



COMMUNITY NEWS



DECEMBER, 2023

FESTIVE LOCAL SHOPPING



Residents are encouraged to embrace the spirit of the season and show their support for local retailers in the region this Christmas.

Shopping locally isn't just about finding the perfect gift, it's about boosting the local economy and creating lasting job opportunities.

By keeping our spending within the community a positive ripple effect is created. Local businesses benefit, which in turn supports schools, community groups, and residents of the region.

Local consumer data revealed that residents spent \$23.6 million outside the region in the month of December 2022. If 10% of this amount (\$2.36 million) was spent locally it would potentially create 21 local jobs (Data compiled using

Remplan and Spendmap by Geografia).

This year, businesses in Mudgee are extending their hours with late-night shopping every Thursday evening until 7pm in the lead-up to Christmas. It is expected that extended shopping hours will contribute significantly to the local economy.

Enhanced by new Christmas street decorations and beautifully lit trees, this year promises to be the most festive shopping experience yet.

23.6m spent in December 2022 outside of the region

2.36m if 10% of outside spend was captured locally

21 jobs could be created from spending local



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

As we look back on 2023, there have been many achievements to celebrate.

Our local roads have seen significant improvements throughout the year. Road improvement and sealing projects have made our roads safer and more user-friendly for everyone in our community, and visitors who frequent them.

Congratulations to the Mudgee Health Services Team who are celebrating after the Emergency Department was crowned the winner of the 2023 College of Emergency Nursing Australasia (CENA) Emergency Department of the Year. This achievement is well deserved and

serves as testament for their dedication, and exceptional delivery on the quality of service provided for the community.

I ask the community to support our businesses during the holiday season by choosing to shop locally. Your patronage within the region helps to sustain our local economy, and helps to safeguard jobs for local residents.

If you are travelling these holidays, be mindful on the roads, and have a wonderful holiday season, spending quality time with your loved ones.

 Mayor Des Kennedy

GET READY MID-WESTERN



PLANNING FOR DISASTERS

How informed are you and your family in the event of a bushfire?

Get Ready Mid-Western is a disaster preparedness initiative that guides families on how to better protect themselves from all types of natural disasters, including bushfires, storms and floods.

Households will find valuable advice on where the nearest evacuation centres are, along with tips on how to prepare your own fire escape plan.

Council has available free document wallets for the community to keep important paper work together in the event of an evacuation.

Get Ready wallets are available for collection from Council, local Businesses, and administration buildings across the LGA.

For more information on what you can do to be prepared this summer, visit midwestern.nsw.gov.au.

KEEPING KIDS SAFE AT LOCAL POOLS THIS SUMMER

As the warmer weather approaches, it's the perfect time to make use of Council's pools and water park. If you plan to visit the Mudgee, Gulgong, or Kandos pools, please keep in mind a few simple rules to ensure safety for yourself and others.

Here are some key points for parents to keep in mind:

- Watch your own child/children.
- Lifeguards are here to watch over everyone in the pool and make sure everyone stays safe. However, please keep in mind that they can't replace the need for responsible supervision. Their priority is your safety and enjoyment.
- Remember that you bear the primary responsibility for your child's safety.

Avoid sun damage this summer by making sure you and your children are protected from the sun by using a high rating SPF sunscreen and /or protective clothing including a broad rim hat.

For more information on pool operating hours, visit Council's website midwestern.nsw.gov.au.



NEWS IN BRIEF

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN B?
During this summer's festive season, let's keep in mind the importance of planning for a safe journey home after a night out. If you've consumed alcohol, please refrain from driving and instead, have a backup plan ready. In December and January, let's all work together to enhance road safety by designating a sober driver. Your responsible choices can help make our roads safer for everyone.

AUSTRALIA DAY IN MUDGEE
The region's 2024 Australia Day ceremony will be held at Robertson Park on Australia Day - Friday, 26 January 2024. Enjoy a free barbeque breakfast from 8am followed by the official ceremony. Awards will be presented in six categories to acknowledge the achievements and community contributions of the nominees.

RECYCLE YOUR WRAPPING
Ensure a green Christmas by recycling your wrapping paper and cardboard boxes in the blue bin or at the local waste transfer station. To minimise waste and environmental impact, think about gifting green gift options like plants, seeds, experience certificates or choosing second hand items. Recycling mindfully this Christmas is the best gift you can give to the environment.

COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND FACILITY UPDATE OVER CHRISTMAS

Council Customer Service Centres, Works Depots, and Libraries are scheduled to close over the Christmas holiday period, commencing at 12 noon on Friday 22, December 2023 and re-opening Tuesday, 2 January 2024.

Waste facilities in Mudgee, Gulgong, Rylstone and Kandos will not be operating on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day.

Kerbside waste and critical services will remain unaffected during the Christmas and New Year break,

continuing as per their usual schedule. Please ensure that you place your bins out the night before your collection day.

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

Council's on-call staff will be on duty and available throughout this period to address any urgent enquiries; you can reach staff on 1300 765 002. For any updates please refer to Councils website at midwestern.nsw.gov.au.



