

Kyogle Council Working together to balance Environment, Lifestyle and Opportunity.















## Kyogle Council votes to **STANDALONE**

Kyogle Council resolved at its November meeting that it will standalone as a Council and not identify a merger partner under the Fit for the Future process.

The Council will make a submission to the State Government arguing that it should be allowed to continue to operate as a autonomous council.

As part of that submission, the Council will point out that it met all but one of the State Government's Fit for the Future local government reform criteria, including the sustainability, infrastructure and service management, and efficiency benchmarks in the financial criteria checklist.

The only criteria Council failed to meet was scale and capacity, a benchmark that has since been heavily criticised by the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government and Local Government NSW.

The specific options identified for Kyogle Council under Fit for the Future were for it to remain a standalone council as part of a Northern Rivers Joint Organisation or merge with either Lismore City or Richmond Valley Councils.

Mayor Danielle Mulholland said there was little, if any, appetite in the community for a merger.

"This was demonstrated by the attendance at the November Council meeting of a large and vocal crowd who were opposed to amalgamation," she said.

"Council prides itself on its grassroots representation and we are determined to keep delivering the same, if not an improved, standard of representation to our ratepayers and residents.

"It's going to be business as usual for Kyogle Council and we will continue to lobby State and Federal Governments to fix the funding shortfall and cost shifting to local government."

### LEST WE FORGET





The Woodenbong Remembrance Day service.





Since our last newsletter, a number of things have come to pass.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new General Manager, David Tuxford. David has an extensive background in local government and is proving to be a valued and experienced leader of our Council.

I've been puttering around the LGA as usual and attended a Rural Women's Day at Old Bonalbo. It was a great opportunity for rural women to get together, share some stories and be informed by some great local presenters. As per usual, the morning tea spread was fabulous and it was only with difficulty that I dragged Councillor Reardon away from it!

A tip of the hat goes out to Malcolm Wallis, our Economic Development Officer for pulling together the agri-business seminar.

Kyogle Council is taking the lead in coordinating these workshops to inform and educate the agricultural sector about potential opportunities available in relation to product demand, market selection, collaboration and resources available to farmers and landowners.

The NOROC annual general meeting and ordinary meeting were held on 6 November and I am pleased to announce that

Jenny Dowell was re-elected as President and I was re-elected as Deputy President.

I look forward to working with Jenny and my other Northern Rivers colleagues over the next year, especially with the Joint Organisation proposal on the table.

During the ordinary meeting, we had a presentation from Lisa Braid from Department of Premier and Cabinet regarding the Premier's new priorities and a discussion on State Planning priorities.

The NOROC Mayors travelled to Sydney on 12 November to speak with a raft of Ministers about various issues.

The actual local races at Tabulam this year, had to be cancelled but the event itself went ahead and was a great success. Congratulations to the organisers for another well-run day and we all look forward to next year.

"Women Light the Way" was a candlelight vigil, remembering the 72 victims who lost their lives to domestic violence and reinforcing that violence against women, indeed, violence against anyone is not acceptable under any circumstances.

Council has resolved that we will stand alone as a Council and not identify a merger partner under the Fit for the Future process.

Stay tuned for further updates,

#### Danielle Mulholland



Kyogle district residents took part in the national Women Light The Way candlelight vigil to remember the 72 Australians who have lost their lives to domestic violence so far this year.





Above: Kyogle Council Mayor Danielle Mulholland, far right, was a guest at the Rural Women's Day at Old Bonalbo.

Left: Members of Bonalbo Central School's Agriculture Team competing at the Lismore Show Led Steer Competition.



## Council releases its ANNUAL REPORT

Over the past 12 months Kyogle Council has replaced eight old timber bridges, refurbished another timber bridge, undertaken improvements to the Clarence Way near Muli Muli, and completed reseals on parts of Fawcetts Plain, Green Pigeon, Horseshoe Creek and Homeleigh roads.

Council also bought land at Tabulam for construction of a new rural fire service brigade headquarters, undertaken improvements to the Kyogle Sewage Treatment Works, replaced the fencing at the Woodenbong and Old Bonalbo cemeteries and upgraded footpaths in Tabulam.

These are just some of Kyogle Council's achievements for the 2014-2015 financial year outlined in the Council's annual report.

The full report was tabled at Council's 9 November Ordinary meeting and can be viewed at Council's website.

