Riverfront redevelopment underway

The first phase of works on Mildura’s riverfront redevelopment have commenced. Landscaping at the top entrance to the Nowingi Place off Seventh Street started in October, and works will continue in the New Year.

An $18.3 million project, the riverfront redevelopment will revitalise parklands between the Nowingi Place and the Powerhouse and make what is already a great place, even better.

Read more on page 2.
Landscaping works kick off riverfront redevelopment

Design and consultation on the $18.3 million redevelopment of Mildura’s riverfront has been progressing behind the scenes for months and there’s now something to see on site.

Landscaping at the top entrance to the Nowingi Place off Seventh Street started in October. Existing vegetation has been pruned and/or removed to improve site-lines from the car park down to the Nowingi Place precinct and the river beyond. This will be supplemented by about 4,000 new plants to create an exciting new entrance to enhance the overall look of the area and help formalise it as a key riverfront access point.

A carefully chosen selection of native Australian species is being planted, with the majority indigenous to the area. All plants are well-suited to a low-water use, riverine environment and will complement the existing trees on the site.

The landscaping is scheduled for completion before Christmas in time for people attending major summer events at the Nowingi Place to enjoy.

Construction of a new amenities block, adjacent to the existing toilet block near the Ornamental Lakes will begin after Australia Day. The new facilities will include male, female and disabled access toilets and feature a striking roof canopy. The existing toilet block will also get a face lift, with a new roof to match. New concrete pathways will connect the facilities to the wider precinct.

The existing and new toilet block combined will have enough capacity to cater for events of up to 3,000 people. This will give event organisers flexibility and means they won’t have to bring in portable amenities. The new block is expected to be completed by Easter.

Meanwhile design work on major elements of the riverfront redevelopment, including a water play area in the Ornamental Lakes precinct, new Rowing Club facility with café and pedestrian connection from Langtree Avenue is continuing. Construction of these components will commence in stages from Easter next year until September 2015 when the Langtree connection will be completed.

Find out more about the redevelopment of Mildura’s Riverfront Precinct at www.mildura.vic.gov.au/riverfront
Local sports facilities set for upgrades

Three much-needed upgrades to local sports facilities are set to go ahead in 2014.

More than half a million dollars will be spent on new netball courts in Murrayville, netball change facilities in Red Cliffs and lighting at Three Colours Soccer Club’s pitch at Mildura’s Aero Ovals Complex.

The exciting projects will go ahead thanks to partnerships between Council, the state government and dedicated community sports organisations that have fundraised tirelessly.

Murrayville Netball Club and Council worked together to secure an $85,000 Country Football Netball Program grant which will help cover costs for two new Plexipave courts. The new surfaces will benefit Murrayville’s netballers and also be used for basketball and tennis competitions.

Upgraded lighting at Soccer Park in Mildura and new change room facilities at Red Cliffs’ Quandong Park have been funded through the State Government’s Community Facility Funding Program, with contributions from respective clubs and Council.

As well as investing in these three projects, Council will spend around $800,000 improving local sport and recreation facilities across the region in the 2013/14 Financial Year.

Murrayville Netball Courts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNDING SOURCE</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country Football</td>
<td>$85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball Program</td>
<td>$43,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mildura Rural City Council</td>
<td>$39,209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Kind (Murrayville Netball Club)</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$172,964</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Soccer Park Lighting Upgrade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNDING SOURCE</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Facility</td>
<td>$93,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mildura Rural City Council</td>
<td>$16,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Colours Soccer Club</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$140,280</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Red Cliffs Netball Facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNDING SOURCE</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Facility</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Program</td>
<td>$47,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mildura Rural City Council</td>
<td>$27,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Kind (Red Cliffs Junior Football Netball Club)</td>
<td>$19,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$194,923</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A very bright idea

Replacing your lights at home with energy-efficient bulbs makes sense. It’s better for the environment and better for your electricity bill.

Street lighting is no different, and in 2014 Council will start to replace more than 4,000 lights that use expensive and old fashioned technology.

