

Community Matters

ISSUE 44 | September 2020

be kind

These are unprecedented times. Let's band together and show a little kindness as we face the challenges of COVID-19. Read more inside.

\$2.2m in COVID-19 relief and recovery

Hundreds of small business owners across our region – including Red Cliffs' Paige Woods – will benefit from Council's latest COVID-19 relief package. Delivering immediate support to households, community groups and businesses impacted by the ongoing pandemic, the \$845,000 package brings our total COVID-19 relief and recovery commitment to more than \$2.2 million. Learn more on page 3.



Our 2020 Australia Day Awards recipients Anthony Telfer (on behalf of the Willowfest Veterans Cricket Championships), Genevieve Pragt and Peter Willersdorf.

Search on for 2021 Australia Day Award nominees

Nominations to find Mildura Rural City Council's next Citizen, Young Citizen and Community Project or Event of the Year are now open.

The awards form part of Council's annual Australia Day celebrations, with winners to be announced by the Mayor at our official Australia Day celebrations on 26 January 2021.

The details surrounding this event, and the subsequent naming of winners, are subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

Council's Australia Day Awards celebrate the achievements and contributions of individuals and community organisations in our region.

These prestigious awards are one of the highest honours Council bestows to publicly acknowledge local heroes, whose dedication and contributions may otherwise go unnoticed.

Nominations close 5pm 6 November 2020, and must be submitted either online, or using the official Mildura Rural City Council Australia Day Awards 2021 Nomination Form.

Following the close of nominations, the Australia Day Awards Selection Panel will score nominations based on the Selection Criteria.

In the event that no nominations are received in any of the categories, the Australia Day Awards Selection Panel reserves the right to grant the award to a group, project/event or citizen of its choice.

More information, including nomination forms and selection criteria, is available online at www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Awards



SHOW US YOUR SHORTS FILM COMPETITION

Calling on the Mildura region's young film-makers

Council is now accepting entries for its annual FReeZA Show Us Your Shorts film competition.

The competition is free to enter for secondary school students across the municipality, providing an opportunity to showcase their skills and creativity to the broader community.

Films must be between three and 10 minutes long and need to be a finished product, requiring no further editing.

Entries are to be submitted using the free online file transfer service WeTransfer and will be accepted until 5pm on Friday 9 October. For further details on the entry process and conditions visit www.mildura.vic.gov.au and search for 'show us your shorts'.

Film-makers' work will be judged by an independent panel. The winning entry will receive a \$300 prize. There will also be a \$200 People's Choice award

The competition will conclude with a showcase of all entries at a special viewing at the Mildura Arts Centre on Monday 26 October, providing COVID-19 restrictions at the time allow this to take place.



Local businesses such as Clove Organic Shop and Café will have annual fees to renew Council permits and registrations waived as part of a COVID-19 relief package. Pictured is Clove Manager Renae Pennicuik.

Relief package to support households, businesses and community groups

Council has introduced a range of support measures to help ease the financial burden COVID-19 has had on our community and economy.

The COVID-19 Relief and Support Package will deliver direct assistance to households, businesses, sporting and community organisations to help them recover and get back to usual activities.

The \$845,000 package announced in August brings Council's total COVID-19 relief and recovery commitment to more than \$2.2 million.

Support for businesses

- Fees to renew Footpath Trading Permits will be waived for 203 businesses
- Fees to renew Food Premises registrations will be waived for 601 premises
- Fees to renew Public Health and Wellbeing registered premises registrations will be waived for 89 accommodation providers and 96 beauty, tattoo and skin penetration premises.
- Up to 23 eligible commercial tenants with arrangements with Council will have their 2020/21 lease and licence fees waived.
- A dedicated marketing campaign to encourage spending and investment in local business will be implemented

Support for ratepayers

- Any interest accrued on overdue rates from 1 March 2020 will be waived up until 31 December 2020 for eligible ratepayers experiencing financial hardship. This will apply automatically to those ratepayers who have already registered their financial hardship due to COVID-19. Registrations remain open.

Support for community groups

- 2020/21 rates for 86 different community groups, clubs and organisations will be waived
- 2020/21 lease and licence fees will be waived for 103 community and cultural groups.

