

community matters



Mildura Rural City Council

ISSUE 35
JUNE 2018

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Action on court at Merbein

Winter sports are in full swing and netballers are relishing the new court surface at Merbein's Kenny Park which was installed during the off-season. Read more on page 4.



From left: Cr Glenn Milne, Paul Freckleton, Cr Mark Eckel and Ned Faulkhead

\$28m Federal funding bid for Mildura Future Ready

Mildura Rural City Council has completed the first step in applying for more than \$28 million in Federal Government funding for the first phase of the Mildura Future Ready (MFR) advocacy and funding strategy

MFR is the key to addressing Sunraysia's concerning levels of social disadvantage by attracting large-scale government funding for four key initiatives:

- Mildura South Regional Sporting Precinct
- Mildura Motorsports and Community Precinct (Stage 1)
- Stage 2 of the Mildura Riverfront Redevelopment
- Advocate for the return of passenger rail services

Together these four components will create jobs and growth by diversifying the region's economy, which will address ongoing low income levels, lack of jobs growth and high unemployment in the region.

The first phase of MFR will see a focus on the two shovel-ready projects - the Mildura Motorsports and Community Precinct (Stage 1) and the Mildura South Regional Sporting Precinct.

Council has submitted its formal expression of interest to apply for a share of the Federal Government's \$272.2 million Regional Growth Fund to kickstart these components, paving the way for a full application.

If our application is successful, we will seek Victorian Government funding as part of the upcoming State Election to make both projects a reality.

Enrol now for kindergarten in 2019

If your child is turning four by April 30 2019, you can enrol them now for kindergarten next year.

Attending kindergarten is an important part of every child's lifelong learning journey. At kindergarten children play, learn and develop skills that will help them prepare for school.

All children are eligible to attend a kindergarten program for 15 hours a week in the year before they start school. Kindergarten programs are offered at some child care centres and 14 kindergartens in our region.

Enrolments for eight local kindergartens are now open and being taken through Mildura Rural City Council, including:

- Irymple Kindergarten
- Kathleen Kelly Kindergarten
- Mildura South Kindergarten
- Nangiloc & District Kindergarten
- Mildura West Kindergarten
- Red Cliffs Kindergarten
- De Garis Kindergarten
- St Margaret's Pre School

To enrol your child at one of these kindergartens you must submit an enrolment form and other documentation to Council.

To enrol at Merbein Preschool Kindergarten and Pasadena Preschool contact the kindergartens directly.

For enrolments and enquiries for Ouyen, Underbool and Murrayville kindergartens, contact Mallee Track Health and Community Services.

For more information go to www.mildura.vic.gov.au/kindergarten or call us on (03) 5018 8100.



Third kerbside bin proposed for green and organic waste

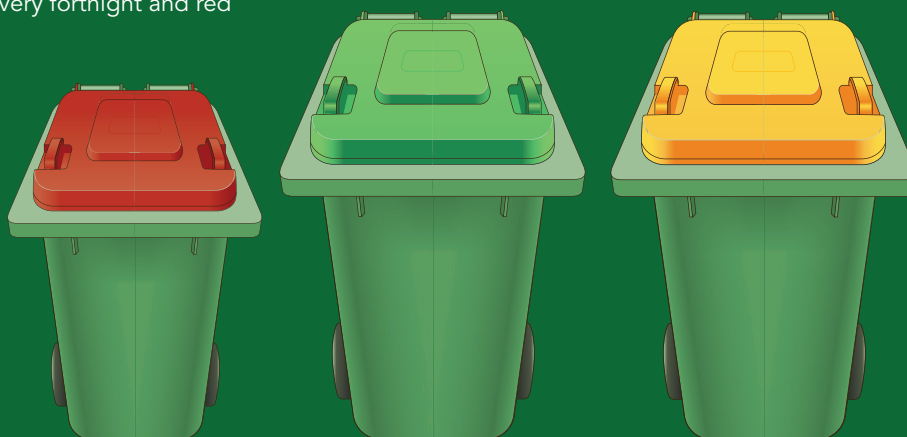
Currently more than half of everything we're throwing in our red lidded rubbish bins is green or organic waste. Things like lawn clippings, vegetable peel, food scraps and weeds add up to about 6,000 tonnes of waste every year. That's 6,000 tonnes of organic material going to landfill and posing a serious threat to the environment.

