

Community Matters

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Cultural celebration

Jaz Baxter and Willow Chilly are busy preparing for Corroboree on Sunday 7 July. Read more on page 5.

Next stage of new-look Deakin Avenue ready to roll out

Work has started on the next stage of the biggest upgrade to Mildura's iconic Deakin Avenue centre median strip between Eighth and Ninth Streets.

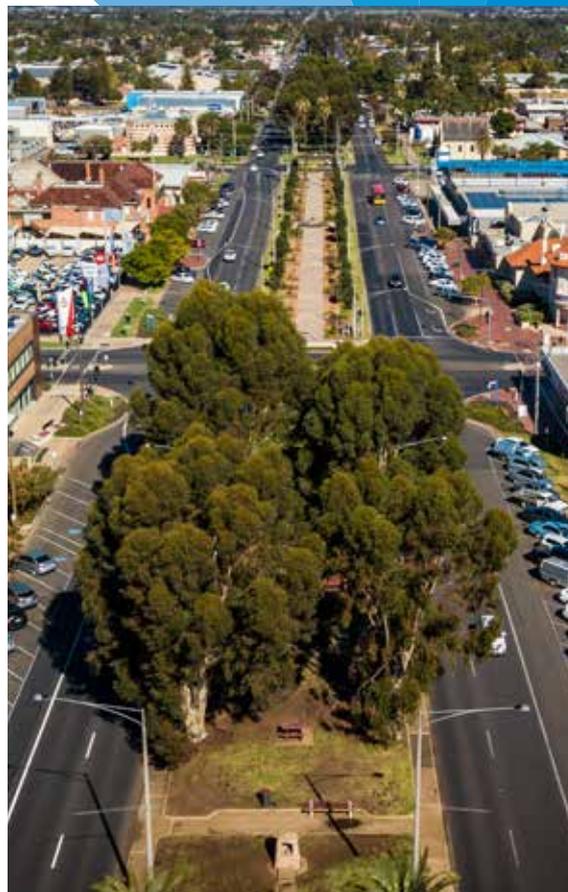
The first stage of the Deakin Avenue upgrade, between Ninth and Tenth Streets, was completed last year, creating an attractive, modern look for Mildura's main thoroughfare.

It's not only much safer for passers-by but has created a more appealing public space, while retaining Deakin Avenue's historic links to the past, including preservation of the limestone monument and several historic markers.

As was the case in the first stage, all sugar gums will be removed from the centre median, primarily because of the safety hazard they pose to people and vehicles, caused by incorrect lopping techniques in decades gone by.

It will then undergo a similar transformation to the recently completed section of Deakin Avenue, with new sugar gums planted, grown from the same seed stocks as the original sugar gums they will replace.

Several key pieces of Deakin Avenue's history will also be carefully preserved as part of the upgrade, including the rotunda, W.B Chaffey statue and Deakin Avenue fountain, which was originally located in front of Rio Vista Historic House.



Improved access to cemetery services

A new Support Centre at Murray Pines Cemetery aims to provide improved and dedicated access to burial services.

The new \$320,000 building is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Mildura Rural City Council and the Mildura Cemetery Trust.

The Centre will allow people to meet Mildura Cemetery Trust staff in a comfortable environment that includes a reception area, a small consulting room, a larger meeting room and all-access toilet facilities.

People can meet with staff to discuss burial, ashes and memorial options offered at both Murray Pines and Nichols Point cemeteries and arrange reservations.

Cemetery payments can be made through internet banking or in person at the Support Centre via cheque or eftpos only.

The Murray Pines Cemetery Support Centre will be open Monday to Friday from 9am to 12.30pm and 1pm to 3.30pm and closed Public Holidays.

Mildura Cemetery Trust aim to provide respectful final care for loved ones. For further information on burial services available at Murray Pines or Nichols Point please ring the Mildura Cemetery Trust on (03) 5018 8260.





New home for Merbein Football Netball Club

Construction of Merbein Football Netball Club's new change rooms at Kenny Park is well under way, with the majority of the external work now completed.

The previous building was all but destroyed by the November 2016 storms, leaving the club to rely on temporary change rooms while insurance claims were completed and new building plans finalised.

Work started on the new facilities late last year and has progressed well, with external brickwork, plumbing and air conditioning now completed.

Once finished, the new, much larger, modern building will feature dedicated rooms/facilities for both home and visiting football and netball sides and dedicated umpire's rooms among a host of amenities, including public toilets.

The project is a collaborative effort between Council, the Merbein Football Netball Club, Sunraysia Football Netball League and the Merbein South Cricket Club.

The Victorian Government also supported the project, injecting \$500,000 as part of the 2018-2019 Female Friendly Facilities Fund. The AFL meanwhile has contributed \$75,000.

Work is now focused on the internal component of the building, with the project expected to be completed by mid-August.

Vegetation boost for wetlands

A team of Sunraysia Institute of TAFE students are rolling up their sleeves to support the Mildura South Wetlands.

The students received almost \$3000 as part of a Mildura Rural City Council Environmental Project Grant to help plant trees along the Fifteenth Street side of the wetlands near Panorama Drive.

