

## AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2024

# NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN



(L-R): 2023 Citizen of the Year Craig Bassett, 2023 Ambassador Catriona Rowntree, and 2023 Young Citizen of the Year Kirilee Besant

### Nominations for the 2024 Australia Day Awards are now open on Council's website.

There are six categories to nominate someone who has made a difference in our community and deserves recognition for their achievements and contributions.

Categories include: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Event of the Year, Glen Johnston Memorial Award – Arts and Music, Sports Award and Volunteer Services Award.

Craig Bassett (pictured above left) was named the 2023 Citizen of the Year for being an integral voice for the Mid-Western Region for more than a decade. Craig is

a passionate advocate for the region and its services. His respectful, responsible, accurate and tireless reporting during COVID-19 and natural disasters earned the respect of residents, local organisations and Council.

Australia Day Awards nominations are now open on Council's website at [midwestern.nsw.gov.au](http://midwestern.nsw.gov.au) and close Thursday, 30 November.

The region's 2024 Australia Day ceremony will be held at Robertson Park, Mudgee on Australia Day – Friday, 26 January 2024. 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.

6

Australia Day award nomination categories

26

January 2024: Australia Day

8am

The region's Australia Day breakfast commences



### FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

It's fantastic to see the region's public art collection growing with three new sculptures recently installed along various points of the Lawson Park Sculpture Walk (details inside).

Our pools have now reopened in time for the warmer weather. Head along and enjoy these fantastic community facilities including the Mudgee Water Park.

As you'll read, Council engaged directly with the wider community, seeking input on our Robertson Park Mudgee draft Master Plan. Once adopted, this Plan will guide the

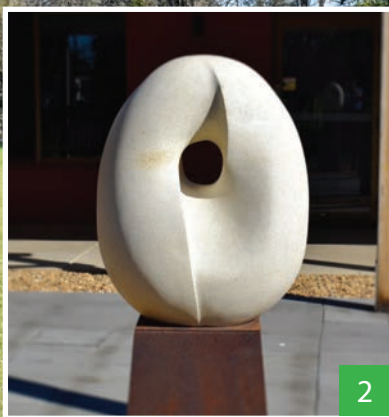
future development and operation of Robertson Park. Thanks to everyone who provided their feedback.

It's great to see major grant funded projects now complete, including installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, the Rylstone Caravan Park stage 1 upgrade, and a new transport connection from Glen Willow to Putta Bucca Road (details inside). These projects all enhance the liveability of our region, and support residents, visitors and local businesses.

Mayor Des Kennedy



1



2

Main image: 'Stallion' by Francois Jaggi  
 1. 'The Bird Man' by Ludwig Mlcek  
 2. 'Familia' by Bridget Whitehead

## NEW SCULPTURES INSTALLED IN MUDGEE

Three new sculptures were recently installed in Mudgee following their selection at last year's Sculptures in the Garden event.

'Stallion' by Armidale's Francois Jaggi, was installed in Lawson Park West. 'The Bird Man' by Rylstone's Ludwig Mlcek, and 'Familia' by Cardiff Heights' Bridget Whitehead, were installed in the surrounds of the Mudgee Arts Precinct.

The new sculptures enhance the region's public art collection, and provide an enjoyable attraction for residents and visitors. Council is proud to have been a partner of Sculptures in the Garden from its inception. Since 2013 Council has acquired works from the exhibition that are added to the Public Art Collection which is expanding into Rylstone.

Later this month Council will add more sculptures to the region's public art collection following their selection at the 2023 Sculptures in the Garden event which will be held from 7 to 22 October. Information on the selected sculptures will feature in a future edition of the Community News.

## EV CHARGERS INSTALLED THROUGHOUT THE REGION

**A range of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations were recently installed throughout the region to support the use and uptake of EV technology.**

Two new 180kW NRMA EV fast charging stations (pictured) were installed in Council's Short Street car park, and form part of the National EV Charging Network being delivered and co-funded by the NRMA and Australian Government. Council is proud to collaborate with both organisations and be the site host for the two fast charging stations which offer a total of four EV chargers. The installation saw the 100th EV charger being made operational within NRMA's expanding EV charger regional network.

