

COMMUNITY NEWS



OCTOBER, 2025

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN



2025 Australia Day Ambassador, Joanne Taranto with Citizen of the Year, Carol Jones, Young Citizen, Grace Pearce and Mayor, Des Kennedy.

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Australia Day Awards, celebrating those who have made a significant impact on the community.

The six award categories are Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Event of the Year, the Glen Johnston Memorial Award for Arts and Music, Sports Award, and Volunteer Services Award.

Local charity volunteer Carol Jones was awarded 2025 Citizen of the Year for her dedication to the community as President of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. Carol works tirelessly as an advocate for people experiencing disadvantage within the region.

Grace Pearce was awarded Young Citizen of the Year as an active leader and passionate

advocate for youth in agriculture.

The 2026 Australia Day ceremony will be held at Rylstone Showground on Monday, 26 January, 2026. A complimentary barbecue breakfast will start at 8am, with the official ceremony and award presentations beginning at 9am. To nominate someone who deserves recognition, visit Council's website at midwestern.nsw.gov.au. Nominations close Monday, 1 December.

6

award categories to nominate

26

January - date of Mid-Western Regional Council Australia Day Ceremony

8am

free barbecue breakfast at Rylstone Showground



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

As you'll read, nominations are open for next year's Australia Day Awards. If you know someone who gives their time and effort to our community please take two minutes to nominate them. Without these nominations we can't recognise the many wonderful people doing great things in our region.

Our libraries have received a staggering 80,980 people through their doors over a 12 month period - that's more than 6,500 visits per month. It's great to see so many in our region utilising these services with 13,995 memberships - more than half of our community. These figures tell a powerful story: our libraries are not just buildings with books, they

are places where residents of all ages come together. Council is proud to continue supporting these services that contribute so strongly to the wellbeing and vibrancy of our community.

Council is seeking community feedback on future uses for the non-operational rail corridor between Rylstone and Gulgong. This is a unique opportunity to help shape how the corridor might be used in years to come. I encourage everyone to take a few minutes to complete the survey on Council's website. Your feedback will ensure Council has a clear understanding of the community's preference.

 Mayor Des Kennedy

RYLSTONE TO GULGONG RAIL CORRIDOR

HAVE YOUR SAY



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK FOR FUTURE RAILWAY USE

Council is inviting the community to give feedback as it explores the potential future use of the non-operational rail corridor between Rylstone and Gulgong (via Lue and Mudgee).

Owned by the NSW Government, uses for the corridor may include a rail trail, lobbying for returned passenger train services, or other viable options.

A rail trail is a shared-use path along a disused railway, providing a safe, off-road option for walking, cycling and tourism. In NSW, rail trails help preserve transport

corridors, support local economies, and offer accessible infrastructure for all ages and abilities. It does not prevent the corridor from being used for rail in the future.

Your feedback will help shape the future of this corridor and ensure it meets the needs of the community.

Feedback can be made on Council's website at midwestern.nsw.gov.au or via the QR code above. Alternatively, residents who receive a printed rates notice will also get a paper form with their notice.



80,980 VISITS TO LOCAL LIBRARIES LAST YEAR

Council's Library Services continues to be one of the most valued community resources, with impressive figures recorded across the last financial year. From Mudgee, Gulgong, Kandos and Rylstone branches, to the mobile library that connects outlying villages, small schools, aged care facilities, and housebound members, our libraries reached thousands of residents of all ages.

In the past year:

- 109,177 items were borrowed, from books and magazines to DVDs and games.
- 43,476 eResources were accessed, including eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers, streaming services and learning tools.
- 73,309 new items were added to collections,

keeping content fresh and relevant.

- The mobile library completed 1,069 outreach visits, bringing books and services to residents who may not otherwise have access.
- 80,980 visits were recorded across all library branches, showing just how well-loved these spaces are.
- Membership has grown to 13,995 residents – more than half (53%) of our community.

These numbers reflect more than just statistics – they show how important libraries are for learning, connection, and community life. Whether it's borrowing a book, jumping online, joining a program, or catching up with friends, our libraries are places where everyone is welcome.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ULAN ROAD WORKS

Motorists are advised upgrades have commenced on a 1.6 kilometre section of Ulan Road. The rehabilitation works are being undertaken from Huntington Estate to Crowleys Lane and are expected to take approximately three months, weather permitting. The section of road will remain open under traffic control but motorists are encouraged to allow extra travel time on their journey.