It shows that Council's income for 2014-2015 was \$24,312,000 while its expenditure was \$24,967,000, leaving it with a deficit of \$655,000 for the year. This represents a significant improvement on the previous financial year which saw Council finish the 2013-2014 year with a \$4.6 million deficit.

Of the eight timber bridges Kyogle Council replaced last financial year, six were replaced with concrete culverts (two on Duck Creek Road and one each on Baraimal Lane and Terrace Creek, Hillyards, and Sandy Creek roads).

The other two bridges on Yabbra Road and Sextonville Road were replaced with new concrete and steel bridges.



The new modular steel bridge which was erected over Doubtful Creek at Sextonville during construction. It replaced an old timber bridge.

Other achievements listed in the report include:

- Initial sealing of part of Tooloom Street, Mallanganee
- New bus shelters at Woodenbong and Wiangaree
- Resealing of Lions Road near the border lookout and additional guardrail
- Improvements to the Kyogle Seniors Centre building
- Improvements to the amenities and facil- Improvements to the storage and landities at Don Gulley Oval, Kyogle
- New outdoor gym equipment at Woodenbong
- New fencing at Aboody Park, Wiangaree
- Memorial seating at Amphitheatre Park, Kyogle in memory of John Creighton
- Completion of the first stage of the drainage upgrades in Junction/Curtois Streets, Kyogle
- Installation of solar PV system at the Urbenville Water Treatment Plant (50/50

- with Tenterfield Shire Council)
- Extension of the Bonalbo sewerage reticulation to service the Bonalbo Rural Fire Services brigade headquarters
- Replacement of the mechanical aerators at the Woodenbong and Bonalbo Sewage Treatment Works
- Improvements to the outdoor seating area at the Kyogle swimming pool com-
- scaping at the Kyogle cemetery
- Construction of additional stage of the landfill cell at the Kyogle waste facility
- Construction of a recycling shed and new weighbridge at the Kyogle waste
- Completion of the pre-construction activities associated with the Kyogle flood modification works and award of the construction contract.

### **SHORT STORY**

#### competition on Our Town

A short story competition in memory of the late Helen and Harry Flower will be run by the Kyogle Literary Group.

The competition, sponsored by Kyogle Council, will be open only to residents of the Kyogle Local Government Area.

The competition will be run in three sections: section 1—eight to 12 years; section 2-13 to 15 years; section 3-16 years and over (adults).

Entries are to be a maximum 2000 words and must include a cover sheet stating the name, age, address and contact details of the author.

The theme of the short story competition is Our Town.

Prizemoney of \$700 will be up for grabs. Send entries to Kyogle

Library by Saturday 6

February, 2016 marked 'Entry: Helen and Harry Flower Memorial Short Story Competition.



## Lessons, legacies and COMMON THREADS

Common Threads - Items of Manufacture is the latest exhibition at Kyogle's Roxy Gallery.

It showcases the story behind the local baskets featured in the 'Encounters Project' at the National Museum.

The baskets were bequeathed to the British Museum by Mary Bundock from Back Road Station Wiangaree.

They were made by local Aboriginal women and form part of a bigger story around early settlers and Aboriginal first encounters.

The local Aboriginal people had highly developed basket making skills and knowledge.

It was the dream of the late Aunty Patsy Nagas that the knowledge and techniques employed by her ancestors would be rediscovered and used by local Aboriginal people to maintain and develop their culture for the future.

As a professional basket maker/fibre artist Janet Wilson was privileged to have been invited by Aunty Patsy to work with local people to discover common roots, and important legacies and lessons behind these baskets.

From this the Guli-Bal Living Culture Group was established.

With the support and encouragement

given to the Guli- Bal Living Culture group by Aunty Patsy, the group ran a series of basket making workshops where skills and knowledge of basket making techniques and natural fibres were shared.

The group also undertook a research project around the early encounters of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in this region through the diaries of Mary Bundock.

As part of that project, the Guli Bal Living Culture Group has tried to learn about the language used in the collection, the fibres and techniques employed in making the baskets in this collection and the history behind Mary Bundock and Back Road Station in Wiangaree.

As part of the Common Threads -- Items of Manufacture exhibition, a host of local

artists will join the Guli Bal Living Culture Group to tell their stories behind the techniques of basket making with natural fibres from this region and the story of encounters between Aboriginal and early white settlers to this region.