For more information about these measures and the support you may be entitled to, visit www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Coronavirus



Council will waive 2020/21 rates, lease and licence fees for local sporting and community groups.



Corey McPhee and Joe Wright have seamlessly made the transition from the wine-making industry to Council's Parks and Gardens team.

Council and government partnership providing COVID-19 jobs boost

Mildura Rural City Council is providing important opportunities for Sunraysia residents looking for work amid the COVID-19 pandemic through the Working for Victoria initiative.

As part of the program, 14 Victorian Government-funded positions were created within Council, creating valuable employment opportunities while filling important roles that benefit the broader community.

The 14 Council positions include:

- 1 Facility Services Carpenter
- 6 Parks Maintenance Persons
- 1 Facility Inspection Officer
- 3 Litter Collection/Transfer Station Operators
- 3 Cleaners

Each role is for a six-month period.

Joe Wright and Corey McPhee are among those to take up the opportunity, moving from backgrounds in the wine-making industry to take up positions as Parks Maintenance Persons.

Joe and Corey are fulfilling a broad range of roles within Council's Parks and Gardens team, including tree-planting, nursery work such as potting, as well as weeding and pruning.

The fruits of their work can be seen in the numerous beautifully manicured public open spaces our region is celebrated for.

For more information on the Working for Victoria program visit www.vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria



Connecting2Australia members Helen Fitzgerald, Angela Halton and Perin Tavo received a Community Project Grant in 2019. Applications for 2020 grants are now open.

Grant support available for community groups, clubs

Community groups, clubs and not-for-profit organisations can now apply for a number of community grants.

Mildura Rural City Council's Environmental Project, Recreation Facilities Upgrade, Recreation Development and Community Project Grants opened in late August, with applications to close on 5 October 2020.

In addition to their respective criteria, this year's Recreation Development, Environmental and Community Project grants will be assessed on how they consider and address the impacts of COVID-19.

Community Project Grants provide local, non-profit organisations and groups funding for innovative projects or service enhancements that target high need groups.

Funding of up to \$6,000 is available.

The Environmental Project Grant provides funding for projects and initiatives that implement or enhance water conservation and management, energy conservation or revegetation.

Funding of up to \$4,000 is available.

The Recreation Development Grant is aimed at projects that encourage new leisure initiatives that expand the range and quality of recreation opportunities.

Up to \$3,000 in funding is available, and is provided on a \$2 for \$1 ratio.

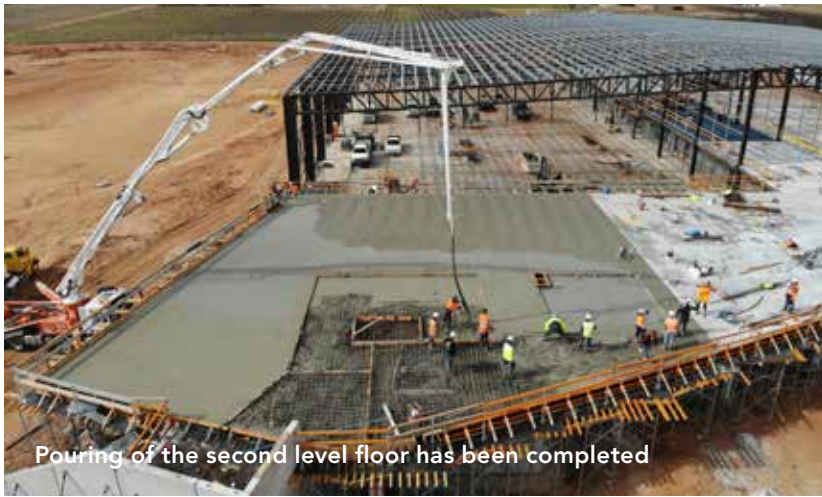
The Recreation Facilities Upgrade Grant is aimed at projects that improve or upgrade facilities. Up to \$15,000 is available, with funding provided on a \$2 for \$1 ratio.

Groups proposing projects at Council-owned or managed facilities must apply for, and receive, approved Land Managers Consent prior to submitting a grant application.