Outdated 80watt mercury vapour street lighting will be replaced with 42 watt Compact Florescent (CFL) or 25watt Light Emitting Diode (LED) Luminaries, starting in mid-2014.

The system will be used in mainly residential streets, with the lighting directed to footpaths and roads. One of the added benefits of this type of illumination is that there will be very little backlighting into houses. It is expected to save Council approximately $200,000 per year when it’s completed in three years time.

Council is one of 16 local government organisations who will upgrade their street lighting, as part of the Lighting the Region project. Funded through the Commonwealth Government’s Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP), the Lighting the Regions project covers half of regional Victoria and will see approximately 22,000 street lights upgraded across the state.

Locally, the replacement program will cost approximately $1.8million over three years, with Council contributing $627,000. It is expected that the electricity cost savings alone will see this initial investment paid back in full in less than three years.

Council expects a 60% saving on street lighting electricity costs by the completion of the project. In total, the 16 Local Governments will save a massive 6 gigawatt hours per year and 7510 units of Greenhouse Gas emissions per year.

FAST FACTS

Mercury vapour was first used in street lighting in the 1930’s.

- Council will replace 4,200 street lights over three years
- Every town within our community will receive a share of the upgraded street lighting.
- Council spent $380,000 on power for street lights in 2012/2013 and this initiative will produce a saving of up to 60% when project fully completed.
A year after reopening, MAC is better than ever

It’s now just over a year since the Mildura Arts Centre was re-opened to the public.

Fresh from a $9 million redevelopment, $5.2 million of which was State and Federal funding, the new theatre hosted its first performance – Chicago by the Red Cliffs Musical Society – on Saturday 17 November. The next day more than 4,000 people descended on the creative precinct to enjoy a special community open day in celebration of the occasion.

Since that dazzling first foray back into the spotlight, Mildura Arts Centre has continued to attract audiences, performers, artists and history enthusiasts eager to soak up creative and cultural experiences.

More than 57,850 people have been through the re-opened facility to date, participating in an array of exhibitions, performances, workshops, tours and more.

Highlights included the sell out 360 All Stars, an urban circus starring break dancers, basketballers and BMX riders. MAC hosted five creative workshops in conjunction with the performance, which were attended by 163 local students.

More than 1,300 children enjoyed a stage opera adaptation of the classic Australian storybook Possum Magic when it toured. And the new stage got the seal of approval from dancers of every caliber – with The Australian Ballet’s two shows selling out and local dance companies using the venue for their end of year concerts.

The re-opening of Mildura Arts Centre has also seen the return of a vibrant schedule of exhibitions in the Regional Gallery. Treasures from Mildura Arts Centre’s permanent collection including Edgar Degas’ pastel Woman Bathing (Femme à là baignoire) were on show for the first time in years.

The new Mildura Arts Centre offers much more too. The café gives locals and visitors alike the chance to enjoy a coffee or light lunch while visiting the galleries or a pre-performance drink in the bar before an evening show in the theatre.

All the creativity and cultural opportunities are set to continue at MAC in 2014. Visit MAC’s website or call (03) 5018 8330 for details about upcoming shows, exhibitions and workshops.

It’s a sell-out

With a bigger stage, improved back of house facilities and greater audience capacity, our new theatre has attracted some big shows in the past year. Ten of these were sell-outs, with all 444 seats in the auditorium full for 360 All Stars, The Australian Ballet, Possum Magic and three comedy shows.

But performances haven’t been limited to just the new stage.

The new foyer area that connects the theatre and galleries is 190 square metres larger than its predecessor. With magnificent vistas overlooking the MAC lawns and Rio Vista Historic House it has played host to the popular Front of House Cabaret Series and Morning Melodies, as well as cocktail parties, fashion parades and piano recitals.

444 Foundation fundraising efforts continue

When the Mildura Arts Centre’s 444 Foundation was established, its aim was to raise $500,000 to enhance and support the redeveloped facilities.

Just one year on, the Foundation has reached an important milestone, with more than $100,000 already secured thanks to generous community donations.

