

COMMUNITY NEWS



COUNCIL WINS

THE AR BLUETT AWARD



Council has won the state's top local government award – the 2022 AR Bluett Award. Council was named the winner in the Regional/Rural category at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference in October.

Awarded annually since 1945, the AR Bluett Award is the greatest accolade a council can receive and is recognised as the pinnacle of local government achievement. Council previously won the award in 2013.

Bluett Trustee Chairman, Les McMahon said Council completed a number of key projects over the past year that improved customer service and diversified the local economy.

"Mid-Western Regional Council's focus on driving improvements across all facets of its organisation has delivered enormous benefits for its community," Mr McMahon said.

"It completed a range of projects including the Mudgee Arts Precinct and Stage 2 of the Glen Willow Regional Sporting Complex, while also

undertaking a range of customer service improvements."

General Manager Brad Cam said Council demonstrated how it delivered beyond the standard rates, roads and rubbish accountabilities.

"Whilst we did complete and deliver on some major capital works projects, we also implemented smart technologies to monitor our water usage, reduce our electricity consumption with LED street lighting and in turn offset it with a Council-owned Solar Array," Mr Cam said.

"We've improved services for our community with an all new website, reduced our environmental footprint by diverting 11,200 tonnes of organic waste from landfill and worked with state and federal governments to immunise our community against COVID-19.

"I would like to acknowledge the work of Council's 472 employees who give their all and are passionate about providing for our community."

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

As you'll read, Council has won the 2022 AR Bluett Award. This award is the greatest achievement in local government and we're extremely proud to have been recognised for the work delivered for our community. I am pleased that judges recognised we've maintained a strong and healthy financial position, whilst also delivering a number of major projects. On behalf of all Councillors, I thank Council's staff and the work they do each day to make our region such a fantastic place to work, live and visit.

Preparations have begun for next year's Council budget and now is the community's opportunity to put forward the

projects they'd like to see for 2023. I am often approached by residents with ideas for new projects or service improvements. If you have an idea for new infrastructure or upgraded facilities in your area, now is the time to have your say and submit a Community Plan Proposal. Every proposal is considered for the budget as we set out the projects to be delivered in the upcoming Financial Year.

I'd like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and festive season. I hope you can enjoy some time with your family and friends. Please take care and stay safe on our roads.

Mayor Des Kennedy

MUDGEE ARTS PRECINCT BUILDING DESIGN RECEIVES STATE ARCHITECTURE AWARD



Credit: Elise Hassey

Mudgee Arts Precinct's building design has been recognised by the Australian Institute of Architecture.

The design by BKA Architecture received the Institute's 2022 NSW Country Division Award for Public Architecture.

Jury Chair, Noel Thomson said: "The Mudgee Regional Arts Precinct blends the refurbishment of the former Cudgong Shire building with a new gallery environment containing flexible exhibition spaces, tourism offices and

ancillary facilities. "The design captures a contemporary expression of the arts and architecture respecting and enhancing an existing heritage environment." Council staff worked collaboratively with BKA Architecture, Hutchison Builders and Create NSW to design a building that delivered on all the community's needs and was both eye-catching and sympathetic to the local heritage streetscape.

SUBMIT A BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR NEW COUNCIL PROJECTS

Council has commenced its budget planning for the next financial year and is encouraging residents to submit proposals as part of the process.

Residents can put forward a 'Community Plan Proposal' (CPP) for new infrastructure, projects, activities and improvements throughout the region to be considered in the 2023/24 Operational Plan.

The plan sets out the projects and activities which Council is committed to over the coming financial year, as well as measures and time frames to achieve this. The plan includes Council's Revenue Policy (Rating Model), 2023/24 proposed Fees and Charges, Capital Works Program, Annual Budget and Delivery Program.

Successful community proposals that have recently

been completed include hand dryers in Gulgong Memorial Hall, replacement of synthetic surface at the cricket nets at Victoria Park Gulgong (pictured), and renewal of footpath in Memorial Park Mudgee.

Proposals can be made on Council's website from now until 9 January.



NEWS IN BRIEF

ROAD CLOSURE INFORMATION
Where can you find up-to-date road closure information during weather events like flooding? Get it straight from the source on Council's website and Facebook page. Council updates local road closure information in real time, as well as sharing information about highways when it becomes available. Visit midwestern.nsw.gov.au/road-closures

AUSTRALIA DAY IN RYLSTONE
The region's 2023 Australia Day ceremony will be held at Rylstone Showground on Australia Day - Thursday, 26 January 2023. Enjoy a free barbecue breakfast from 8am followed by the official ceremony. Presentation of awards in six categories, including Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year will begin at 9am.

MOBILE LIBRARY CHANGES
The Library will be introducing a new and improved Mobile Library schedule over coming months to enhance and consolidate the service. The new schedule will come into effect from February 2023, and existing customers will be notified directly of any changes to their current schedule. To learn more about the service visit Council's website.

COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND FACILITY UPDATES OVER CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Council Customer Service Centres, Works Depots and Libraries will close for the Christmas break from 12 noon on Thursday 22 December 2022, and reopen on Wednesday 4 January 2023.

Waste facilities in Mudgee, Gulgong and Kandos will be closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Kerbside waste collection and essential services will not be affected over the Christmas and New Year break and will continue as normal.

