



Kyogle Council Community Newsletter

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019



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

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Achievements aplenty for dynamic Council

Kyogle Council continues to punch above its weight replacing 32 timber bridges, and renewing more than 58km of its road network in the last 18 months.

Council reached a significant milestone in its bridge management strategy in September, effectively halving the number of ageing timber bridges and leaving less than 150 to be replaced in order to meet its target of zero timber bridges.

In the same time, Council also has: developed master plans for the future of the villages of Wiangaree, Woodenbong, Old Bonalbo, Bonalbo, Tabulam and Mallingane; started work on a \$5 million project to upgrade Culmaran Creek Road; built new amenities at Bells Bay camping grounds near Toonumbar Dam; and almost completed a \$714,000 project to revitalise the Kyogle Memorial Institute.

And proving that you don't have to be big to be noticed, Council lobbied for and was granted \$3.55 million in Federal Government funding to go with its own contribution of \$3.5 million to upgrade the Clarence Way.

Kyogle Council Mayor Cr Danielle Mul-



The \$5 million upgrade of Culmaran Creek Road was just one of many projects Council either began or completed last year.

holland said she was proud of what the Council had achieved in the past year and was looking forward this year to ticking off more projects on the list of priorities identified by the community.

"We have certainly got some runs on the board, yet there's still much to be done," she said.

"However, we have a strong community strategic plan, we've produced master

plans for the villages, and we will be developing the broader planning vision for the local government area early in this year.

"Council has secured \$2 million for community infrastructure projects through Round One of the NSW Governments Stronger Country Communities Fund, and a further \$1.5million has been announced

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Happy 2019!
I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed their New Year celebrations.

Council is hitting the ground running with State and Federal elections coming up in March and May respectively.

We will be lobbying hard in the lead up to the two elections for funds for the projects identified through the Visions of the Villages process and the \$35 million Tabulam Agribusiness Precinct. This project incorporates the upgrade of the Clarence Way for which Council has already received \$3.55 million from the Federal Government, thanks to local MP Kevin Hogan.

Council will match the funding dollar for dollar, bringing the total spend on the upgrade to just over \$7 million.

Council is proud of what we achieved in 2018, with completed projects

and works including a long list of new bridges, renewal of more than 58km of Council's road network, grading 454km of unsealed roads, and filling more than 87,200 potholes.

Council will work hard to make sure 2019 is equally, if not more, profitable for all the communities in our Council area.

In 2019, Council will seek further funding for the Clarence Way, as well as lobby for funds to undertake community-identified projects such as the Kyogle Mountain bike trail, Stage 2 of the sports centre, and projects for the villages (as identified in the Visions of the Villages process).

This year, we will see the public artworks that have added colour to Kyogle's streetscape, implemented in our villages. This will include murals painted on telegraph poles by local teacher and artist Bec O'Meara in conjunction with local schools.

As always, roads and bridges remain a priority.

On Saturday, 26 January, Australia Day events will be held at Kyogle, Woodenbong and Bonalbo.



Council provides funding for all three events.

I will be bringing back the Mayoral outreach meetings with the first meeting to be held at Grevillia in February and then Cawongla in March.

If you're interested in meeting with me about a particular issue, please contact Council on 6632 1611 to make an appointment so you don't miss out.

My wish for 2019 is that we can all work together to make the Kyogle Local Government Area the best that it can be.

Danielle Mulholland

FISHWAY in the spotlight

News of Kyogle Council's award winning fishway is spreading across the world.

Council's Asset and Design Coordinator Matt Sorenson was invited to make a presentation on the rock-ramp fishway at the 2018 International Conference on River Connectivity (Fish Passage 2018).

The three-day conference held at Albury in southern NSW brought together Northern and Southern Hemisphere fish passage researchers and practitioners to exchange findings and experiences on fish passage issues.

Mr Sorenson said his presentation was well received, and attracted quite a lot of attention.

Kyogle's fishway in the Richmond River used innovative design features - V-shape, pre-fabricated concrete ridges - which allowed it to be built in challenging conditions at half the cost of traditional technical fishways.

It has no operational requirements and was designed to minimise ongoing maintenance requirements, thereby keeping ongoing costs to a minimum.

The fishway, which was officially opened in 2017, restored unimpeded access to more than 300 km of the upper Richmond River for key native fish in-

cluding the recreationally important Australian Bass, and

the endangered Eastern Freshwater Cod.



Council's Asset and Design Coordinator Matt Sorenson starts his presentation at the International Fish Passage 2018 Conference by putting Kyogle on the map!



Council tackles community's priority list

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for projects under Round Two.

