A long held dream of creating a cultural precinct in the heart of Kyogle is closer to reality with the official opening of Council’s Roxy Gallery in the revitalised Kyogle Memorial Institute (KMI) and the much anticipated Kyogle Museum.

The gallery has moved upstairs in the refurbished KMI in a space that has been widely hailed as a vibrant, and sophisticated community asset.

The $714,000 project to revitalise the KMI involved the reinstatement of the building’s original entrance from the main street, alterations to the first floor area to allow use as an art gallery and cultural space, installation of a lift to the upstairs area and amenities, new display areas to showcase the historic features of the hall and its uses over time, and provision of a new lighting and sound booth in main auditorium.

The integration of Council’s Roxy Gallery into the KMI Building has expanded the gallery’s exhibition capabilities and provided a purpose-ready space for combined static and performing arts entertainment.

It also provides a hub for community arts and a large, multi-purpose and central arts and entertainment space.

The newly opened Kyogle Museum is located just a few steps away on land adjoining the Kyogle library at the rear of the KMI.

Built through a public private partnership between Council and the Kyogle and District Historical Society, the museum is expected to be a drawcard for locals and visitors alike, foster a deeper understanding of the area’s shared cultural heritage and preserve and showcase local history for this and future generations.

The design reflects that of a country hall and incorporates recycled materials from the demolition of the Horseshoe Creek and Cedar Point Halls and beautiful art deco stained-glass windows saved from old shops in Kyogle.

As well as archiving the area’s past, the museum will host exhibitions and provide educational opportunities.

Meanwhile, Council has committed $70,000 to construct a deck on the Kyogle library and undertake landscaping works.

The work will be done in association with a project funded by a $99,000 NSW Government grant to refurbish the interior of the library.

The deck, on the north east corner of the library adjoining the museum, will allow for external meetings, reading and performances while the landscaping will provide shade trees, seating, paths, and ground cover.

Council also will be preparing a broader precinct plan on the back of this work that will guide the future development of the area, with Council seeking input from the community along the way as the plan is developed.
This month saw the long awaited Kyogle museum launched which is an extraordinary achievement for the community.

While Council and the State Government provided financial support and advice, the Kyogle and District Historical Society’s volunteers worked hard to secure the balance of the funding.

The museum is now a valuable asset in our community and I congratulate everyone involved on such a wonderful achievement.

The opening of the newly refurbished KMI, a project long planned by Council, was also welcomed by the community.

Council’s new art gallery on the second level of the KMI held its first exhibition and residents were able to access this level through the reinstated front entrance to the KMI and new elevator.

This project was prioritised by the community and Council was happy to partner with the State and Federal governments to deliver it.

Congratulations to all the staff who contributed to this project - it is a stunning result.

With the State election, it was a hectic month lobbying and securing commitments from candidates apart from the usual workload.

Early this month, there was a meeting for all the Chairs of the Joint Organisations or JOs in NSW. I was there as chair of the Northern Rivers JO. One of the major issues discussed was the ongoing funding for the JOs which were provided with initial funding of $300,000 but no ongoing commitment for administrative costs.

There could be an opportunity for JOs to fund themselves administratively by delivering State projects.

There were a number of concerns raised around this, including the fact that member councils may be expected to pay for ongoing administrative costs every year and assume additional duties associated with delivering regional projects.

We all committed to the ones we have identified during our many workshops, but if we are expected to deliver on the government’s priorities too, the JOs need to be adequately funded to help with running costs.

If the JOs were any other agency the government had set up, it would be funded appropriately including administrative costs, funding for programs, projects, salaries etc.

If we don’t perform as a JO, we won’t receive these projects and the associated funding and the funding of the JO will fall back on to the member councils. The general response to this was understandably unenthusiastic.

The JO Chairs meeting also offers us with an opportunity to discuss ideas, innovative practices and even mistakes - it’s a forum for information sharing and it prevents councils from doubling up on ideas like the waste to energy opportunities.

There were several presentations from JOs involved in issues like smart street lighting through the use of LEDs which will cut costs, waste to energy schemes and opportunities around best practice and aggregated procurement.

The Chairs then bring this information back to their JOs for discussion. It’s also an opportunity to network and build relationships.

The following day I attended the Country Mayors Association meeting which was relatively short before we had the “meet the political party leaders” forum, which was facilitated by Paul Murray, a Foxtel News reporter and organised by LGNSW.

There were 11 key areas including issues around the waste levy, funding for public libraries and infrastructure etc identified.

The contract for Round 2 of the Stronger Country Communities funding has been signed and Council will start delivering on these projects around April/May.