The aim of the project is to also involve the community in making a section of the wetland more attractive and to also prevent further erosion in that area.

It is hoped the community will gain a greater ownership of the wetlands, which will see a reduction in litter.

The SuniTAFE team are utilising species of trees that are more tolerant to changes in water heights and will continue to flourish.



Youth Awards 2019



Celebrating our region's youth

Mildura Rural City Council recently celebrated the achievements of 19 young people in our region who were nominated for Youth Awards.

More than 100 people attended the fourth Youth Awards presentation night, which was created as a way to thank our local under-25s for their efforts within the community each year as part of Victorian Youth Week.

This year's winners were:

Youth Volunteer Award joint winners – Jarrod Searle & Cheyenne Cochrane

Youth Community Group Award – HomeBase

Most Outstanding Youth Carer Award – Lily Bruhn

Youth Artist Award – Loughie Kemp

The fifth Youth Awards presentation night will be held next year and is expected to be bigger and better. Nominations open at the end of January and people are encouraged to like the Youth Services Mildura Facebook page to learn more about the awards.



Corroboree celebrates Aboriginal culture and history

Council and the Aboriginal Action Committee invite everyone to this year's NAIDOC Corroboree community event on Sunday 7 July.

This year's event will be held at Nowingi Place on the Mildura Riverfront. The day will be centred around a Corroboree – a traditional Aboriginal dance ceremony that brings people together and can take the form of a gathering or sacred ritual. The event will include cultural workshops, stalls, entertainment and food.

People are encouraged to bring a chair or picnic rug and immerse themselves in Aboriginal culture from 1pm to 5pm.

Enrol now for kindergarten in 2020

If your child is turning three or four-years-old by April 30 2020, you can enrol them now for kindergarten next year.

Attending kindergarten is an important part of every child's lifelong learning journey. At kindergarten children play, learn and develop skills that will help them prepare for school.

All children are eligible to attend a kindergarten program for 15 hours a week in the year before they start school, or up to 10 hours pre-kindergarten, two years prior to school. Kindergarten programs are offered at some child care centres and 14 kindergartens in our region.

Enrolments for eight local kindergartens are now open and being taken through

Mildura Rural City Council, including:

- Irymple Kindergarten
- Kathleen Kelly Kindergarten
- Mildura South Kindergarten
- Nangiloc & District Kindergarten
- Mildura West Kindergarten
- Red Cliffs Kindergarten
- De Garis Kindergarten
- St Margaret's Pre School

To enrol your child at one of these kindergartens you must submit an enrolment form and other documentation to Council.

For more information go to www.mildura.vic.gov.au/childcare or call us on (03) 5018 8100.

To enrol at Merbein Preschool Kindergarten and Pasadena Preschool contact the kindergartens directly.

For enrolments and enquiries for Ouyen, Underbool and Murrayville kindergartens, contact Mallee Track Health and Community Services.



Facelift for historic Mildura Wharf

The historic Mildura Wharf is in the midst of the most comprehensive facelift in its colourful 127-year history.

The two-month project follows a thorough inspection of the wharf which identified a raft of structural and aesthetic works needed to bring the popular structure back to its former glory.

Works include replacing balustrades, hand rails and decking boards, as well as giving the access paving leading to the wharf a new look to match the surrounding area.

The final touch will be extensive painting and finishing works.

Council planned the works to take place just after the busy Easter holiday period to minimise any disruption to the general public and riverboat operators.

The Mildura Wharf is a vital piece of infrastructure for Sunraysia's river-based tourism sector, including the paddleboat industry, which uses it for regular departures and arrivals.

Work on the Mildura Wharf is expected to be completed by the end of June. Council's attention will then turn to the Mildura Homestead Wharf, where a similar refurbishment project will be carried out.



Mildura road safety upgrade

Mildura's residential areas are receiving a safety boost as Council's pedestrian and cyclist road safety program continues to roll out.

Part of the Victorian Government's Towards Zero 2016-2020 Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan, the multimillion dollar suite of works includes the introduction of 40 km/h speed zones in 20 residential areas, the Mildura CBD and the riverfront.

Two of these zones have now been completed - between Fifteenth and Sixteenth Streets and Deakin and San Mateo Avenues, and between Fourteenth and Fifteenth Streets and Deakin and Walnut Avenues. The riverfront area has also been completed.

As part of these works, new signage is being erected clearly indicating the new speed zones. Raised safety platforms and traffic islands are also being installed at key intersections.

Traffic islands are aimed at slowing down turning traffic and preventing people from cutting corners, which encourages drivers to use main roads rather than cutting through local streets.

The new 40 km/h speed zones are part of a broader \$3 million suite of works aimed at improving pedestrian and cyclist safety in our region.

The works are 95 per cent funded by the Transport Accident Commission's Safe System Road Infrastructure Program, which is contributing \$2.1 million.

