

# Community Matters

ISSUE 52 | September 2022

## Building community connections

There's never been a better time to get involved, try something new or meet new people.

Our new online Community Directory is the place to look for local community groups, service organisations and sporting clubs. The Sunraysia Men's Shed (members King Perry and Bob Hayes, pictured), is one of many local groups already listed.

Read more about our new Community Directory on page 2.

 [facebook.com/milduracouncil](https://facebook.com/milduracouncil)

 [twitter.com/milduracouncil](https://twitter.com/milduracouncil)



Mildura Rural City Council



Mildura Ballet and Dance Guild is one of the many listings in our new Community Directory.

## New online Community Directory the perfect way to connect

The launch of a new online Community Directory is set to change how residents connect with local community groups, organisations and other services across our region.

The one-stop website is free to use, and contains contact information for local groups, organisations and services – all in the one convenient location.

The Community Directory aims to link locals with the services and groups they need, while also making it easier for groups and organisations to share their information with the wider community.

Community groups and organisations simply create an account to log in, before adding their information and submitting it for approval. Listings can be updated at any time.

The community can then search for groups based on category – including arts, community groups, early education, employment, financial and legal aid, sports and recreation and youth to name a few.

Many groups, including Mildura Ballet and Dance Guild (pictured) have already listed, and organisations are encouraged to add and update their details.

Find out more at [mildura.vic.gov.au/communitydirectory](http://mildura.vic.gov.au/communitydirectory)

Keith Blore and Andrew Ross repair a section of kerb and channel on Cowra Avenue, Irymple.



## Investing in local footpaths, kerb and channel

**Maintaining and repairing our region's footpath network, shared paths and kerb and channel is no mean feat.**

Hundreds of kilometres of these vital community assets wind their way through the Mildura Rural City Council area. While we can often take them for granted, infrastructure like this is what helps to make our towns safe, practical and appealing places to live, visit and exercise.

Council has allocated more than \$1.5 million for work on local footpaths, shared paths and kerb and channel in the 2022-23 Financial Year.

This includes a range of projects to construct new infrastructure or replace damaged sections which are no longer fit for purpose or at end of life.

Our teams also respond regularly to reports of damage and requests for safety repairs.

Some of the projects planned over the coming twelve months include:

- Renewal of kerb & channel at Box Street, Merbein (between Main Avenue and Smith Street)
- Renewal of kerb & channel in front of Red Cliffs Maternal and Child Health Centre (37 Guava Street)
- Renewal of kerb & channel at 91 Thirteenth Street, Mildura
- Renewal of footpath in front of Merbein P10 College (Commercial Street, Merbein)
- New footpath from 651-671 Koorlong Avenue, Irymple
- New footpath, kerb & channel and road widening at 109 Riverside Avenue, Mildura

### DID YOU KNOW?

Council is responsible for:

- 487km of kerb and channel
- 332km of concrete footpaths
- 4km of paved footpaths
- 6km of asphalt footpaths
- 101km of unsealed bluestone shared paths

# Sport and music to rock MSP

Some of the biggest events our region has ever seen are set to descend on Mildura Sporting Precinct (MSP) this spring.

Keep up-to-date with what else is happening at MSP by following Mildura Sporting Precinct on Facebook or check out [mildurasportingprecinct.com.au](http://mildurasportingprecinct.com.au). For details of other events coming up in our region go to [visitmildura.com.au/whatson](http://visitmildura.com.au/whatson)

**23 OCT** AFLW  
RICHMOND V GWS



AFLW action will get underway on Sunday October 23 when Richmond take on GWS Giants in Round 9. A crowd of 5,000 is expected to take in the match, which will also be broadcast to a national audience on Channel Seven – showcasing the region, and the venue – as a major event destination.

You can secure your tickets at [ticketmaster.com.au](http://ticketmaster.com.au)

**29 OCT** KINGS OF LEON



Rock royalty Kings of Leon will kick off the Australian leg of their world tour in Mildura on Saturday October 29. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for local audiences and will be the first event of its kind at the new precinct.

An estimated crowd of 10,000 people is expected to descend on MSP for what is sure to be a spectacular show.

Tickets are still available through [ticketek.com.au](http://ticketek.com.au)

**DEC 2022** WNBL  
BENDIGO SPIRIT



Summer will present another chance for sports fans to see professional athletes in action, with the Bendigo Spirit scheduled to play in Mildura.

The Women's National Basketball League team will play a 2022 Chemist Warehouse WNBL season match at MSP in December, while a pre-season exhibition match on Saturday October 8 will see Bendigo Spirit take on the Mildura Heat Men's side.

**MILDURA**  
SPORTING PRECINCT



The Mildura Visitor Information Centre is open daily.

## Fresh-look visitor centre showcasing region's best

**Mildura's Visitor Information Centre has a fresh, new look and is now showcasing even more of what our region has to offer.**

The Centre recently underwent a mini-makeover, with new tourist information displays and concierge-style customer desks designed to engage visitors and create conversations about all there is to see and do in our region.

The gift shop has also been revitalised and is now showcasing an even larger range of our region's unique produce, art and wares, supporting local small business and entrepreneurs.

