

Community Matters

ISSUE 43 | July 2020



A new home for regional sport

Work on the Mildura South Regional Sporting Precinct is underway, with local tradies Daniel MacLeod (CICG), Seamus Kilcullen (BRW), Shannon Traeger (KW Earthmoving and Concreting) and Georgia Andriske (CICG) on site. See more on page 3.



The Powerhouse building will be at the heart of a new Village Square on Mildura's riverfront.

\$5.5m funding boost for riverfront precinct

The second stage of Mildura's riverfront redevelopment has moved a step forward following a \$5.5 million funding boost from the Victorian Government.

The Victorian Government announced \$5 million for the proposed Village Square area of the riverfront precinct.

The Village Square will be a focal point for the second stage of the riverfront redevelopment and will transform the area surrounding the old Powerhouse building.

It will include a café, landscaping, car parking and public amenities, providing another drawcard for both locals and visitors to the district.

An additional \$500,000 was announced by the Victorian Government to refurbish the Powerhouse building itself.

Once these works are completed it's envisaged the building will become a multi-use space, providing flexibility for a broad range of arts, cultural and community activities, further activating the riverfront precinct.

Stage 2 of the riverfront redevelopment is part of Council's Mildura Future Ready advocacy and funding strategy, aimed at driving jobs and economic growth in our region.

MSRSP push for funding continues

Mildura Rural City Council continues to work alongside Member for Mallee Dr Anne Webster and Member for Mildura Ali Cupper to secure additional funds to complete the Mildura South Regional Sporting Precinct's (MSRSP) second stage, and is awaiting the result of several 'live' grant applications.

This includes \$500,000 through The Victorian State Government's Local Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSIF) Female Friendly Facilities program, which is tied to a \$365,000 community contribution from the Mildura Netball Association (MNA), South Mildura Sporting Club – which will relocate to the MSRSP once complete – and Sunraysia Football and Netball League (SFNL).

If successful, the funding push will ensure four outdoor netball courts and associated lighting are constructed at the site.

This will allow the MNA to relocate to the MSRSP from Mansell Reserve, increase female participation in sport, and add to the venue's capability to host large-scale regional, state, national and even international events.

Council is also awaiting the result of a second live LSIF funding application for \$250,000 to match a \$275,000 pledge by Cricket Victoria and Cricket Australia.

If successful, the joint funding contribution will develop synthetic and turf training facilities and install Premier Grade lighting to support the future of cricket and elite level AFL at MSRSP.

The MSRSP has been made possible thanks to \$17.5 million through The Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund, \$3 million through The Victorian State Government's Better Indoors Stadium Fund and \$11.1 million to date by Mildura Rural City Council.

The project forms part of Council's Mildura Future Ready Strategy, which also comprises the Mildura Motorsports and Community Precinct, Stage 2 of the Riverfront Redevelopment, and advocacy for passenger rail services in our region.



Local contractors get to work pouring concrete for the main indoor stadium.

MSRSP rapidly taking shape

It's been more than 20 years in the making, and after years of lobbying and hard work, construction of the \$31.6 million Mildura South Regional Sporting Precinct (MSRSP) is well and truly underway.

Works to date include demolition and site preparation, civil works, including footing excavation and the installation of in-ground services, and the erection of steel framework.

In a boost for the local economy, more than 70 per cent of the project's workforce hails from our region.

Georgia Andriske, 22, is one of the 105 locals currently employed through MSRSP. Georgia works full time for CIGG – the project's head contractor – as an OH&S Officer.

"CIGG have been really keen to employ locals where possible, and when I heard they were looking for someone to take on this role, I jumped at the opportunity," she said.

Georgia's main role is to ensure employees and equipment is operating within safe parameters – no small task on a large site like the MSRSP.

She said it was amazing to be part of the project.

"You can already see that this facility is going to be the premium sporting venue in the region," she said. "It's exciting to be part of the team bringing the precinct to life.

"I also play netball locally, so I'm excited to play here once it's completed."

MSRSP Stage One

- Six-court indoor stadium, including change rooms, foyer, reception, administration offices, public amenities, storage and spectator seating, café/kiosk
- AFL-standard oval with a cricket turf wicket
- A separate standalone pavilion inclusive of coach and timekeeper's box, change rooms for umpires and players, public amenities, storage for outdoor sports and a canteen/kiosk
- External amenities, including car parking, drainage, pathways and landscaping
- Second floor of stadium, including function rooms, social/club rooms, public amenities and storage



CIGG OH&S Officer Georgia Andriske



Leaders



What Could Have Been



Hope for the Future



The Future Boys, The Future Men



Hopeful for our Future



We Survived

Photo competition pays respect to Stolen Generations

Our inaugural National Sorry Day Photo Competition has helped showcase some incredible photographs. The online initiative encouraged people to pay homage, and show respect to, the Stolen Generations.