Named after the 444 fixed seats in the Mildura Arts Centre theatre, the 444 Foundation’s major fundraising initiative invites individuals, community groups, businesses or families to
sponsoring a seat within the auditorium. For a tax deductible donation of $1,000, donors are acknowledged in the foyer at MAC and become a part of the 444 Donors Program.

The most notable and exciting priority for 444 Foundation funds is a forestage lift, that could be raised and lowered hydraulically. Installed at the front of the stage, the lift could provide for additional auditorium seating space, become an orchestra pit or an extension to the main stage area.

For more information about the 444 Foundation call Mildura Arts Centre.

Solar lighting brightens MAC car park

The rear car park at Mildura Arts Centre now has LED solar lighting, providing a brighter and safer night-time environment for performers, visitors and staff.

The nine new light towers are fully automatic and fitted with 35 watt LED bulbs, 120watt solar panels and full battery back up.

The new system has very little backlighting which means residents that live nearby still get a good night’s rest.

Local families and community groups will soon be able to grow their own fresh vegetables at the Mildura Eco Village.

A community garden, comprising 34 raised garden beds and several large ground level plots is being established at the Village which is located on site at the Mildura Landfill.

A unique and new concept to our region, the Community Garden will be a space where individuals, families and groups can grow their own vegetables in a garden plot, volunteer, work and learn from other people and develop new skills through hands on experience and workshops.

Anyone can become a member of the Community Garden by joining the Sunraysia Sustainability Network. Membership is currently free and covers public liability and volunteer insurance.

The gardens are the latest addition to the Mildura Eco Village, a four hectare site at the Mildura Landfill designed to assist the community to move toward a more sustainable and prosperous future.

A partnership between the Sunraysia Sustainability Network and Council, the Mildura Eco Village is being developed in stages. An Education Centre has already been built on site. This multipurpose community facility displays sustainable design elements, building practices and technologies.

A solar distillation facility, which will use solar energy to distil contaminated, saline or storm water is also being established on site. 2014 will also see the arrival of an Eco House at the Eco Village. Originally the caretaker’s cottage at Nichols Point Cemetery, the house will be transported to the Eco Village and redesigned and retrofitted with a range of energy and water saving features, and used as a demonstration facility.

For more information about the 444 Foundation call Mildura Arts Centre.

Solar lighting brightens MAC car park

The rear car park at Mildura Arts Centre now has LED solar lighting, providing a brighter and safer night-time environment for performers, visitors and staff.

The nine new light towers are fully automatic and fitted with 35 watt LED bulbs, 120watt solar panels and full battery back up.

The new system has very little backlighting which means residents that live nearby still get a good night’s rest.

Gardens grow at Mildura Eco Village

Local families and community groups will soon be able to grow their own fresh vegetables at the Mildura Eco Village.

A community garden, comprising 34 raised garden beds and several large ground level plots is being established at the Village which is located on site at the Mildura Landfill.

A unique and new concept to our region, the Community Garden will be a space where individuals, families and groups can grow their own vegetables in a garden plot, volunteer, work and learn from other people and develop new skills through hands on experience and workshops.

Anyone can become a member of the Community Garden by joining the Sunraysia Sustainability Network. Membership is currently free and covers public liability and volunteer insurance.

The gardens are the latest addition to the Mildura Eco Village, a four hectare site at the Mildura Landfill designed to assist the community to move toward a more sustainable and prosperous future.

A partnership between the Sunraysia Sustainability Network and Council, the Mildura Eco Village is being developed in stages. An Education Centre has already been built on site. This multipurpose community facility displays sustainable design elements, building practices and technologies.

A solar distillation facility, which will use solar energy to distil contaminated, saline or storm water is also being established on site. 2014 will also see the arrival of an Eco House at the Eco Village. Originally the caretaker’s cottage at Nichols Point Cemetery, the house will be transported to the Eco Village and redesigned and retrofitted with a range of energy and water saving features, and used as a demonstration facility.

For more information about the 444 Foundation call Mildura Arts Centre.

