

Community Matters

ISSUE 60 | December 2024

Summer of fun!

Sunraysia's summer is shaping up to be unforgettable with a packed calendar of sports, music, and community events just around the corner. Locals (pictured) soaking up the live music and relaxed atmosphere on the Mildura Arts Centre lawns at Twilight. Read more on page 7.

**MILDURA
ENTERTAINMENT
PRESENTS**

2024

NEW YEARS EVE

Celebration

6PM
NOWINGI PLACE

**FOOD TRUCKS
KIDS ACTIVITIES
& MUCH MORE!**

FIREWORKS
9.30PM & MIDNIGHT

Performing

Will Hogan

**Animals of the
Magical Mountain**

Revive Band

**Sons of
Aussie Rock**



Mildura Rural City Council

mildura.com



New playground design for Red Cliffs Early Years Hub

As works progress on the new Red Cliffs Early Years Hub, excitement is building following the unveiling of detailed designs for the site's new playground.

The new playground will include:

- A nest swing and early childhood swing
- Mound tunnel and slide
- Mud kitchen
- Climbing frame
- Bitumen riding track
- Circular bench seat

Existing equipment will also be refurbished, providing an outstanding experience for kinder students and the public.

The Red Cliffs Early Years Hub is being delivered by local builders CPM Building Contractors, thanks to a \$6million grant from the Victorian School Building Authority's Building Blocks program.

The project involves constructing new kindergarten and Maternal Child Health buildings on the corner of Indi Avenue and Guava Street with a modern facility.

Other features include:

- Four kindergarten rooms
- Two Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and allied health consulting rooms
- Toy Library facilities
- Multi-use community space
- Breastfeeding room
- Large foyer area

The Hub is expected to be completed by the start of Term 2, 2025. For more information visit mildura.vic.gov.au/RCEYH



Our Councillors

Mildura Rural City Council's newly elected representatives for the coming four years were officially sworn in at November's Annual Council meeting.

Councillors Katie Clements, Helen Healy, Rebecca Crossling, Glenn Milne, Troy Bailey, Ali Cupper,

Ian Arney, Jodi Ewings and Greg Brown were elected in their respective Wards in this year's Local Government Elections.

Crs Helen Healy and Ali Cupper were elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the coming 12 months at the Annual Council meeting.

Successful councillors and their wards



Rebecca Crossling
Karadoc Ward



Troy Bailey
Lake Ranfurly Ward



Ali Cupper
Mildura Wetlands Ward



Katie Clements
City Gate Ward



Greg Brown
Sunset Country Ward



Glenn Milne
Kings Billabong Ward



Ian Arney
Millewa Ward



Helen Healy
Henderson Park Ward



Jodi Ewings
Nowingi Place Ward



Tungring Pitcher, who hails from Thailand, celebrates becoming an Australian citizen with her husband Terry (fourth from left), Federal Member for Mallee Dr Anne Webster and her friends from the Ouyen Bowling Club.

Warm welcome for our newest citizens

Mildura's cultural diversity was further enriched as 30 new Australian citizens were welcomed at a joyous ceremony at Powerhouse Place last month.

Council's Multicultural Liaison Officer Zia Ibrahim, a refugee from Afghanistan who received his Australian citizenship in 2010, said the occasion marked both the end of a long journey and the start of an exciting new one.

"For some it could be up to 16 years waiting for their citizenship, so personally, when you become an Australian citizen it means everything," Zia said.

"Australia has more than 300 different cultures living in harmony and that is a very powerful thing. In my case being a refugee you don't have a country of origin to go back to, so becoming an Australian citizen gives you an identity that you had lost, almost a second chance of

being who you want to be."

The ceremony, which featured a Traditional Smoking Ceremony, welcomed our newest citizens from 16 countries including Iraq, Syrian Arab Republic, South Africa, Rwanda, Bangladesh, New Zealand, United Kingdom, China, Phillipines, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Samoa, Serbia, India and Tibet.

In 2024, we've welcomed 168 new citizens over six ceremonies in Mildura.

"Life in Mildura is easy compared to the big cities or some of the situations these people may have left in their own countries. It's a wonderful place to call home," Zia said.

The next Citizenship Ceremony will be at Powerhouse Place on Friday 24 January.



Mildura CEO Martin Hawson and Federal MP Dr Anne Webster welcome new citizen Raimona Chaudhury.



Choesang Lhamo watches as Mike Gilby performs the Smoking Ceremony.

Light up for a chance to win

**WIN a \$500
Mildura City Heart
gift card!**

The countdown to Christmas is on and we're encouraging everyone to light up their homes, workplaces and businesses to spread festive cheer as the end of the year draws near.