Congratulations to the winners, which were selected in five categories:

Elders

Leaders by Jayhannah Nampijinpa

What Could Have Been by Amanda Potter

Deadly Mob

Hopeful for our Future by Amanda Potter

Muurpa

The Future Boys, The Future Men by Jayhannah Nampijinpa

Nyorn Nyorn

Hope for the Future by Amy Garlett

Generations

We Survived by Gina Babeth

National Sorry Day is held on 26 May each year to acknowledge and recognise members of Australia's Stolen Generations. It also marks the anniversary of the tabling in Federal Parliament on 26 May 1997 of the Bringing Them Home Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families.



Kindergarten Central Enrolments now open

Do you have a three or four-year-old who will be attending kindergarten in 2021?

Enrolments are now open through Council's Central Kindergarten Enrolment service for Irymple, Kathleen Kelly, Mildura South, Nangiloc & District, Mildura West, Red Cliffs and De Garis kindergartens and St Margaret's and Pasadena Preschools.

Going to kindergarten is an important step for young children.

Children grow socially and emotionally through play, creative arts and interaction. They also gain the opportunity to think, use and recognise language and develop motor skills.

Attending kindergarten also helps children grow in confidence, and make new friends.

Enrolments for first round placements close 31 July, with offers to be sent before 31 August. Future placements will be announced through 2020 ahead of the commencement of the 2021 school year.

When completing the online enrolment process, you must have proof of immunisation (immunisation history statement) and a health care or pension card (if applicable).

For more information, resources or to enrol your child visit www.mildura.vic.gov.au/kindergarten or call (03) 5018 8100.



Mildura Waves change room upgrades nearing completion

Council has almost completed the biggest upgrade to the Mildura Waves change rooms since the venue was established more than 20 years ago.

The \$720,000 upgrade to the men's, women's and family change rooms will usher in a new era for Mildura Waves users, making them among the most modern and accessible facilities of their kind in regional Victoria.

Upgrades include replacing all cubical partitions, wall vinyl, fittings and fixtures, installing new LED lighting, non-slip flooring and a fresh coat of paint.

Women's and men's change rooms will receive new bench seating, grab rails for the elderly and people with a disability, and a new shower layout, including replacing the previous open-shower arrangement in the men's change rooms with cubicles.

Work has been completed on the men's and women's change rooms. Family change rooms are nearing completion.

The whole project is expected to be completed by the end of July.

Mildura Waves is a Council facility managed by Aligned Leisure.

AC

backstage

PASS

LET'S GET DIGITAL

Check in on our digital channels for live music, social drawing, exhibitions and tours at Mildura Arts Centre.

milduraartscentre.com.au

CREATIVE VICTORIA

\$1.5m COVID-19 Community Recovery Fund

The Draft Budget includes \$1.5 million for our community's social and economic recovery following COVID-19.

The proposed Community Recovery Fund would be targeted to support those in our community impacted most by the pandemic. Details of the package are still to be confirmed, as Council develops its Community Relief and Recovery Plan.

Meanwhile many other relief and support services have been offered to households, businesses and community groups across the municipality over the past few months, including waiving fees, interest charges and offering payment deferrals.

Have your say on 2020-21 Draft Budget

Our Draft Budget for the 2020-21 Financial Year is now on public exhibition. Residents and ratepayers are invited to view the budget documents and provide feedback before Saturday 18 July 2020.

Council's total proposed budget for the 2020-21 Financial Year is \$148.94 million, which includes \$50.74 million in capital works to improve and upgrade community assets throughout the region.

An average 2% rate rise is proposed, in line with the State Government rate capping policy.

The Draft Budget also outlines major projects and initiatives budgeted for in the coming year, including:

- \$1.5 million for a COVID-19 Community Recovery Fund
- \$1 million contribution to an Instrument Landing System at Mildura Airport
- \$13.25 million for roads projects
- \$1.053 million for parks, open space and streetscape projects
- \$24.32 million for building projects
- \$716,000 for waste management projects
- \$ 5.98 million for drainage projects
- \$1.35 million for recreational, leisure and community facilities

Residents and ratepayers are invited to review the Draft Budget and provide formal feedback by 5pm, Saturday 18 July 2020.

You can view the Draft Budget online at www.mildura.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay. If you would like a copy emailed or posted to you, please call us on (03) 5018 8100.