Gardens grow at Mildura Eco Village

Local families and community groups will soon be able to grow their own fresh vegetables at the Mildura Eco Village.

A community garden, comprising 34 raised garden beds and several large ground level plots is being established at the Village which is located on site at the Mildura Landfill.

A unique and new concept to our region, the Community Garden will be a space where individuals, families and groups can grow their own vegetables in a garden plot, volunteer, work and learn from other people and develop new skills through hands on experience and workshops.

Anyone can become a member of the Community Garden by joining the Sunraysia Sustainability Network. Membership is currently free and covers public liability and volunteer insurance.

The gardens are the latest addition to the Mildura Eco Village, a four hectare site at the Mildura Landfill designed to assist the community to move toward a more sustainable and prosperous future.

A partnership between the Sunraysia Sustainability Network and Council, the Mildura Eco Village is being developed in stages. An Education Centre has already been built on site. This multipurpose community facility displays sustainable design elements, building practices and technologies.

A solar distillation facility, which will use solar energy to distil contaminated, saline or storm water is also being established on site. 2014 will also see the arrival of an Eco House at the Eco Village. Originally the caretaker’s cottage at Nichols Point Cemetery, the house will be transported to the Eco Village and redesigned and retrofitted with a range of energy and water saving features, and used as a demonstration facility.

For more information about the 444 Foundation call Mildura Arts Centre.

Solar lighting brightens MAC car park

The rear car park at Mildura Arts Centre now has LED solar lighting, providing a brighter and safer night-time environment for performers, visitors and staff.

The nine new light towers are fully automatic and fitted with 35 watt LED bulbs, 120watt solar panels and full battery back up.

The new system has very little backlighting which means residents that live nearby still get a good night’s rest.

For more information about Mildura Eco Village visit www.sustainablemildura.com.au or call the Sunraysia Sustainability Network on (03) 5022 3748.
Combined community effort to address Ice

Council has teamed up with local service providers and agencies to address issues surrounding the illicit drug Ice and its use in our community.

Health and welfare organisations and police consider Ice to be one of biggest drug problems facing our region. Project ICE Mildura is a six month initiative aimed at informing and empowering the community with information about Ice, its affects and treatment and support options.

Project ICE is led by of the Northern Mallee Community Partnership – a consortium of local community organisations. The Partnership uses a whole-of-community approach to enhance education, health, safety and wellbeing for the entire community.

A number of free community information sessions about Ice have already been held as part of Project ICE and more are planned throughout the summer and into 2014.

The community sessions cover information on what ice is, how it works and what it does to the body. There is also advice on short and long-term harm, overdose signs and symptoms, treatment and support options.

The next community sessions will be held on Tuesday 10 December, Tuesday 14 January, Tuesday 11 February and Tuesday 11 March.

In addition to the community forums, special sessions are available free of charge to community organisations, businesses, sporting groups and schools.

For more information about Project Ice and the free information sessions visit www.northernmalleepcp.org or call (03) 5021 7671.

Recycling Bin Filling Up Quickly Over the Christmas Period?

With as much as 30 per cent more rubbish produced during the festive season, spare a thought for the environment this Christmas.

Council’s landfill’s and transfer stations will be operating each day except Christmas and New Years Day.

For more information contact Council on (03) 5018 8100.

Rates review outcome expected soon

The outcome of a review of Council’s rating system will be known early in the New Year.

The review, which got underway in September will help design a new Rating Strategy for Council, which will start in 2014/15.

More than 120 locals met with independent consultants in October to discuss how Council rates are calculated. The meetings gave residents a chance to have their say on what might work best for our community moving forward.

Consultants also met with business owners and traders within Mildura’s CBD to hear their thoughts on Differential Rates which currently apply to CBD properties.

As well as hearing from ratepayers, the consultants will evaluate our current rating system, consider how rates are applied in other local government areas and government legislation around Council rates.

Their findings will then be presented as a Draft Rating Strategy outlining what, if anything in our rating system needs to be changed.

A Draft Rating Strategy will be made available for the public to review and comment on before Councillors consider it for adoption.
Can you help our kids start the day with a full belly?

