

Community Matters

ISSUE 57 | December 2023

Grants boost community groups

Babies like six-month-old Summer and Riley, 1, will have access to an array of age-appropriate new toys thanks to Council's latest round of Community Grants.

The Sunraysia Toy Library is one of 31 local clubs and not-for-profit organisations who recently shared in more than \$221,000 worth of grants. The volunteer group will use their \$6,000 grant to add new baby and toddler toys to their Mildura and Red Cliffs campuses.

Read more about the Toy Library and other grant recipients on page 3.

Fruit Fly vigilance key as weather warms up

Residents are being urged to do their part to protect our region from Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF).

December is a great time to monitor your traps according to the Fruit Fly Murray Valley team, with the warm weather, and the onset of ripening fruit and vegetables, a magnet for the damaging pest.

"Monitor your traps now and check your fruit trees," Fruit Fly Murray Valley Regional Coordinator Jarad Hill said.

"Check fruit for sting marks and larvae, and if you do come across an infestation, make sure you pick, bag it and leave it in the hot sun for 10 to 14 days."

Infested fruit, once bagged and left in the sun for up to two weeks, can then be removed from the bag and disposed in your kerbside food and organics bin.

Preventative measures can also be taken to protect fruit trees and veggie patches. This includes applying nets to your fruit trees six to eight weeks before fruit is expected to ripen and using 2mm insect exclusion nets.

Everyone has a role to play in managing QFF on their property to protect our home gardens and horticultural industry.

Residents can visit fruitflymv.com.au or their local nursery for more information and resources.



Fruit Fly Project Officer Clarissa Davis and Fruit Fly Murray Valley Community Support Officer Andrew Braes help hang fruit fly traps.

MILDURA ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

NYE 2023 *Celebration*

AARON SCHEMBRI BAND
COOL 4 KIDS SHOW

IWAN & ANDREA
THE SOUL BROTHERS BAND
THEA MCLOUGHLIN

FOOD TRUCKS
KIDS ACTIVITIES
AND MUCH MORE!

FIREWORK DISPLAYS AT
9.30PM & MIDNIGHT

6PM START AT
NOWINGI PLACE

Drug and alcohol-free event



Cullulleraine Community Complex

upgrades underway

Work has started on a major upgrade to the Lake Cullulleraine Community Complex, enhancing facilities for local footballers, netballers and the entire Millewa community.

New, separate toilet and shower facilities catering for men's and women's footballers and new netball amenities are among the improvements planned.

The refurbishment project is scheduled to be completed before the start of the 2024 Millewa football and netball season. The building will be closed to the public while work is underway.

Irymple-based Wilkie Building Contractors are leading the renovation, which is being funded through the Federal Government's Drought Communities Program for community infrastructure. The project is one of three which residents of the Millewa-Carwarp area prioritised to boost the economy and wellbeing of the community in the wake of ongoing drought conditions.



\$225,879 in Council grants

Thirty-one local clubs and organisations are sharing in more than \$200,000 thanks to the latest round of Council's Community Grants Program.

The grants, ranging from \$1,800 to \$10,000, will support cultural events, environmental sustainability initiatives, equipment purchases and community-based projects.

The 31 successful applicants include First Nations and Torres Strait Islander Jiu Jitsu Inc (pictured) who are delivering culturally appropriate martial arts classes for First Nations men, women and children.

Irymple Croatian Senior Citizens Club will put their \$6,000 grant towards digitising local historical data, and the Cowangie Cemetery Trust will use

their grant to help purchase a new ride-on lawn mower.

The Sunraysia Toy Library, which operates campuses in Mildura and Red Cliffs, will expand their range of toys for babies and toddlers thanks to their grant.

President Kylie McBain said babies develop a lot in their first year.

"Babies can outgrow their toys quickly and the toys can often be big. Having high-quality, high-value toys available to borrow from the toy library instead of buying will save families money and space, plus it is more sustainable for the environment."

The next round of Council's annual Community Grants Program is expected to open again in July 2024.



First Nations and Torres Strait Islander Jiu Jitsu Inc received a grant.

January start for new Red Cliffs Early Years Hub



Mildura-based company CPM Building Contractors will lead construction of a major project to bring all Red Cliffs' early years services under the one roof.

Council has awarded the contract for the Red Cliffs Early Years Hub to the local builders, who plan to start work at the Guava Street site in January 2024.

This exciting project will see the existing kindergarten and Maternal and Child Health buildings replaced with a modern facility to meet the demand of the growing Red Cliffs community.

The new building will include four kindergarten rooms which will allow twice as many local children to attend kindergarten programs in Red Cliffs. It will also house Maternal and Child Health and allied health consulting rooms, Toy Library facilities, a multi-use community space,

breastfeeding room and large foyer area.

Red Cliffs families will continue to have access to these important services throughout the build.

The Red Cliffs Kindergarten, Red Cliffs Toy Library and Red Cliffs Maternal and Child Health Service will move from their current Guava Street site at the end of 2023.

The Red Cliffs Kindergarten will operate from the Red Cliffs Primary School's Murray Avenue campus from the start of the 2024 school year. Maternal and Child Health Services will be delivered out of the Red Cliffs Library in Jamieson Avenue and the Red Cliffs Toy Library will operate from the nearby Civic Centre in Jamieson Avenue.

Get set for

GLASS RECYCLING

A dedicated glass recycling service is coming in 2024 to help improve the way you recycle at home.

From July we're introducing a new purple bin for glass only. The 120L bin will be emptied once a month.

This is a mandatory requirement under state government legislation.

It might seem like a small thing to sort your recycling properly, but it makes a big impact when we all do it correctly.

On average 43% (by weight) of our mixed recycling is made up of glass bottles and jars.

Broken glass can make other items like cardboard, paper and plastic more difficult to recycle.

