

# Community Matters

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*be kind*  
TO OTHERS

## Ready for summer sport

Community sport is back following an easing of COVID-19 restrictions. Our region is home to 27 sporting ovals, with Council staff and community members partnering up to keep them in top condition. Mildura West Cricket Club Curator Nigel Lush and President Richard Chamberlain are among the dozens of locals who help to maintain sporting surfaces, including the cricket pitch at John Hall Oval. See page 3.



Southern Cross Farms Executive Director Peter O'Donnell was among five key local representatives to feature in Council's White Ribbon social media videos. Southern Cross Farms is a White Ribbon Accredited Workplace.

## Taking White Ribbon Day message online

COVID-19 restrictions didn't stop Mildura Rural City Council from reaching tens of thousands of people as part of its annual White Ribbon Day awareness activities.

Council traditionally marks White Ribbon Day each November with its Community Walk through Mildura's central business district, aimed at raising awareness about family violence, how to identify it, and how to prevent it.

COVID-19 restrictions forced the cancellation of this year's community walk, which was instead replaced with a series of five powerful social media messages from key local community leaders.

Combined, these messages reached more than 21,000 Facebook users, were shared 97 times, and received 243 likes. These video messages will continue to help raise awareness about family violence and White Ribbon by being shown in Council's Customer Service Centres.

Council also erected a White Ribbon tree in the Mildura Visitor Information and Booking Centre entrance, featuring more than 40 white ribbons, sadly representative of the lives lost this year to family violence.

Two large white ribbons were also painted on the lawns near the Langtree Avenue connection, where they were seen by the thousands of people who walk through this precinct each week.

For more information about White Ribbon and its mission to stop family violence visit [www.whiteribbon.org.au](http://www.whiteribbon.org.au)



Thanks to the efforts of everyone - including Red Cliffs' Nancy Terracciano - our community has almost halved the amount of waste we send to landfill.

## Residents rewarded for getting it sorted

Going from two to three kerbside bins this year has been a big change. But it's incredible to see how locals of all ages and walks of life are adjusting and making the effort to reduce their waste.

More than ever before, our community is thinking before they throw. By sorting our organics, recycling and rubbish at home, we've managed to almost halve the amount of waste sent to landfill.

Between July and October last year more than 3,940 tonnes of waste went to landfill. For the same period in 2020 – and since the introduction of the three-bin system – 2,143 tonnes of waste has gone to landfill.

Red Cliffs' Nancy Terracciano has embraced the three bin system. Since moving to the region from NSW, Nancy said the family of four had adjusted quickly.

"We only had one bin for everything before this so it was a huge change," she said.

"We have made a habit of checking the guide before we put anything in the bin. We're amazed at how little actually needs to go in the rubbish bin, it's usually some polystyrene and soft plastics."

Nancy and her family were the first winners in our Get it Sorted Stars rewards program, winning a \$100 voucher for simply making an effort to sort their waste correctly.

We'll be giving away more rewards over the next few months.

For details about using your kerbside bins correctly visit [www.mildura.vic.gov.au/waste](http://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/waste)





Aimee Pearce - captain of the South West B Grade side in the Red Cliffs Cricket Association - is among a number of athletes returning to play this summer.  
*Photo courtesy of the Mildura Weekly*

## Getting back to sport

It's been great to see so many local sport and recreation clubs and competitions back in action after being on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions.

In the new COVID-Safe world we live in, there are lots of extra hygiene, administration and safety measures to consider before returning to play.

Well done to the many volunteers and passionate players who have worked with us to make this happen. If your club or group needs support, please contact us and we'll be happy to guide you through the process.

## Oval maintenance a top summer priority

**Sport is the lifeblood of regional communities.**

**Whether it's having a kick of the footy, playing cricket, netball, or having a game of tennis – our local sporting organisations play a major role in the health and wellbeing of our community.**

Our municipality is home to 27 sporting ovals located from Lake Cullulleraine to Ouyen and everywhere in between. These sporting ovals and reserves require a comprehensive maintenance regime to stay in tip-top condition for our region's thousands of sportspeople.

