

Community Matters

ISSUE 42 | March 2020

A service that cares...

Families are encouraged to take full advantage of Council's Maternal and Child Health Services as our region celebrates the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife. Pictured is 19-month-old Imogen Kooyman during her 18 month appointment at our Red Cliffs MCH Centre. See more on page 5.



2020 Australia Day Awards



Congratulations to our 2020 Australia Day Award winners, who were recognised in front of hundreds of local residents at Australia Day celebrations at Nowingi Place.

Citizen of the Year

Peter Willersdorf

Young Citizen of the Year

Genevieve Pragt

Community Event or Project of the Year

Willowfest Veterans Cricket Championships

Mildura Mayor Simon Clemence presented recipients with their awards, as well as conferring 36 residents as our region's newest Australian citizens.

Nominations for the 2021 Australia Day Awards will open later this year.





We run free weekly story sessions for babies, children and toddlers at our Mildura, Merbein, Red Cliffs and Ouyen Libraries.

Rediscover your local library

If you haven't visited your local library in a while, why not pay it a visit.

We operate libraries in Merbein, Red Cliffs, Mildura, Ouyen and Murrayville. A regular pop-up service comes to Underbool, Walpeup, Werrimull and Cullulleraine each week. A library agency operates from One Hub Irymple.

Library membership is free and there are a range of programs and services on offer for all ages.

School holiday activities

We run activities for primary school aged children at all libraries during the school holidays. Craft and story-inspired sessions are just \$2 per child while creative sessions with a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) focus are free to attend. Bookings for the Easter school holiday program will open on Monday 16 March.

eLibrary apps

Reading doesn't always mean turning pages in a book! Library members can borrow the latest eBooks, eAudiobooks and digital magazines thanks to free applications that can be downloaded to your smartphone or tablet.

Twilight craft

People in their 20s and 30s are invited to this free monthly gathering at the Mildura Library to socialise over basic craft projects with an emphasis on upcycling and sustainability.

Book clubs

If you enjoy discussing books or are looking for a new social activity, why not join a book club? Our libraries offer book club sets to groups for an annual fee of \$50 per person.

Children's story sessions

Free weekly fun for babies, toddlers, children and their carers. These sessions encourage families to discover literacy through stories, songs and nursery rhymes.

For more information call (03) 5018 8350, go to www.mildura.vic.gov.au/library or check out Mildura Rural City Council Libraries on Facebook.



New-look Council website is now live

Our website is now sporting a more modern and visually-engaging design.

Officially launched on March 2, the new-look Mildura Rural City Council website aims to make it even easier for users to find the information they seek.

More than 20,000 people visit Council's website each month to access information about services, job opportunities, events and so much more!

Visit www.mildura.vic.gov.au to check out the new design.

Green bin service starting July 6

Food and garden organics make up more than half of what our region puts in kerbside rubbish bins. But soon we will have the chance to transform this waste in to high quality compost and keep it out of landfill for good.

Everyone with a kerbside bin service will receive a third, green bin, for organics. This 240L bin will be emptied weekly, starting 6 July, 2020. From then, red landfill bins, will be emptied every second week, on the alternate fortnight to your yellow recycling bin.

As the new service approaches, Council will be doing everything we can to help you prepare for this change. As well as a new green-lidded bin, you will receive a kitchen caddy for collecting food scraps and a year's supply of compostable caddy liners. We will also provide detailed information about using your green bin.

One of the best things you can do to prepare now, is learn about what you can and can't put in the green organics bin. With the shift to fortnightly landfill bin collections, you can also look at ways to reduce your waste and recycle more.

You can find lots of information about the new green bin service at www.mildura.vic.gov.au/3bins



MAY-JUNE

Green bins delivered
(call us if you haven't received yours by June 26)

JULY 6

Green bin collection service commences



- Grass, leaves, small branches and weeds
- Fruit, nuts and vegetables
- Pet waste (including poo), fur and feathers
- Pizza boxes
- Meat, seafood and bones
- Breads and grains
- Egg shells
- Newspapers and paper
- Cheese and yoghurt
- Compostable caddy liners
- Tea bags and coffee grounds



- Vacuum cleaner dust
- Soft plastics
- Disposable coffee cups
- Plastic bags
- Soil and sand
- Treated or painted timber
- Stone, rocks and rubble
- Rubbish
- Nappies or feminine hygiene products
- Syringes and medical waste

We threw more than 6,000 tonnes of food and garden organics in our rubbish bins in 2019

53% organics

34% rubbish

13% recycling



MCH Nurse Lisa Staley with Imogen Kooyman, 19 months and her mum Stacey Scrivener

Book today at Red Cliffs MCH Service

Red Cliffs residents are being encouraged to take full advantage of Mildura Rural City Council’s Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Service as our region celebrates the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife.

