

Community Matters

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New baby programs support local families

New initiatives to support the health, development and wellbeing of our youngest residents and their families are here! Local parents Lilly, with son Max, and Steph, with son Darcy, are among those making the most of the new programs. Read more on page 4.

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Mildura Rural City Council

RecFooty enjoys early success at MSP

The fun and games are officially under way at Mildura Sporting Precinct following the launch of the facility's first social sporting competition – RecFooty!

RecFooty is a fun, easy-to-play, 9-a-side, AFL competition based on the hugely popular AFL9's social format.

Four local teams have signed up for the initial six-week competition, which is played each Friday night on the Precinct's premier oval.

Games run for two, 20-minute halves, and while only nine players are allowed on the field from each team at once, plenty of friends, family or colleagues are allowed on the bench ready for rotation.

The competition is played on a shortened field, with teams split into three zones; forwards, backs and midfielders. Three forwards from each team wear identifying wristbands, and are the only players on the field who can score.

Boys' goals are worth six points, while girls' goals are worth nine points.



Madeleine Webster and Jasmine Maljevac enjoy the inaugural RecFooty season at Mildura Sporting Precinct.

The game is non-contact, with a dropped ball resulting in a turnover to the other team. If a player holding the ball is touched by an opposition player, they must dispose of the ball immediately or it will be deemed a turnover.

Want to learn more about the MSP?
Visit mildurasportingprecinct.com.au

New baby programs support local families

Around 600 babies are born in our region every year. We have introduced some great new initiatives to support the health, development and wellbeing of our youngest residents and their families.

Sleep and settling program

The Sleep and Settling Program is free and available to families with children from birth to school age.

Led by qualified Maternal and Child Health nurses, group information sessions aim to help families better understand their children's sleep patterns and behaviours.

Group sessions are tailored to suit developmental age groups including newborns (0-3 months), babies (6-12 months) and toddlers (18-24 months).

One-on-one in-home support may also be available following a sleep assessment. Find out more by calling 03 5018 8277 or speak with your MCH nurse.

Baby Play Sessions

Local libraries are hosting a new weekly program specifically for babies aged 0-12 months, their parents and carers.

Baby Play Sessions are held at the Mildura Library on Tuesdays and at Merbein and Red Cliffs Libraries every Wednesday.

Connect with other families over a coffee in an inclusive, relaxed and fun space as your baby explores and plays.



Claire, Noah, Whitney and Hunter enjoying a Baby Play session at Mildura Library.

Sessions are free to attend. Please book online at mrcclibraries.eventbrite.com or call 03 5018 8350.

Baby Makes 3

A new program to help parents adjust to life with a newborn will launch later this year.

Delivered over three two-hour sessions, Baby Makes 3 promotes equal and respectful relationships as couples make the transition to parenthood.

This free program will be offered to all new parents in our region complementing the New Parent Group sessions Council runs.



A birds eye view of the new AroundAgain facility being constructed at the entry of the Mildura Landfill.

AroundAgain expansion on track for April completion

Mildura Rural City Council's partnership with the Christie Centre continues to go from strength to strength, with completion of new receivals shed for AroundAgain edging closer.

Building on old landfill sites is always challenging and whilst there were a few early delays with establishing the foundations, the new shed is now on track for an April 2022 opening.

Set to provide much-needed storage at AroundAgain, the new facility will also provide easy access for potential donations to be dropped off prior to entering the Mildura Landfill.

Waiting times will also be reduced for customers at the landfill's weighbridge as a result.

The new building encompasses a drive-through drop-off area, a large sorting, storage and restoration section, and a new office and air-conditioned staff room.

The expansion of AroundAgain is set to benefit both Christie Centre and the community. For the Christie Centre it will provide expanded employment opportunities for members, while complementing the organisation's status as a leading recycler of waste materials.

These unwanted items would normally be destined to clog up valuable landfill space.

The general public will also benefit by having access to a wider range of affordable products for reuse.

Council is continuing to pursue recycling solutions that contribute to the reduction of waste being sent to landfill.

Find out more waste tips at mildura.vic.gov.au/waste

Remember to register your pet!

All cats and dogs must be registered by April 10.

Visit mildura.vic.gov.au/Pets for details.





CARNEGIE LIBRARY, 1908

Mildura Library turns 130!

Saturday 19 March 2022 will mark an extraordinary milestone for the Mildura Library – celebrating its 130th birthday!

The service itself has come a long way, and today offers both educational and recreational programs.

It was in May 1889 at a meeting of 'The Mildura Settlers Association' that Mr Ninian Jamieson reported that "owing to the lack of education in growing produce, a meeting place be formed where expertise may be passed on to others."