We've partnered with the Sunraysia Daily to run the 2024 Christmas Lights Map and Competition - an initiative to spark joy and celebrate all that is great about our community.

You can register your address on the virtual Christmas Lights Map on our website and vote for your favourite display.

All registered addresses will be in the running to win a \$500 Mildura City Heart gift card, with Best Decorated House (selected through public voting) and Best Decorated Business (selected by Mildura's Mayor) up for grabs.

The Map is updated daily and regularly featured in the Sunraysia Daily, giving everyone the chance to find the best local light displays to view.

Tour the lights with your friends and family this festive season. Follow the map at mildura.vic.gov.au/Lights



2023 Best Decorated House winner, Donna Stewart.
Image courtesy of Sunraysia Daily.

Subscribe to our eNews

Get the latest updates from Mildura Rural City Council about upcoming events, Council decisions, projects, opportunities to have your say and more.



SIGN UP TODAY!



Is it time for your child's MCH visit?

If you have a baby or child under school age, it is important to take them to regular visits with one of our Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Nurses.

Free visits are recommended at 10 key milestones from birth to school age. At each visit, the MCH Nurse will check your child's health, growth and development.

They can also support you on your parenting journey and provide information about sleep and settling, feeding and starting solids, immunisations, family wellbeing and starting kindergarten and school.

You don't have to wait until your child's next visit to contact a MCH Nurse. If you have concerns, please call us to arrange a booking.

You can also call the 24-hour Maternal and Child Health Support Line at any time on 132 229.

To book a Maternal and Child Health visit call us on 03 5018 8277.



Representatives of the Nichols Point Primary School and Nichols Point Inc. with Mildura Rural City Council staff, including CEO Martin Hawson.

Early Years boost for Nichols Point

Nichols Point will be home to a modern four-room, 132-place Integrated Early Years Centre.

The new centre will be established on the old Nichols Point Primary School site and include two consultation rooms, a community meeting room and community activity space, all housed within the existing old primary school building, which will be updated.

The Nichols Point Integrated Early Years Centre will not only provide a much-needed boost to kindergarten places in the community, but provide a smoother transition from kinder to primary school for local families.

The new Centre has been made possible following Mildura Rural City Council's successful application for \$8.95million in Victorian Government funding through the Building Blocks Capacity Grant program.

A new building will also be established at the site, adjacent to the existing school building, which will include:

- four kindergarten rooms with capacity for 132 kindergarten places
- parent lounge
- breastfeeding room
- staff amenities
- consultation room.

Hello Summer

For a full list of what's on, head to mildura.com and start planning your summer of fun!



With the New Year fast approaching, there's going to be no better place to celebrate than here in the capital of Tropical North Victoria!

A calendar packed with community events, celebrations and plenty of sunshine awaits visitors and locals alike.

From family favourites like New Year's Eve and Australia Day to major sporting events, there's something for everyone to enjoy!

We'll welcome families, players and spectators from across the country as the Women's National Basketball League (WNBL) returns for a third year, and we're excited to host the Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association (VACSAL) Basketball Tournament for the first time in March 2025.

Along our iconic riverfront, unwind into the weekend at Twilight, Mildura Arts Centre's free community event featuring live music, kids activities and access to the Gallery and Rio Vista after hours.

Plus, art, music and family-friendly activities are set to light up Powerhouse Place.

Sports fans will have even more to look forward to, with the Victorian Country Long Course Swimming Championships, the 2025 Victorian Masters Open Squash Tournament, and the high-speed excitement of the Australian Wingless Sprint Titles and National Wingless Sprint Series set to take place.

With big crowds expected, our region will receive a major economic boost with industries such as tourism, accommodation, hospitality and retail set to benefit.



WHAT'S ON mildura

Your official guide to events
in the Mildura region



mildura.com

TROPICAL
NORTH
VICTORIA



Follow us at [/MilduraCom](https://www.facebook.com/MilduraCom)



VS



Sunday 12 January 2025
Mildura Sporting Precinct
Gates open at 2pm. Game starts at 3pm.

ENJOY PRE-GAME ACTIVITIES AND ENTERTAINMENT
EARLY BIRD GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS \$27.50 ADULT
\$22.50 CONCESSION | \$10 FOR THOSE 14 AND UNDER | FREE FOR UNDER 5S.

Keen to watch the game in our Tropical North Victoria Premium area?
Enjoy courtside seats, finger food, a five-drink card and access to an exclusive area behind the players. Secure yours for \$85 (\$55 non-alcoholic).

The game, which will be played for premiership points, will also be live streamed on 9Now, once again showcasing the Mildura Sporting Precinct to a national audience.

We can't wait to see you at Mildura Sporting Precinct on Sunday 12 January!



