

COMMUNITY NEWS



▲ JANUARY, 2023



Mudgee will host two NRL games in 2023, kicking off with the pre-season Charity Shield (St George Illawarra Dragons v South Sydney Rabbitohs), and followed by Round 5 (Manly Sea Eagles v Newcastle Knights).

Tickets for both games are on sale now at 123tix.com.au

The sixth annual Charity Shield will kick-off at Glen Willow at 3.30pm on Saturday, 18 February. Gates open at 1pm followed by the Curtain Raiser Knock-On Effect NSW Cup (St George Illawarra Dragons v South Sydney Rabbitohs) at 1.15pm and the main event at 3.30pm.

The NRL will return six weeks later, on Saturday, 1 April when the Manly Warringah Sea Eagles 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 for both games 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. Tickets will be available at the gate for an additional charge, if not sold out prior.

\$1.8m

injection to the region's economy from 2022 Charity Shield

9257

crowd number of the 2022 Charity Shield

66%

of 2022 Charity Shield event attendees were visitors to the region

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

As you'll read Council has secured two NRL games this year. Along with the social benefits of having professional teams play right here in our backyard, these games bring major economic benefits. The three major events at Glen Willow last year (the Charity Shield, Manly v Raiders and Central Coast Mariners v Macarthur FC) generated \$3.6 million for the local economy. That's visitors to our region staying and spending locally.

The region's Australia Day ceremony will be held at Rylstone Showground this year. Come along for a fantastic morning with free barbecue and entertainment followed by the presentation of Australia Day awards.

Council has joined Local Government NSW and the Country Mayors Association of NSW in declaring a Statewide Road Emergency. Regional councils across the state are in desperate need of additional funding and resources to address the impact to country roads following three successive La Nina events. Late last year Council was advised it had been allocated \$778,670 in funding to fast-track pothole repairs, under the NSW Government's Fixing Local Roads Pothole Repair Round. Council will continue to seek additional emergency funding and resources, and undertake road repairs with all available resources.

▲ Mayor Des Kennedy



CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE ON MUDGEES SHOWGROUND'S 150 SEAT GRANDSTAND



READY IN TIME FOR LOCAL SHOW SEASON

Mudgee Showground's all new grandstand has been completed just in time for Show Season.

The all new 150 seat grandstand overlooks the main arena of Mudgee Showground and includes adjoining storage and office space.

Mudgee Showground is used by various community groups including the Mudgee Show Society for a range of events including the Mudgee Show and Rodeo, Mudgee Swap Meet and Eat in Mudgee. Council secured two amounts of grant funding for the development including \$500,000 through the NSW Government's Drought Communities Programme and \$250,000 through Resources for Regions.

The former grandstand was demolished a number of years ago after failing to meet modern safety standards.

MUDGEES ARTS PRECINCT INAUGURAL PORTRAIT PRIZE

There has been an overwhelming response to the inaugural Mudgee Arts Precinct Portrait Prize with around 400 entries received. As the Mid-Western Region's first portrait prize, the level of work entered has been exceptional. It has been particularly embraced by local artists who have painted various identities from our region - especially for this exhibition. You can see the wonderful artistic talent now at Mudgee Arts Precinct (90 Market Street) until 12 March.

The Next Gen Portrait Prize, with portraits by local students, is now also on exhibition in the upstairs gallery until 2 February.

Council would like to extend its thanks to the judges: Alex Wisser, Linda Jackson AO, Kent Buchanan and Steven Cavanagh. Thanks also to generous sponsors: Gora and Ellie Singh Mann, Simon Staines, SPS Solar, Mudgee Art House and The Property Shop for providing cash prizes in six categories.

Pictured L-R: Kim Harding, *Michael Bourke, Some Fish and the Corduroy Coat* (detail); Amber Hammand, *Self Portrait of a Middle Class, Middle Aged, Migrant Muslim Artist - Caught in A Wayward Existentialist Moment* (detail); Justin Pearson, *Mark "Cal" Callaghan* (detail).



MACQUARIE HOME STAY
Council has provided \$55,000 towards the expansion of Macquarie Home Stay in Dubbo. The facility provides regional patients and family with accommodation at Dubbo Hospital. Each year, 16 per cent of patients who stay at Macquarie Home Stay come from the Mid-Western Region. At times, accommodation in Dubbo can be difficult to source and it is important for families from our region that services such as this are available to assist in patient care.

POOL SAFETY FOR SUMMER
Summer has arrived and there are a few simple things to remember to keep your children safe at the region's pools. Lifeguards are responsible for the safety of all patrons and cannot watch your children for you. Parents still need to supervise children at all times while at the pool. This means focusing all your attention on them all of the time, when they are in, on or around the water.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES
Ordinary meetings of Council are held on the third Wednesday of each month in the Council Chambers (86 Market Street, Mudgee) commencing at 5.30pm. Ordinary meetings for 2023 will be held on: 15 February, 15 March, 19 April, 17 May, 21 June, 19 July, 23 August, 20 September, 18 October, 15 November and 13 December. Business papers and minutes for each meeting can be found on Council's website.

AWARD NOMINEES REVEALED FOR 2023 AUSTRALIA DAY

Congratulations to the following Mid-Western Region Australia Day nominees:

Citizen of the Year: Buzz Sanderson and Fiona MacDonald (dual nomination), Craig Bassett.