GONE FISHING DAY

Gone Fishing Day will be held at the Lawson Park Barbecue Pavilion on Sunday, 19 October from 8am to 1pm. Register on the day to take part in the friendly fishing competition, tackle swap, or reel repair. There will be prizes up for grabs and a free sausage sizzle to keep you fuelled. All experience levels welcome.

REPTILE SHOW AT MUDGEY LIBRARY

Get up close with amazing reptiles at the Reptiles On The Go wildlife show, on Wednesday, 8 October at Mudgee Library. This wildlife show gives children aged 6-12 the opportunity to learn about reptiles, conservation and the natural world in a hands-on, safe and engaging way. Bookings are essential, visit mwrclibrary.eventbrite.com.

REGION'S POOLS OPEN WITH ADDITIONAL HOURS IN MUDGEE

The region's three pools in Mudgee, Gulgong and Kandos, are now open for the summer swimming season, seven days a week. For a list of opening hours visit Council's website: midwestern.nsw.gov.au.

Following the trial of an extended pool season last summer, Council has permanently increased the season by opening Mudgee Pool early mornings (6am - 10am) on the fringe of the season in September and May.

From time to time, the pools may close to the public to accommodate school and swimming club carnivals. Details on these closures and standard opening hours are available on Council's website.

Season passes are \$100 for children (2-16 years old), \$140 for adults, \$310 for a family of two adults and three children (\$15 for each additional child) and \$100 for pensioners/seniors. Applications are available on Council's website: midwestern.nsw.gov.au.



MUDGEE REGIONAL AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

The Mudgee Regional Airport Master Plan has been adopted by Council. The document presents a clear vision for the airport, with strategic goals and objectives that guide future development initiatives to 2035.

The Plan was developed through a comprehensive community consultative process to ensure it reflects the diverse needs of the community. It integrates existing reports and plans, such as the future development of the North Land Airpark subdivision plan and the Mudgee Regional Airport development controls. The Master Plan will help ensure the site is well-positioned to meet the demands of a growing region while supporting both economic growth and community needs. For more information visit Council's website.



MUDGEE MIRACLE DRAWS RECORD NRL CROWD

A sell-out crowd of 9925 fans filled Glen Willow Stadium in August for the NRL Telstra Premiership Round 25 clash between the Penrith Panthers and Canberra Raiders, marking the biggest crowd ever seen at the venue.

The blockbuster match not only brought top-flight rugby league to the region but also injected an estimated \$2.03 million into the local economy through visitor spending on accommodation, dining, retail, and tourism experiences.

In the end it went down to the wire as the Canberra Raiders took down the Penrith Panthers 20-16 in a nail-biting golden point. The success of the event reinforces Glen Willow's reputation as one of the premier regional stadiums in New South Wales and a cornerstone venue for bringing major events to the Central West. The Penrith Panthers return to Glen Willow in 2026 as part of a two-year agreement with Council. Dates to be announced later in the year when the 2026 NRL Draw is confirmed.



AUSLAN AND READ-ALONG

Library members can access new features in Storybox Library. The literary eResource for children has recently added a Read-Along feature and Auslan sign element to many of their new stories, with more on the way. The interactive experience in these videos will build confidence, and hopefully foster a love of reading. Visit the Library's eResources page to log in with your library card for free.

NATIVE FROG WORKSHOP

Discover the fascinating world of our local amphibians at the Native Frog Workshop on Thursday, 6 November from 6pm to 8.30pm at the Mudgee Arts Precinct Cultural Workshop Centre. This hands-on evening will introduce you to the unique frog species that call our region home followed by a guided night walk along the Cudgegong River and Putta Bucca Wetlands. Bookings at midwestern.nsw.gov.au

SCRAP TOGETHER FOGO BIN

Do you know what can go in your green-lid 'FOGO' bin? FOGO stands for Food Organics and Garden Organics. Only food and plants can go in the green-lid FOGO bin. Keep all plastic, packaging and general rubbish out of your FOGO bin. Making sure only food and plants go in helps us look after our farms, our food and our families.

RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION

Royston Harpur: A Painter's Painter is now open at Mudgee Arts Precinct. The retrospective exhibition celebrates the life and work of late Australian abstract painter and poet, Royston Harpur (1938-2023), a key figure in Australian abstract painting during the 1960s and '70s, with a practice deeply influenced by Ch'an (Zen) Buddhism. The Precinct is open seven days 9am - 5pm. Entry is free.



CR DES KENNEDY
MAYOR
6378 2850



CR ALEX KARAVAS
DEPUTY MAYOR
0428 670 905



CR MARCUS CORNISH
0437 549 237



CR KATIE DICKER
0407 234 849



CR ELWYN LANG
0458 595 380



CR ROBBIE PALMER
0407 246 381



CR ROD PRYOR
0476 462 293



CR PETER SHELLEY
0403 156 405



CR PERCY THOMPSON
0428 740 226
6374 0226

EVENTS CALENDAR



8 October

Rylstone Kandos Family Fun Day

Rylstone Showground

10am - 1pm. Face painting, BBQ and more.



11 - 26 October

Sculptures in the Garden

Rosby Wines

sculpturesinthegarden.com.au



14 October

NSW Small Business Month Workshop

Mudgee Arts Precinct

Future-proof your marketing. Details at midwestern.nsw.gov.au



15 October

Mid-Western Regional Council Meeting

Council Chambers, Market Street, Mudgee. From 5.30pm

midwestern.nsw.gov.au



16 October

Big Bash Cricket Match

Victoria Park Oval

5pm start. One of several events as part of the month-long fundraiser. pinkupmudgee.com.au



18 - 19 October

NSW Touch Football Country Championships

Glen Willow

Representative event conducted by NSW Touch Football.



18 - 19 October

Gardens of Mudgee

Various Locations

Six private gardens open to the public. Details at mudgeegardenspectacular.org.au



19 October

Gone Fishing Day

Lawson Park

Fishing competition, prizes, free sausage sizzle. Details at midwestern.nsw.gov.au



1 November

Rylstone Street Feast

Louee Street, Rylstone

Sample the diverse range of local foods, produce, wines, art and craftwork. rylstonestreetfeast.com.au

Live.

Bring the whole family along to the Rylstone Kandos Family Fun Day at the Rylstone Showground on Wednesday, 8 October from 10am to 1pm. This free community event has something for everyone – from art workshops, to face painting, a jumping castle and novelty games guaranteed to keep the kids entertained. Families can also enjoy a classic sausage sizzle. A highlight of the day will be the touch football showdown between our local emergency responders and youth aged 8+. It's set to be a fun-filled morning of activities, food and connection. Don't miss out – mark your calendar and join us!

Work.

Looking to kickstart your career? Council offers a range of fantastic traineeship opportunities throughout the year across various departments. Traineeships provide valuable on-the-job experience while you gain a nationally recognised qualification – the perfect first step into local government or a new career pathway. If you or someone you know is interested, keep an eye on Council's website for upcoming positions and application details: midwestern.nsw.gov.au.

Invest.

As part of NSW Small Business Month, Council is offering a free Future-Proof Your Marketing workshop on Tuesday, 14 October, 5pm - 7pm at the Mudgee Arts Precinct. Learn how to harness artificial intelligence (AI), reach the right audience, boost visibility with Generative Search Optimisation (GSO), and apply quick-win tools to save time. To register, visit midwestern.nsw.gov.au.

Visit.

Council is proud to support Pink Up Mudgee again this year, helping raise awareness and funds for the McGrath Foundation. Through Council's Community Grants Program, \$3,500 has been provided for the Pink Up Mudgee 10 Year Morning Tea celebration and Council will also plant pink flowers throughout Mudgee in a show of support for the initiative. Among a list of month-long events, the Pink Up Mudgee Big Bash will be held at Victoria Park Oval on 16 October. More details at pinkupmudgee.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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Mid-Western Regional Council

86 Market Street | PO Box 156 MUDGEE 2850
T 02 6378 2850 or 1300 765002 | F 02 6378 2815
E council@midwestern.nsw.gov.au
midwestern.nsw.gov.au