever plan.

If you suffer from asthma or hay fever, consider avoiding being outside during thunderstorms, especially in wind gusts that often precede storms.

For more information visit [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/thunderstormasthma](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/thunderstormasthma)

## \$1m Community Drought Reserve

**Council has established a Community Drought Reserve to support drought-affected communities in the Mallee.**

The Reserve has been created through a \$1 million share of the Australian Government's Drought Communities Program (DCP) which was announced earlier this year.

The reserve provides funding for priority projects in drought-affected communities which aim to:

- increase employment and/or work opportunities;
- stimulate rural and regional community economies;
- provide social, economic and/or environmental benefits to affected communities; and/or

improve access to local infrastructure, amenities and facilities

Council is now working with farming communities to target projects that will best support residents and families struggling as a result of the drought, specifically focusing on the Millewa area, which has been worst-affected so far.



## Facelift planned for Nichols Point rotunda

The historic Nichols Point rotunda is about to receive a much-needed facelift.

Repairs to the rotunda's timber framing, cladding, roofing and a fresh coat of paint are among works planned for the rotunda as part of a broader vision for the much-loved landmark.

It follows a successful application for a \$25,000 Living Heritage Grant which will not only fund repairs to the rotunda but help develop a conservation management plan to prioritise works, ensuring its long-term future.

The rotunda was one of 27 'significant heritage places' across the state to receive a Living Heritage Grant.

Council is about to hold a series of community consultation sessions this month to seek residents' thoughts and vision for the rotunda and surrounding area.

Sessions will be held at the rotunda at the following dates and times:

Friday 13 December  
8.30am – 10am

Saturday 14 December  
9am – 10.30am



## Residents have their say on Mildura Station Homestead future

Council has received a positive response to a recent call for residents to provide their thoughts and ideas on the future of the Mildura Station Homestead.

Built by the Jamieson brothers in 1847, close to the original Mildura pastoral lease, the Mildura Station Homestead is one of our region's iconic historic markers.

To ensure the homestead is preserved and continues to be an important part of Mildura's evolving riverfront precinct, Council sought out the community's views on the landmark structure.

Over the course of three consultation sessions in September a large number of residents took advantage of the opportunity to provide their feedback.

This information is now being compiled and will help form the basis of future plans and uses for the historic structure.

## WHAT'S ON



### EXHIBITION



#### **BARKA: THE FORGOTTEN RIVER**

Badger Bates and Justine Muller

#### **OPENING AND ARTIST TALK**

6 pm, Thursday 5 December

#### **EXHIBITION**

Thursday 5 December – Sunday 16 February

Image: Badger Bates, *Warrego Darling Junction, Toorale* (detail), 2012.

### WORKSHOPS & EVENTS



#### **ZINES WORKSHOP**

With Prue Hobbs

11am, Tuesday 14 January

Create your own zine.

Bookings Essential. Ages 12-18

Image: Mildura Zine Fair 2019.

*twilight*

#### **TWILIGHT**

5pm, Friday 17 January | 21 February

Free Outdoor Event

(03) 5018 8330

[milduraartscentre.com.au](http://milduraartscentre.com.au)





Celebrating an important milestone

## Family Day Care celebrates 40 years

This year marks 40 years since Mildura Rural City Council Family Day Care (FDC) was established in 1979.

FDC was developed after it became clear a service was needed to support families during harvest periods.

A Harvest Childcare Service, coordinated by Sunraysia Community Welfare, was originally developed in February 1977.

It soon became apparent the service needed to expand, so Sunraysia Community Welfare approached Mildura City Council in 1978 for support.

Mildura City Council saw the value in the service and applied to the Federal Government to establish FDC.

Since then FDC has undergone several changes, with educators now required to have a minimum Certificate III in Childcare. Many FDC educators also elect to further their studies by completing diplomas and advanced diplomas in children services.

FDC continues to grow and currently 348 children are enrolled in the service, which provides an inclusive, respectful home-based environment supportive of children's needs.

The service is also flexible, with a range of days and hours available for care, allowing children to be in an educational environment with their siblings.

Our FDC Coordination Unit plans to continue recruiting educators so more families have access to quality home-based childcare.

For more information on FDC see [www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Services/Children/Family-Day-Care](http://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Services/Children/Family-Day-Care)



Flexible and unique care

## Looking back on 30 years of Playalong

Playalong Early Learning Centre is celebrating 30 years of operation.

The Centre opened on 17 July 1989, starting as Occasional Care to meet the needs of the community. The service was designed not only to be a child-minding facility but an educational Centre.

In February 2008 the Centre introduced 10 Long Day Care places which provided another education and care option for families. Across the last 30 years, thousands of families have utilised the service from various cultures and backgrounds.

People who attended the Centre as children have returned, enrolling their own children in the service.

The Centre has continued to adapt to the changing regulatory requirements during its 30 years and has seen many changes including the introduction of the National Quality Framework, which ensures the quality and compliance of education and care services.

Playalong continues to be a unique service providing flexible care with a minimum one hour booking that allows parents to meet their work-related and non-work related commitments.

Playalong continues its commitment to early childhood providing high quality education and care for children aged 6 weeks to 12 years. The centre provides Monday to Friday Long Day Care from 8am until 6pm and Occasional Care from 8.30am until 5pm.

For more information about our Playalong Early Learning Centre see [www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Services/Children/Playalong-Early-Learning-Centre](http://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Services/Children/Playalong-Early-Learning-Centre)

## Council Christmas & New Year Hours

**Mildura Rural City Council's Service Centres will close at 3pm on Tuesday 24 December and reopen again on Thursday 2 January 2020 at 8am.**

The Mildura and Ouyen Landfills will be open during their normal weekday, weekend and public holiday hours during this period, except on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, when they will be closed.

Cullulleraine and Werrimull Transfer Stations will also be closed Christmas Day. For a full list of Council's landfill and transfer station opening hours visit [www.mildura.vic.gov.au](http://www.mildura.vic.gov.au)

If your kerbside rubbish or recycling bin collection day falls on Christmas Day or New Year's Day, your bin will be collected on the Saturday after, meaning you will need to leave it out that Friday night.

For more information on Council services and operating hours across the Christmas period please see [www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Contact-Us](http://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Contact-Us)



## Mildura residents leading fruit fly fight

**Hundreds of Mildura residents have removed their unwanted fruit trees over the past three years, helping to reduce Queensland fruit fly activity and support their local horticulture industries and community.**

Since Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area's free tree removal program began in 2016, residents in Mildura and surrounds have removed 3,426 host trees, including stone fruit, citrus, pome trees, and other problematic varieties such as feijoas and loquats.

The fruit fly season is upon us and now is the optimum time to have unwanted trees taken out before they are full of fruit, infested with fruit fly, and dropping fruit all over the garden.

The free tree removal program is available again this fruit fly season. For more information or to register, visit [www.pestfreearea.com.au](http://www.pestfreearea.com.au) or contact GSPFA on (03) 5022 0327. Conditions apply.



## Australia Day Community Celebration

8am - 11am 26 January 2020

The Nowingi Place, Hugh King Drive Mildura



**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 visit our Service Centres in person.**

**T** 03 5018 8100

**E** [mrcc@mildura.vic.gov.au](mailto:mrcc@mildura.vic.gov.au)

[www.mildura.vic.gov.au](http://www.mildura.vic.gov.au)

**Deakin Avenue Service Centre** 76 Deakin Avenue, Mildura

**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.