

COMMUNITY NEWS



MAY, 2022

\$3.6M ECONOMIC BOOST



More than \$3.6 million has been injected into the local economy as a direct result of the three major events at Glen Willow this year.

A combined 18,228 people made it though the gates to see the NRL Charity Shield: South Sydney Rabbitohs v St George Illawarra Dragons (26 February), Round 4: Manly Warringah Sea Eagles v Canberra Raiders (2 April), and A-League Round 19: Central Coast Mariners v Macarthur FC (26 March).

Economic data shows 67 per cent of Manly v Canberra event attendees were visitors to the region, while 54 per cent of A-League attendees and 66 per cent of Charity Shield attendees were visitors to the region. On

average, these visitors spend \$163 a night based on a two night stay. They eat in local restaurants and cafes, stay in local motels, and shop. The flow on economic benefits of major events are among the reasons why Council works to partner with professional clubs to secure multi-year games. Based on these visitor numbers Council estimates the Manly v Canberra game generated \$1.4 million for the local economy, whilst A-League generated \$400,000 and Charity Shield \$1.8 million.

Feedback on these events has been overwhelmingly positive, with comments like: "It honestly was organised and run amazingly, I have been to every rugby league event since 2013 here in Mudgee it was no

problems with gates opening times facilities offered and instructions from event staff, council workers and police were all awesome," and "The town is welcoming - the vibe is great. Our third year and it just gets better."

Council will host the Charity Shield again in 2023 with a date to be announced later this year.

\$3.6m

benefit to the region's economy after three major events

18,228

combined crowd number of the two NRL and A-League games

94%

of event attendees said they would return to the region

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

As a Local Government organisation, one of the most important things we do is budget and plan for the projects Council will undertake each year. Council has prepared the draft 2022/23 Operational Plan and Delivery Program which is now on exhibition. This plan sets out how much Council will spend on projects and activities. I'd encourage residents to take a look and provide their feedback (details inside).

Council has a fantastic new online tool to help you track your daily water usage, the peak periods and possible leaks. Register at yourwater.midwestern.nsw.gov.au.

More information about registering is available in your latest Water Notice.

It's great to see a number of projects being ticked off already this year, such as the Billy Dunn Oval Amenities Building in Gulgong (read more inside). This project like many others was partially funded with NSW Government funding. Council works hard to secure grant funding wherever possible to continue to provide for our community without placing that burden on ratepayers.

Mayor Des Kennedy



WOLLAR ROAD REOPENED AFTER REALIGNMENT

Wollar Road has reopened following an extended closure to realign two dangerous curves as part of the three-year road safety upgrade.

Motorists should continue to exercise caution as the road remains unsealed and operating under traffic control. These works are part of the \$6.8 million Wollar Road Upgrade, jointly funded by Council and the NSW Government through its Restart NSW Fund and Saving Lives on Country Roads programs.

The project includes road widening, pavement upgrades and further safety improvements to Wollar Road between Cooyal and Cumbo within the Munghorn Gap National Park which has sadly been the location of a number of traffic incidents in recent years, including motor vehicle fatalities. It is expected the project will be completed in its entirety in June, weather permitting.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS SUMMIT INFORMING LOCALS

The third annual Central West Young Entrepreneurs Summit, hosted in Mudgee's newest venue, has been met with excellent feedback from both attendees and speakers.

Local business owners, students and staff in a range of industries from real estate to retail, learnt from some of Australia's most successful young entrepreneurs who grew their startups into international companies.

Hosted at the all new Mudgee Arts Precinct, more than 40 attendees heard from *The Block* favourites and professional renovators Kyal and Kara (pictured), co-creator of one of Australia's biggest swimwear brands *Budgy Smuggler*, Adam Linforth, founder of Australia's largest eco store *Flora & Fauna*, Julie Mathers, founding partner of bespoke food tour company *Straight To The Source*, Tawnya Bahr and co-founder of *Knafeh/The Bearded Bakers*, Ameer El-Issa.