Over the next few years a committee began securing funding, land and support to see this dream become a reality.

On 19 March 1892 the reading-room at the Mildura

Public Institute was opened. In June of 1901, a letter was sent to Council by Mr James Matthew, who suggested applying to Mr Andrew Carnegie for funds to build a new library.

Mildura became one of four libraries in Australia to benefit from Mr Carnegie's generosity. The result was construction of the Carnegie Library on Deakin Avenue.

In January 1995 the Carnegie Library became the headquarters for the Mildura Rural City Council Library Service, which included Red Cliffs, Irymple, Merbein, Werrimull libraries and the Bookmobile service to Ouyen, Underbool Walpeup, Cowangie and Murrayville.

On May 31 1997, the Carnegie Library closed its doors as a library, before relocating to The Alfred Deakin Centre, where it still resides today.

The Mildura Library's 130th birthday marks the perfect time to return yourself to the library! Head to mildura.vic.gov.au/libraries to find out more, and learn more about the library's rich history.

Kindergarten programs coming to Playalong

Playalong Early Learning Centre will soon be offering kindergarten to the local community.

Enrolments are now open for both three and four-year-old kinder programs, with sessions starting soon.

Attending kindergarten provides children with life skills and opportunities to be successful in all developmental areas, setting a strong foundation for their educational journey.

Based in Lemon Avenue, Mildura, Playalong is already a much-loved and trusted service where children aged six weeks to 12 years are cared for in a respectful community setting with individualised learning.

Adding a kindergarten program to its services will complement Playalong's existing offering, which includes



occasional and long day care, before and after school and school holiday care.

To enrol your child or find out more please call our friendly team at Playalong on 03 5018 8291 or visit playalongmildura.com.au



The inside of the historic Powerhouse building that will take centre stage as part of the Powerhouse Precinct redevelopment.

\$5.4m funding boost for Mallee projects

Five projects across the Mallee have moved a step closer to reality following a \$5.4 million cash injection from the Australian Government earlier this year.

The projects will deliver a broad range of benefits for communities spanning Mildura to Murrayville and include:

- Meridian Road Stages 2 and 3 reconstruction (\$1.65 million)
- Mildura Riverfront Powerhouse (\$1.75 million)
- Solar installation at Mildura Sporting Precinct (\$490,000)
- Ninth Street toilet upgrade (\$300,000)
- Deakin Avenue centre median between Seventh and Eighth Streets (\$1,219,635).

Looking at some of the larger projects, the Meridian Road reconstruction will involve sealing a 12-kilometre section of gravel road between Werrimull Road and three kilometres south of the Sturt Highway.

This will improve traffic safety and allow access for commercial freight vehicles, which will provide a whole host of benefits for the local agriculture industry.

Funding for the Riverfront Powerhouse will be injected into establishment of an events kitchen, boiler house and Powerhouse flexible events space.

Funding for all five projects is from the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

\$20m in major projects given the green light

More than \$20 million in construction work is about to get underway on two of Sunraysia's biggest and most eagerly awaited major projects. King Construction Group has been awarded the tender to build Stage 2 of the Mildura Sporting Precinct (MSP), which will start in coming weeks. Indigenous construction company Rork Projects meanwhile was recently endorsed as the successful tenderer for the Powerhouse Precinct as part of Mildura's riverfront redevelopment.

Stage 2 of the MSP will build on the major success already achieved with the first stage of the precinct and include:

- Second multi-use oval with 150lux LED lighting
- Change rooms
- Sports administration hub
- Four indoor squash courts, outdoor netball courts and outdoor beach volleyball courts
- Indoor seating
- External seating for Ovals 1 and 2
- External shade improvements
- Blinds for Court Hall One
- Electronic scoreboard for Oval 1
- Cricket practice nets and wickets
- Additional sealed and overflow car parking
- Parking access around Oval 1
- Landscaping improvements
- Perimeter and ticket fencing

The Powerhouse Precinct is a major part of the second stage of Mildura's riverfront redevelopment and includes:

- Powerhouse flexible events space
- Powerhouse front of house - tourism offering, mezzanine and visitor inspiration space, including interactive touch screens
- Boiler house shade structure
- Public amenities
- External food and beverage building
- Events kitchen
- Basement multipurpose space

For more information on both projects visit mildura.vic.gov.au/Major-Projects

Annual Corroboree added to bumper Easter Long Weekend events

All roads will lead to Nowingi Place this Easter Long Weekend, when the annual Mildura NAIDOC Corroboree makes its grand return on Saturday 16 April from 1pm to 5pm.