Breakfast has long been recognised as the most important meal of the day and Healthy Together Mildura is working to ensure local children are enjoying a great start through the ‘Mildura Region School Breakfast Partnership’.

The Breakfast Partnership is calling for donations from individuals, organisations and community groups. Healthy Together Mildura has kick-started the Breakfast Partnership’s fundraising drive with a $5,000 donation but they need more help.

The program will provide local kids with 500 breakfasts per week at a cost of around $20,000 per year.

100% of donations will go towards sourcing food for local schools involved in the Breakfast Partnership and is tax deductible.

The Victorian Population Health Survey showed that 9.3% of people in the Mildura area have experienced some kind of hardship that resulted in their inability to purchase food. You can reduce the impact of this on children, by supporting the Breakfast Partnership.

Remember that a healthy breakfast before class every morning has been shown to increase student focus and learning; leading to better behaved kids, increased student retention, and developing healthier eating habits for life.

To find out more visit www.healthytogethermildura.com.au/breakfast or contact Clare Cooper on (03) 5025 9608

Have a happy holiday season

Mildura Rural City Councillors and staff wish you and your family a happy and safe festive season. Please note the following operating hours for Council Service Centers and facilities throughout the holidays.

Deakin Avenue, Madden Avenue and Ouyen Service Centres
Closed 3pm Tuesday 24 December 2013
Reopen 8am Thursday 2 January 2014

Mildura Library
Tuesday 24 December 2013 Close at 3.00pm
Wednesday 25 December 2013 Closed
Thursday 26 December 2013 Closed
Friday 27 December 2013 Open 10:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday 28 December 2013 Open 10.00am – 2:00pm
Sunday 29 December 2013 Open 1.00pm – 5:00pm
Monday 30 December 2013 Open 1.00pm – 5.00pm
Tuesday 31 December 2013 Closed
Wednesday 1 January 2014 Closed
Thursday 2 January 2014 Resume normal operational hours

Red Cliffs, Merbein and Irymple Libraries
The Red Cliffs, Merbein and Irymple Libraries will close on Tuesday, 24 December 2013 at 3pm. They will all reopen on Thursday 2 January 2014 operating with normal opening hours.

Mobile Library
The Mobile Library will close at Walpeup on Tuesday 24 December 2013 at 3pm and will reopen at Ouyen on Thursday 2 January 2014 on the usual timetable.

Mildura Visitor Information and Booking Centre
Closed Christmas Day
Open 9am – 5:30pm weekdays
Open 9am – 5pm weekends and public holidays

Mildura Arts Centre
Closed Christmas Day
Open 10am – 5pm daily

Mildura Landfill
Open Christmas Eve 7am – 3pm
Closed Christmas Day
Closed New Years Day

Lake Cullulleraine and Werrimull Transfer Stations
Closed Christmas Day

Kerbside recycling and rubbish collection
No rubbish or recycling collections on Christmas Day
No rubbish or recycling collections on New Years Day

If your bins were scheduled for collection on these days they will be collected on Saturday 28 December 2013 and Saturday 4 January 2014 instead. All other collection schedules remain unchanged.

For after hours emergencies requiring Council assistance call 1800 241 540

Healthy Together Mildura is a partnership between Mildura Rural City Council and Sunraysia Community Health Services. It is partly funded by the State Government of Victoria and the Australian Government.
**upcoming events**

**Community Christmas Carols**
Embrace the spirit of the festive season by attending one of the many local Christmas Carol events on December.

Irwing: From 5:30pm, Sunday 1 December, Henshawood Oval
Merbein: From 7pm, Friday 6 December
Mildura: From 7pm, Saturday 7 December, Henderson Park
Mildura: From 7:30pm Sunday 15 December, The Nowingi Place
Ouyen: From 7pm, Sunday 15 December, Roxy Theatre
Red Cliffs: From 8:15pm, Friday 20 December, Barclay Square

More information: 1800 039 043 or www.mildura.vic.gov.au

**Mildura Speedway Drivers Club Meets**
Saturday 7 December, Friday 3 January and Friday 31 January
Timms Speedway will be roaring this Summer with a range of race meets scheduled.
December 7 is the MJ’s Tree and Stump Street Stock Series and the SA AMCA National Series. January 3 will see the Modified Sedans hit the track and January 31 is the National Super Sedan Series.