This untitled painting by Jai Darby Walker is part of the Common Threads—Items of Manufacture exhibition at the Roxy Gallery

The exhibition runs until 5 December.



## Community gym has **NEW LOGO**

The Kyogle Community Gym has adopted a new logo, *pictured right*, (thanks Josie) and a new payment option for members.

By paying on-line, \$12.50 per week (\$10.50 concession) patrons get entry into every general session at the gym, Monday to Saturday.

Whether you are a morning person, or you prefer to go to the gym after work or while the kids are at school, Kyogle Community Gym caters for you.

It is open from 6am Monday to



Friday and closes at 9pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. Check Facebook for all gym session times.

Patrons can also purchase fixed term memberships, which are even better value.

The gym is located under the grandstand at the Kyogle Show-ground and has an extensive range of exercise and fitness equipment.

## **FESTIVE** art exhibition

BankHouse Originals at Mallanganee will hold its Festive Season Art Exhibition Opening on Sunday 29 November at 1pm (gallery will be open all day).

The exhibition features exciting new works from artists and makers from across the region.

Those attending can chat with the artists including Gail Galloway, a writer/poet and image maker from Tenterfield; Sue Jurd, textile artist extraordinaire; Fiona McDonald, artist/illustrator/publisher; Wendy McGain, artist; Susan Kaden, sculpture artist; and regular exhibitors John Reeve, Kathy Pollitt, Keith Cameron, Marion Arent, and Nicole Heckel.

So make a day out of it, relax, be inspired and come along and support the area's many talented local artists.



## Council grants aid the COMMUNITY

Kyogle Council has given out Community Assistance Grants worth almost \$10,000 to local organisations and individuals.

The grants were approved by Council at its October meeting.

Organisations to receive grants were: the Wiangaree Sports and Rodeo Committee which received \$1000 to purchase a new fridge for the canteen; Cawongla and District Tennis Club, \$800 to complete drainage works at the tennis courts; Kyogle Landcare, \$700 to purchase bush regeneration equipment; Kyogle Preschool, \$500 to purchase environmental education resources: Collins Creek Public Hall, \$1000 to purchase 12 tables; Watling and Bates, \$689 to implement a social dance program at local aged care facilities; Cawongla Playhouse, \$1000 to replace a damaged

swing frame; Bonalbo Garden Club, \$500 to assist with the costs of running the Bonalbo Garden Party; Tabulam Racing Club, \$1000 towards the cost of promotional material/race books for the annual Tabulam Race Meeting; Kyogle Literary Group, \$700 to cover the costs of prizemoney for the Helen and Harry Flower Memorial Literary Competition.

Individuals to receive grants were: Judy Newton, \$500 to-wards the costs of running a quilting and craft fair; Omega Harrison-Zammit, \$500 to attend a training course; Shallin Fuller, \$500 to cover some of the costs of representing NSW in open boys touch football; Remy Lenard, \$500 towards the cost of participating in the 2016 indoor world archery championships.

Applications for the next round of community assistance grants will open in February, 2016.

## Nominate someone special for an **Australia Day Award**

Kyogle and district residents are being urged to put on their thinking caps and come up with the names of local people worthy of being nominated for an Australia Day Award.

The Kyogle Australia Day Committee is keen to recognise people who have made their mark through their sport, academic prowess or their selfless devotion to the wider community.

Categories for the 2016 Kyogle Australia Day Awards are:

- Junior Sportsperson of the Year.
- Intermediate Sportsperson of the Year.
- Senior Sportsperson of the Year.
- Junior Student of the Year
- Senior Student of the Year.
- Senior Citizen of the Year.
- Citizen of the Year.

Nominations close at 4pm on 16 December 2015 and the committee is asking local community groups, and service and sporting clubs to put the Australia Day Awards on the agenda for discussion at their next meeting. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Kyogle Council website or picked up from the Kyogle Council Chambers, Gateway Office Supplies, Commonwealth Bank Kyogle, Cawongla shop and Wiangaree shop.

# Recycling centre open for business

The Community Recycling Centre (CRC) at the Kyogle Waste Facility was officially opened by Member for Lismore Mr Thomas George last month.

The opening was attended by Kyogle Councillors, and officers of the EPA, North East Waste and Council.

The CRC allows for free drop-off of a number of materials including paint, gas bottles, fire extinguishers, fluoro globes and tubes, household and car batteries, smoke detectors and motor and other oils.

