

Community Matters

ISSUE 54 | March 2023

Friendly welcome

Our municipality has joined an exclusive list after being named one of the country's newest RV Friendly Towns, paving the way for our region to break in to the lucrative RV travel market. Apex RiverBeach Holiday Park owner Colin Stewart will be among local operators ready to welcome a host of new visitors as well as regulars such as Chris and Hans van der Poel. Read more on page 3.

New and upgraded playgrounds, more shade on the way

Work will soon begin to construct several exciting new playgrounds across our region.

Koorlong Playground and Park

Community consultation for a new playground in Koorlong at the intersection of Benetook Avenue and Twentieth Street has been completed, with concept designs out for tender.

It is anticipated the new playground construction will commence before the end of June 2023.

Buxton Sobee Playground and Equipment Replacement

New play equipment is set to be installed at Buxton Sobee Park.

Community consultation has commenced, with construction expected to be underway by the end of June 2023.



A concept for the new Koorlong Playground which will commence construction later this year.

Shade will also be a high priority as part of the upgrade.

Annual Playground Shade Program

This project will supply and install roof shade structures to the Washington Park, Brodie Park, Hollywood Boulevard and Diablo Park Playgrounds.

The project will be completed by June 2023.

Learn more about our region's park and playgrounds at mildura.vic.gov.au/Region/Parks-Recreation



The new-look Mildura Visitor Information Centre Gift Shop now boasts something for everyone.

Shop local at the VIC

Did you know that the Mildura Visitor Information Centre is now home to amazing local produce, art, home and body products, novelty items and so much more?

The gift shop is packed with goods, including pre-made gift packs filled with local products from our region.

Ask the friendly team to book a tour to one of the surrounding National Parks including the heritage-listed Mungo National Park, a cruise on the Murray River, one of our local wineries or many of our other experiences on offer – there's something for everyone!

The Mildura Visitor Information Centre Gift Shop, located at 180-190 Deakin Avenue, is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5.30pm and on weekends from 9am to 5pm.

For more information contact 03 5018 8380, email tourism@mildura.vic.gov.au or visit visitmildura.com.au



Castlemaine couple Chris and Hans van der Poel with Apex RiverBeach Holiday Park owner Colin Stewart.

Our region achieves RV Friendly Town status!

Our municipality has joined an exclusive list – named one of the country's newest RV-Friendly Towns.

The announcement – made in late February – paves the way for our region to tap into the lucrative 70,000-strong

RV, caravan and camping market.

The RV Friendly Town program is a Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) initiative aimed at supporting RV owners as they travel across the country.

RV Friendly Towns must meet set guidelines, ensuring a certain amount and standard of services to support travellers.

These services include appropriate parking within the town centre with access to general shopping areas for groceries and fresh produce, and short-term low-cost overnight parking for self-contained RVs.

Becoming an RV Friendly Town also means inclusion on the CMCA's Club website, which is regularly visited by these travellers looking for suitable locations to visit.

COOL IT TREE PROGRAM



REGISTER ONLINE NOW!
MILDURA.VIC.GOV.AU/COOL-IT



Mildura Rural City Council is creating healthier and greener neighbourhoods through its Cool It Street Program. Several lucky neighbourhoods will undergo a transformation through the program, which aims to provide quality tree canopy cover by planting semi-mature trees in areas of need.

Is your street in need of a transformation?
Register online now!

Visit mildura.vic.gov.au/Cool-It to find out more about the program, including selection criteria.

FDC educator recruitment underway

Are you looking for a career in childcare? Do you want flexibility to set your own work hours as a small business owner?

Do you want to make a difference in children's lives by providing quality care and learning experiences from your own home?

A fulfilling career awaits in the Family Day Care industry!

Family Day Care is a flexible, home-based childcare and education service that offers a safe, secure, caring and stimulating environment for young babies through to pre-teens.

Please contact us if you think this could be the job for you. Or, alternatively, fill out and submit the Expression of Interest Form on the Family Day Care page on Council's website and email it to fdcinfo@mildura.vic.gov.au

A start-up payment may be available to assist with initial set-up costs.