"As a result of our successful grant funding applications Council will now be able to spend more than \$1 million dollars in the six villages included in the Visions of Village Life process as we move into the New Year.

"Council has a focused vision for the way forward and we are committed to maintaining our current funding momentum so we can continue to deliver to our communities the priorities they themselves have identified."

Achievements during the year include:

- Completed the \$9.4 million dollar Kyogle Water Supply Augmentation Project with the opening of the upgraded water treatment plant, and the weir fish-way winning three environmental and engineering awards
- Commenced work on the \$5 million upgrade of Culmaran Creek Road to improve the access into the major agri-businesses in the area as part of the broader focus on the Tabulam agri-business precinct infrastructure improvements
- Suspension of developer fees on industrial, commercial and residential housing developments to help stimulate growth in the local economy
- Provision of almost \$90,000 in community assistance grants to organisations and individuals and ongoing grants to local hall committees and pre-schools, and sponsorship for events including the Kyogle, Bonalbo and Woodenbong shows, Australia Day celebrations at Kyogle, Woodenbong and Bonalbo, and the Fairymount Festival.
- Further improvement in Council's financial position, with five out of the six financial benchmarks met, with only the Own Source Revenue Ratio below target, which is a reflection of Council's success in securing external grant funding
- Surplus from all activities for the year increased from \$6.38 million in 2016/17 to \$7.43 million in 2017/18.



The new toilet block which Council built last year at the Bells Bay Campground at Toonumbar Dam was well received by locals and visitors alike. The new facilities provided a much improved amenity for visitors to the dam, better environmental outcomes and greater accessibility for all. The new amenities were funded as part of a joint Kyogle Council and Federal Government project.

- Opening of the Container Deposit Scheme collection point at Kyogle waste facility which has put more than \$150,000 into the local economy since it commenced in 2018
- Funding provided to develop a business case/feasibility study for provision of Home Care Services for the Aged in Woodenbong
- Construction of a performance stage at the Kyogle Amphitheatre
- Completion of the Greening of Kyogle's main street and associated improvements
- Finalisation of a master plan to develop a sports hub within the Kyogle Pool Complex incorporating a gym, enclosed heated pool, indoor sports stadium, and a lap pool.
- Construction of a museum in Kyogle in partnership with the Kyogle and District Historical Society.
- Construction of a new Rural Fire Service Headquarters in Kyogle
- Doubling of Visitor Information Centre visitors to 56,560 for the year
- Initial sealing of 2.74 kilometres of high usage gravel roads
- More than a 170% increase in library resources borrowed (45,485 resources borrowed), inclusion of new laptop dispenser units at the Kyogle Library and a \$100,000 State Government grant to refurbish the Kyogle Library
- Showcasing 65 artists at the Roxy Gallery with 4850 visitors to the gallery for the year
- Relining and repairs to 3.75km of sewer mains, 600m of stormwater drains, and construction of 458m of water mains
- Completion of an ambitious roadworks program across the local government area including 1383km of roadside slashing, 454 km of unsealed road grading, 23km of gravel resheets, 87,204 potholes filled, 15.3km of reseals and 17.4km of sealed road reconstructions
- 3963 tonnes of waste received and 1616 tonnes recycled

"On top of Council achieving all of this, we are planning for much more to come over the next few years as we are getting 'ready to grow'," Cr Mulholland said.



Kyogle LGA celebrates Australia Day



Australia Day will be celebrated throughout the Kyogle Council area on Saturday 26 January, with official events being held at Kyogle, Woodenbong and Bonalbo. Organisers of the three events have issued an open invitation to everyone in the community to come together to celebrate what's great about Australia and being Australian.



West of the Range Australia Day ambassador Mr Athol McQueen.



Kyogle Australia Day ambassador Mr Craig Goozee.



Woodenbong Australia Day ambassador Mr Khushaal Vyas.

West of the Range (Bonalbo)

2019 West of the Range Australia Day festivities will be held at the Bonalbo Bowling and Recreation Club starting at 10am.

The festivities will include a car boot market at the tennis courts behind the Bowling Club, barefoot bowls at the Bowling Club and an ambrose event at the golf course.

There will be a free sausage sizzle at the Bowling Club from 11.30am.

The official ceremony including the presentation of the annual Australia Day Awards will kick off at 1pm.

Olympic boxer Mr Athol McQueen, of Kyogle, will be the Australia Day ambassador.

In line with Australia Day celebrations across the Kyogle Council local government area, entry to Bonalbo pool will be free on the day. There will be a children's inflatable water slide at the pool.