Council encourages all residents to use the free recycling service.

As well as the CRC, there have been a number of other changes at the Kyogle Waste Facility. Residents are reminded that:

• There is a new entry/exit point at the site, which is a few metres east of the old

double gates.

• When driving onto the weighbridge, stop your vehicle well to the left of the weigh station. If you stop your vehicle too close you may knock

your door when getting out to pay.

Markers are going to be placed on the deck of the weighbridge to assist drivers.

- Comingled (mixed) recyclables shouldn't be placed into skip bins in plastic bags. The recycling facility that sorts Council's recyclables isn't currently able to process plastic bags. It's OK to empty recyclables out of plastic bags, but if you're not going to take your plastic bags with you, please place them in the nearby signposted wheelie bin.
- There are designated material bags for aluminium cans only. Please don't place



non-aluminium items (soup cans, pet food cans etc) in these material bags.

- Council will soon be recording loads electronically. Where payment is made, customers will receive an electronic receipt instead of a written receipt. Council asks that customers please be patient while staff are getting used to the new system.
- Council is working to improve the new green waste drop off area.

For further information contact Council's Planning and Environment Department.





## Calendar Calendar

#### **Farmers Market**

The Kyogle Farmers Market is held on Saturday mornings in Stratheden Street, Kyogle (between the Summerland Way and the library). To book a stall phone Rupert on 0403 628 292 or Anne on 6632 1851.

#### Where's your head at?

Kyogle Community Drug Action Team in partnership with Kyogle Youth Advisory Committee will hold an Alcohol and other Drugs Forum at the Kyogle Memorial Institute on Saturday, 12 December from 10am-2pm.

There will be a Q and A pan-

el involving drug and alcohol workers, a psychiatric nurse, youth worker and family domestic violence counsellors. They will speak on a range of topics including the use of ICE or methamphetamine.

The day will also feature fun activities such as sumo suits, live music, graffiti and art. Organisers encourage people of all ages in the Kyogle community to attend.

#### Christmas luncheon

Bookings are now open for the Norther Rivers Care Connections Clients and Friends Christmas luncheon at Flutterbies, Tyalgum, on 2 December. Cost is \$40 for clients. Phone 6632 2194 to book.





### Library news

#### **Meeting venue**

Is your group looking for a free, central location to meet that has easy parking, free Wi-Fi, and is fully airconditioned?

Would your group like to meet for free at Kyogle library in 2016?

Contact Kyogle library staff – they are now taking regular and one-off bookings for meetings in 2016.

#### Pizza and Pages

A free fancy dress themed Pizza and Pages event for "tween" aged children will be held at Kyogle library on Thursday, 26 November, from 4-5pm.

There will be free pizza for the young people taking part as well as a Christmas craft to make and take home on the day.

The theme is Christmas and those attending are encouraged to wear their favourite Christmas t-shirt, reindeer antlers, or Christmas hat.

No need to book, just come along on the day. For further details contact Kyogle library staff on 6632 1134.

#### Christmas paper craft

Free countdown to Christmas paper crafting mornings will be held at

Kyogle library on Tuesday 1 December and Tuesday 8 December at 10am for 10.30am-12.30pm.

As numbers are limited, bookings are essential and can be made by contacting library staff on 6632 1134. Morning tea will be supplied free to all participants.

#### Colouring-in for adults

Is life just too busy to take the break you need and deserve?

Why not join Kyogle library's new colouring-in for adults group.

Colouring-in is fun, relaxing, sparks creativity and promotes mindfulness.

The group's next session is a special one-off meeting before Christmas on Wednesday 9 December at 10am for 10.30-11.30am.

The group generally meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

For further details phone Kyogle library on 6632 1134.



### Book discussion group

The next meeting of the Kyogle Library Book Discussion Group will be held at the library on 15 December at 10am for 10.30-11.30am.

The group is open to anyone who enjoys reading, with the group able to discuss any book a member has enjoyed reading.

It is an informal, friendly group that meets regularly on the third Tuesday of every month. To join, simply drop into Kyogle library or phone 6632 1134 for further details.

#### More than just books

Free and fast Wi-Fi, scanning to email, internet computers, colour and black/white printing and photocopying, faxing, and access to newspapers and magazines are just a few of the services available at the Kyogle library.