22kW Destination EV charging stations (each featuring two EV chargers) were installed at the Mudgee Arts Precinct's Cultural Workshops car park, the Council car park at corner of Herbert/Holtermann Streets Gulgong, and the Rylstone Memorial Hall.

Council secured a \$17,847 grant towards the charging stations through the NSW Government's NSW Drive Electric - EV Destination Charging Grants, and co-founded the project.

Council is proud to deliver the new EV charging stations which will support EV visitation, and existing EV users throughout the region.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

**GET BUSINESS NEWS ONLINE**  
 Council publishes a monthly business e-newsletter titled 'Doing Business in the Mid-Western Region'. Each edition features important information on available government business support, grant opportunities, local business events, free online training opportunities, and much more. Subscribe to the e-newsletter and read previous editions at [mudgeeregionbusiness.com.au](http://mudgeeregionbusiness.com.au)

## FREE TECH SUPPORT

The Regional Tech Hub, an Australian Government initiative, can provide independent advice and support for residents and businesses on internet and voice options. Obtain free advice on getting connected, improving a connection, and switching to a better or cheaper service by contacting the Hub on 1300 081 029. More information at [regionaltechhub.org.au](http://regionaltechhub.org.au)

## CHRISTMAS SHUTDOWN

Council Customer Service Centres, Works Depots and Libraries will close for the Christmas break from 12 noon on Friday 22 December 2023, and reopen on Tuesday 2 January 2024. There will be minimal closures at other Council facilities and services will continue without interruption. On-call staff will remain on duty and available during this period to respond to urgent enquiries on 1300 765 002.

# RYLSTONE CARAVAN PARK UPGRADE

## STAGE 1 COMPLETE

A new amenities building was recently constructed at the Rylstone Caravan Park as part of its stage 1 upgrade. The amenities building, featuring toilets, showers, storage, laundry, baby change room, reception office and outdoor camp kitchen, is a vital addition to the facility and increases accessible visitor services. The existing amenities building was also demolished under stage 1 works.

Council secured \$154,525 through the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund, and contributed \$499,809 towards the project.

The caravan park's stage 2 upgrade will include the extension and upgrade of the facility's existing internal road, and installation of five new accommodation cabins; water, sewer, electrical, and fire services; vehicle parking sites; drainage; fencing; wash bay; and signage. The stage 2 upgrade is anticipated to commence later this year and be completed by June 2025.

The Rylstone Caravan Park currently offers powered and unpowered sites for visitors.



# CUDGEGONG WATERS PARK

## NEW BUILDING

A new building featuring a café facility, kiosk, and reception office was recently constructed at the Cudgegong Waters Park. A car park was also constructed to support the new building which will provide more services for campers and day visitors to the caravan park.

The project will increase the amenity of the Cudgegong Waters Park, and help attract more tourists and residents to enjoy recreational activities at Windamere Dam. Council secured \$500,000 toward the project through the NSW Government's Resources For Regions Fund.

# PUTTA BUCCA ROAD: GLEN WILLOW CONNECTION OPEN

A new road and shared pathway connecting the Glen Willow Regional Sporting Complex to Putta Bucca Road recently opened to the public.

The project, which includes a bridge over Lawson Creek, now provides residents an alternate route into and out of the sporting complex, improving both vehicle and pedestrian safety. The new transport connection will improve accessibility to the sporting complex for drivers and pedestrians, particularly on major sporting weekends. Residents are advised to follow the speed sign postings along the new road and throughout Glen Willow. Roundabouts are being constructed to improve the safety of users of the new

transport connection.

The shared pathway component completes the Mudgee CBD to Putta Bucca Wetlands walking loop, and will also connect the new training camp facility (currently under construction) to the Mudgee township, wetlands and sporting complex facilities.

Council secured \$3.11 million through the NSW Government's Resources For Regions Fund, and \$1.68 million through the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program for the transport connection project.