Marking the first time the Corroboree has formed part of Mildura's bumper Easter Long Weekend of sport and activities, the Corroboree will celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

It will also encourage the community to come together and literally get a taste of the traditional culture that lays at the heart of our region.

In the lead up to the Mildura NAIDOC Corroboree, Council and the Ngiwa Yarna (Aboriginal Action) Committee will also host a special Yarning Circle event at the Mildura Sporting Precinct from 5.30pm on Wednesday 6 April 2022 featuring acclaimed journalist and writer Stan Grant.

The Mildura Anti-Racism Community Yarning Circle will inform community on racism and how to address it, building capacity and increasing awareness of people's rights.

The Yarning Circle event will feature a panel of local Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse people who have experienced racism in their lives, and who will discuss how we can address racism at a local level.

Following delivery of his keynote speech, Stan Grant will facilitate the panel discussion, and community members can submit questions through a mediated process.

Registrations for this FREE event will be opening soon, visit mildura.vic.gov.au/corroboree to find out more.



Future generation explore job and training opportunities

Our region's young people recently had the opportunity to explore their future pathways as part of the two-day 2022 Youth Jobs and Careers Expo.

Young people aged between 14 and 25 had the chance to learn more about local job and career opportunities, registered training providers and upcoming courses, as part of the event - held at Mildura Central.

Stallholders included AXIS Employment, Mildura Jobs Victoria Advocate Program, MADEC, Local Jobs Program Wimmera Mallee, Sunraysia Institute of TAFE, Richmond Institute, La Trobe University, Mildura Regional Development, Mallee Family Care, WDEA Works, Northern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network and Council's Youth Engagement Services.



Nicholas Dorman and Nigel Pavilack from the Richmond Institute.

Visitors to the expo were treated to presentations, workshops and the opportunity to talk one-on-one with providers and trainers.

You can find out more about upcoming MRCC Youth Engagement Services activities and opportunities by visiting mildura.vic.gov.au/youth



Mildura's Australia Day Ambassador Huss Mustafa OAM, Community Event or Project of the Year Award recipient Andrea Soebardi from Mildura Eisteddfod Society Inc., Young Citizen of the Year Lily Milsom and Mildura Mayor Liam Wood.

Australia Day Award recipients celebrated

Murrayville is fast developing a reputation for producing some of our community's greatest contributors, after local resident Carly Heintze was announced Mildura Rural City Council's 2022 Australia Day Citizen of the Year.

She was joined in Council's Australia Day honours by Young Citizen of the Year Lily Milsom and Community Event or Project of the Year, the Mildura Eisteddfod Society Inc. for the 42nd Mildura Eisteddfod.

Carly Heintze is a worthy Australia Day Citizen of the Year, contributing tirelessly to the Murrayville community for decades across a broad range of areas, taking in the sporting world through to the performing arts, education and local community groups.

Young Citizen of the Year Lily Milsom meanwhile has similarly contributed over a broad range of areas, from mentoring junior students and being a strong advocate for positive mental health through to representing her school at ANZAC Day Commemorations.

This year's Community Event or Project of the Year - Mildura Eisteddfod Society Inc's 42nd Mildura Eisteddfod - proved what can be done in the face of adversity, as the volunteer-run group faced a Statewide COVID lockdown announcement just a week before the massive annual event was to start.

Despite these challenges the organisers overcame these obstacles, putting on a successful online event attracting about 1,500 entrants.



Sunraysia residents celebrated Mildura's Australia Day Event in a variety of ways.



Citizen of the Year Carly Heintze

Rio Vista Park set for major facelift

Work will start this year on a major project to transform Mildura's Rio Vista Park into a thriving, more active and safer outdoor community space.

Located between the Rio Vista Off Leash Dog Park and the Lock 11 lawns, plans for the park include:

- New public toilets
- Reactive public lighting
- More lighting to improve security and safety
- CCTV cameras
- New tree plantings
- Linkages to the nearby Off Leash Dog Park
- New gardens
- New signage

Improving community safety has been a major driver behind many of the new features, including demolishing the existing 40-year-old toilet block and replacing it with new, safer and more modern facilities.

We will be working with community to help with designs and artwork for the sides of the toilet block which will have large graphic panels, which will improve the overall look.



Rio Vista Park will soon boast a fresh new look, making it a safer, more enjoyable area for the community to enjoy.

Another visual feature will be reactive coloured lighting, which will brighten and dim and change colours as people move through certain areas of the park.

The Rio Vista Park upgrades have been made possible through \$268,341 from the Victorian Government's Community Crime Prevention Program and are expected to be completed later this year.

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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
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Call or email us from 8am to 5pm weekdays.
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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.