Council grants help grow community groups

Christine Richardson, Peter Webb and Marian Tobin were all smiles when their community group, Greening Mildura, received a $4,000 Council grant in May. The group will use their grant to run a community tree planting program and increase shade in urban areas.

Read more about Council’s community grants program on page 7.
Did you know there are two Landfills and six Rural Transfer Stations in our region?

We’ve recently made some changes at our Rural Transfer Stations in an effort to improve and streamline waste services and encourage residents to recycle more. From 1 July our rural sites have had fees introduced for non-recyclable and unsorted waste. However, sorting and separating your waste can save you money, with many items able to be recycled for free.

All of our facilities offer both waste disposal and recycling services, however what is accepted at each site does differ, so check with us before taking rubbish or other materials to your local waste facility. It makes good economic and environmental sense to take a little extra time to sort your load before you leave home.

For information on any of these facilities, fees and what can be disposed of for free, please visit our website or contact Customer Service.

Are your holidays booked yet?

Each Victorian school holidays, our Youth Services Team run a School Holiday Activities Program for young people aged between twelve and sixteen years old, who live or attend school in our municipality. The program provides social, recreational and education activities that are free or at a discounted fee. The aim of the program is to help students increase their participation, skills and knowledge so as to enhance their overall well-being.

Past activities have included a Basketball Fun Day, Cupcakes and Nail Art, Golf Range and Ten Pin Bowling, Arts Day and a Mungo National Park Tour. The last program had 178 bookings across the nine days that the program ran. Some of the most popular and fastest filling activities were the Movie and Pizza, Laserforce and House of Bounce sessions.

Our September program welcomes twelve year olds who are in Grade 6 and will be going into Year 7 in 2017.

We encourage them to attend and join in activities and perhaps, make some new friends before starting secondary college.

To ensure your child can attend their preferred activity session, make sure you register them early. To find out more about our September program or how to register your children for our Youth Services School Holiday Activities Programs, please visit – www.mildura.vic.gov.au/School-Holiday-Program

If you’d like any further information about the program, please contact our Youth Services Team on (03) 5018 8100 or email youthservices@mildura.vic.gov.au

And don’t forget to keep up to date on what’s happening for youth on our Facebook page - Mildura Youth Services.

Get it sorted

Did you know there are two Landfills and six Rural Transfer Stations in our region?

Looking after your bins

While all Council issued rubbish and recycling bins are the property of Council, it is your responsibility to look after them. You should keep your bins clean and make sure any items you place in your recycling bin are empty.

Keep your bin in good working order by taking it off the street after it is emptied and store it in an appropriate location on your property.

If your bin is not picked up or if your bin is damaged and needs repairs, please give our Customer Service staff a call.
WHAT CAN GO IN YOUR BINS?

**RECYCLE BIN**
- CARDBOARD, GLASS JARS, BOTTLES, MILK CARTONS, CANS, AEROSOLS, RIGID PLASTIC CONTAINERS AND PAPER
- FOOD SCRAPS, GARDEN WASTE, NAPPIES, CLOTHING, PLASTIC BAGS, SOFT PLASTICS WRAPPERS, CONTAINERS AND CROCKERY

**RUBBISH BIN**
- PLASTIC BAGS, POLYSTYRENE FOAM, HOUSEHOLD RUBBISH, PLASTICS, NAPPIES, GARDEN WASTE AND FOOD SCRAPS
- HOT ASHES, LIQUIDS INCLUDING OIL, PAINT & SOLVENTS, SOIL AND ROCKS, MEDICAL WASTE AND BUILDING MATERIAL INCLUDING ASBESTOS
Investing in our community

Council is spending $125 million in the 2016/17 Financial Year. These figures illustrate how different Council services, projects and infrastructure are funded in this year’s budget. You can read the full 2016/17 Budget online at www.mildura.vic.gov.au/budget and also read the Council Plan 2013–2017 online.
Community Budget 2016/17

As always, the 2016/2017 Budget includes a lot of great capital works projects. Some are major infrastructure projects and some are smaller, but no less significant, community works. The big ticket items this year include:

Riverfront redevelopment - $2.34 million
Works on the riverfront will continue with finalisation of the Langtree Connection, the new Rowing Club development and work on the Crib Wall all scheduled for completion in the next financial year.

Roads and footpaths - $12.47 million
With over 5,000kms of roads and more than 370kms of walking tracks and footpaths in our region, maintenance, upgrades and repairs of these important assets will always be one of our biggest investments each year.

Drainage Infrastructure – $2.26 million
As with roads, our maintaining and upgrading our extensive drainage network is an important budget item. The drainage system is made up of 479kms of kerb and channel, 330kms of underground drains, 9100 drainage pits, 26 gross pollutant traps and six wetlands.

Mildura Airport Runway Reconstruction - $14 million
With $10 million in grant funding secured to upgrade the runway at Mildura Airport, this project will continue to allow easy, direct access to our region from our closest capital cities.

It’s a revaluation year, so what does this mean for your rates?
How much you pay in rates is partly determined by the Capital Improved Value (CIV) of your property and this year, Council was required by the State Government to revalue every property in our municipality.

All properties in the municipality were revalued as at 1 January 2016 and this valuation will generally remain in place until 30 June 2018.