WHAT'S ON



EXHIBITION



DEFYING EMPIRE: 3RD NATIONAL INDIGENOUS ART TRIENNIAL

National Gallery of Australia

OPENING

6pm, Friday 26 July

EXHIBITION

Friday 26 July - Sunday 13 October

The exhibition brings together 30 established, mid-career and emerging Indigenous artists whose works mark the ongoing resistance, resilience and defiance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Image: Rusty Peters, *Manambarram* (detail), 2013.

THEATRE



Mildura Arts Centre presents

THE SONGS THAT MADE MEMPHIS

Sun Rising

SHOWING

7.30pm, Saturday 20 July

Be dazzled by standout renditions of timeless music by Elvis, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, Roy Orbison, Rufus Thomas Jnr, Howlin' Wolf and many more.

EVENT

MILDURA ZINE FAIR 2019

WHEN

Friday 2 - Sunday 4 August

Our very first Zine Fair will celebrate zines, provide opportunities for discussion and networking, and unite zine makers from all over Australia.

Artwork by Loughie Kemp.



(03) 5018 8330

milduraartscentre.com.au





Netball boost at Henshilwood Reserve

Irymple's Henshilwood Reserve now has two brand new, fully compliant outdoor netball courts.

The new courts were among actions identified in a review of Council's Henshilwood Reserve Masterplan and were completed in mid-April in time for the 2019 Sunraysia Football Netball League season.

Both courts are concrete in construction with an acrylic surface, and supersede the existing single asphalt court, which required increasingly more work to maintain.

The courts provide a much better playing surface as well as allowing two games to be played in the one area, which is more convenient for players, families and spectators. The courts are also safer as they have compliant run-off areas in accordance with Netball Victoria guidelines.

Landscaping, irrigation, turf and concrete footpaths connecting the courts to the nearby clubrooms are also part of the project and expected to be completed this month (June).

The project is a collaborative effort by Council, the Irymple Football Netball Club and the Sunraysia Football Netball League to secure \$100,000 in Victorian Government funding through the Country Football Netball Program 2018-2019.

Murrayville library service hours extended

Murrayville residents are about to get a first taste of their new library service this month with opening hours set to almost double.

Under the existing mobile library, which has served Murrayville for almost a decade, residents have been able to access library services for four-and-a-half hours each Wednesday afternoon.

As part of Council's new library service for the Millewa and the Mallee Track, access has been increased and improved at most locations – including Murrayville, which will go from four-

and-a-half-hours per week to eight hours.

From 3 June, the mobile library will continue to be based at Pioneer Park, but will now operate on Tuesdays from 1pm to 5pm and Thursdays from 9am to 1pm.

The mobile library will continue to operate during these hours until the new Murrayville Library building, which is being constructed off-site, is completed, and planning details are finalised.



Mildura Waves upgrade splash

Mildura Waves has undergone the most significant upgrade since being built to improve its facilities. These works have included:

- Replacement of boilers with high energy efficient condensing boilers
- Replacement of the filtration system for the 25m lap pool and wave pool with energy efficient water savings filters
- Internal painting of the pool hall, including steelwork
- Cleaning of air-conditioning ductwork
- Maintenance to the wet deck
- Repairs to tiles and grouting in the pool hall area
- Replacing expansion joints in pools

The completed works will provide significant cost savings in gas and water due to the efficiency upgrades. The works were completed in 14 days after beginning on 29 April. Mildura Waves re-opened to the public on 13 May. Earlier this year painting and carpeting of the gym area was also undertaken. Further upgrades to the change room facilities will commence prior to the end of the year.



Prevention better than cure in fruit fly fight

The Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area (GSPFA) Committee encourages residents to adhere to the old adage 'prevention is better than cure' in a bid to control Queensland fruit fly during the winter months.

Council currently auspices the Victorian Government-funded fruit fly control efforts in the Mallee, which is delivered by the GSPFA Governance Committee.

Since 2017, GSPFA field officers have performed more than 4100 visits to properties in our region as they work with landowners to stop the spread of fruit fly, which costs Sunraysia's economy millions of dollars each year.

Field officers say the onset of winter is a good time for residents to consider either removing fruit trees from backyards, or pruning them back so they can install insect nets to curb fruit fly numbers.

If people on residential properties within the GSPFA find they continually have to pick up fallen produce in their backyards infested with fruit fly, then the free tree removal program may benefit them. For more information call (03) 5022 0327 or visit www.pestfreearea.com.au.

More than 5500 trees have been removed as part of this program.



Speaking opportunities for White Ribbon Ambassadors and Advocates

As part of Mildura Rural City Council's commitment to White Ribbon we're keen to help other organisations, clubs and groups in our region learn more about men's violence against women, and how to stop it.

Our White Ribbon Ambassadors and Advocates have undergone comprehensive training, enabling them to go out into the community to promote the engagement of men, gender equality and respectful relationships – ultimately aimed at preventing men's violence against women.

We have three Ambassadors and two Advocates who are ready and willing to come to your workplace, community group, sporting club or event to speak about White Ribbon.

It's a valuable opportunity to learn more about White Ribbon and men's violence against women, which continues to be a major issue in Sunraysia.

If you're interested, please call Council's Human Resources Coordinator on (03) 5018 8100.



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 mrc@ Mildura.vic.gov.au

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.