SECURE YOUR GENERAL ADMISSION OR PREMIUM PACKAGE TODAY



Placemaking projects bring fresh look to Langtree Mall

Mildura's Langtree Mall is enjoying a fresh, new look following the completion of four placemaking projects.

Adding a new spark to the popular retail precinct, the initiatives were completed with support from the Victorian Government and Mildura City Heart as part of Council's CBD Revitalisation Project.

The initiatives focus on four placemaking principles identified in the strategy:

- **Relax on the Lawn** – Creating a grassed area for patrons to enjoy near the existing stage
- **Seasonal Displays of Green** – planter boxes featuring more plants, trees and shade

- **Space Under Lights** – artistic structures that feature reactive lighting – improving safety and access
- **'Tropicator' Mall Mistfers** – unique misters that will help provide some relief in the hot weather, while creating a bit of fun for visitors.

A fifth placemaking initiative – Music and PA – is also in development and will be delivered in 2025.

Now complete, the initiatives will further enhance the City Heart's ability to host events, activate the space, and better connect people to Feast Street, the wider CBD Precinct, the Riverfront, and the impending Trail of Lights exhibition – which will commence in mid-2025 at Lock 11 Island.

Have your say on the next four-year Council Plan

Our staff will be hitting the streets in early 2025 as we ramp up consultation around development of our next four-year Council Plan.

Our Council Plan is developed at the start of each new Council term, setting out our strategic direction for the next four years.

Informed by the 20-year Community Vision – which is also under review as part of our Towards 2040 campaign – the Council Plan details key strategies and initiatives that we will deliver to help achieve the Vision themes and priority areas.

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You can find out more, and stay up-to-date with upcoming consultation sessions, survey opportunities and provide input at yoursay.mildura.vic.gov.au
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Our Community Development Officer,
Jarrod Lehman

Kerbside glass collection exceeds 100 tonnes!

Residents are being praised for how well they have embraced their fourth, kerbside bin specifically for glass recycling, with an incredible 106.7 tonnes collected in the first three months!

The new service was introduced in July 2024 to comply with State Government legislation, taking eligible glass out of the comingled recycling stream into its own service.

Glass jars and bottles are currently accepted through the service, with all glass collected being transformed into new and useful materials, including road base material for future local projects.

More than 69% of kerbside waste collected by Mildura Rural City Council is now recycled or reused, contributing to a more circular waste system for our region.

This includes 703.3 tonnes of comingled recycling and 2,559.8 tonnes of food and organics collected during the 2024/25 financial year so far.

Need to check when your bins are due for collection? Visit mildura.vic.gov.au/MyNeighbourhood to find your bin days.

Remember, even if your bin isn't full, be sure to put it out each time.

To find out more visit
mildura.vic.gov.au/waste



Kerbside bin collection changes

We're changing some bin collections in line with the festive season.

Please note temporary collection schedule for impacted properties:



USUAL COLLECTION DATE

Wednesday 25 December 2024
Thursday 26 December 2024
Friday 27 December 2024
Wednesday 1 January 2025
Thursday 2 January 2025
Friday 3 January 2025

TEMPORARY COLLECTION DATE

Thursday 26 December 2024
Friday 27 December 2024
Saturday 28 December 2024
Thursday 2 January 2025
Friday 3 January 2025
Saturday 4 January 2025

The usual collection schedule will resume on Monday 6 January 2025.

Remember to put your bins out the night before your scheduled collection day.

Hundreds join Community Walk Against Family Violence

Our annual Community Walk Against Family Violence has once again proven a massive success, with hundreds turning out to show their support for White Ribbon Australia.

We can't thank everyone who attended enough for your help raising awareness and working to put a stop to family violence in our community.

Those in attendance heard from domestic violence survivor Kim O'Reilly, who led the walk from Langtree Mall to Powerhouse Place.



Chelsea Ryan, Ashley Marks and Torina Zaccone



Kim O'Reilly



Best wishes for a safe festive season

Council Service Centres will close at 3pm on Tuesday 24 December 2024 and reopen at 8am on Thursday 2 January 2025.

**You can report emergencies by calling us on 03 5018 8100.
Visit our website for holiday operating hours of our other services and facilities.**



EXHIBITION

**five letters
*cinque lettere***
Filomena Coppola

**Saturday 16 November
– Sunday 19 January**

Image: Filomena Coppola, *The Journey (air)* (detail), 2022. Coloured pencil on paper.

Mildura Arts Centre
199 Cureton Avenue Mildura VIC 3500
milduraartscentre.com.au



five letters cinque lettere



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
mildura.vic.gov.au

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 information published in Community Matters. All details were correct at the time of printing.