Council's Parks Maintenance team of 13 contribute to this work, which includes weekly mowing schedules, watering, landscaping, gardening, general maintenance and repairs. With summer now upon us, the demands of this work are only set to increase. Thankfully our team is assisted by sporting club volunteers.

"We have an amazing relationship with our local sporting groups," Parks Team Leader (Urban), Grant Follett, said. "We provide a direct contact point for these groups so we can address any issues."

"These groups also do a lot of work themselves. In cricket season, for example, they're responsible for getting the turf wickets prepared."

Grant said his team also help other Parks units in other public spaces, like Mildura's riverfront area, the Deakin Avenue median plantations and our region's 57 playgrounds.

"This includes keeping weeds in line, and fortnightly maintenance," he said. "We also get a lot of help from the public, who report faults and damage."



Our Parks Maintenance team of 13, including Parks Maintenance Person, Russell Qualmann, are kept busy during the summer months maintaining more than 27 sporting ovals across the municipality.



Sand drift in the Millewa over the past 12 months either partially or totally blocked roads, changing the landscape of the area.

## 450km of Millewa roads clear of sand

A massive undertaking to clear 700,000 tonnes of sand drift from more than 450 kilometres of Millewa roads is almost complete.

This time 12 months ago, large areas of the Millewa were being inundated by sand drift following ongoing drought. It blocked or restricted numerous unsealed roads and became so bad some farmers had difficulty accessing their properties or moving produce.

The issue triggered a mammoth project by Council to identify impacted roads, respond to the constantly changing conditions, and remove sand from roads to ensure they were accessible. It was a task made all the more difficult at its worst by the rapidly changing road conditions, which could block a road with sand drift in as little as 24 hours.

Now, roughly 12 months later, there are just two roads impacted by sand drift, both of which are expected to be cleared and open by Christmas this year.

Despite the unusual challenges posed by the sand drift, it's led to several positive outcomes for the community.

About 3000 tonnes of sand removed from roads was donated to several local golf clubs to help with their restoration works. Sand was also used to top-dress playing fields at several sporting precincts. The remainder of the sand was moved to farmers' paddocks in locations that weren't susceptible to sand drift.

The project has also provided a boost to the local economy through the need to secure additional trucks and trailers from local contractors due to the sheer scale of the work required. Council also hired earthmoving equipment such as loaders, excavators and graders from local contractors.

Council was supported in this project through funding from the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.



A bird's eye view of the MSRSP currently under construction.

## \$10m State Budget windfall for MSRSP

**Mildura South Regional Sporting Precinct (MSRSP) has received a \$10 million boost following the announcement of the Victorian Budget 2020-21.**

Funding will go towards constructing the second stage of the precinct – which includes:

- Sports hub administration
- Squash courts with umpire viewing
- Second oval with associated change rooms and amenity
- Sealed car park expansion
- Landscaping improvements

Mildura Squash Inc President Paul Tackas was among the first to welcome the exciting news.

"A lot of work has gone into this precinct," he said.

"The new squash courts at MSRSP will boost participation for juniors, and re-engage older members.

"Ultimately it will increase our capacity to grow our sport, and offer a range of different competitions and social programs.

"We really appreciate the additional funding support from the Victorian government along with the significant commitments from Council and the Commonwealth, in helping to deliver this project, which will only help grow squash in our region."

Visit [www.mildura.vic.gov.au/MSRSP](http://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/MSRSP) for regular updates on works, including images and videos from on site.

Construction of the MSRSP has been made possible thanks to the funding partners listed below.

<b>The Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund</b>	<b>\$17.5 million</b>
<b>The Victorian Government</b>	<b>\$13.75 million</b>
<b>Mildura Rural City Council</b>	<b>\$12.142 million</b>
<b>Community Contribution</b> (Mildura Netball Association, South Mildura Sporting Club, Sunraysia Football Netball League and Sunraysia Volleyball Inc.)	<b>\$370,368</b>
<b>Cricket Victoria</b>	<b>\$275,000</b>





The historic Powerhouse, nearby car park and surrounds will be transformed next year.

