

COMMUNITY NEWS



FEBRUARY, 2023

MAP PORTRAIT PRIZE



The inaugural MAP Portrait Prize is now open to the public, exhibiting works from 89 finalists.

Close to 400 entries were received from across Australia for the exhibition that is being held in conjunction with the Next Gen Portrait Prize, showcasing 100 submissions from local students.

Gus Armstrong's artwork *High waters on the shoulders of giants* 2022 (pictured) received the Mid-Western Regional Council Best Portrait Prize.

The exhibited artworks include a broad range of subjects and styles in a cross section of artistic genres including painting, sculptures, photography, mixed media, drawing, ceramics and video. Gallery Curator, Lizzy Galloway said the standard was incredibly high for a first-time art prize.

"The most encouraging part of the exhibition has been seeing the high standard of creativity that exists within our region," Ms Galloway said.

A full list of prize winners at mudgeeartsprecinct.com.au

The MAP Portrait Prize and Next Gen Portrait Prize will be on exhibition until 12 March. Voting for the SPS Solar People's Choice Prize and the Next Gen People's Choice Prize can be done at the gallery and will be announced soon.

400

total number of entries received for the inaugural MAP Portrait Prize

89

entries shortlisted for the final exhibition

100

submissions to the Next Gen Portrait Prize from local students

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

If you get a chance this month, head on over to the Mudgee Arts Precinct to see the fantastic display of local talent on show for the inaugural Portrait Prize. The works will absolutely blow you away, ranging from kids as young as two-years-old right through to professional artists.

Council has reopened and is preparing for another big year of capital works and maintenance to improve infrastructure and amenities around our region. I'd like to thank those residents who submitted a Community Plan Proposal that is now being considered as part of budget planning.

It'll be another jam packed year of events in 2023, kicking off with the Charity Shield later this month followed by Manly v Newcastle. Stay tuned for the announcement of some more exciting events as we make our way through the year. You can always stay up to date by visiting Council's events calendar on the website, as well as Facebook.

As you'll read inside, we continue to prioritise road repairs and have put on an additional three pieces of machinery to expedite works. Please be patient as we work our way through the region.

Mayor Des Kennedy

Gus Armstrong, *High waters on the shoulders of giants* 2022



EXTRA RESOURCES ALLOCATED TO ROADS TEAMS TO FAST-TRACK REPAIRS



POTHOLE REPAIRS PRIORITY

Council has hired an additional three pieces of plant specifically designed for pothole repair work to combat the impacts of ongoing wet weather.

The two tar trucks and Jetmaster truck, combined with emergency funding from the NSW Government, will help Council to ramp up its efforts to make repairs to the network, with a focus on our busier local roads and regional road network as a priority.

“There is a lot of work to do right across the road network and this will take time,” Council’s Director Operations, Julian Geddes said.

“So while this funding is a good start, there is a lot of damage not covered by pot hole funding that Council is aiming to fix under other disaster funding. We appreciate the community is frustrated with the condition of the road network as are we but we are encouraging people to be patient and drive carefully.

“Please also obey all traffic control signs and be careful around Council workers on the roads. It’s a dangerous job and at the end of the day we want all our staff to be able to go home to their families.”

COUNCIL PROVIDES \$25,000 TO SUPPORT LOCAL GROUPS

More than \$25,000 has been provided to local organisations as part of the latest round of Council’s Community Grants program.

Council provided \$10,000 to the Gulgong Chamber of Commerce for its annual administration and operation. The Chamber administers, finances and operates six community activities and programmes and assists many community groups throughout the region.

Mudgee Show Society received \$5000 for the upcoming Mudgee Show and Rodeo, an event that brings the community together and showcases the region’s local livestock, arts and crafts, food and talent.

Mid-Western People Against Violence Committee received \$5000 for its NSW Women’s Week and International Women’s Day community lunch.

The Gulgong and District Campdraft Association was provided \$5,625 to upgrade the Gulgong Campdraft grounds to improve safety for competitors, spectators, horses and livestock.

Council’s Community Grants Program provides financial and in-kind support to not-for-profit community organisations, local projects and activities that contribute to community outcomes and goals that align with Council’s Community Plan. Applications are available on Council’s website by searching ‘Community Grants’.

NEWS IN BRIEF

GET YOUR NRL TICKETS

The Manly Warringah Sea Eagles will head to Mudgee on Saturday, 1 April to take on the Newcastle Knights for Round 5 of the NRL Telstra Premiership. Gates open at 12 noon, followed by the curtain raiser at 12.30pm and kick-off of the main game at 3pm. General admission tickets start at \$28 for adults, \$18 for concession card holders, \$18 for juniors (5-15 years old) and \$80 for a family of four. Get yours today at 123tix.com.au

SIGN UP TO YOURWATER

Sign up to Council’s Smart Water Meter portal, YourWater, and keep track of your water use. Along with daily data on the amount of water being used in the home, customers can review water charges and set up email and SMS alerts to notify of possible water leaks and high consumption periods. Register at yourwater.midwestern.nsw.gov.au

RETURN AND EARN NOW LOCATED IN GULGONG

Gulgong now has a Return and Earn reverse vending machine located at Council’s former treatment works site, 17-21 Saleyards Lane. The site is open 8am to 6pm daily, and accepts cans, bottles, cartons and juice boxes. The majority of containers between 150ml and 3 litres are accepted and can get you a refund. However, they must: not be crushed or broken, be fully empty and have the label attached.

GETTING TO THE GAME: 2023 CHARITY SHIELD DRAGONS V RABBITOHS

The St George Illawarra Dragons will take on the South Sydney Rabbitohs for the sixth annual Charity Shield at Glen Willow this month.