For more information, please contact 03 5018 8100 or visit mildura.vic.gov.au/FDC



AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST AND BEST COMEDY FESTIVAL IS COMING TO MAC THIS MAY

Get ready for a stellar line-up of performances and one jam-packed show that's sure to leave the whole room laughing!

The Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow is coming to Mildura Arts Centre as part of their 25th year anniversary tour. Get your mates together, book your tickets and head to MAC at 8pm on Friday 12 May for a much-needed comedy fix.

In addition to the laughs, don't miss the huge line-up of other not to be missed events coming to MAC.

Visit milduraartscentre.com.au to see what else is coming to our region.

MELBOURNE
INTERNATIONAL
**COMEDY
FESTIVAL
ROADSHOW**
COMEDYFESTIVAL.COM.AU



**8PM, FRIDAY 12 MAY
MILDURA ARTS CENTRE**

BOOK NOW!



Council staff have been hard at work ensuring our riverfront assets can recover following the recent flood event.

Region returning to normal following record-setting flood

Slowly but surely our region is returning normal following the recent Murray River Flood event, which saw river levels reach heights not seen in our region for more than 70 years.

Mildura Rural City Council has spent the past few months steadily working through the task of assessing, cleaning up and rectifying flood-impacted roads and community assets. It's been a massive task, with almost 60 Council-managed roads at one point impacted by flood water, stretching from the Nangiloc-Colignan area through to Lake Cullulleraine.

Hundreds of community assets such as public toilets, parks and other infrastructure, including prominent public areas such as Nowingi Place, the Water Play Park and the Off Leash Dog Park, were also impacted.

Nowingi Place, the Off Leash Dog Park and Apex Park are in the process of reopening to the public, with the majority of affected local roads also assessed and reopened.

This includes roads in Nichols Point, Etiwanda Avenue leading to Baldwin Boats, Karadoc Avenue leading to the Nichols Point Cemetery and several unsealed roads in Nangiloc and Colignan.

Work, meanwhile, is continuing in the recovery space, with Council staff completing secondary impacted assessments for more than 30 private residences and 27 commercial properties which were inundated by flood water.

A series of free kerbside collections for flood-affected properties has also taken place.

Up-to-date information regarding reopened roads and facilities is available by visiting mildura.vic.gov.au/floods

Creating a more connected Council

A landmark internal realignment of our organisational structure, is set to deliver a more connected and customer-focused Mildura Rural City Council.

The Organisational Sustainability Review (OSR) is the largest review undertaken by Council in decades and is set to position Council to meet the challenges and grasp the opportunities that come now and in the future.

One of the biggest changes flagged is the introduction of a fourth department – 'Strategy & Growth' – and a realignment of the other three departments.

The new Strategy and Growth area of Council will play a critical role in ensuring the organisation and the

community are ready for any opportunities that present themselves.

It will align functions such as arts, tourism, events, land use and major projects, further supporting local businesses to grow and develop.

The review of Mildura Rural City Council's current management structure recommended several key changes, with reducing staff-to-manager ratios highlighted as an important mechanism to increase productivity and improve customer experience when interacting with Council.

A nation-wide competitive search to fill Council's vital General Manager positions is also underway, with successful applicants to lead each of the four departments and support Council's endeavours to improve services.

More information regarding the OSR is available at mildura.vic.gov.au/organisational-structure



CBD Revitalisation Project enters an exciting phase

Mildura Rural City Council is moving ahead with plans to revitalise and transform the region's Central Business District.

The CBD Revitalisation Project is about to enter its next phase following community consultation on three proposed concepts for a revamped Feast Street, and 10 placemaking ideas for the Langtree Mall.

More than 160 public submissions were received regarding these ideas and concepts, with the key themes identified including parking availability, support for more outdoor dining spaces, accessibility for the elderly and disabled, and ensuring the CBD becomes a greener space.