Located on the corner of Guava Street and Indi Avenue, the Red Cliffs MCH Service is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8.30am to 5pm, with experienced and dedicated MCH Nurse Lisa Staley at the helm.

Red Cliffs residents will recognise Lisa, with the 41-year-old calling the township home for 16 years, while being based at the Red Cliffs MCH Service Centre for the past three years.

The Red Cliffs MCH service is one of 12 we operate across the municipality, MCH Nurses providing free and confidential information and advice on child health and development, breastfeeding, baby settling, nutrition, maternal and family health, immunisations, parenting and school readiness.

MCH Nurses are highly-skilled and knowledgeable, having to complete a Bachelor of Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Midwifery, and Graduate Diploma or Masters Degree in Child, Family and Community Studies prior to taking on the role.

Lisa has been with Council’s MCH Service for almost five years, and prior to this was a general nurse and midwife.

“With this role, you are involved with a child, and their family, from the age of 10 days through to school age – it’s so rewarding,” Lisa said.

For more information, or to book an appointment, contact (03) 5018 8277.



New registration requirements in place for pools and spas

New Victorian Government regulations now require pools and spas to be registered with their local council.

If you own a pool or spa you can quickly and easily register online at www.mildura.vic.gov.au/swimmingpoolsandspas.

These new regulations apply to any swimming pool or spa that can hold water to a depth greater than 30cm.

Property owners are also required to have their swimming pool and spa barriers inspected and certified by a registered building surveyor, or a registered building inspector, every four years.

Existing pools and spas must be registered by 1 June. New swimming pools or spas constructed after 1 June must be registered within 30 days of receiving the relevant Occupancy Permit or Certificate of Final Inspection.

For more information on the new regulations visit www.vba.vic.gov.au.



Ontario Avenue medical precinct safety upgrades now complete

A series of major safety works undertaken in the Ontario Avenue medical precinct – valued at \$3 million - are now complete.

The project, which began in October 2019, included the installation of a roundabout at the intersection of Ontario Avenue and Thirteenth Street, and five pedestrian crossings at key points within the precinct.

Time-based 40km/h speed zones have also been introduced in the area on both Ontario Avenue and Thirteenth Streets.

Council partnered with the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) and the Victorian Government to deliver the project, securing \$2.1 million through the Safe System Road Infrastructure Program to complete the works.

Altered traffic conditions have been in place for the majority of the works, and Council thanks motorists for their patience and understanding during the construction phase.

WHAT'S ON AT MILDURA ARTS CENTRE



Image: Chris Fraser, *the things i see (detail)*, 2018. Gouache and collage.

WONDERFUL MOMENTS

CHRIS FRASER

Opening 6pm, Thursday 5 March

These varied works are largely a celebration of nature – its beauty and intrigue.

Exhibition Thursday 5 March – Sunday 3 May



SPLASH TEST DUMMIES

DUMMIES CORP.

11am, Thursday 2 April

See a brilliant array of catch-your-breath stunt work, acrobatics, juggling and the side-splitting, slapstick comedy. Ages 5+



Image: Mildura Zine Fair 2019.

ZINE MAKING WITH STICKY INSTITUTE

10am, Saturday 16 May

Participants will be guided through all things zines. Ages 7+



Demolition of the old change rooms started in February

Mildura Waves change room transformation underway

Work has officially started on one of the biggest upgrades to the region's iconic Mildura Waves facility in its 20-plus year history.

Commencing in February, the suite of works, valued at \$720,000, includes an upgrade of the family, women's and men's change rooms, with the end result to be a transformation of the facilities.

Mildura Waves remains open to the public whilst works are underway. Works will continue over the coming months in a staged approach, and are expected to be completed by mid-to-late August 2020.

Upgrades, once complete, will improve user safety and comfort. The project is part of a program of works carried out at the Waves facility over the past 12 months.

Upgrades to the Mildura Waves' swimming pool heating systems earlier this year, which included replacing boilers that heat water throughout the complex, have gone on to cut energy costs by more than 30 per cent.

In the first three months since the boilers were installed, a 40 per cent drop in natural gas consumption was recorded, resulting in a 34 per cent cost saving.

The new equipment has also cut electricity consumption by 14 per cent, providing additional cost-savings.



Mildura Business Events Planners Guide set for July release

Mildura Rural City Council is currently in the process of putting together the 2020/21 Mildura Business Events Planners Guide – an initiative that aims to ensure our community capitalises on the multimillion dollar business events industry.

The full-colour publication, which will be made available in E-book and print form from 1 July 2020, aims to highlight why our region is the ideal destination to host conferences, business events and corporate retreats.

The Guide will be a go-to source of information for those interested in hosting these types of large-scale events in our region, detailing local venues, catering and support services specifically targeted to the business event market.

It will be available in E-book format on the Council, Visit Mildura and Business Event Victoria websites, with limited print copies to also be distributed at key events.

