

Community Matters

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Family matters

Bianca Niblett and son Alexander Stewart are regulars at Mildura Rural City Council's Supported Playgroup sessions. Run using the Smalltalk model, playgroups aim to increase parents' confidence as children's first teachers. Read more on page 2.

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Mildura Rural City Council



Fountain restored to former glory

Significant restoration works have returned Mildura's King George V fountain to its former glory.

The iconic monument underwent a major upgrade in May as part of the redevelopment of the Deakin Avenue median strip between Eighth and Ninth Streets.

Local contractors were engaged to remove the outer coats of paint using specialised sand and soda blasting techniques. The fountain was then re-painted in colours believed to closely match its original scheme.

Erected in the late 1890s, the fountain originally stood in the gardens of Rio Vista Historic House - located at Mildura Arts Centre on Cureton Avenue.

The fountain was turned off and left idle following the tragic drowning of one-year-old Edward Chaffey in May 1897. Mrs W.B. Chaffey gifted the fountain to the City of Mildura in 1936 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the coronation of King George V, who also died the same year.

Using funds donated by Mrs W.B. Chaffey and the citizens of Mildura, the fountain was relocated to its current Deakin Avenue site in 1938, where a shelter shed previously stood. The surrounding memorial stone seat was also erected in 1938 to complement the fountain.

In 1991 the Mildura Shire had a replica fountain forged in Bendigo and erected on the original site in the gardens of Rio Vista where it stands today.



Larth (Leo) Abdallat and son Rakan Abdallat spend some quality time together at a recent Supported Playgroup session.

Supported Playgroups building better family connections

Did you know that Mildura Rural City Council operates weekly Supported Playgroups during school terms?

Run using the Smalltalk model, Supported Playgroups are aimed at eligible families with children aged zero to five years.

The model aims to increase parents' confidence as children's first teachers and to do those things known to have a positive impact on their child's learning.

Regular activities may include indoor and outdoor play, arts and crafts, puzzles, storytime, nursery rhymes and shared snacks.

The focus is on using everyday opportunities, and the activities that many parents already do in the home to enhance their children's learning and development.

Supported Playgroups provide children the opportunity to play with other children, learn new things, enhance their social skills and make new friends.

For parents, it's a chance to meet other families, make new friends, share ideas and discuss their child's development with a trained facilitator.

For more information about Support Playgroups call Council on 03 5018 8100 or visit mildura.vic.gov.au



Visitors to Tranquil Waters Caravan Park have welcomed the new amenities block.

Guests loving new Caravan Park facilities

Guests of Lake Cullulleraine's Tranquil Waters Caravan Park have given the Park's new amenities block the tick of approval.

Opened in April, the \$400,000 facility features compliant and accessible toilets, showers, baby change room and laundry.

Situated on the foreshore of picturesque Lake Cullulleraine, the caravan park is a popular accommodation choice for locals and tourists keen to enjoy all the area has to offer – from sightseeing, fishing and kayaking to boating, walking and other nature activities.

Built locally by Coolibah Cabins, the new amenities block is a vast improvement on the old one, which was constructed in 1969 and will be demolished in the coming months.

Council secured \$200,000 through the Victorian Government's Camping and Caravan Grants program to help fund this project.

Meanwhile a range of other improvements are planned for the Lake Cullulleraine foreshore.

Work on a new playground – designed in partnership with the local community – is scheduled to get underway later this year.

A series of interpretive displays, showcasing information about the region's history and tourist attractions will be installed on the existing rotunda once its roof height is lifted.

The foreshore barbecue facilities are set to be improved, providing more options and reasons to draw locals and visitors to the lake.

Renovations are also planned for the nearby Community Complex, with works to improve changeroom and bathroom facilities expected to start in spring.

Up to 500+ trees to transform city centre

Work is about to start on a major project to transform Mildura's central business district, including planting up to 500 trees and extensive landscaping throughout the precinct.

The Mildura CBD Urban Regener8 project aims to create a more attractive and inviting CBD precinct by providing more shade, better amenity and better access.

In addition to hundreds of new tree-plantings and landscaping, there will be additional seating installed, including more alfresco dining options, and additional shade.