Work is now progressing to develop an overall streetscape design for Feast Street, alongside other investment priorities and future opportunities for Langtree Mall and the wider CBD.

You can follow the project's progress online at yoursay.mildura.vic.gov.au/CBDrevitalisation

New and expanded kindergarten opens to the public

Work to extend and upgrade the Irymple Kindergarten is complete, thanks to a \$952,500 grant from the Department of Education and Training's Building Blocks Program.

The extension represents the first major works undertaken at the kindergarten since 2011, and will allow more space for three-year-old kinder programs to be offered to meet the increasing demands in the growing Irymple area.

The extension has also transformed the Irymple Kindergarten into the largest in regional Victoria, with 198 children enrolled for 2023.

The works, which started in 2022 and were completed earlier this year, has delivered new playrooms, bathroom facilities and administration area.

Air conditioning and heating units have also been updated.

Local contractors, Wilkie Building Contractors, delivered the works in collaboration with Mildura Rural City Council acting as project managers.

The new-look Irymple Kindergarten was unveiled to the local community during an Open Day in March 2023.



Irymple Kindergarten Co-Directors Michelle Riordan and Connie Aldamiz are excited to welcome students to the new-look facility.



Mayor Cr Liam Wood helps welcome new citizens as part of 2023 Australia Day festivities.

Awards celebrate our region's finest

Mildura Rural City Council's 2023 Australia Day Award recipients have officially been recognised, highlighting some of the amazing work being undertaken in our community. This year's recipients are:

Citizen of the Year

Peter 'Sam' Saunders

Peter has dedicated countless years to community work within the Ouyen community, including helping elderly residents maintain their yards, helping to keep the township clean and providing transport to those in need.

Young Citizen of the Year

Conor Pall

A recipient of the 2022 Victorian Young Achiever of the Year Award in the 'Connecting Communities' category, Conor was a member of Mildura's 2021 Youth Parliament, which created a bill to Criminalise Coercive Control in intimate partner relationships. He is also the only Mallee resident currently serving as a Young Peer Facilitator for the Victorian Youth Affairs Council.

Community Event or Project of the Year – JOINT WINNERS

Red Cliffs Centenary Committee - 2022 Red Cliffs Centenary Celebrations and North West Victorian Motorcycle Club - 2022 Hattah Desert Race

The 2022 Red Cliffs Centenary Celebrations was a four-day event held in April 2022, attracting people from across Australia to mark a century since the township was established as a soldier-settlement. The event brought former and current residents together to celebrate the town's growth over the past century, while also re-connecting the township following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Hattah Desert Race marked its 25th year in 2022 and remains the only motorcycle event of its type in Australia to offer a junior component. The 2022 event was made possible thanks to more than 20,000 volunteer hours, with more than 7,000 people attending, helping to inject an estimated \$5million into the local economy.



The Red Cliffs Centenary Committee and North West Victorian Motorcycle Club share the Community Event of the Year Award.



The annual Australia Day event proved a success for participants of all ages.

Join our Supported Playgroup in Red Cliffs

Did you know our Supported Playgroups are now available in Red Cliffs?

Families with children aged four years and under are invited to take part in fun sessions that include crafts, puzzles, toys, stories, songs and much more!

Children can play, learn and practice social skills, while parents have the support of a facilitator to make the most of learning opportunities.

Red Cliffs sessions run every Monday from 10am to midday at the Red Cliffs Church of Christ, with morning snacks included. Other Supported Playgroup sessions are also available across the region.

For more information and registration, contact 03 5018 8100, email supportedplaygroups@mildura.vic.gov.au or visit mildura.vic.gov.au/playgroups



Supported Playgroups offer a great way for children to learn through play.

Subscribe and WIN!

Sign up for our eNewsletter and go in the draw to WIN one of two \$150 Mildura City Heart gift cards

*Ts&Cs apply. Visit mildura.vic.gov.au/eNewsDraw for details.

03 5018 8100
mildura.vic.gov.au

Scan here



Interpreter

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