Gates open at 5pm with racing starting at 7pm. No BYO by law and fully catered.

More information: www.milduraspeedway.com.au

**Willowfest Australian Cricket Club Championship**

Friday 27 December – Monday 30 December 2013
Cricket teams from all over Australia come together to play and vie for big prize money in the 2013 Global Water Willowfest Australian Cricket Club Championships. Now in its 36th year, this annual event features round robin competitions of three 50 over matches, and two Twenty20’s on day two of competition for the men. The ladies will play in two 40 over matches as well as Twenty20 matches.

More information: www.willowfest.com.au

**Red Hot Summer Tour**
Sunday 19 January 2014
The Red Hot Summer Tour presents another massive line-up of rock royalty with its highly anticipated 2014 tour. Featuring the legendary Suzi Quatro, The Angels (with Dave Gleeson), The Black Sorrows, Shannon Noll and Russell Morris, the annual Red Hot Summer Tour gets bigger and better every year. There are few opportunities to see artists of this calibre on the same bill - The Red Hot Summer Tour is a real celebration of the great rock experience.

More information: (03) 5018 8330 or www.redhotsumbertour.com.au

**Murray River International Music Festival**
Monday 20 – Monday 27 January 2014
A fine music festival presenting world class Australian and international musicians to audiences in unique locations along the Murray River. This Festival offers a dynamic program of performances set in beautiful locations providing an ideal vessel with which to showcase the region’s tourist, food and wine experience.

More information: www.artsmildura.com.au

**Ouyen Harness Pacing Cup**
Sunday 26 January 2014
Ouyen’s newest community event features great family entertainment all day and into the evening. This event is held over the Australia Day long weekend, so why not stay awhile in Ouyen and enjoy real country hospitality and explore the many natural wonders of the region. Gates open at 2pm with racing starting at 2.30pm.


**Australia Day Celebrations**
8am – 10:30am, Sunday 26 January 2014
The Nowingi Place, Hugh King Drive, Mildura
Celebrate what’s great about our nation and head down to the Nowingi Place on Mildura’s riverfront for a fantastic family day out. Enjoy a traditional cooked breakfast or try something lighter. Highlights include guest address, Australian Citizenship Ceremony and presentation of the 2014 Australia Day Awards. Musical performances, free children’s activities and displays from local community groups will add to the occasion.

More information: (03) 5018 8100 or www.mildura.vic.gov.au

---

**Mildura Rural City Council**

**General enquiries:**
Phone (03) 5018 8100
mrcc@mildura.vic.gov.au
www.mildura.vic.gov.au

---

**DISCLAIMER**

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of event information published in Community Matters. Information published is based on details supplied by local event organisers and was correct at the time of printing.

---

**Willowfest Australian Cricket Club Championship**

Friday 27 December – Monday 30 December 2013
Cricket teams from all over Australia come together to play and vie for big prize money in the 2013 Global Water Willowfest Australian Cricket Club Championships. Now in its 36th year, this annual event features round robin competitions of three 50 over matches, and two Twenty20’s on day two of competition for the men. The ladies will play in two 40 over matches as well as Twenty20 matches.

More information: www.willowfest.com.au

**New Years Eve at The Nowingi Place**
8pm – Midnight, Tuesday 31 December
Rein in 2014 with this free family event on Mildura’s riverfront. Live entertainment from ABC’s DirtGirl, the Wizard of Oz, local band Lily and the Drum and John Farnham tribute show ‘Whispering Jack’. Two spectacular fireworks displays at 9:35pm and midnight, plenty of food available to purchase and lots of attractions. This alcohol, drug and glass-free event is proudly presented by Mildura Rural City Council.

More information: (03) 5018 8100 or www.mildura.vic.gov.au/events