Much of the focus will be on the core inner CBD retail precinct, however CBD Fringe Streets will also receive improvements, taking in residential and mixed use/commercial areas.

These improvements will include more seating and tree planting, focusing on larger canopy trees for shade cover over parking areas.

Work will start this financial year and continue over the next two years, and was made possible through \$300,000 from the Victorian Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund.



CBD Steering Committee Chair and Mildura Rural City Councillor Glenn Milne, and Mildura City Heart Chair Adam Hobbs.

Millions in major projects on the way

More than \$26 million worth of major projects will progress across our region in the next 12 months.

A combination of funding from the Federal and State Governments, Council and community contributions, these projects are designed to enhance community well-being, increase opportunities for sport, recreation and social connection and make our region an even better place to live and visit.

As well as improving community infrastructure and assets, major projects help stimulate our region's economy by providing employment opportunities for local professionals and trades.

Murrayville Recreation Reserve Community Complex

A brand-new home for local sporting groups and much-needed Murrayville community asset is on the way.

Featuring six change facilities for netball, football and umpires, timekeeper and first aid rooms, public toilets, kitchen, kiosk and social space, the new complex will provide a focal point for social and physical well-being in the Murrayville community.



Mildura Rural City Council

MAJOR PROJECTS

POWERHOUSE PRECINCT REDEVELOPMENT	\$9.15m
MILDURA SPORTING PRECINCT – STAGE 2	\$13m
MURRAYVILLE REC RESERVE COMMUNITY COMPLEX	\$1.9m
NOWINGI PLACE ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND	\$750,000
DEAKIN AVENUE MEDIAN REDEVELOPMENT	\$1.58m
TOTAL	\$26.38m



Thank you!

Mildura Sporting Precinct – Stage 2

Our region's newest sporting facility will be enhanced with the addition of a second multi-use sporting oval with change rooms, umpires facilities and storage, plus more amenities for the premier oval, including shade, external seating and car parking access to the oval boundary.

Four indoor squash courts, four outdoor netball courts and four beach volleyball courts will also be built, as well as an eight-lane cricket practice net enclosure.

An additional ground floor social room, sports administration hub on level 1, ticket fencing, and more indoor seating improvements are also on the way.



Nowingi Place Adventure Park

New play structures suitable for all ages, and experiences not available anywhere else in our region will be on offer when this exciting new playground is constructed on Mildura's riverfront.

Replacing and expanding the existing Nowingi playground, the new facility will feature a multi-level skyway, tower and enclosed tube slide plus lots of other fun elements made predominantly from sustainable materials like timber and rocks.



Artist's impression of the new Nowingi Place playground.

Powerhouse Precinct redevelopment

Transformation of the old Powerhouse building and its surrounds will bring new dining, social, visitor and entertainment experiences to Mildura's iconic riverfront.

Works have already started on the one-hectare site, which when complete will feature a unique and flexible indoor event space, multipurpose basement space, tourism and visitor inspiration areas, outdoor shade structure, new public amenities, events kitchen, separate food and beverage building and landscaping.



Artist's impression of the Powerhouse redevelopment.



The design themes of Eighth to Ninth Streets (pictured) will be continued when the Deakin Avenue median is redeveloped between Seventh and Eighth Streets.

Deakin Avenue Redevelopment – Seventh to Eighth Streets

Deakin Avenue's history and iconic grandeur will be enhanced when the section between Seventh and Eighth Streets is redeveloped.

Designed to provide a clean, modern look, while highlighting important historic monuments, the project will create a visually appealing and practical space.

New trees, landscaping, lighting and paths will surround key features including a historic limestone structure and existing water feature, both of which will be restored and enhanced. The space will also feature a new public toilet facility, street furniture and a central arbour.

Mums get active at MSP Walking Group

MORE than 40 mums and their bubs have signed up for a special walking group at Mildura Sporting Precinct (MSP).

Officially kicking off in May, the Mums Walking Group program has focused on getting new mums together each Monday for a morning of social connection, exercise and a good cup of coffee!

Monday mornings sees participants walk a mapped-out path around the MSP's premier sporting oval. There's no limit on the amount of 'laps' participants need to complete or how long they need to stay on the course.