PRESERVING OUR MOST VITAL RESOURCE

The upcoming months are forecasted to bring less rainfall than the usual average. Although water restrictions have not been imposed in the region, it is advised to exercise caution when it comes to water consumption.

Simple steps taken at home can make a significant difference in preserving our regional water resources. By addressing a leaky tap, you not only save money but can also conserve a staggering 12,000 litres of water annually.

For more information visit Council's website midwestern.nsw.gov.au.



SUBMIT A BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR COUNCIL PROJECTS

Mid-Western Regional Council has initiated the budget planning process for the next financial year and is encouraging residents to participate by submitting proposals.

Residents have the opportunity to present 'Community Plan Proposals' (CPPs) for consideration in the 2024/25 Operational Plan. Proposals can encompass new infrastructure, projects, activities, and region-wide improvements.

The Operational Plan outlines Council's commitments for the upcoming financial year. Additionally, it will

provide information about measures and time lines to accomplish these projects. The plan will include critical elements such as the Council's Revenue Policy (including the Rating Model), proposed Fees and Charges for 2024/25, the Capital Works Program, Annual Budget, and Delivery Program.

Recent successful proposals include, the Rylstone playground, and shade sails installed at Gulgong Kandos, Rylstone and Mudgee. Proposals can be made on Council's website from now until 12 January 2024.



SUMMER READING PROGRAM

These school holidays embark on a magical journey with our Summer Reading Program. Register at your local library for a chance to win prizes. Track your reading, complete bonus activities for extra entries, and collect special cards. Visit Council's Facebook page for more details.

RYLSTONE CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Celebrate the season with a free Christmas concert featuring Wollemi Singers, The Llewellyn Choir, and Mudgee Concert Band. Bring your family and friends together for a festive sing-along to classic carols. Rylstone CWA offers food and drinks, or bring your own picnic. Bookings can be made through Eventbrite for catering purposes. This community event will be held at the Rylstone Community Hall on 9 December at 6pm.

SNAKE SEASON BE AWARE

Summer is a great time to be outdoors, however the warm weather brings snakes and other reptiles out of their hibernation in search of food, water and warmth. If you see a snake, remain calm and do not approach the snake, walk away slowly and keep your distance. For more information on what to do if you see a snake visit Council's website.

CHRISTMAS EVENT IN GULGONG

Gulgong is holding their Christmas celebration's at Anzac Park on 16 December, running from 5pm until 8pm. This family-friendly event boasts a variety of activities for children, such as games, face painting, water slide, and a jumping castle. Santa Claus is set to make a special appearance, and a gold donation BBQ will be on-site serving up ample food and beverages.



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EVENTS CALENDAR



01
DEC

Wynne Prize Art Exhibition 2023

Mudgee Arts Precinct

Experience the best of Australian contemporary landscape painting and sculpture. Closes 28 Jan 2024.



1-3
DEC

Town Hall Cinema Mudgee Town Hall

Showing on the 1, 2 and 3 of December. The Creator (M), Paw Patrol (G), Killers of the flower moon (M). Tickets and session times are available on Council's website.



13
DEC

Mid-Western Regional Council Meeting

Council Chambers, Market Street, Mudgee from 5.30pm

Meeting live-stream available on Council's website.



16
DEC

Mudgee Showground Carols

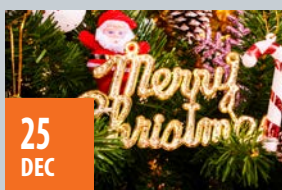
Hosted by Rotary Clubs of Mudgee and Mudgee Sunrise, enjoy local entertainment, food, and Christmas Carols. FREE entry, gates open at 4pm.



22
DEC

Council Christmas period closure

Customer Service Centres, Works Depots and Libraries close from 12 noon on Friday 22 December, and reopen Tuesday, 2 January 2024.



25
DEC

Christmas Day

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

Live.

The region is set for a festive atmosphere this year, as new Christmas decorations adorn Mudgee, Gulgong, Rylstone, and Kandos. New Christmas trees will be positioned throughout the region at Town Hall in Mudgee, Coronation Park in Gulgong, the Rylstone Administration Centre, and Kandos Community Hall. Christmas wreaths and garlands will also be displayed on prominent buildings throughout the region. Council allocated \$200,000 toward this project in response to the communities request for more Christmas decorations.

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.

The Australian Government's Digital Solutions Program helps small business owners navigate the digital landscape, improve digital skills, and boost growth and efficiency. Services include a personalized digital road map, one-on-one expert support, a content library, and 200+ annual webinars and workshops. The Rural Woman Cooperative is delivering this program to small businesses in the western regions of NSW. Learn more at learning.theruralwoman.com.au/digital-solutions.

Visit.

The Mid-Western region boasts numerous natural attractions that many locals and visitors are yet to explore. If you're seeking a place to unwind, consider visiting Ganguddy-Dunns Swamp, a World Heritage site located 25 kilometers east of Rylstone. Situated along the banks of the Cudgong River, you can enjoy activities such as swimming, kayaking, bushwalking, and camping. For more details, visit visitmudgeeregion.com.au.

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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The **Bluett** AWARD
2022 WINNER



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