By sorting our recycling into separate streams, we can keep valuable resources out of landfill. This means they can be used again and again.

When put into your glass bin, your old jars can be turned into things like new glass bottles and even roads.

The new purple bins will be delivered to homes throughout April.

We'll provide more information about how to use your new purple bin when you receive it. Until then, keep using your current bins as normal.

Learn more at mildura.vic.gov.au/glass



NEW SPORTS

having an impact at MSP

Squash and cricket have fast become the latest attractions at Mildura Sporting Precinct (MSP).

MSP's new squash courts opened in October 2023, and have proved a hit with local players and those looking to try the sport out.

Mildura Squash Inc are now training full-time at the facility, while also holding their Club Championships at their new home in November 2023.

The courts are also available for casual hire, providing MSP users and visitors with more opportunities to engage with the sport.

Racquets, eyewear and balls are available for hire. Bookings can be made online at mildurasportingprecinct.com.au

A RecSquash competition was also launched in November, providing participants with a chance to have fun in a social, round-robin competition.

Mildura East Cricket Club, meanwhile, have also arrived at MSP as the new cricket tenants, with their men's, women's and junior grades playing on Friday nights and Saturdays at the venue.

Stage 2 of the Mildura Sporting Precinct project included the construction of an eight-lane cricket training facility and second sporting oval with turf wicket, with East relocating to their new home ahead of the 2023/24 Sunraysia Cricket Association (SCA) season.



Let there be light!

A \$722,200 lighting upgrade at the Old Aerodrome Ovals is set to take local soccer competitions to a new level in 2024.

The upgrade, which has secured new lighting towers for three soccer pitches at the complex, has been completed thanks to joint funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria, Football Federation Sunraysia and Mildura Rural City Council.

The upgrade is set to open up new possibilities for local soccer enthusiasts, allowing games to be played all year round and at all times of the day.

This includes running games during the summer months under lights.

More social competitions, women's only events, come and try days, junior games, tournaments and events aimed at multicultural communities are also on the cards, as is attracting more regional competitions.

The lighting upgrade is one of several identified as part of the Old Aerodrome Oval Complex Masterplan.



Bitumen re-sealing on Meridian Road, Merbein South during November.



Did you know?

Council is responsible for:

1,065km
of sealed roads

4,252km
of unsealed roads

90km
of shared paths

351km
of footpaths

\$18.64m investment in local roads and footpaths

Maintenance is a critical part of running our huge network of local roads and footpaths.

In the 2023-24 Financial Year (FY), Council is investing more than \$18 million to repair, upgrade and improve these important assets.

A functioning and well-maintained road network supports safer and

more reliable journeys for all road users, whether you're driving a car or truck, pushing a pram, riding a bike or crossing the street.

Major projects planned in this FY include the \$775,000 bitumen re-sealing of a 13km stretch of Meridian Road at Merbein South.

58km of bitumen on local roads in Koorlong, Nichols Point, Mildura, Red Cliffs and Merbein will also be re-sealed, which will make them smoother to drive on and help to prevent future deterioration.

Throughout the next 12 months, our teams will also inspect and repair around 7,000 defects in local roads, such as repairing signs, cracks and potholes and asphalt patching.

Fixing minor defects before they become significant problems is a key priority for us, and Council has allocated almost \$7 million in our 2023-24 Budget specifically for road maintenance.

Just under 1.2km of footpaths will be constructed or repaired in the current FY with projects to include new pram crossings and ramps to make it safer and easier for people to get around on foot, pushing a stroller or using a mobility aid.

Details of all current road works are published in local newspapers and on the Council website each week.

To find out what's happening near you visit mildura.vic.gov.au/roadworks

Christmas Lights MAP

LET'S LIGHT UP OUR COMMUNITY

Register your address for a chance to win and vote for your favourite display at mildura.vic.gov.au/Lights

SunraysiaDaily

Hundreds join Community Walk Against Family Violence

Mildura Rural City Council's annual White Ribbon Australia Community Walk Against Family Violence has proven a massive success this year, with hundreds turning out to show their support.

We can't thank our community enough for their help raising awareness and working to put a stop to family violence in our community.

Those in attendance heard from domestic violence survivor and Victorian Young Achiever of the Year Award recipient Conor Pall, who led the walk from Langtree Mall to Powerhouse Place.

Check out some of the photos taken at the event!





'Have a Chat'

Visit Mildura Library on Fridays from 10am for morning tea and to connect with others over a cuppa and conversation at Chatty Café.

Loneliness has been identified as an area of concern when it comes to the mental health and wellbeing of Australians. Chatty Café is a community program that aims to bring people together, reduce loneliness and social isolation and create opportunities for our community to build social connections with others.

Everyone is welcome to take a seat and join in on the conversation. Just look out for the chatty table!

No bookings necessary. Free tea and coffee is provided, or bring your own.

Chatty Café runs until Friday 15 December at Mildura Library, and will resume on Friday 12 January 2024.

Check out what's on at your local library and see what's planned for the school holidays by visiting mildura.vic.gov.au/libraries



LIBRARIES
MILDURA RURAL CITY COUNCIL



Best wishes for a safe Festive season

Council Service Centres will close at 3pm on Friday 22 December 2023 and reopen at 8am on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

You can report emergencies by calling us on 03 5018 8100.

Visit our website for holiday operating hours of our other services and facilities.

Kerbside Bin Collection Changes



There will be no kerbside bin collections on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. Please note the alternate collection schedule for impacted properties:

USUAL COLLECTION DATE	ALTERNATE COLLECTION DATE
Monday 25 December	Wednesday 27 December
Monday 1 January	Wednesday 3 January

The usual collection schedule will resume on Monday 8 January. Remember to put your bins out the night before your scheduled collection day.



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