Please ensure that your bins are placed out the night before your collection day.

Local swimming pools will be closed Christmas Day but will be open Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Council's on-call staff will remain on duty and available during this period to respond to urgent enquiries on 1300 765 002. For updates visit Council's website midwestern.nsw.gov.au



SUPPORT THE REGION'S BUSINESSES SHOP LOCAL

It is more important than ever to shop locally this Christmas and support local businesses. Spending locally means money stays in the community, boosting the local economy and maintaining the employment of the 1,060 people who work in the region's retail industry. Local consumer data* revealed that residents spent \$46.3 million outside the region in the December 2021 quarter. If ten per cent of this amount (\$4.63 million) was instead spent locally, it would create 35 new jobs and provide a major boost to the region's economy.

* Spendmapp by Geografia (2022)



NEVER DRIVE, SWIM, PLAY OR FISH IN FLOOD WATER

The region was hit by two successive flood events within two weeks of each other in October. With further major downpours forecast for the summer, Council is reiterating the message of the NSW SES to never enter flood waters.

General Manager Brad Cam said flooding events may continue, and residents are urged to abide by road closures and follow advice from the SES.

"If you see a closure sign never disregard it. The road has been assessed and closed by Council because the road is either flooded or badly damaged. If you come across a flooded road, simply stop and turn back," Mr Cam said.

"We are aware that people have been playing, even boogie boarding and fishing in flooded areas and parks, which is extremely dangerous.

"As you'll hear from the SES, flood water can be faster flowing and deeper than it appears, and can also contain sewage, poisons, dead animals and debris.

"Flash floods erode road and path surfaces, leaving potholes, sinkholes and other dangers. Please do not encourage anyone, particularly children to play in flooded areas. Never drive, ride, or walk through flood water."



TOWN HALL CINEMA

The Woman King (M), *Mrs Harris Goes to Paris* (PG) and *Little Monsters* (PG) will hit the big screen this month on 2, 3 and 4 December. There will also be a special advanced screening of *The Lost King* (M). 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. Rotary proceeds from the weekend will go towards the *End Polio Now* fundraiser.

RECYCLE YOUR WRAPPING

Remember to recycle this Christmas! Wrapping paper and cardboard boxes can be recycled in your blue bin or at a waste transfer station. To reduce your impact and waste, consider green gift options like plants, seeds, gift certificates for experiences, or buying vintage or second hand gifts.

FUNDING FOR LOCAL GROUPS

Council has provided \$19,451 to support local organisations in the latest round of its Community Grants Program. These groups include Mudgee Lions Club, Running Stream Recreation Reserve Trust, Mudgee Fine Foods, Mudgee Region MTB, Gulgong Memorial Hall Committee, Kandos Rylstone Men's Shed, Rotary Club of Mudgee Sunrise and the Country Women's Association Kandos Branch.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Willy Wonka invites you to participate in the Library's scrumdiddlyumptious Summer Reading Program in December and January. Register at your local library and join in the fun for your chance to win some great prizes. Keep track of your reading, complete bonus activities to earn extra tickets in the prize draw, and win a golden ticket. Follow the Library Facebook page for details.



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EVENTS CALENDAR



2-4
DEC

Town Hall Cinema Mudgee Town Hall

Generally 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.



14
DEC

Mid-Western Regional Council Meeting

**Council Chambers,
Market Street, Mudgee
From 5.30pm**

Meeting live-stream available on Council's website.



17
DEC

Mudgee Showground Carols

Hosted by the Rotary Clubs of Mudgee and Mudgee Sunrise. Family friendly event, local entertainment, food, and Christmas Carols by local choirs. FREE entry. Gates open from 4pm.



17
DEC

Gulgong Christmas Celebration

Anzac Park, Gulgong

Games and kids activities. Have your photo with Santa and go in the draw to win great prizes. BBQ and drinks available (gold coin donation).



22
DEC

Council Christmas period closure

Customer Service Centres, Works Depots and Libraries close from 12 noon on Thursday 22 December, and reopen Wednesday 4 January, 2023.



25
DEC

Christmas Day

Council pools will be closed on Christmas Day, open Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Waste facilities will be closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

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



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Live.

A number of public spaces and facilities in Gulgong have been the target of increased vandalism and graffiti attacks. In the past 18 months, Council has spent more than \$40,000 to repair and replace assets. To combat this anti-social behaviour, Council will install camera surveillance and security lighting at venues that have been graffiti hotspots and where public safety and crime is a proven concern. If you see someone committing vandalism please report it to police.

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.

Council has published an all new Economic and Business Profile for the Mid-Western Region following the release of the latest Census data. The 2022 profile features key statistics that provide a comprehensive overview of the region's business and economic environment, and information on living, working, and investing in the region. This information is highly useful for new and existing businesses, and investors. The profile is available on Council's website.

Visit.

As part of the festive season, Council has provided \$11,655 to Christmas events throughout the region including the Mudgee Showground Carols (17 December), Gulgong Christmas Celebration (17 December) and Mudgee Lions Community Twilight Market and Festival through its Community Grants Program. For more details on Council-supported events visit Council's website
midwestern.nsw.gov.au