## Transforming the Powerhouse precinct

**The \$6 million transformation of another piece of Mildura's iconic riverfront is underway.**

This exciting project will see the Powerhouse building opened up and redeveloped, along with the adjacent carpark and its immediate surrounds. The goal is to make the most of this prime riverfront location and create a vibrant space for both locals and visitors to enjoy.

Designs for the project have been developed using ideas and input from more than 500 local stakeholders, community groups and residents. Key features include:

- A cafe
- A visitor information kiosk
- An outdoor stage
- A food and beverage facility
- Landscaping and shaded areas
- Repairs to the Powerhouse building to create a flexible multi-purpose community space

The project design will be finalised in the New Year and the main construction will start in mid-2021. Some preliminary work – including tree pruning and a new footpath – started on site in November.

This project is made possible thanks to funding from the Victorian State Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund (\$500,000) and Building Works package (\$5 million).

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



The Powerhouse was constructed between 1919 and 1935.

## Major Millewa projects to start in 2021

Work on a series of vital infrastructure projects in the Millewa region will begin in early 2021.

Amenities on the Lake Cullulleraine foreshore will be improved, the Lake Cullulleraine Community Complex will be upgraded – including construction of a second netball court – and the Millewa Resource Centre will also get an upgrade.

Local residents and members of Council's Drought Response Reference Group helped prioritise the projects, which are being funded through Council's Community Drought Reserve.

Mildura Rural City Council set up the Reserve in 2019 to support drought-affected communities in the Millewa. Council created the Reserve by allocating the equivalent of a \$1 million share of the Australian Government's Drought Communities Program.

Design of the second netball court at the Lake Cullulleraine Community Complex has been finalised, with

construction expected to commence in February 2021 following a tender process.

A preliminary design has also been completed for the Cullulleraine Community Complex - works are expected to commence in 2021.

Council is currently awaiting designs and quotes for proposed works to improve amenities at the Lake Cullulleraine foreshore, while we are continuing to work with relevant stakeholders to confirm the extent of upgrades to improve the Millewa Resource Centre.



Quick turnaround grants have been established to reignite our vibrant calendar of events and help the community and visitors engage in local events that can be held within current COVID-19 restrictions.

## Events Recovery Grants now open

**Mildura Rural City Council is supporting small and large-scale COVID-Safe events through our new Events Recovery Grants.**

Quick turnaround grants have been established to reignite our vibrant calendar of events, stimulate the local economy and help the community and visitors engage in local events that can be held within current COVID-19 restrictions.

Applications are now open for:

- Live Entertainment (\$500)
- Small Community Events (up to \$2500)
- Large Community Events (up to \$5000)
- Major Events (between \$7500 and \$20,000)
- Business Events and Conferences (between \$2500 and \$20,000)

The Live Entertainment grant is designed to encourage more live outdoor events.

Small businesses can apply for up to four Live Entertainment grants of \$500 to pay for local artists to perform at their venue.

The Small Community Events grants is for gatherings of less than 1000 people which create a sense of community by bringing people together.

The Major Events Grant is open to established events which drive overnight visitor expenditure, while the Large Community Events

Grants will target events of more than 1000 people primarily aimed at local audiences.

The Business Events and Conferences Grant is open to meetings, incentive trips and conferences which provide an opportunity to grow our region's visitor economy.

Business Events Funding can also be used for purposes where funds received stay in the region – including venue hire, catering, local entertainment and transport.

Events that occur before 31 December 2021 are eligible, with applications to close on 11 June 2021.

For more information, and to apply, visit [www.mildura.vic.gov.au/eventsfunding](http://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/eventsfunding)

**MAC**

**OPEN**  
**10AM – 4PM**  
**DAILY**

[milduraartscentre.com.au](http://milduraartscentre.com.au)





# Meet your new Councillors

Mildura Councillors Jason Modica, Glenn Milne, Cyndi Power, Mark Eckel, Stefano de Pieri, Ian Arney, Jodi Reynolds, Liam Wood and Helen Healy were officially sworn-in for their four-year term at the November 19 Annual Council Meeting.