Help us shape Town Entrance Signage Guidelines

Town entrance signage plays an important role in local communities.

They not only welcome visitors to town, but also help guide people to their next destination, and promote a sense of identity and pride for residents.

Mildura Rural City Council is currently developing its first Town Entrance Signage Guidelines, with public input being sought.

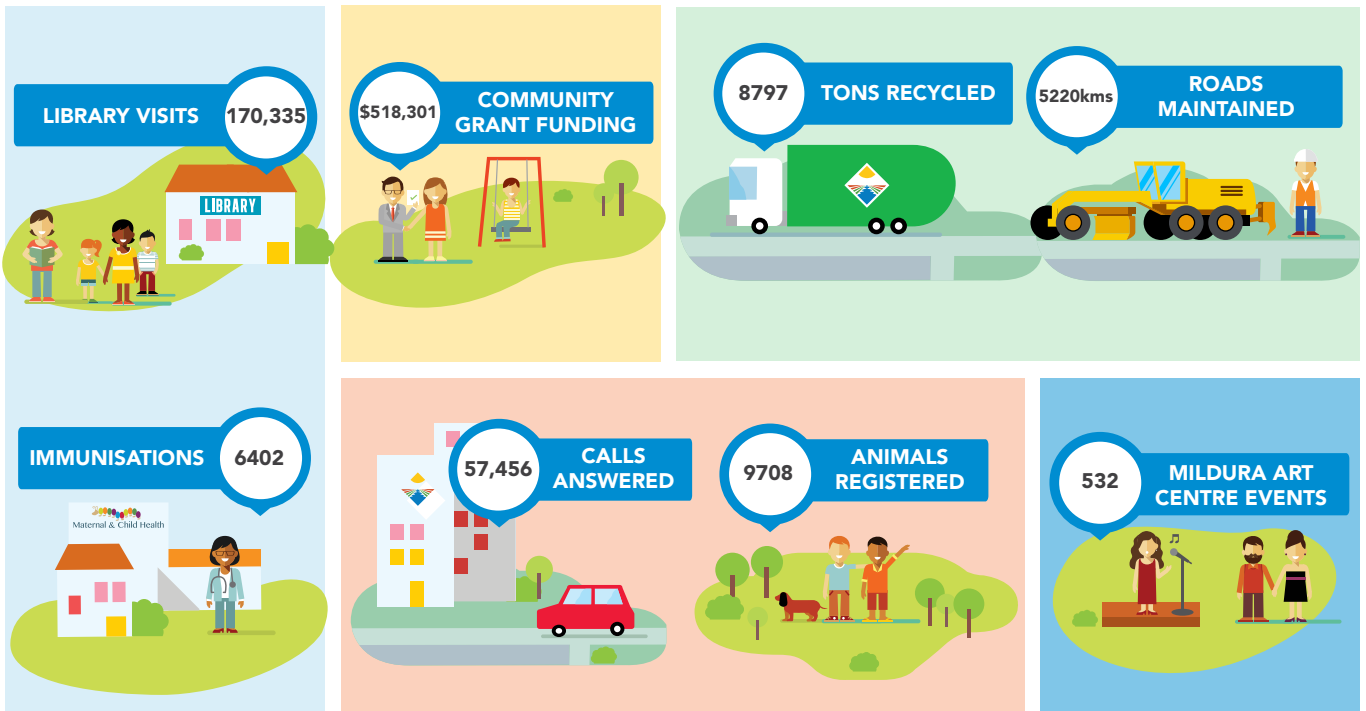
Working in partnership with VicRoads and the community, the Guidelines are being created to assist the community with the process of updating or creating town entrance signage when there is an identified need.

Once finalised, the Guidelines will act as a one-stop shop of information for community groups, businesses or individuals interested in designing, manufacturing and installing new town entrance signage, or updating existing signage in our region.

Go to www.mildura.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay to complete a short survey. The survey will close 30 March.

Snapshot of Council services in 2019

We provide more than 100 services for the community. Here is just a snapshot of what Council did in 2019.



Don't forget to register your pet by April 10

Whether it's man's best friend or a feline companion, pets are a vital part of any family as they bring joy and laughter to any and every home.

It is the responsibility of the owners within our municipality to microchip and register their dogs and cats with Council, as failure to register your dog or

cat may result in penalties.

Pet registrations are due on 10 April 2020. Registering your dogs and cats is the best thing you can do to assist in an animal's safe return if it happens to get out of your property and is lost.

If your pet was registered last year you will receive a registration renewal notice in the mail. If you have a new dog or cat, or your address has changed, please contact Council on (03) 5018 8100 to arrange registration.

Pictured: Archer Tarr, 4, with his cat 'Peaches'.



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 visit our Service Centres in person.

T 03 5018 8100
E mrc@mildura.vic.gov.au
www.mildura.vic.gov.au

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.