Chief Smuggler at *Budgy Smuggler*, Adam Linforth took the audience on a journey from very humble beginnings in a Manly garage to now having offices in the UK.

"I would have loved something like this when I was first starting out," Adam said.

"Probably the best thing about hearing from some of the other speakers is that we talk about all the things that went wrong, and we probably learn from that as much, if not more, than what's gone right.

"There was a really good mix of young people from school-aged to people who are starting their own businesses to those who have established businesses. I've been through all those phases so I really enjoyed getting to share each of them." This year's event was proudly delivered by Council with funding through the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities and Regional NSW Business Event Development funds.



PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK

Council's Draft 2022/23 Operational Plan and Delivery Program is now on public exhibition and can be viewed on Council's website. The plan sets out the projects and activities which Council is committed to over the coming financial year and during this term of Council, with measures, time frames, and responsibilities identified. Feedback can be submitted on Council's website midwestern.nsw.gov.au and closes Friday, 20 May.

TOWN HALL CINEMA

Dog (M), *Off the Rails (M)* and *The Bad Guys (PG)* will hit the big screen this month on 6, 7 and 8 May. Tickets at Council's website or at the door (unless sold out prior) from \$15 for adults and \$10 for children and concession. Entry is free for children under 5 years. Be sure to buy your tickets early to avoid missing out.

COMMUNITY PLAN

The Mid-Western Region Towards 2040 Community Plan is now on public exhibition and can be viewed on Council's website until Friday, 20 May. This is Council's highest level strategic plan and sets out the community's vision for the future - where we are and where we want to be. It has been developed following an extensive consultation with more than 1500 residents. Their input provides the direction of the plan.

NEWS IN
BRIEF

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT CALLOUT FOR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Did you know that the simple act of driving can help those who don't have access to safe and reliable transport?

Mudgee Community Transport is a government funded service that provides safe, reliable and affordable transport for older people, people with a disability and those living within our community without access to suitable public transport options.

The service is increasing its valuable team of volunteers who assist by driving clients to a range of activities and appointments locally and regionally, as

well as to Sydney and back.

Volunteers need: an unrestricted Australian driver's licence, to pass health assessments to meet commercial vehicle driver standards, to undertake three yearly National Police History Checks and be up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations. Volunteers will be provided with training (including first aid).

If you're interested please contact Mudgee Community Transport on 6378 2710 or visit the Carmel Croan Community Centre in-person.



BILLY DUNN OVAL GULGONG NEW AMENITIES

An all new amenities building has been constructed at Billy Dunn Oval in Gulgong to improve facilities for female sport.

The building includes dedicated change rooms for women, as well as toilets, showers, basins, referee's bathroom and storeroom. There were previously no suitable female amenities at the ground. This purpose-built facility will improve accessibility to sport for local women. Council secured \$122,000 in grant funding to construct the building through the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund.



LANDHOLDER GRANTS UP TO \$20,000 OPEN 2 MAY

One off-grants of between \$5000 and \$20,000 are available to landholders along the Cudgong River and its upper tributaries to undertake rehabilitation activities on private property. Landholders and community groups are eligible for projects including revegetation, waterway clean up, weed and pest control, exclusion fencing, and installation of erosion control structures. Landholders who are willing to provide in-kind assistance (site preparation, slashing and/or

ripping, fence installation, planting and watering) and a commitment to ongoing maintenance will be highly regarded. Applications open on 2 May via Council's website (midwestern.nsw.gov.au) and close 5 June. Properties must be located within the Mid-Western Regional Council Local Government Area. The program has been funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers Program.



BOOK CLUB FOR BUSY MUMS

The Library's latest book club, 'I Heart Books' is a new light reads group for busy mums who love to read. Meeting at Mudgee Library on the first Friday of each month (from now until November) from 10am-11am. Join other mums in a child-friendly environment to chat about books. Register at mwrclibrary.eventbrite.com

CHEMICAL CLEANOUT

Council is offering residents the chance to safely dispose of potentially hazardous household chemicals on Friday, 27 May at Mudgee and Kandos Waste Facilities. Household quantities of garden chemicals, pool chemicals, household cleaners, hobby chemicals, poisons, batteries, paint, motor oils, fluids and fuels, fluorescent lights, gas bottles, fire extinguishers and smoke detectors will be accepted.