While many tourists are opting to plan their holidays online, there is still a healthy appetite for in-person experiences and local connections. Council's Visitor Services team look forward to welcoming visitors and locals alike to the Mildura Visitor Information Centre.

The team is here to provide a warm experience that entices everyone to explore the region, discover local attractions, stay longer and visit again.

## Let's do business!

### Register on Council's new procurement system

Mildura Rural City Council is urging local businesses to register on its new procurement platform - VendorPanel. Council uses VendorPanel to issue all public tenders and invite local suppliers to quote for works, goods and services.

Registering on VendorPanel is simple and quick and is the only way to ensure your business gets notified about upcoming opportunities to do business with Council.

Hundreds of local companies help deliver the many different services, facilities and infrastructure that Council is responsible for. In the 2021-22 FY, approximately 70% of all contractors and consultants Council engaged were based in the region.

If you need support registering your business or want more information about securing work with Council visit [mildura.vic.gov.au/tenders](http://mildura.vic.gov.au/tenders) or call our Procurement team on 03 5018 8100.

Council works with dozens of local businesses, including Mildura Electrical.



# Getting better rest

## Baby sleep and settling program supporting local families

Angela Kerr says she 'felt like a walking zombie' in the early weeks of life as a new mum.

The Mildura resident's son Hudson wasn't sleeping more than three hours overnight and Angela was willing to try anything to change that. So, when Angela learned about Council's free Baby Sleep and Settling program she didn't hesitate to book a consult.

"It was so valuable to have someone come to the house and help me identify the individual sleep signs of my child, as each child is different," Angela said.

"As a teacher, I know each child needs to be treated as an individual because no two children are alike. Therefore, having a personalised approach was a game-changer."

A qualified Maternal and Child Health Nurse calmly and gently guided Angela through various sleep and settling methods for her newborn, helped her identify Hudson's tired signs and explained the optimum awake periods for a baby of his age.

"The advice given came from a place of care and support, in a non-judgmental manner. I felt supported during the session and afterwards when I had questions or needed further guidance."

After implementing the techniques learned during the session, little Hudson went from sleeping 2-3 hours at a time to 7-8 hours, if not more!

"I feel like my old self again! I am a lot happier and a better mother because I'm not overtired each day," Angela said.

"Hudson is also a happier baby. Our quality of life has improved significantly."

"I am much more confident in my ability to settle my baby, no matter what challenges we may face in the future."

Our Baby Sleep and Settling program is a free service available to all families across the region. Group, online and one-on-one sessions are available. Call 03 5018 8100 or visit [mildura.vic.gov.au/MCH](http://mildura.vic.gov.au/MCH) for more information.

Mildura's Angela Kerr and son Hudson.

## Off Leash Dog Park a place for all

The Off Leash Dog Park on Mildura's Hugh King Drive is a popular spot for many four-legged locals and their owners.

If you're visiting, please be considerate of others and obey the conditions of the park upon entry.

This includes maintaining control of your dog at all times, ensuring it is registered and wearing its blue Council-issued tag. You must also follow the directions or requests of our Authorised Officers who attend the park regularly.

Please ensure you use the areas of the Park most suited to your dogs' size. There is a zone for larger, more active dogs and a separate area where smaller dogs can exercise.

These conditions are in place to ensure the park is safe for all users to enjoy.





The Red Cliffs Swimming Pool, pictured c1950-1960 is among 136 sites being considered as part of the Mildura Heritage Study. Image courtesy State Rivers and Water Supply, State Library Victoria.

## Heritage Study to protect historically significant sites

**A major project to protect the history and cultural significance of our region is now underway.**

Council is working with specialist consultants and a community-based reference group to undertake the Mildura Heritage Study (Part B, Stage 2).

We conduct heritage studies to ensure that buildings, streetscapes, trees and monuments of heritage significance are protected as the municipality changes or future developments are considered.

Based on these studies, we're able to propose changes and recommend sites for heritage overlay protection in the Mildura Planning Scheme.

The Mildura Heritage Study (Part B, Stage 2) will focus on 136 individual sites across the former Shire of Mildura and City of Mildura areas. These include residential, commercial, community and industrial places, landscape and military sites, archaeological places, trees and precincts, which were identified in an earlier stage of the project.

Among the sites to be reviewed are the Red Cliffs Swimming Pool (pictured, c.1950-60), Yelta saleyards, Werrimull Hotel and Merbein's avenue of palm trees on Third Street.