### LIBRARY'S AUTHOR TALK

On 23 October, Mudgee Library invites residents to hear award-winning author Christine Sykes discuss her novels *The Changing Room*, *The Tap Cats of the Sunshine Coast*, and her memoir of social mobility, cultural diversity, and unprecedented opportunities; *Gough and Me*. Bookings are essential at [mwrclibrary.eventbrite.com](http://mwrclibrary.eventbrite.com)

### FIRE SEASON STARTS EARLY

The Bush Fire Danger Period for 2023/24 was brought forward, due to increased bush and grass fire risks. All landholders in the region must obtain a Fire Permit before lighting any fires. Fire Permits are available for free from the local Brigade Fire Permit Officer. For more information call the Cudgegong District Fire Control Centre on 6372 4434 and visit the NSW Rural Fire Service website at [rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://rfs.nsw.gov.au)

### DISPOSAL OF BATTERIES

Residents are urged to recycle batteries at the Mudgee Community Recycling Centre (CRC) instead of disposing of them in household bins. The Mudgee CRC is located at the Mudgee Waste Facility, and is a free and easy solution for the year-round disposal of household problem waste such as batteries, paints, gas bottles, motor oils, smoke detectors and fluorescent globes and tubes. For more information visit [midwestern.nsw.gov.au](http://midwestern.nsw.gov.au) and [epa.nsw.gov.au](http://epa.nsw.gov.au)

### ENHANCED GREEN SPACE

An open green space has been created in the grounds of St John The Baptist Anglican Church Mudgee, following the opening of the existing sandstone wall on Market Street. A joint initiative between Council and the Anglican Parish of Cudgegong Valley, the green space provides toilets at the rear of the church for public use, and will be enhanced with additional trees, paving, and refurbishment of outdoor furniture.



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## EVENTS CALENDAR



OCT

### Messages in the Sky Mudgee Arts Precinct

The exhibition features the artists' ongoing investigation of air transport and collaborative work with local youth.



7-22  
OCT

### Sculptures in the Garden

#### Rosby Wines

Exhibiting sculptures in the surrounds of a Mudgee vineyard. Each year works are acquired as part of Council's public art collection.

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



### Stay up to date with Council news as it happens...

like 'Mid-Western Regional Council' on Facebook  
follow '@choosemudgeeregion' on Instagram  
follow 'mwrCouncil' on TikTok



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6-8  
OCT

### Town Hall Cinema Mudgee Town Hall

Showing on 6, 7 and 8 October, *Oppenheimer (MA)*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem (PG)* and *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3 (PG)*. Tickets and session times on Council's website.



7-8  
OCT

### Mudgee Masters Glen Willow Stadium

A fun and friendly over 35s football tournament. More information and registration at [mgwfc.com.au](http://mgwfc.com.au)



18  
OCT

### 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](http://midwestern.nsw.gov.au)



29  
OCT

### Western Region Dragon Boat Regatta

#### Cudgegong Waters Park, Windamere Dam

Dragon Boat Clubs will meet in the spirit of friendship and happy rivalry to conduct boat races on Windamere Dam.

## Live.

A Master Plan for Robertson Park Mudgee is currently in development following recent consultation with the wider community. Once Council adopts the Master Plan, it will guide the future development and operation of Robertson Park. Additionally, the Master Plan will help restore and improve park elements to better reflect contemporary demand and usage. Final adoption of the Master Plan is anticipated within the coming months.

## 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.

Latest consumer expenditure data has revealed that 9.5 million(m) transactions worth a total of \$801m were conducted in the Mid-Western Region by residents, businesses and visitors in 2022-23. This is an increase of nine per cent on the previous financial year. Of the \$801m, local residents and businesses spent 70 per cent (\$558m); an increase of six per cent on the previous financial year. Visitors spent 30 per cent (\$243m); an increase of 18 per cent on the previous financial year.

Source: Spendmapp by Geografia

## Visit.

The NSW Primary School Sports Association's (PSSA) 2023 Girls Rugby 7's Championships were hosted at the Glen Willow Regional Sporting Complex last month. Teams from across metropolitan and country NSW were in attendance. 624 visitors, including the players' family members, were attracted to the region for the multi-day rugby championships carnival which injected an estimated \$427,000 into the local economy.