LOCAL ART EXHIBITIONS

Two all-local exhibitions are currently on show at Mudgee Arts Precinct. *A Brief History of Mudgee* is a series of whimsical paintings that reimagine the region's history by Michael Bourke and Pamela Welsh's exhibition of small sculptures are based around the extraordinary story of Princess Alexandra of Bavaria who was convinced she had swallowed a glass grand piano as a child.

TRY-A-TRADE FAIR

Do you have teenage children or are you a high school student interested in a career with Council? Council staff will be on hand to talk about employment opportunities with one of the region's largest employers at the annual Try-A-Trade Fair at Mudgee High School on 24 May. Learn about the various traineeships on offer in a range of Council departments both outdoor and indoor.



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EVENTS CALENDAR



6
MAY

Town Hall Cinema

Mudgee Town Hall

Held on the first weekend of each month. Adults \$15, children/concession \$10 and children under 5 free. Bookings and screenings on Council's website.



19
MAY

Cementa

Various venues

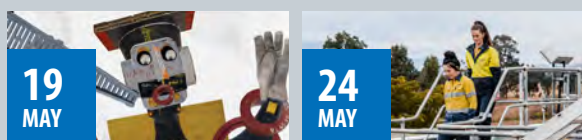
Cementa is a four day, 40 artist celebration of unique arts and culture including exhibitions, workshops, artist talks, performances and more.



15
MAY

National Road Safety Week

Every year, approximately 1200 people are killed and 44,000 are seriously injured on Australian roads. Road Safety Week aims to highlight the impact of road trauma and ways to reduce it.



24
MAY

Try-A-Trade Fair

Mudgee High

Students from across the region can learn about traineeship opportunities available with Council and other employers.



18
MAY

Mid-Western Regional Council Meeting

Council Chambers, Market Street, Mudgee From 5.30pm

Two meetings will be held this month on 18 and 25 May.



11
JUNE

Henry Lawson Festival 11-13 June

Gulgong

Step back in time to the gold rush days and take part in games, bush dancing, poetry and a street parade.

All information correct at the time of publication. Events may be subject to change based on Health Orders. Please contact event organisers for further details.



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Live.

Serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) is regarded as one of the worst grass weeds within the Mid-Western Region, due to its quick-spreading ability and zero grazing value to stock. Infestations result in a significant loss in production, and dense infestations can completely dominate pastures and take over new areas within four years. Each mature plant can produce up to 140,000 seeds per year and it is estimated in NSW alone, Serrated tussock has caused losses of up to \$40 million in lost production. The optimum time for spraying is during the vegetative growth stage which is between March and June.

Work.

Mid-Western Regional Council is an award winning organisation offering a range of career opportunities in areas such as admin, planning and development, water supply, parks and gardens, libraries, operations and community services. Council is an equal opportunity employer and values diversity in its people. For current positions vacant, go to 'Careers' on Council's website.

Invest.

Construction has commenced to reinvigorate the Rylstone Caravan Park. As part of Stage 1 a new amenities building and minor road upgrades will take place and Stage 2 will include demolition of the existing amenities, extension to internal roadways and playground. Council secured \$154,525 in NSW Government grant funding through the Stronger Country Communities Fund to deliver the project.

Visit.

Regular daily flights from Mudgee to Sydney have resumed. For six weeks, FlyPelican will operate a return flight between Mudgee and Sydney daily from Sunday through to Friday. Tickets will start at \$149. Residents are encouraged to consider using the service when possible to maintain adequate passenger numbers, and allow the continuation of regular flights between Sydney and Mudgee. To book visit flypelican.com.au