To discuss grant opportunities with a grants officer, call (03) 5018 8100. For more information visit www.mildura.vic.gov.au/grants

Council will also soon establish an Events Funding and Support Recovery Fund to help local event organisers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The fund will allow a more responsive and flexible approach in providing funding support to event organisers, with the opening date for applications to be announced in the coming weeks.



Pouring of the second level floor has been completed



Carparking and main entrance has been prepared for sealing. Asphalt works have commenced.

MSRSP works continue to take shape

Construction of Mildura South Regional Sporting Precinct (MSRSP) is continuing at a rapid pace.

Recent milestones include:

- Main Hall concrete pours to level two completed
- Completion of pavilion and stadium roofing
- Commencement of services rough-in to Main hall
- Installation of Carpark asphalt
- Commencement of premier sporting oval inground services and irrigation
- External wall cladding to stadium including window installation

Visit www.mildura.vic.gov.au/MSRSP for regular updates on works, including images and videos from on site.

Construction of the MSRSP's first stage has been made possible thanks to the following funding partners:

The Australian Government (through the Building Better Regions Fund)	\$17.5million
The Victorian Government	\$3.75million
Mildura Rural City Council	\$11.3million
Community Contribution (Mildura Netball Association, South Mildura Sporting Club and Sunraysia Football Netball League)	\$365,000
Cricket Victoria	\$275,000



A little kindness can go a long way

We've all been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in one way or another. That's why it's more important than ever to be kind.

Council recently launched a Be Kind initiative to help connect our community and build resilience as we face the challenges of COVID-19.

Research shows that one act of kindness each day can make us feel better and improve our health and wellbeing. So here's some suggestions for how you can be kind to others, be kind to local businesses and be kind to yourself.

- Make a homemade meal for someone doing it tough.
- Smile (even if your face is covered!) and say hello to others.
- Support local businesses on social media – like, follow, share, comment or tag!
- Enjoy a takeaway or home delivered meal from one of our fantastic local eateries.
- Aim for a couple of hours of screen-free time each day.
- Maintain a regular routine.

Learn more at www.mildura.vic.gov.au/BeKind

Major updates to Mildura Off Leash Dog Park

Regular users of Mildura's Off Leash Dog Park will soon see some major improvements to the popular facility following a \$192,937 funding boost from the Victorian Government.

The Rio Vista Park site has proven popular with residents and their pets since its inception and is about to undergo a significant transformation in line with feedback from regular users.

Council conducted a thorough consultation process last year, firstly asking for residents' feedback on what they'd like to see in the park, before establishing a community advisory group to seek further feedback and recommendations.

The result was a list of actions that formed the basis of a concept plan which was endorsed by the advisory group.

These actions include:

- full perimeter fencing, including improved fencing to make the park more secure for dogs and their owners
- a dividing fence within the perimeter to provide separate areas for small and large dogs
- upgraded gates, including a transition area where dogs can be safely led in and have their leash removed before entering the main dog park area
- improved ground conditions to reduce prickles
- establishing more trees in the park to provide natural shade



Sunraysia residents and their favourite four-legged friends – like Marnie Spokes and her dog Jett – will soon enjoy a host of new features at Mildura's Off Leash Dog Park.

- additional separate drinking water fountains for dogs and their owners
- play spaces for dogs, including a sand section
- seating and tables.

Work is expected to start in October and is expected to be completed by December 2021.

The Off Leash Dog Park is supported by the Victorian Government through the Suburban Parks Program.

LET'S GET DIGITAL

Check in on our digital channels for live music, social drawing, workshops, and exhibition tours.



milduraartscentre.com.au



Council elections locked in for 24 October

Mildura Rural City Council's General Council Elections will go ahead on October 24, with potential candidates having until 12pm Tuesday 22 September to nominate.

The elections will be conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), and will see nine Councillors elected to serve the community until 2024.

The General Council Election will be conducted by postal voting. Ballot packs will be sent to voters in early October.

Completed ballot papers must be returned to the VEC by 6pm Friday 23 October 2020.

Mildura Rural City Council, meanwhile, hosted a series of virtual candidate information sessions in early September.

The sessions provided potential candidates with local context about what it means to be a Councillor in our municipality.

A recording of one of these sessions can be found on Council's website.