Gates for the Saturday, 18 February game open at 1pm, followed by the Knock-On Effect NSW Cup - Dragons v Rabbitohs curtain raiser at 1.15pm.

Kick-off for the main event will begin at 3.30pm.

Patrons are encouraged to catch the free shuttle bus. Buses will pick up and drop off in various locations throughout the CBD as well as

Mudgee west. A full list of stops is available on Council's website.

A low floor bus will be available from the Mudgee CBD for patrons requiring assistance. Glen Willow Stadium is a short 1km walk from Mudgee CBD across Holyoake Footbridge. The Glen Willow Suspension Bridge will be closed.

More game day information on Council's website. Tickets starting from \$28 for Adult General Admission and \$80 for a family of four. On sale now at 123tix.com.au



Source: NRMA

COMING SOON: ELECTRIC VEHICLE FAST CHARGER

An electric vehicle fast charging station will be installed in Council's Short Street car park. The NRMA will install the new four bay charger as part of the Australian Government's Electric Highway Commitment to have charging stations located no more than 150km apart on national highways. The location was selected due to its proximity to amenities, Tourist Information Centre and town centre. Construction is due to commence in the new year with the completed facility accessible 24/7. There is currently an EV charger in The Stables car park at 82 Market Street, Mudgee.

PRECINCT AWARDED FOR INAUGURAL YEAR PROGRAMMING

Mudgee Arts Precinct has been recognised for the construction of the facility and delivery of its inaugural year of programming at the IMAGInE Awards.

The Precinct was the recipient of the Innovation and Resilience Award, which recognises the outstanding efforts of museums and galleries during hardship and celebrates excellence and innovation in exhibition practice, resilience-building projects and engagement programs. In an announcement of the award, IMAGInE said:

"The construction of Mudgee Arts Precinct's state-of-the-art regional gallery provides a cultural hub for the region and creates a platform for diverse local talent.

"The innovative design of the building was complemented by an exceptional inaugural year of programming which highlighted the region's artists and celebrated a strong connection to place. The local community and visitors to the region are embracing the new artistic hub with attendance reaching over 34,796 in 12 months."



TOWN HALL CINEMA

The Lost King (M), *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* (PG) and *A Man Called Otto* (M) will hit the big screen this month on 3, 4 and 5 February. 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.

SELF-SERVE AT THE LIBRARY

Skip the queues and borrow using your phone. Enjoy contactless self-service and easily borrow any title direct from the shelf by scanning the barcode with your smartphone. This free app provides a one-stop shop for all of the library's services, and can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play Store. Keep your library with you, everywhere you go.

REPORT A KOALA SIGHTING

Have you seen a koala in the region? Council's Environment team are dedicated to conserving our natural environment, and are aiming to discover current koala habitats in order to protect those areas and allow for future grant funding opportunities to plant effective corridors, connecting habitats. Report a sighting on Council's website by searching 'koala'.

INDOOR POOL UPDATE

Council has finalised a Business Case to be used in future funding applications for the Mudgee Indoor Pool. Significant capital investment of up to \$60 million is required for this project and Council will continue to engage with the NSW Government and other potential funding partners. Updates and milestones of the project can be found on Council's website under the *YourSay* tab.



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EVENTS CALENDAR



ALL
FEB

MAP Portrait Prize

The inaugural exhibition is on display now until 12 March. Take a look at some of the 89 finalists in the Mudgee Arts Precinct and Next Gen Portrait Prize. Free entry.



3-5
FEB

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.



11
FEB

Official opening

Mudgee Arts Precinct Workshops
Official opening of the workshop space that includes rooms for artists in residence, community training room and recording booth.



15
FEB

Mid-Western Regional Council Meeting

Council Chambers, Market Street, Mudgee
From 5.30pm

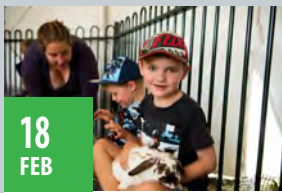
Meeting live-stream available on Council's website midwestern.nsw.gov.au



18
FEB

2023 Charity Shield

Glen Willow Stadium
Watch the South Sydney Rabbitohs and St George Illawarra Dragons for the sixth annual Charity Shield in Mudgee. Tickets at 123tix.com.au



18
FEB

Gulgong Show

Gulgong Showground
Head along to this traditional country show where you'll experience a rodeo, pavilion and local events.

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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follow '@choosemudgeeregion' on Instagram
follow 'mwrCouncil' on TikTok



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Live.

There has been significant grass growth across the region this summer, increasing the risk of life threatening grass fires. How to protect yourself and your property:

Clear flammable materials and slash areas of long, dry grass around structures like the home and shed; with the appropriate approvals (Fire Permit), conduct a controlled burn on your property to reduce fuel; plough firebreaks around each paddock boundary to prevent the spread of fire; rotate stock across the property to ensure paddocks are well-grazed; prepare and maintain sturdy hoses and water pumps in case you need to defend your property. For more information visit rfs.nsw.gov.au/grass

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 secured \$42,500 in NSW Government grant funding to purchase a Youth Services vehicle for local youth activities, events, training, and community services. Council will match funding for the vehicle which will increase local youth accessibility, participation and socialisation. Funding was secured through the NSW Government's 2022-23 ClubGrants Infrastructure Grants Fund.

Visit.

It's showtime across the region. Annual shows give the community a chance to celebrate local achievements and recognise the region's produce and agricultural excellence. Shows are held across the region's showgrounds that boast purpose-built pavilions and dedicated facilities. Council is proud to support local shows which engage, educate and entertain local communities.