Young Citizen of the Year: Kirilee Besant, Bree Mackenzie and Charlie Mackenzie

Community Event of the Year: Rylstone StreetFeast, Kandos Street Machine and Hot Rod Show, Mudgee Running Festival and Sculptures in the Garden.

Glen Johnston Memorial Award – Arts and Music: Klancie Freebody,

Theresa Therese and Cheryl Murray (dual nomination), and Katie Fyfe.

Sports Award: Jake Doyle, Rohit (Roy) Prasad, Halli O'Brien, Jessica Reynolds, Deih Hudson, Terry Ford, Tom Rich, Bree Mackenzie and Charlie Mackenzie.

Volunteer Services Award: Martin and Priscilla Weyermann, Carolyn Barlow, Robyn Oakes, Elly Rands and Rohit (Roy) Prasad.

Australia Day Awards will be presented at Rylstone Showground on Thursday, 26 January. Enjoy a free barbecue breakfast from 8am followed by the official ceremony.



2022 Citizen of the Year Simon Bennett with Mayor Des Kennedy and Australia Day ambassador Peter Herbert.



DESIGNS BEING DRAFTED FOR NEW PUMP TRACK

Council has secured \$205,000 in NSW Government grant funding to progress the new Mudgee Pump Track. Designs are in development for the asphalt Pump Track that will be inclusive of all ability levels from young children on balance bikes right through to BMX riders. Residents will have their chance to provide feedback on the design as part of future consultation. Located at Glen Willow, the course will add to the recreation for local children and families with nearby sporting fields, shared pathways and Mudgee Dog Park. Construction is due to commence in the first half of this year.

GOT AN IDEA? SUBMIT A 2023/24 BUDGET PROPOSAL

There's just a couple of days left to submit ideas to be considered in Council's budget planning for the new financial year.

If you'd like to see investments in public facilities, improvements to neighbourhood footpaths or more public toilets – now is your chance to have your say. 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 Operational 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.

Proposals can be made on Council's website at midwestern.nsw.gov.au until Monday, 9 January.



TOWN HALL CINEMA

Seriously Red (M), *Avatar: The Way of the Water (CTC)* and *Strange World (PG)* will hit the big screen this month on 13, 14 and 15 January. 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.

STORMWATER RETICULATION

Did you know Glen Willow's fields harvest stormwater runoff? As part of the recently completed Glen Willow Stormwater Recirculation project, stormwater harvesting and recirculation infrastructure was installed to capture stormwater runoff from the playing fields, utilising the water for field irrigation at a later date. Council delivered this project with \$350,000 in grant funding through the NSW Government's Regional Sport Facility Fund.

COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT

Council is required to prepare an Annual Report summarising the achievements of the financial year, along with a number of statutory disclosures, financial statements and a State of the Environment Report. This year's Annual Report has been finalised and is available to view on Council's website.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

The Library's January school holiday program will be a feast for the eyes, ears and mouth, with a Willy Wonka theme. Watch Willy Wonka movies, make your own factory with building blocks, and of course there will be lots and lots of chocolate! A small fee of \$5 is charged for each activity to cover supplies. For ages 3-12. Bookings at mwrlibrary.eventbrite.com



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EVENTS CALENDAR



ALL
JAN

Mudgee Arts Precinct Portrait Prize

The inaugural exhibition is on display now until 12 March. Take a look at some of the 400 entries in the Mudgee Arts Precinct and Next Gen Portrait Prize. Free entry.



4
JAN

Council reopens

Customer Service Centres, Works Depots and Libraries reopen from the Christmas break on Wednesday, 4 January, 2023. For more information visit Council's website.



13-15
JAN

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.



26
JAN

Australia Day

Rylstone Showground

Enjoy a free barbecue breakfast from 8am followed by the official ceremony including Citizenship Ceremony and announcement of Australia Day awards.



28
JAN

Kandos Street Machine and Hot Rod Show

Simpkins Park, Kandos
Two day show from 28-29 January. Burnouts and show 'n' shine. Follow the event on Facebook for more information.



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.

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.

Council has been allocated \$778,670 in funding to fast-track pothole repairs, under the NSW Government's \$50 million Fixing Local Roads Pothole Repair Round. Council has joined Local Government NSW and the Country Mayors Association of NSW in declaring a Statewide Road Emergency. As a collective these organisations are seeking an acceleration and significant increase in existing road funding packages as well as new funding to provide councils with plant machinery and skilled workers to expedite road repairs.

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.

Starting a new business in the New Year? Council provides a range of support for local businesses at MudgeeRegionBusiness.com.au and MudgeeRegionJobs.com.au. These websites connect businesses with potential customers and job seekers. In addition, Council publishes a monthly business e-newsletter, and provides free access to key economic data to support business strategy, funding submissions, regional marketing, and investment attraction. Visit midwestern.nsw.gov.au/Business for details.

Visit.

Council was forced to make the difficult decision to postpone the 29 October A-League fixture due to forecast flooding that did eventuate and impact Glen Willow. Council is in talks with the Central Coast Mariners and A-League to host a game in the new year. Dates, ticketing information and game details will be announced on Council's website and Facebook page.