To help divert organic material from landfill, Council is considering adding a third bin to the kerbside collection service. This would see everyone with a rubbish and recycling bin get a green bin too.

The 240L green bin would be used for food and garden organics only and collected weekly. Yellow 240L recycling bins would continue to be collected every fortnight and red 120L rubbish bins would move to a fortnightly collection.

WHAT CAN GO IN YOUR GREEN BIN?

- ✓ Lawn clippings
- ✓ Small branches
- ✓ Weeds and shrubs
- ✓ Fruit and vegetable peel
- ✓ Food scraps
- ✓ Meat, fish and bones
- ✓ Tea bags and coffee grounds



A third, green bin is currently provided to residents in 59 of the 79 Victorian councils and locals have expressed support for the same service here too. An additional bin and processing organic material is estimated to cost \$55 per household and business, which would mean an increase of about \$1.06 per week to rates notices.

Councillors will likely vote to make a decision on introducing a green bin this September. If it goes ahead, steps to introduce the service would get underway as soon as possible.

To learn more go to www.mildura.vic.gov.au/3bins

Madden Avenue roadwork project nearing completion

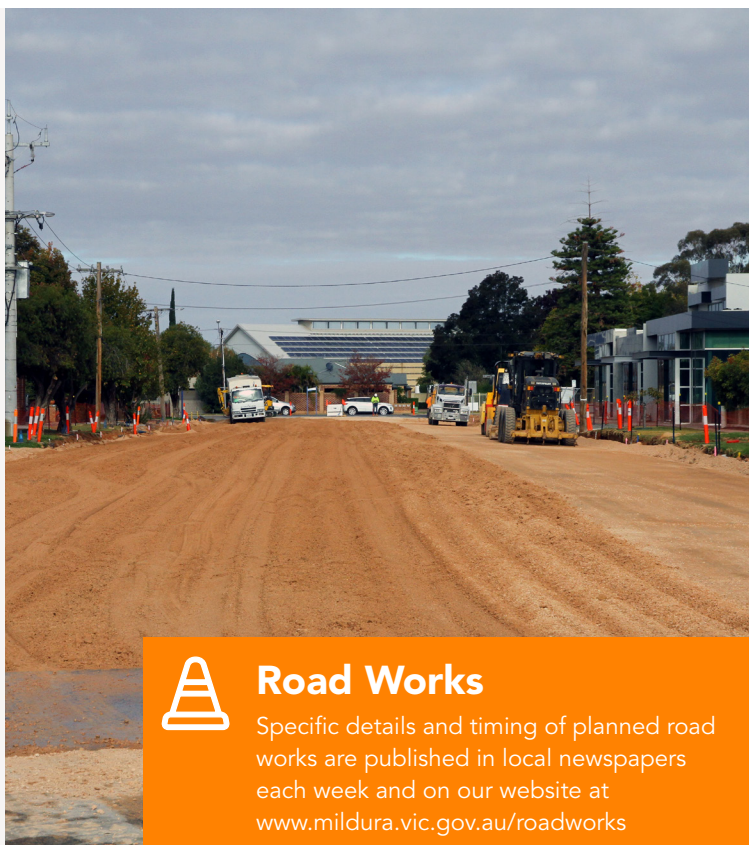
Major reconstruction works to one of the busiest sections of Madden Avenue are expected to be completed this month.

The works are focused on the area between Tenth and Eleventh Streets, which is used by about 4000 vehicles a day. They involve reconstructing the road pavement, resurfacing the road, and replacing existing kerb and channelling.

As part of the works, the centre median has been removed and parallel parking replaced with angle parking, ensuring a consistent approach along the entire length of Madden Avenue.

The changes to parking will result in more than 20 additional spaces.

Along with the roadworks, new trees will be planted within the angle parking areas of Madden Avenue between Ninth and Eleventh Streets to offset the removal of trees from the centre median.



Road Works

Specific details and timing of planned road works are published in local newspapers each week and on our website at www.mildura.vic.gov.au/roadworks

Merbein Swimming Pool blankets to encourage more people to take a dip

Work was recently completed on the installation of five new pool blankets at the Merbein Swimming Pool.