This will include works not only in Kyogle, but throughout the Council area with these projects being identified by these communities through the Visions of the Villages process.

The various workshops held resulted in a master plan for each village and this funding will see us starting work on the projects in these plans.

Following the Tabulam fires, Council coordinated a community meeting with Tenterfield’s Mayor Peter Petty in attendance along with election candidates, Council’s General Manager Graham Kennett and Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, as well as representatives from the various State response and recovery agencies and organisations such as the Red Cross, FACS, Centrelink etc.

It was an opportunity for community members to get some information about the recovery aspect of the fire event and highlight some major issues to the first responders so that procedures in future can be improved.

I would like to thank our many volunteers - including the CWA branches, RFS and community volunteers for their contribution during this difficult time. As a community, we now need to recover from the fire and Council will continue to provide advice and support to residents.

Until next time,

Danielle Mulholland
Council seeks feedback on LEP Directive

Kyogle Council will seek feedback from its rural ratepayers on the State Government’s decision to overrule its plan to introduce a single rural zone for all non-urban land in the local government area.

Council sought to amend its Local Environmental Plan to rezone all land in the RU2 Rural Landscape Zone to RU1 Primary Production in response to the final recommendations of the North Coast Councils E-Zone Review.

However, the NSW Government’s Department of Planning and Environment has overruled the Council.

It has directed Council retain the existing RU2 Zone and to apply it to land previously identified as being in an E Zone when the LEP was developed, but which was classified as deferred pending the review.

Given the proposal to introduce a single rural zone had community support, Council has decided to write to all rural ratepayers inviting submissions on the Government’s directive to change the LEP.

All the submissions received will be forwarded to the State Minister for Planning together with a letter from Council outlining its concerns about the directive to retain and extend existing RU2 Zones.

Council, at its 11 March Ordinary Meeting, also resolved to invite the NSW Minister for Planning as well as Department of Planning and Environment representatives to a public meeting to discuss the proposed zoning changes. For further information, contact Council on 6632 1611.

Tourism Officer to be Honoured

Kyogle’s Visitor Information Centre is to be named the Malcolm Wallis Visitor Information Centre in honour of Council’s highly respected and well liked Economic Development and Tourism Officer who died suddenly in January last year.

A passionate supporter of the Kyogle Council area, Malcolm was a driving force behind the establishment of a permanent Visitor Information Centre (VIC) in Kyogle.

He genuinely cared about the Kyogle Local Government Area (LGA) and the people who called it home.

Malcolm had a passion for the area’s natural beauty, its history and culture, and always maintained a positive outlook for the future prospects of the LGA.

Council had originally planned to name Amphitheatre Park in memory of Malcolm in response to community expectations after his death that Malcolm’s commitment to the community would somehow be recognised.

It was officially put to Council as a notice of motion in November and advertised for community comment. Council received eight submissions, all of which were in favour of Malcolm being formally recognised in some way.

Five submissions supported naming the park Malcolm Wallis Park rather than Wallis Park as was proposed.

Three submissions suggested the Visitor Information Centre, rather than the park, be named in memory of Malcolm.

Council considered the matter at its February meeting and agreed that given Malcolm’s passion for, and close association with, the Visitor Information Centre, it should bear his name.

The VIC’s new name will be launched at an event later in the year.

Basketball court for Anzac Park

Kyogle’s Anzac Park will get a multi-purpose sports court thanks to a Federal Government grant.

The grant was announced by Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan, pictured far right, at the cheque presentation with Kyogle Council Mayor Cr Danielle Mulholland and Deputy Mayor Cr John Burley.

The grant will allow Council to replace the existing netball posts on one court at Anzac Park with changeable netball and basketball posts and line markings.

Kyogle Council Mayor Danielle Mulholland said the grant was great news for the youth of Kyogle.

“Anzac Park already has a skate park, a BMX track, outdoor gym and netball courts,” she said.

“Council asked Kyogle’s youth what was missing, and they said a basketball court. “These funds from the Federal Government will allow Council to tick off another community-identified priority project.”
FESTIVAL FUN begins with Gala Dinner

Kyogle’s Fairymount Festival is shaping up to be a knockout.

The week-long festival, which has moved from November to March, features plenty of old favourite events plus some great new ones including the Face of The Festival, Strength and Fitness Challenge, Kyogle Half Marathon, RC and GM Dwyer Village Challenge, and for the first time, pig racing.

The fun kicks off with the Parker and Kissane Gala Dinner on 30 March at the Kyogle Memorial Institute.

The evening will feature fine food/entertainment, the first of the Village Challenges (art), Face of the Festival entrants and an auction for the pig racing.