The only requirement is to have fun and connect with other mums!

Participants then conclude each session with a free coffee and chat in the precinct's café.

The program, which has been financially supported by Sunraysia Community Health Services, is free to join, and is set to form part of MSP's ongoing programming heading into the third term of the school year.

Registrations are ongoing, and can be made online at <https://bit.ly/MSPWalkingGroup>

You can find out more about upcoming MSP events and programs at www.mildurasportingprecinct.com.au
If you'd like to share your ideas for other types of programming at MSP, you can fill in our feedback form at mildurasportingprecinct.com.au/feedback



Kings of Leon to rock Mildura

The Mildura Sporting Precinct (MSP) is set to rock this October when it hosts one of world's biggest musical acts – Kings of Leon.

Kings of Leon will kick off the Australian leg of their world tour in Mildura at MSP, with an estimated crowd of 15,000 expected to attend.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for local audiences to see rock royalty live and in person. Kings of Leon have won four Grammys and sold more than 21 million albums over their stellar international career.

Their Mildura show will mark the group's only regional show and is the first event of its kind to be held at the new precinct.

Tickets are on sale now from Ticketek, just visit bit.ly/KOLAU22



Meridian Road gets upgrade

A 12km stretch of Meridian Road between the Sturt Highway and Millewa Road is expected to be sealed over the coming months.

Considered a vital transport link for local industries, including fresh fruit and livestock, the Meridian Road upgrade will provide motorists with an improved road pavement, enhance driver safety and comfort, and reduce the adverse impact of dust and damage to produce and vehicles.

The new seal will be installed within the existing road formation and will have minimal impact on existing native vegetation.

The Meridian Road upgrade is one of dozens of road improvement projects Mildura Rural City Council will complete this year.

The upgrade of Meridian Road has been made possible thanks to funding from State and Federal Government through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Local Roads To Market and Fixing Country Roads programs.



Meet our team

Get to know one of our 600+ employees and learn how they're working to make our region a great place to live, work, visit and play.

Jaime Dowdy | Pound Supervisor

It's no surprise Jaime Dowdy is an animal lover.

The Mildura Pound Supervisor grew up with pets and now spends her days looking after animals and helping our community to do the same.

Hundreds of cats, dogs and the occasional sheep, goat and even horses go through the Mildura Pound's doors each year.

"Our team cares for all impounded animals like they are our own," Jaime said.

"My role is challenging at times but very rewarding.

I enjoy helping members of the community with their animals, being able to pass on information to assist them to care for and understand their pets and pet's needs."

A big part of Jaime's work involves reuniting impounded animals with their owners and finding new homes for pets that have been abandoned.

Last year, Jaime and the team at the Mildura Pound helped reunite 87 cats and 373 dogs with their owners. 210 dogs and 433 cats meanwhile, were rehoused, getting a second chance at life.

"There is quite a stigma around pounds, which is something I'd like to change," Jaime said.

"When pounds are depicted in movies - like Lady and the Tramp - there is always sinister music playing and dark, dingy buildings. It's been ingrained in us from a young age that a pound is a bad place.

"But that's not the case. The pound operates because there is a need for it within the community. And every animal is treated with the care and compassion they deserve."

New face in Council chambers

Regular viewers of monthly Ordinary Council Meetings in Mildura will have noticed a new face in the Council chambers in April after Troy Bailey was sworn in.

Mildura's newest Councillor was sworn in following the recent Victorian Electoral Commission countback and has

highlighted reigniting the region's tourism industry, creating more opportunities for businesses, and increasing jobs and services among his priorities.

Also in April, Martin Hawson was appointed Council's new permanent Chief Executive Officer.

Mr Hawson is the organisation's first locally born and raised Chief Executive Officer in more than two decades and was previously General Manager Community for 20 years, overseeing crucial services, major projects and key Council initiatives.



CEO Martin Hawson with Cr Troy Bailey and Mayor Liam Wood.

2023 Kindergarten enrolments now open!

Visit mildura.vic.gov.au/kindergarten to enrol your children in three and four-year old kinder



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

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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.