How do you determine CIV?
CIV is essentially the estimated market value of a property and includes the value of the land and any improvements on the property (such as houses, sheds, swimming pools and gardens).

What if I disagree with my new valuation?
If you believe your property valuation is not correct or is too high, you should contact our Property Services Team and enquire about lodging an objection to the valuation. This must be done within two months of the issue date of your annual rate notice.

Need more information about Property Valuations? Visit our website at www.mildura.vic.gov.au

The components of your annual council rates bill

The waste charge pays for kerbside waste collection, recycling, waste disposal and State Government landfill levy. It is the charge the council must pay when depositing waste at landfill. Waste charges are not subject to the rates cap.

All Fire Services Property Levy money collected by councils is passed onto the State Government to fund fire agencies. This charge is set by the State Government and is not subject to the rates cap.

Your bill may be more or less than you expected because the 2.5% rate cap applies to the overall rate revenue collected by each council, not your individual property.

The 2.5% rate cap does not apply to waste charges, the fire services property levy or property revaluations.
Croquet anyone?

Congratulations to the Mildura Croquet Club (MCC) on the recent opening of their great new clubrooms at Mansell Reserve.

Until recently, the MCC had shared a space in Council’s Maternal Child Health building. They have worked very hard to establish their own facility overlooking the croquet greens.

The new building was originally situated at the Mildura Recreation Reserve and MCC worked with us to relocate the disused building and refit the interior. The club contributed an amazing $13,500 to the $30,000 project.

The Mildura Croquet Club was founded in 1985 and was originally based near the Mildura Lawn Tennis Club before moving to Jaycee Park in 1987 and then to Mansell Reserve in 1994.

Croquet is a fun game for people of all ages and new members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining the Mildura Croquet Club just pop in and visit the members on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons from 1pm.

Five fantastic grant programs open now

Our latest funding round is now open and we’re accepting applications from community groups and organisations for the following grants programs:

- Community Project
- Environmental Project
- Recreation Development
- Recreation Facilities Upgrade
- Events Funding and Support (For events planned to be held between 1 July and 30 December 2017)

We encourage applications for events, programs and initiatives that support the community to strengthen and celebrate our region, experience arts and culture, participate in and deliver events and projects, as well as allow local sport and recreation groups to maintain and develop their facilities.

Potential applicants should contact Council to discuss their application prior to submission.

Community groups and organisations proposing projects on Council owned or managed facilities, must apply for and receive approved Land Managers Consent prior to submitting a grant application. Groups requiring Land Managers Consent are encouraged to contact Council prior to starting a grant application, as the approval process may take up to 6 weeks from receipt of a completed consent application form.

Grant applications for this round of funding close at 4pm on Monday 12 September 2016. For further information about our grants programs, please visit our website or email grants@mildura.vic.gov.au
Spring into action

With the winter months coming to an end and Spring about to begin, it’s the perfect time to get out in the garden or clean up the yard and nature strip. If you’re a bit of a green thumb and doing some pruning, trimming, edging, hedging or mowing, then remember these simple tips to keep your green waste under control:

Ø Chip or spray prickly weeds like caltrop and khaki weed in spring when they are beginning to seed to stop them spreading.

Ø Separate garden waste – such as lawn clippings, small branches, weeds and pruning’s - from other rubbish and take it to a landfill or transfer station where you can dispose of for free.

Ø Start a home composting system and use your green waste to create compost for your garden beds.

Ø If you’re taking a trailer load to the landfill make sure it is tied down and secured so nothing blows away.

Ø Green waste in landfill is not good for the environment and ideally we’d encourage the community to compost or mulch their green waste at home, or take it to one of our landfill or rural waste stations for recycling. Please ensure that you don’t put green waste in your kerbside recycling bin.

Festival programs and more information
www.mildura.vic.gov.au/SeniorsFestival
(03) 5018 8100
**New Early Years Directory Available**

The 2016-17 Edition of the Early Years Directory is now available. This handy resource is a comprehensive guide to services, facilities and support available to local families. Produced as part of the Mildura Best Start program, in partnership with Council and local service providers, the directory includes listings and details about everything from breastfeeding and playgroups to parenting support and primary schools.

Copies of the 46 page directory are available at sites throughout the region, Council Service Centres and on our website.

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**WHEN TO NOMINATE**
Nominations open Thursday 15 September and close 12noon on Tuesday 20 September 2016

**WHERE TO NOMINATE**
Victorian Electoral Commission
118A Eighth Street, Mildura

**DOCUMENTATION**
Statements and accompanying documentation can be lodged from Thursday 15 September until 12noon Wednesday on 21 September 2016

For further information on nominating or lodging your statement and accompanying documentation, please contact the Victorian Electoral Commission on 131 832 or info@vec.vic.gov.au

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**Madden Avenue Service Centre**
108 Madden Avenue, Mildura
Phone: (03) 5018 8100
mrcc@mildura.vic.gov.au
www.mildura.vic.gov.au

**Deakin Avenue Service Centre**
76 Deakin Avenue, Mildura
Phone: (03) 5018 8100

**Ouyen Service Centre**
79 Oke Street, Ouyen
Phone: (03) 5018 8600

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**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.