On Sunday 31 March, the Festival Strongman and Fitness Challenge is on at Anzac Park to find Kyogle’s fittest/strongest persons. Entry is $15 a person with prizes.

Later that day, the Amphitheatre will come alive for the Family Fun Day and Twilight Bazaar – shopping, face painting, jumping castles, pony rides, Jurassic Joe and the second of the Village Challenges (talent quest).

On Wednesday 3 April, local schools will participate in the Schools’ Colour Explosion at the Kyogle High School grounds.

Later that evening, everyone, including Village Challenge teams, are invited to take part in the Kyogle Golf Club’s super trivia night. Entry is $10 a person.

The Kyogle Bowling Club will hold Twilight Bowls on Thursday 4 April. Everyone is invited to attend and play. Village teams will also compete in the last challenge.

Friday, 5 April the businesses of Kyogle join in the fun of Crazy Day and will be dressed in theme for Countries of the World.

The last day of the Festival on Saturday 6 April starts early at the Amphitheatre with the Westlawn Kyogle Fairymount Run and Half Marathon.

Runs cover 7.5km (The Shorty), 12.5km (Middle of the Road) and 21.1km (Kyogle Half Marathon) distances out and back to Fairymount summit.

The main street will be closed to traffic from midday with the children’s rides to start at 1pm followed by the pie eating competition and the first of the pig races.

The main parade will start at 2pm, with floats and parade participants to assemble in Groom Street before doing two laps of Summerland Way.

The Food Fair in Stratheden Street continues all day, with entertainment by local musicians.

There will be competitions aplenty in the main street including the Malcolm Wallace Memorial Egg Toss, the Community Gym Fitness Challenge, Truck Pull and whip cracking.

Puppet and clown shows and pig racing will run through the afternoon.

Festivities will draw to close with bands playing until late, courtesy of the Commercial Hotel. For further details or entry forms, check out the festival Facebook page or go to www.fairymountfestival.com.

NEW SIGNS erected across LGA

The last of the new town, village and local government area entrance signs featuring the new Kyogle and Villages logo have been rolled out.

As well as the new logo, pictured above right, the town and village signs feature individual village icons and an acknowledgement of the local Aboriginal tribes that have a connection to the land on which each of the villages lie.

All up, Council has erected 54 new signs heralding entry into the LGA or one of our incredible towns and villages.

The signs are part of a broader project to develop a new cohesive brand for the whole of the Kyogle LGA. The new brand will be formally launched in the near future.

The total cost, as at the end of February, for the signage project was $156,005, with some costs still to come in.
ROAD PROJECTS

begin to take shape

Works are well underway at the Green Pigeon Road Blackspot realignment project.

The bulk earthworks to shape the new road course have been completed and pavement preparation has started.

The road should be open to traffic by the Easter long weekend.

Rehabilitation of a section of Deep Creek Road was completed recently along with extensive sections of Grady's Creek Road and Lions Road between Brindle Creek Road and McIntosh Bridge.

Heavy patching will be carried out over the next month at multiple locations on Summerland Way. Rehabilitation will be carried out on Summerland Way at Mount Lindesay and the intersection of Peacock Creek Road and Clarence Way will be upgraded using Blackspot funding.

Road reseals will be carried out on sections of Kyogle Road and Bentley Road and various local roads.

The Oxbow Road causeway was replaced in early March by contractors. This was the last causeway replacement programmed for the 2018/19 financial year.

Mitchell Bridge on Williams Road was expected to be open to traffic in March but completion has been delayed due to issues with the supply of steel components.

It is now expected to be finished in late April.

Flood damage repairs on Birney Bridge are almost complete and the bridge is expected to be open by the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox.

Culmaran Creek Road is now sealed from the intersection with Bruxner Highway as far as Larsson Road.

The final section of sealing will be done once replacement of Hanleys Bridge is completed.

Council is installing a new stormwater line along a section of Curtois Street (from 2 to 20 Curtois Street), with some other pipes installed across the road.

This is the first stage of a multi-stage project to upgrade the road and stormwater drainage along Curtois Street and parts of Donald Street.

BRIDGES

given new names

The two new bridges on Lynches Creek Road have been officially named Hyde Bridge and Campbell Bridge.

While the old bridges were never formally named, they were known to Council as J Campbells No 1 and J Campbells No 2.

It's thought the names reflected the names on the plans drawn up when the old bridges were first built.

When the two new bridges were being built, Council received numerous requests from the public to officially name the bridges Hyde Bridge and Campbell Bridge - the names the community used for them.