The blankets are designed to provide more comfortable water temperatures for residents during the milder summer days of the year, ultimately aimed at encouraging more people to enjoy the health benefits of using the pool.

An initiative of the Merbein Swimming Club, which applied for \$49,685 as part of Council's Community Plan Support Funding program, the project includes five pool blankets and rollers, which are mechanised.

The project is in keeping with Council's Merbein Community Plan 2014 – 2019, which lists sports and recreation among its key priorities to support and create healthy lifestyles for Merbein residents.

Based on usage of similar pool blankets at other venues in the municipality, more comfortable water temperatures have resulted in more people using our pools, providing more opportunities for residents to get out and exercise during the summer months.

Council's Community Plan Support Fund is designed to help groups or organisations implement projects that are in line with endorsed Community Plans and improve economic, social, health and wellbeing for residents.

For more information on eligibility requirements and the application process contact Council's Community Futures branch on (03) 5018 8100.



Merbein FNC U/13 Juniors playing at the new Kenny Park netball court

Netballers christen new Merbein court

Winter sporting competitions are in full swing across the region and participants and spectators are enjoying the benefits of upgraded and improved facilities at Merbein.

During the off-season Council completed works at Kenny Park, installing a netball court alongside the existing one. The project also included competition standard lighting, upgraded stormwater system and relocation of the existing BBQ and shelter.

The new court and lighting means netballers can now train in the evenings at Kenny Park, along with their football club mates. The club can also now host both senior and junior netball at their home ground on the same day.

Netballers christened the new court in April when the Magpies hosted Ouyen United in Round One of the Sunraysia Football Netball League.

The \$341,297 project was funded through a joint effort between Mildura Rural City Council, which injected \$126,297 into the facility, Merbein Football Netball Club, Sunraysia Football Netball League and \$100,000 through the Victorian Government's Country Football Netball Program.

Get active!

From BMX and ballet to scouts and swimming, there are hundreds of different sport and recreation opportunities to get involved in across our region. Check out the Recreation Directory on our website to find something to enjoy. www.mildura.vic.gov.au/recreation



Celebrating our region's youth

Mildura Rural City Council recently celebrated the achievements of more than 25 young people in our region as part of our annual Youth Awards.

More than 100 people attended the Youth Awards presentation night, which was created as a way to thank our local under-25s for their efforts within the community each year as part of Victorian Youth Week.

This year's winners were:

Youth Volunteer Award Joint Winners – Bethany Simpson and Tanika Thorne

This category recognises a young person who regularly gives up his or her valuable time and effort for the benefit of the community or an organisation.

Youth Artist Group Award – Bold Magazine

This category recognises a group of young people who have shown outstanding dedication through their involvement or participation in the community and have made a significant difference.

Youth Carer Award - Carla Piscitelli

This award recognises an individual who is a carer for a family member, relative or friend with a disability, mental illness or chronic condition.

Youth Artist Award - Ben Muster

This category recognises a young person who has demonstrated initiative, innovation and made a positive community contribution through drama, visual arts, performing arts, technical support, debating, literacy pursuits or music.



Smile!

Friends, family, award nominees and winners enjoying this year's Youth Awards celebration.





Women's swim sessions make a splash

Earlier this year Council joined forces with Belgravia Leisure and Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council to deliver a women's and girls' swimming program at Mildura Waves.

The eight-week pilot program, held on Friday nights during March and April, proved to be a huge success with up to 50 participants attending some of the sessions, including many who were encouraged to swim in a public pool for the first time in their lives.

The program was introduced in response to frequent feedback from women in our region who indicated one of the reasons they don't swim is because they feel more comfortable in a women-only environment.

With female lifeguards and swimming centre staff on hand to offer assistance, many women used the program as an opportunity to learn to swim, exercise, relax or socialise with friends in a comfortable and safe environment.

An evaluation report for the program will help to inform future recreation access planning.

Celebrating our diversity

Our region is one of the most culturally diverse in all of regional Victoria. In fact, according to the 2016 ABS Census 1 in 5 people who live here were born outside Australia. The Sunraysia Multicultural Festival was a celebration of this diversity and all the different cultures and people who are part of our community.