Mildura Rural City Council has welcomed five new Councillors to its ranks for the next four years following October's General Council Election.

Crs Cyndi Power, Stefano De Pieri, Ian Arney, Jodi Reynolds and Liam Wood will serve their first term on Council, and join returned Crs Jason Modica, Glenn Milne, Mark Eckel and Helen Healy.

All nine Councillors were sworn-in at the 19 November Annual Council Meeting, where Cr Modica and Cr Healy were also elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively for the next 12 months.

All Council meetings are recorded and streamed on our website. You can tune in to them live or watch later.

For the next four years, the new team of Councillors will be our region's representatives and advocates.

They will lead the strategic direction of Council to make our municipality the most liveable, people-friendly community in Australia.

You can get in touch with your Councillors via email. All their contact details are available online at [www.mildura.vic.gov.au/OurCouncillors](http://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/OurCouncillors)



Newly-elected Mayor Jason Modica and Deputy Mayor Helen Healy.

## 2020 Youth Award winners revealed

Congratulations to the winners of our 2020 Youth Awards!

The Youth Awards recognise and celebrate young people who are making significant contributions to their communities.

Nominees from as far as Murrayville were received, with winners announced at a special virtual event on 3 December in line with COVID-19 restrictions.

The awards ceremony was streamed on the Youth Engagement Services Facebook page.

This year's winners are:

- Youth Arts Individual Award - Sophia Craig
- The Most Outstanding Young Carer Award - Martin Zigashane
- The Youth Volunteer Award - Sophie McAliece
- The Youth Community Group Award - All Abilities Football coaching team (Conor Irwin, Deklan Loveridge, Georgia Leutner, Sarah Mortiz, Charlie O'Connor Byrne and Harrsion Grambau)



# Council Christmas & New Year Hours

Mildura Rural City Council's Madden Avenue and Ouyen Service Centres will close at 3pm on Thursday 24 December and reopen again on Monday 4 January 2021 at 9am.

## Landfills and transfer stations

The Mildura Landfill will operate under the following hours:

Closed Christmas Day

Open 9.30am – 4.45pm Saturday 26, Sunday 27, Monday 28 December

Open 8.15am - 4:45pm Tuesday 29, Wednesday 30, Thursday 31 December

Closed New Year's Day

Open 9.30am - 4:45pm Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 January 2021

The Ouyen Landfill will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. All other landfills and transfer stations will be closed Christmas Day.

## Kerbside recycling, rubbish and organics collections

Bins will not be emptied on Christmas Day (Friday 25 December) or New Year's Day (Friday 1 January).

If your bins are usually emptied on Friday they will be emptied on Saturday 26 December and Saturday 2 January instead. Normal bin schedules will resume on Monday 4 January.

Remember to put your bins out the night before collection.

For more information on Council services and operating hours across the Christmas period go to [www.mildura.vic.gov.au](http://www.mildura.vic.gov.au)



## Living with Queensland Fruit Fly

**Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) populations in the Mildura area are expected to increase this summer.**

La Nina's higher-than-normal rainfall and warmer overnight temperatures are perfect for Qfly.

This makes it important to remove trees that you no longer want, which can be done for free by contacting the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area on (03) 5022 0327 or by filling out an online registration form at [www.pestfreearea.com.au](http://www.pestfreearea.com.au)

It also means carefully managing the trees with a few simple steps:

- Insect netting over your trees is a simple, chemical-free way to protect fruit
- Pick up any fallen and infested fruit and dispose of correctly

Residents can also use their new green bins to dispose of Qfly-infested fruit by:

- Placing fruit in an AS4736- certified compostable bag (the ones with the seedling logo)
- Place the sealed bag in the full sun or freezer for 7-10 days to kill Qfly larvae
- Put the compostable bag and fruit contents into the green bin.



**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)

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