Council advertised the proposal to name the bridges in line with the community's suggestions and received 12 submissions, which were all in favour of the proposed names.

The Council formally adopted the new names at it's February meeting.

PUMPED

and primed to go

Kyogle householders north of Geneva Street will have more reliable services after Council crews upgraded the Chauvel Street pump station. The pump station had regular failures in the past. The upgrade involved the installation of two new pumps and pipe work. The work took a week to complete. Council also plans to give the pump station a thorough clean-up, when time allows.
Woodenbong artists
AT THE ROXY

It has been a very busy time at Council’s Roxy Gallery with lots of people visiting to view the current exhibition A Selection Of A Collection and experience the new gallery space.

The new gallery has attracted a lot of positive comment from the community and more work is being done to fine tune and develop the space.

The gallery’s new opening hours are Wednesday to Saturday from 10am-3pm. It is accessible via the lift at the Summerland Way entrance of the Kyogle Memorial Institute and the stairs located at the green door on Stratheden Street.

A Selection Of A Collection will close on 30 March, with the next exhibition by artists associated with the Woodenbong Artists Group (WAG) to open on 3 April.

However, the official opening event for WAG Wag wags will be held on Saturday April 6 from 1pm-3pm.

Council is excited to open this new space to all within the local government area and is delighted that an exhibition of works by members of the Woodenbong Artists Group has been selected to be the second show at the new gallery.

The Kyogle LGA accommodates lots of talented, creative people and the members of WAG are very skilled in areas of painting, woodwork and fibre art.

The exhibition will be the sixth held in the Roxy Gallery by the Woodenbong Artists Group.

Artists living in rural areas face a lot of challenges in getting their works displayed and seen by the broader public and it is really exciting to bring artists from the western side of the LGA into Council’s Roxy Gallery.

This exhibition will run until 4 May 2019.

RIGHT: Joy Roggenkamp’s work titled They Just Like Each Other will feature in the WAG Wag wags exhibition at the Roxy Gallery.

$20,000 Grant for student careers program

Bonalbo Central School has received a $20,000 grant from the Education Department’s Rural and Remote Unit to introduce a comprehensive careers program.

The program will give students the chance to learn more about career opportunities from the beginning of their schooling.

“This will allow our students to better access employers, training organisations and universities locally and further afield,” Deputy Principal Mrs Kathryn Taylor said.

The comprehensive careers education program will be implemented across the school this year, with the aim of connecting students with the working world by opening up potential pathways.

“It’ll be fun to learn about different occupations and opportunities,” Primary Captain Miah Cook said.

Working alongside her co-captain, Cooper Hayes, and Secondary Captains Anastasia Roberts and Ryan Stubbings, the 2019 leadership team are eager to make a positive impact on their school and their community.

Principal Ms Desirée Moore said that many of the school’s families had recently been affected by the Tabulam, Jubul-lum and Drake fires, and students were already discussing ways they could help out.

“Our school community will rally to support them wherever we can,” Ms Moore said.

Ryan said students were also enthusiastic about giving back to the wider community, supporting a range of social causes.

“We will continue to get behind campaigns like Harmony Day, Anti-Bullying Day and RUOK? Day,” he said.

“They are important events to raise awareness and support each other.”

Morning teas raise funds for Cancer Council

Woodenbong will hold its annual Biggest Morning Tea event in aid of the Cancer Council on Saturday 11 May.

It will be held in the Supper Room of the Woodenbong Public Hall and will start at 9am for morning tea and then lunch.

A monster raffle will be held in conjunction with the morning tea, with first prize being a handmade quilt, see below, donated by Mrs Joan Reid. Tickets cost just $2 each.

The monster raffle will be drawn on the day from 1pm.

Meanwhile, the neighbouring town of Urbenville will host its Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser at the Urbenville Bowling Club on Thursday 9 May from 9am. All welcome to attend.
LIBRARY NEWS

School holiday fun
There will be free school holiday activities for children aged 5-12 years of age at the Kyogle library on Wednesday 24 April and Friday 26 April.
Both sessions will run from 10.30am-11.30am.
Activities will include upcycling to make a lava lamp and doing some spooky science!
Bookings are essential and should be made by 23 April for both sessions.
For further details and bookings contact Kyogle library staff on 6632 1134.

Library closures
Kyogle library will be closed for the Easter public holidays from Good Friday 19 April through to Easter Monday 22 April.
The library will re-open at 10am Tuesday 23 April.
The library will also be closed on Anzac Day, Thursday 25 April, re-opening at 10am on Friday 26 April.