Kyogle

Kyogle's Australia Day festivities will be held the Kyogle Memorial Hall and will get underway at 9am with the Kyogle Lions Club serving up a free traditional Aussie morning tea of billy tea and damper.

The official ceremony will start at 10am and will include the presentation of the Australia Day Awards, musical entertainment and a community sing-a-long.

Australia Day Ambassador and ultra marathon runner Mr Craig Goozee will deliver the Australia Day address. Mr Goozee has been on a marathon mission to raise awareness of children's cancer and fundraise for cancer research since his eldest daughter was diagnosed with the disease in 1997.

Since then, he has completed a 16 day gruelling ocean paddle from Sydney to Broadbeach, a 5000 km run, cycle and paddle marathon across the continent of Australia and a 91-day ultra marathon around Australia.

In the process, Mr Goozee has also raised millions of dollars for childhood cancer research.

A free lunch, prepared by Kyogle Quota Club, will be served at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Council's inflatable activity centre will be at the Kyogle pool on Australia Day, and will be free to use. Entry to the pool on the day also is free.

Woodenbong

Australia Day celebrations at Woodenbong will begin bright and early with billy tea and damper from 8.30am at the Woodenbong Hall.

A flag raising ceremony will held at the front of the hall at 10am, with the official proceedings set to start at 10.15am.

Australia Day ambassador Mr Khushaal Vyas will deliver the Australia Day address.

dress.

Mr Vyas is a fourth year Arts (Politics Major)/Law student at the University of NSW. He is the President of the UNSW Law Society - the largest university law student representative group in the nation.

Before that he was the Vice-President (Social Justice) and co-founded a regional volunteer program to work with the Dubbo and Wiradjuri community and mentor disadvantaged Aboriginal children.

Khushaal will also present the recipients of the Woodenbong Australia Day Awards with their prizes.

A second Australia Day address will be presented by Margaret Marshall.

Mrs Marshall was born and educated at Woodenbong and has written a book on the halcyon days of rugby league in the Northern Rivers district from 1965 to 1972.

The book has a particular focus on the contribution of indigenous locals and the mutual respect and camaraderie they enjoyed across the wider community.

After the ceremony a free lunch will be served and at 12pm there will be cricket coaching clinic at the oval behind the Woodenbong pool followed by the annual city versus country cricket match.

And for those people who would rather celebrate Australia Day with a swim, entry to the Woodenbong pool will be free on the day.



Pre-planning work underway for Clarence Way upgrade

Just like 2018, the New Year is shaping up to be a busy one for Kyogle Council's work crews.

Pre-planning is underway for sealing 15km of the Clarence Way south from Bruxner Highway to the boundary with Clarence Valley Council.

Council staff submitted an excellent funding application to the Federal Government which successfully secured funding for the \$7 million project.

This is the next step in Council's strategy for supporting agriculture and transport industries west of the range and construction will start when the upgrade of Culmaran Creek Road is complete.

Council has also started work to rehabilitate a section of Woodenbong Road in Bonalbo and the first 700m of Culmaran Creek Road from the Bruxner Highway was sealed.

In February, rehabilitation will be carried out a section of Deep Creek Road.

One bridge crew is currently finishing work on the Mitchell Bridge replacement on Williams Road. Thanks to their incredible efforts, the bridge is looking great and will very soon be open to traffic.

Once this bridge is complete, the crew will turn its attention to flood damage repairs on Birney Bridge, and once that is done, Williams Road will be fully open, with no load limits on any bridge, much to the relief of residents who have patiently accommodated a program of works lasting more than 12 months.

Meanwhile, the other bridge crew has also put in a tremendous effort with the construction of two new bridges on Lynches Creek Road in the second half of last year.



The upgrade to Culmaran Creek Road is almost complete.

This crew will now start work on replacing Hanleys Bridge on Culmaran Creek Road as part of the upgrade of that road.

Mills Road at Old Bonalbo has finally received its new causeway and Council thanks the residents who waited so patiently for the work to be completed.

Replacement of a badly damaged causeway on the gravel section of Grady's Creek Road is almost complete. This job is the last major item remaining from the 2017 flood.

Work has started on upgrades to the Bonalbo caravan park involving work on the internal roads and the intersection with Woodenbong Road.

The project is the first of 21 projects funded through Round 2 of the State Government's Stronger Country Communities program in the Kyogle local government area.

You will start to notice new signs appearing at Council area boundaries and village entrances. Council staff are very excited to be installing this signage and hope you enjoy the changes we are making to promote and celebrate the vibrant area where we all work and live.