Hosted by Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council on 28 April, the event was a huge success, with food, music, activities and fun for all who attended. Council was proud to host a stall at the festival. Representatives from across our organisation were on hand to meet festival goers, sharing information about our Early Years, Aged & Disability, Environmental Sustainability, Human Resources, Community Development, Youth, Arts and Employment services.

More than 100 people visited our stall and dozens took the opportunity to mark their heritage on a world map which was on display and now serves as a visual insight to the diversity of our region.

Our Diverse Community

What is your cultural heritage? Mark it on the map and share a photo on social media.



DID YOU KNOW?

According to the 2016 ABS Census, Italian, Turkish, Greek, Mandarin and Tongan are the most common languages spoken in our region after English.



Hear from our White Ribbon Ambassadors and Advocates

As a White Ribbon accredited workplace, we're committed to preventing and responding to domestic violence. And we're keen to spread the word throughout our community. Our four White Ribbon Ambassadors and two Advocates are available to speak with local community groups, clubs and workplaces about our White Ribbon journey.

Contact us today to find out more or to book a guest speaker for your next function.



Mildura Arts Centre getting a 'lift' with two major projects

Our popular Mildura Arts Centre has been a hive of activity this year with two major projects under way in recent months.

The first was the long-awaited passenger lift which will increase access to upper floor galleries three and four, ensuring people who may have limited mobility don't miss out on exhibitions.

Work was completed on the lift last month and can be accessed from the café area.

The second project is a forestage lift, or commonly referred to as an orchestra lift, which was made possible through a \$200,000 grant from the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund.

The 444 Foundation, which is overseen by the Mildura Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, also contributed \$100,000 to the project.

The lift will boost capacity and increase flexibility of Mildura Arts Centre's theatre.

When required, the lift will provide a significant increase to stage capacity, making performances such as this month's An Evening with the MSO by Melbourne Symphony Orchestra on 29 June possible, with more than 50 musicians on stage.

Alternatively, when more seating is required for major acts, the forestage lift, which sits between the stage and the audience, can be lowered and additional seating added.

Council's new Library service branching out

The rollout of Council's New Libraries Branching Out model is now well under way with a confirmed location for the new Murrayville library, and works either started or soon to commence on services along the Mallee Track and the Millewa.

Under the new model, library services in outlying areas, covered up until now by the mobile library, will feature:

- a placed-based library at the Ouyen Service Centre
- a placed based library at Murrayville
- a weekly pop-up library service for Underbool and Walpeup residents
- a weekly pop-up library service for Werrimull and Lake Cullulleraine residents.

In the case of Ouyen's placed-based library, it will increase library services from the existing eight hours per week to 45 hours.

In Murrayville, the new library, centrally located in Pioneer Park, will increase access from 4.5 hours per week to between six and eight staffed hours, plus 24/7 access for residents who would like to use the library when it is not staffed.

The weekly pop-up libraries for Underbool, Walpeup, Werrimull and Lake Cullulleraine will all operate from local buildings. In the case of the Millewa, the Lake Cullulleraine Tennis Club will serve as the area's pop-up library.

The final component of the new model will see the Christie Centre commence delivery of a number of services from the existing Irymple Library facility.



Corroboree to mark NAIDOC Week 2018

Council is once again partnering with the Aboriginal Action Committee to host a community event in the form of Corroboree to kick off the 2018 NAIDOC Week celebrations.

With live entertainment, art stalls, cultural displays, workshops, and Johnny Cake making – there'll be something for everyone to enjoy!

It's happening at Nowingi Place on Sunday 8 July from 3pm and everyone is invited to join us as we celebrate Aboriginal culture along the riverfront.



Mildura Rural City Council

Madden Avenue Service Centre

108 Madden Avenue, Mildura
Phone: (03) 5018 8100

Deakin Avenue Service Centre

76 Deakin Avenue, Mildura
Phone: (03) 5018 8100

Ouyen Service Centre

79 Oke Street, Ouyen
Phone: (03) 5018 8600

General enquiries:

Phone (03) 5018 8100
mrcc@mildura.vic.gov.au
www.mildura.vic.gov.au



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 on (03) 5018 8100. You can also ask for an interpreter when you visit our Service Centres in person.

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.