Create Make Share
The next Create Make Share session at Kyogle library will be held on Tuesday 9 April from 10.30am-12.30pm.
Bookings are essential. To reserve your place, call the library on 6632 1134.

Kids Club
Kyogle Library’s Parents N Kids Club aims to provide a welcoming space with resources for parents/families/careers to enjoy quality, fun times with their children.
Enjoy Lego, calm colouring in and free make-and-take-home craft.
This is an unstructured activity so children must be supervised at all times.
The Kids Club operates from 10.30-11.30am and will next meet on Saturday 6 April.

Lego Club
Lego Club meets at the Kyogle library on the fourth Thursday of each month from 3.30-4.30pm.

POOLS TO close on 29 April
Kyogle Council’s three public swimming pools will remain open until the end of the April school holidays.
The last day of operation for Kyogle, Woodenbong and Bonalbo pools will be Sunday 28 April 2019.
The pools will close for the off season on Monday 29 April.
They will re-open in September on a date to be determined. Until then, all three pools will operate as usual.

Community Calendar

School centenary
Afterlee Public School will celebrate its centenary on the October long weekend (5 October) this year.
All residents, past and present pupils and staff are invited to help the school celebrate 100 years of public education at Afterlee.
For further details about the centenary celebrations or contributions please contact the school on 6633 3163 or the Centenary Committee on 6633 3107.

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 0407 506 548 or Anne on 6632 1851.

Hall fundraiser
The Grevillia Hall will host Watling & Bates’ single launch on the evening of Saturday 13 April.
The event will be a major catering fundraiser for the Hall Committee, with a barbecue dinner, including vegetarian options, from 6pm.
Tea, coffee, and light refreshments will also be available throughout the evening.
A celebrity raffle, sponsored by Kyogle Council Mayor Danielle Mulholland and Mrs Linda Macdade of Macdades Homewares, will provide another exciting opportunity to support the hall.
The event is cash only, with tickets for the show costing $10 for adults or $25 for a family.

Mahjong
A Mahjong group meets at the Kyogle library every Tuesday from 1-3.30pm.
It is open to people who play mah-jong and those who would like to learn how to play.
Register you interest by phoning Kyogle library staff on 6632 1134.

Adult colouring in
Colouring in for adults is held at Kyogle library on the second Friday and fourth Wednesday of each month at 10am for 10.30-11.30am.
Colouring-in is fun, relaxing, sparks creativity and promotes mindfulness.
For further details phone the library.

Book discussion group
Kyogle Library Book Discussion Group meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 10am for 10.30-11.30am.
There are no set books for discussion - members discuss any book they have enjoyed reading.
Everyone welcome to join in the fun.

Writers Group
Kyogle Writers Group meets at Kyogle library on the last Saturday of the month from 10.30am-noon.
All welcome.

Kristy Chisholm, of Kyogle, is the delighted winner of the Library Lover’s Month of February Blind Date with a Book chocolate hamper competition at Kyogle library.
Biological control of Salvinia (Salvinia molesta) is one of the services Rous County Council provides free to landholders.

An example of how well it can work can been seen at Waterlily Park, Ocean Shores. For a number of years Byron Council has had issues with reoccurring Salvinia overgrowth at the park. Weed control in Byron Shire is limited to biological and mechanical methods due to strong public objections to chemical use in water bodies.

If water weeds are chemically sprayed and die, rotting vegetation can have adverse environmental effects such as high DO (dissolved oxygen) levels, potentially killing other species and creating a strong decaying aroma.

Initially, the Salvinia overgrowth was so thick at Waterlily Park that biological control would not have worked. For insects to succeed, at least a third of the water body needs to be cleared.

A mechanical harvester was the third option and although costly, removing the bulk of the weed, can be highly effective.

Based on this, Byron Council made the decision to use a harvester to remove the heavy layers of Salvinia overgrowth.

However, after harvesting, there was still Salvinia left around the edges and it quickly re-established (in optimal conditions, Salvinia doubles in size in under three days). So an integrated control plan was carried out using the biological control agent Cyrtabagus (Cyrtobagus salviniae) weevils.

The conditions were favorable at the time of the insect release (September 2018), as best results are achieved when releasing after spring rain with a third clear water cover.

Earlier this month, Council staff monitoring the park reported that the weevils have done a fantastic job with the lagoon now free of Salvinia. Council will continue to monitor the lagoon to check for any regrowth.

Council contact and info

The next Ordinary Council meeting will be held on Monday 8 April 2019 at 5pm. Ordinary meetings are generally 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, email or phone the General Manager prior to the close of business on the business day preceding the meeting for public access.

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

Regional Roads Information

www.myroadinfo.com.au