Patrons can even bring a drink and snack to enjoy at the library.

#### Christmas closure

Kyogle library will be closed from 5.30pm, Thursday 24 December 2015 through the Christmas/New Year public holiday period and will re-open at 2.30pm, Monday 4 January 2016.

# Kyogle community to take part in 16 Days of Activism

A Healthy Relationships Day will be held at Grove House, Kyogle, on Wednesday, 9 December, as part of the international 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign.

The event is being organised by the Kyogle District Domestic and Family Violence Committee.

Those attending will be asked to take the pledge against domestic violence and will have the chance to "get creative" by painting a banner to focus community attention on healthy relationships.

There will also be a free barbecue lunch courtesy of the Kyogle District Men's Shed, a play by local drama group Garbage, and healthy relationship and self-esteem workshops.

The 16 Days of Activism runs from 25 Novem-

ber, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day.

It aims to increase public awareness and galvanise action to end violence against women and girls around the world.

For further information contact Kyogle Council's Community Development Officer Nicola Mercer on 0417 025 919.





## Start planning now to stop Cats Claw vine

Yellow flowers in tree tops during spring should ring alarm bells to all landholders across the North Coast, as Cats Claw vine, a weed from South America, continues to take a strangle hold.

"Now is the time to note where the vines are and start making a plan, preferably with other landholders in the catchment" Terry Moody of Upper Clarence Combined Landcare at Old Bonalbo said.

"Waterways are degrading in front of our eyes, as the vines climb to the top of trees and along branches in search of light.

"The sheer weight of the vine breaks off branches, and the tree eventually dies, with the tall trunk covered in Cats Claw finally falling to the ground. When the dead trees fall, stream banks are often destabilised.

"It has been predicted that with this slow creeping menace, many areas on the Clarence and Richmond Rivers will have no mature trees left within 20 years if this issue is not dealt with as a priority.

Tara Patel of Northern Landcare Support Services in Kyogle confirms that upstream areas of the Richmond catchment and areas around Toonumbar

are now starting to rapidly decline.

"Unfortunately results from previous releases of a bio control beetle have been poor," Tara said.

However, a three year project to control Cats Claw on 11kms of Nogrigar Creek, near Tabulam, which was funded by the NSW Environmental Trust has been very successful.

The project undertaken by a local Aboriginal team, *pictured*, employed by Upper Clarence Combined Landcare, used proven, but labour intensive hand work to set the scene for saving this waterway.

Success with weed control projects comes from working with neighbours,



being thorough, and undertaking follow up.

"In order to safeguard the investment in our environment and the excellent job undertaken by our workers, all infestations must be treated, monitored, and followed up over a number of years," Mr Moody said. "The NSW Environmental Trust and Landcare have given landholders a helping hand to get over the biggest hurdle, and it is now up to them to carry on with the good work."

Advice is available from Upper Clarence Combined Landcare 66653133 and Northern Landcare Support Services 66323722.

### Council Meetings

Council Meetings: The next Ordinary Council meeting will be held on Monday, 14 December, 2015, at 5pm.

Ordinary meetings are held on the second Monday of every month except January. Meetings start at 5pm and are held at the Kyogle Council Chambers, 1 Stratheden Street, Kyogle.

The first item of general business is Question Time which provides an opportunity for the public to ask questions of Councillors and senior staff. To speak to Council on a specific issue during the meeting, apply in writing to the General Manager prior to the close of business on the day preceding the meeting for public access.

### REGIONAL ROADS INFORMATION www.myroadinfo.com.au

#### **RECYCLING FACILITIES**

All Council waste facilities have recycling capabilities (if separated) and can recover oil, paper, cardboard, steel, aluminium, glass, and plastic at no charge. The waste facility hours of operation are:

Kyogle: 7.30am-12pm Monday to Friday

Woodenbong: Tuesday & Saturday 9am-4pm Bonalbo: Wednesday & Saturday 9am-4pm Mallanganee: Thursday & Sunday 9am-4pm

9am-4pm Saturday & Sunday



#### A WARD

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0427 335 168

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Cr Chris Simpson

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Cr Janet Wilson

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#### **B WARD**

Cr John Burley (Deputy Mayor)

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Cr Maggie Creedy

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Cr Robert Dwyer

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#### C WARD

Cr Danielle Mulholland (Mayor)

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Cr Lindsay Passfield

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Cr Michael Reardon

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