For more information, for both candidates and voters, visit www.mildura.vic.gov.au/councilelections

Mildura Rural City Council election timeline

Thursday 17 September: Candidate nominations open

Tuesday 22 September: Candidate nominations close at 12 noon

Tuesday 6 to Thursday 8 October: Mail-out of ballot packs

Friday 23 October: Voting closes at 6pm

Friday 30 October: Postal vote receipt period closes at 12pm

Friday 13 November: Latest date all results will be declared



Landfill waste diversion at 68 percent thanks to green bin

Our new 240 litre food and garden waste kerbside service is continuing to go from strength to strength.

In July 2020 more than 800 tonnes of food and garden organic waste was diverted from landfill through the 'green' bin.

Just 602 tonnes of general landfill waste was collected in the same time, while 455 tonnes of waste has been recycled.

As a result, 68 percent of waste produced by households and businesses with a kerbside service is now being diverted from landfill.

The success of our three-bin kerbside service remains reliant on residents sending their waste to the right place, with several tips available online.

This is in addition to some practical tools provided to residents when the food and gardens organics service was launched in July.

This includes a kitchen caddy and one roll of 150 compostable bags to help separate green waste from other waste.

Mildura Rural City Council will supply a further 150 bags to households before July 2021. You can also buy compostable bags from several local retail outlets and online. Look for bags with the AS 4736 Compostable symbol.

You can also use newspaper or paper towel to line your kitchen caddy – or nothing at all – as your kitchen caddy can be cleaned by hand or in a dishwasher.

Larger compostable bags for your 240L bin, meanwhile, are available online.

There a number of handy resources online at www.mildura.vic.gov.au/greenbin to help residents sort their waste correctly – this includes an A to Z guide, also tips for adjusting to a fortnightly landfill collection, and much more!

Road safety upgrade projects underway

Mildura Rural City Council's Works and Engineering crew will be delivering a range of important infrastructure and safety projects over the coming months.

This includes the Safe Travel in Local Streets (STILS) program in partnership with the Victorian Government, and Roads to Recovery and footpath reconstruction programs.

The STILS Program will commence in the coming weeks, and aims to improve safety.

Council has received a significant state contribution towards the STILS budget (approximately \$390,000), with the focus on establishing bicycle lanes, improving line-marking, altering intersections for safer travel, and modifying/installing pedestrian crossings in San Mateo Avenue between Twelfth and Fourteenth Streets

The Roads to Recovery Program, meanwhile, is funded by the Federal Government, and is designed to reconstruct and repair local roads.

Works occurring include:

- Sealing of Boonoonar Road from Calder Highway to Kulkyne Way
- Sealing of Murrayville-Nhill Road from the Mallee Highway to south of Five Chain Road
- Sealing of Ouyen-Patchewollock Road from Mallee Highway to the Yellumjip connection
- Gravel resheeting of Steele Road from the Sunraysia Highway to Penny Road, Ouyen



Council's ongoing footpath construction will renew and establish footpaths across the region, including this new footpath along Irymple Avenue near Fifteenth Street.

- Gravel resheeting of Cemetery Road from Mallee Highway to South Road, Underbool
- Road reconstruction of Boomerang Avenue from Myal Street towards Westcliffs Avenue, Red Cliffs
- Road reconstruction of Ontario Avenue from Twelfth Street to Thirteenth Street

Council's footpath construction program, meanwhile, will renew old footpaths that have reached the end of their life, and see new footpaths built where none previously existed.

Some locations identified include Etiwanda Avenue (between Eleventh and Hector Streets), Chaffey Avenue (MacLean Lane to Cureton Avenue) and Hawthorn Grove (San Mateo to Wade Avenues).



FREE TREE REMOVAL*

FOR VICTORIAN RESIDENTS
If you live in town or on a residential block in rural areas and are no longer interested in managing your fruit trees, Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area, can remove your unwanted fruit trees for free.

REGISTER TODAY!
(03) 5022 0327

*Conditions apply
This work was funded by the Victorian Government's Managing Fruit Fly Regional Grant program

Visit our website www.pestfreearea.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
www.mildura.vic.gov.au

We're still open for business while our Service Centres are closed.
Call or email us from 8am to 5pm weekdays.
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.