Kyogle joins health challenge

Kyogle locals will be partnering with a range of community and government organisations to participate in the NSW Healthy Town Challenge (HTC) in 2019.

The HTC is an initiative of the NSW Office of Preventive Health and the NSW Heart Foundation.

Kyogle will receive a \$15,000 grant as part of the program for activities and resources that support healthy eating and physical activity in the town.

Residents will be encouraged to sign up to the free Get Healthy Information and

Coaching Service – check it out at www.gethealthynsw.com.au/

This is an exciting time for Kyogle residents, who can jump on board with ideas about how the town can make the most of this opportunity.

The HTC will kick off on Sunday February 24 with a community launch party from 4pm at the Kyogle Bazaar.

All welcome to come along and find out more about the challenge. For further information, you can also contact Suzie on 0439 451 564.



Kyogle people will be encouraged to eat plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables as part of the Healthy Town Challenge.



ROXY GALLERY

is moving upstairs at KMI

The Last Tide of Yule will be on exhibition at the Roxy Gallery until the end of January and then the gallery will be 'moving on up'.

The gallery will devote all of February to relocating and setting up its new home, upstairs at the Kyogle Memorial Institute (KMI).

The logistics involved in the move will mean that the gallery will not be able to support an exhibition in February.

However, everyone will be working non-stop behind the scenes to ensure the first exhibition in the new gallery space opens in early March.

The new gallery space has been created as part of the KMI Revitalisation Project which aims to bring 'stage' and 'gallery' together to create an enhanced arts and culture venue for the Kyogle Local Government Area.

It is expected to be a drawcard for tourists and give the community a more multi-functional and integrated space to celebrate the area and the region's culture.

As part of the \$640,000 project, the KMI's original entrance from the main street will be reinstated, the gallery space will be created, and a lift to the upstairs area installed.

There will also be new display areas to showcase the historic features of the hall and its uses over time and the installation of a new lighting and sound booth in the main auditorium.

Council's Cultural Services Officer Ruth Tsimibinis said the new gallery space would open up wonderful new opportunities for The Roxy Gallery.

"All of this would not be possible without the support of the communities in the Kyogle local government area who have helped make the gallery a place they want to engage with, and, in," she said.

"The amazing volunteers who have supported The Roxy Gallery over the 18 years it has been running will all need to be familiarised with the new space and the gallery will be happily seeking new, interested volunteers to join in."

There has been discussion about altering



Council's General Manager Graham Kennett shows Member for Lismore Thomas George, Councillors and community members progress on the new gallery space upstairs in Kyogle Memorial Institute.

the opening hours of the gallery to Wednesday to Sunday from 10 am to 3 pm, which would provide more opportunities for the public to access the gallery as well as offer an added experience for visitors to Kyogle.

The new lift at the KMI will provide easy access to the upstairs space and the display areas downstairs in the foyer will also offer opportunities for artists to showcase works.

"Visitors will be able to come and look out from the balcony over the main street

scape or relax in the comforts of the open-plan gallery space," Ms Tsimibinis said.

"With these exciting times ahead, we ask that you please be patient and supportive of the change we are undertaking and join us in looking forward to some great creatively enriching opportunities and experiences as the new Roxy Gallery takes shape."

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the gallery please contact Ms Tsimibinis by email at roxygallery@kyogle.nsw.gov.au.



The new lift to the upstairs area of the KMI is installed.



The old movie projector will be one of the historic items displayed at the revitalised KMI.



Kyogle Library NEWS

Library closure

Kyogle library will be closed on Australia Day, Saturday 26 January and on the Australia Day public holiday on Monday 28 January. It will re-open at 10am on Tuesday 29 January 2019.

Holiday fun

There will be free unstructured activities for kids of all ages during

the school holidays at the Kyogle library.

Enjoy free access to board games, LEGO, puzzles, calm colouring-in and simple craft.

As this is an unstructured activity so children must be supervised at all times.

Other activities planned for the school holidays include:

- Free slim making workshop, Wednesday 23 January from 10.30-11.30am, for 5-12 year olds, bookings essential phone 6632 1134.

Water restrictions IN PLACE

Due to the continuing dry conditions, level 2 water restrictions have been imposed on residents living in Kyogle, Bonalbo, Woodenbong, and Muli Muli.

Under level 2 restrictions, hand held hoses can only be used for 30 minutes every second day, between the hours of 4pm-9am on odd or even days (matching your house street number).

Also, micro-sprays and drippers/sub-surface can be used for a maximum of just 15 minutes a day.

All other irrigation systems and

unattended hoses are banned under level 2 restrictions.