You can find out more about this significant project at [yoursay.mildura.vic.gov.au](http://yoursay.mildura.vic.gov.au) by calling our Strategic Planning team on 03 5018 8100 or emailing [strategic.planning@mildura.vic.gov.au](mailto:strategic.planning@mildura.vic.gov.au)

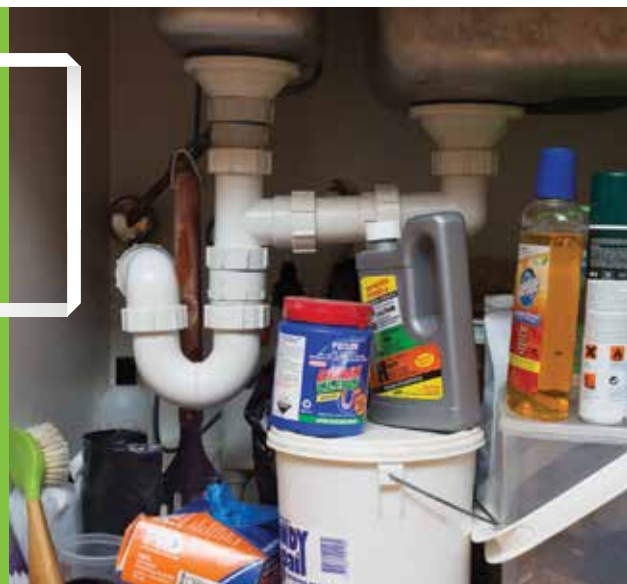
## Detox your Home

Dispose of everyday household chemicals for FREE, without harming your health or the environment.

Mildura Landfill  
Saturday 1 October  
9.30am-12.30pm



Register Now





# Weeding out weeds

This year has been wetter than usual so as the weather starts to warm up prickly and pesky weeds will pop up, causing chaos for green thumbs, gardeners, pets, and playing children.

The most common weeds that appear at this time of year include Caltrop (also known as Bindii and Puncture Weed) and Khaki Weed.

Fruit from Caltrop and Khaki Weed are easily picked up by the feet of animals, tyres from machinery, prams, lawn mowers, bicycles, gophers and rubber-soled shoes. Both weeds are classed as Restricted in the Mallee under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1984.

It is important to control or remove these weeds before they set seed as this will reduce their impact in later years, prevent them from spreading and stop those nasty prickles from being a hazard to feet, pets, and bike tyres.

The best way to control Caltrop and Khaki Weed is to pull them by hand or chip with a shovel, starting from the outside of the patch and working inwards to minimise the chance of spreading.

The pulled plant should then be disposed of in your green food and garden organics bin.

Landowners are responsible for controlling weeds on nature strips and roadsides adjoining private land. Council is responsible for controlling weeds on Council-owned properties such as public parks and gardens and adjoining nature strips.

Controlling and maintaining weeds benefits all of us and Council recognises the important role residents play in caring for and maintaining their nature strips adjoining homes or businesses.

For more information visit [mildura.vic.gov.au/weeds](http://mildura.vic.gov.au/weeds)



## 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.

### Laurie Scherger | Landfill Coordinator

**Laurie has worked with Council for almost 42 years - 36 of which have been based at the Mildura Landfill.**

Back when Laurie started in the '80s, the Landfill entrance was at the corner of Ontario Avenue and Thirteenth Street. Laurie was originally the sole worker on site and people could dump anything and everything, free of charge. Things have changed significantly since then.

The introduction of recycling heralded a new era and more awareness about where our waste goes and its environmental impacts.

When waste disposal fees were introduced, Laurie set up a small hut near the Landfill entrance for people to pay their fees. He has seen thousands of customers come through the gates, operated loaders, excavators, compactors and also helped out with bin collections and on other Council works crews.

Laurie's contribution to waste management services was acknowledged in 2004 when the road leading into the Mildura Landfill was officially named Scherger Drive, in his honour.

Laurie continues to work full-time in his current role as Landfill Coordinator.



## Council completes White Ribbon Australia Workplace re-accreditation

Mildura Rural City Council is proud to announce it has successfully completed the White Ribbon Australia Workplace Accreditation Program for a third consecutive time.

Council first gained White Ribbon accreditation in March

2016 and has since made great strides, both internally and in the community, to raise awareness about violence against women, family and gendered violence and how to prevent it.

The accreditation program, facilitated by community service organisation Communicare, involves a whole of organisation commitment to address gendered violence.

To achieve accreditation, organisations must meet 15 criteria under three standards to create a safer and more respectful workplace which is taking active steps to stop gendered violence. The program is internationally recognised and to date has reached more than 600,000 employees nationally.

Council has been a White Ribbon Accredited Workplace for six years straight. By maintaining White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation, Council staff have been equipped with the knowledge and resources to better understand what family and gendered violence is, how to identify it, and what they can do to prevent it.

## Call to clean up unsightly land ahead of Fire Danger Period

**Spring is in the air, and so is the start of the Fire Danger Period for our region.**

The CFA declares an annual Fire Danger Period generally from October through to April, and it's important that everyone in our region does their part to prepare and reduce the risk of fire.

The district has seen significant rainfall this year, which has led to an increase in vegetation and therefore a higher fire risk when the weather heats up.

All property owners are required to keep their properties free from fire hazards including clearing properties of long vegetation, rubbish and unused materials.

Council Officers inspect properties throughout the municipality and issue compliance notices to ensure they comply with both CFA regulations and Mildura Rural City Council's Local Laws.



Penalty notices can be issued to landowners who do not carry out the required work.

For more information, or to report a concern, please contact Council on 03 5018 8100.



**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](mailto:mrcc@mildura.vic.gov.au)

[mildura.vic.gov.au](http://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.