Feeling unwell? Get tested. Stay home.

Even if you only have mild symptoms

Mildura COVID-19 Testing Clinic

137 Thirteenth Street, Mildura

Phone (03) 5021 7653 for an appointment



fever



chills or
sweats



cough



sore throat



shortness of
breath



runny nose



loss of sense
of smell

Testing is FREE
Translators available

Installation of solar PV has been a popular upgrade for local EUA holders.



EUAs offer energy and cost cuts for business

The financial impacts of COVID-19 on the local business sector have highlighted the benefits of Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUA), allowing business owners to reduce energy costs through potentially cost-neutral building upgrades.

An EUA is an agreement in which a financial institution advances funds to a commercial or agricultural property owner to undertake upgrade works which improve their building's environmental performance.

These funds are then repaid through the property owner's Council rates.

The unique terms of the agreement mean that upgrades for most businesses are cash flow positive from day one – where their savings are higher than their repayments.

An example is Englefield Winegrape Services who installed a 53.9kW solar system at their agricultural property in Mildura, which provided the business with a return on its investment relatively quickly, while also reducing its carbon footprint.

To date, Council has supported the installation of 280 kilowatts of solar PV at seven commercial properties within our municipality through EUAs, the third highest uptake in Australia. This has injected more than \$300,000 into the local economy.

To enquire about an EUA for your business or agricultural property contact Council on (03) 5018 8100 or visit www.mildura.vic.gov.au and search for 'EUA'.



Use your kitchen caddy and compostable caddy bags to collect food scraps to dispose of in your green bin.

Make the most of your green bin

The week commencing Monday 6 July 2020 will see green bins emptied for the first time across our region.

More than 26,000 households and businesses have an opportunity to keep their food and garden waste out of landfill by using this important new service. Once collected, the organics will be taken to a commercial composting facility and turned into a soil conditioner.

- Any organic food or garden waste can go in the green bin. Kitchen scraps, meat, bones, egg shells, bread, animal droppings, leaves, feathers, small branches, pizza boxes and more.
- Collect food scraps in your kitchen caddy and compostable caddy bags (you can also line your caddy with newspaper or nothing at all).
- Green bins will be emptied every week, on your usual collection day, starting Monday 6 July.
- Save space in your landfill bin by separating recyclables and compressing air out of any rubbish bags. Also consider sustainable alternatives to reduce waste.
- Help limit odours from disposable nappies by scraping solid waste into the toilet and double bagging nappies before putting in your landfill bin.
- If you already compost at home or have chooks, you may still find use for your green bin. It's a responsible way to dispose of animal droppings, pizza boxes and lawn clippings. Every little bit you can keep out of landfill counts!
- There is lots more information at www.mildura.vic.gov.au/GreenBin



Measures are in place to protect your health and safety at our libraries and other Council facilities.

We're still open for business and here to help

While Council Service Centres remain closed to the public, we continue to operate and you can contact us over the phone and online.

Like everyone, we've had to adapt to protect the health and safety of staff and the community and do our bit to slow the spread of COVID-19. The vast majority of our office staff are working from home and we have adjusted how we do things to ensure we continue providing you with the Council services you need and expect.

As restrictions ease, we are excited to be reopening some of our facilities including the Mildura, Red Cliffs and Merbein Libraries, Mildura Arts Centre and the Mildura Visitor Information & Booking Centre. We've also returned to face-to-face appointments for some services like Maternal and Child Health.

As things are changing frequently we encourage you to keep up-to-date with our news and contact us directly if you have any questions.

- (03) 5018 8100
- www.mildura.vic.gov.au
- www.facebook.com/MilduraCouncil



Council elections locked in for 24 October

The 2020 Mildura Rural City Council General Elections has been locked in for 24 October, and will again be conducted via postal vote.

Nine Councillors will be elected to represent the Mildura Rural City Local Government Area for a four-year period, with those interested in becoming a candidate encouraged to register.

A number of information sessions and workshops are being planned by both Council and the Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA) in the lead up to the election, with the aim to arm potential candidates with all the information they need.

Council will hold information sessions throughout July and September, with more information about these sessions to be shared via our social media channels and website.

The VLGA, meanwhile, has scheduled a number of free online events, with a focus on encouraging more women to stand for local government.

For more information visit www.vlga.org.au or www.vec.vic.gov.au

More information for both candidates and voters is also available online at www.mildura.vic.gov.au/councilelections



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
www.mildura.vic.gov.au

We're still open for business while our Service Centres are closed.
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.