Hand held hoses can only be used for 30 minutes every second day between the hours of 4pm-9am under level 2 water restrictions



Alwyn Doolan, left, met with Gugin Guddaba's Ron Randall and Andrew Johnston when he stopped on Kyogle on his Message Stick Walk to Canberra.

Long walk for reconciliation

Alwyn Doolan shared his message about reconciliation, the importance of Aboriginal unity and the need for a treaty when he stopped over in Kyogle on his 7,000km walk from Queensland to Canberra via Melbourne.

Alwyn began his Message Stick Walk in Bamaga at the tip of Queensland and will stop over in as many communities as he can on his way to Canberra in a bid to raise awareness of the needs of Indigenous people.

He is particularly keen to inspire the younger generation

to be part of positive change.

He is expected to arrive in Canberra in mid April when he will seek a meeting with the Prime Minister and Cabinet to deliver his message stick and request treaty negotiations with First Nations People.

Alwyn will then walk to Uluru for a First Nations Conference.

While in Kyogle, Alwyn spoke with students at Kyogle Public School and met with retiring chief executive officer of the Gugin Guddaba Land Council Ron Randall and Andrew Johnston who is taking over the position.

You can follow Alwyn's journey at www.facebook.com/Message-Stick-Walk.

Greening Kyogle's main street

Kyogle Council Mayor Cr Danielle Mulholland and Member for Lismore Thomas George, *pictured*, watered one of the new garden beds in Kyogle's main street to officially open the Greening Kyogle Main Street project.

The \$180,000 project involved planting native trees and plants along Summerland Way and large street trees in the centre parking aisle. Sixteen planter boxes and seats also were installed in the CBD and the existing garden beds were revitalised and replanted.

The additional vegetation in

the main street aims to cool and soften the CBD and improve the overall appearance.

Kyogle Council Mayor Cr Danielle Mulholland said the community had almost universally embraced the Greening Main Street Project.

"Council is also looking at greening certain villages as part of its Visions of the Villages program. It's always easier to deliver on such plans when the State or Federal Government partner with Council to deliver these real outcomes for communities," she said.

The project was funded jointly by the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund (\$100,000) and Kyogle Council (\$80,000).



Landholder fined for failing to control weeds

Rous County Council is urgently reminding all Northern Rivers' landholders of their responsibility to control and help eliminate the current weed biosecurity threat posed by Tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum*).

The urgent reminder comes after Rous County Council fined a Kyogle landholder \$2000 for failing to control the weed on their property.

Rous County Council's General Manager, Phillip Rudd, said it was the first fine to be issued for non-compliance with the NSW-wide *Biosecurity (Tropical Soda Apple) Control Order 2017*.

"Tropical soda apple is a highly invasive weed that can have devastating impacts on local agriculture, farming and native bush-land areas," Mr Rudd said.

"It is vital all local landholders adhere to the stringent control requirements that came into force last year.



"Our preference is always to work closely with landholders to help them identify, control and eliminate Tropical soda apple.

"However, if landholders continually fail to comply with control requirements and put other properties at risk, then they will face significant fines or further prosecution."

The *Biosecurity (Tropical Soda Apple) Control Order 2017* was introduced with the key aim of eliminating the weed and its associated biosecurity risks.

The requirements and other obligations of landholders in the local government areas of Kyogle, Richmond Valley, Tweed, Lismore, Ballina and Byron in-

clude:

- Notifying Rous County Council as soon as practicable after they become aware of a new infestation of Tropical soda apple on their land;
- Destroying all Tropical soda apple on their land;
- Keeping their land free of Tropical soda apple;
- Ensuring Tropical soda apple (including any seeds) is not moved from their land via stock, machinery, fodder or other means.

"Tropical soda apple is a particularly high risk weed for the Northern Rivers region," Mr Rudd said.

"I would encourage any landowner who is unsure as to whether they may have Tropical soda apple on their property, or how to deal with it, to contact Rous County Council's expert Weed Biosecurity staff as soon as possible."

More information about Tropical soda apple and other weed biosecurity threats can be found at www.rous.nsw.gov.au.

Council Meetings

Council Meetings: The next Ordinary Council meeting will be held on Monday 11 February 2019 at 5pm. Ordinary meetings are held on the second Monday of every month except January and June. 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, email or phone 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

9am-4pm Saturday & Sunday

Woodenbong: Tuesday & Saturday 9am-4pm

Bonalbo: Wednesday & Saturday 9am-4pm

Mallanganee: Thursday & Sunday 9am-4pm

Council
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KYOGLE COUNCIL
HOURS 8.30AM-4PM
MONDAY TO FRIDAY

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