KYOGLE & villages

Community Newsletter

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020



Council allocates Bushfire RECOVERY FUNDS

Kyogle Council will spend bushfire recovery grant funds on infrastructure restoration for rural landholders, improvements to evacuation centres, and waiving development applications costs for bush-fire affected residents to rebuild homes and sheds.

Further funds will go toward economic stimulus activities such as event sponsorship, funding an additional round of Community Financial Assistance and offering a new grant program to local businesses operating in the village areas - see story on page 3.

Funding has been provided by the Federal Government through its Bushfire Recovery Program (\$1.3 million) and the State Government's Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund (\$100,000).

It comes as the NSW Government announced it has set up a one-stop bushfire customer care service for people and businesses affected by the fires.

Those impacted by the bushfires can now access all available assistance through

Bushfire Customer Care at Service NSW this includes all assistance offered by the NSW State Government, the Federal Government and local councils.

To connect with a bushfire customer care specialist, call Service NSW between 7am and 7pm on 13 77 88, go to a Service NSW Centre or Mobile Service Centre, or log on to the Service NSW website at www.service.nsw.gov.au.

Residents and businesses needing help are urged to contact Service NSW bushfire customer care in the first instance. If Service ning consultant to act as a concierge for NSW is unable to provide any assistance. people can then contact Council's Strategic Initiatives Officer Suzie Coulston on 6632 1611 to see if they are eligible for any of the council programs.

Council's infrastructure restoration for rural landholders program will cover the costs of clearing fence lines adjoining stateowned land, fencing materials, materials for repairs to damaged water infrastructure, as well as running costs associated with the BlazeAid camp at Woodenbong.

Funding will be limited to those costs where there is direct fire damage, and there is no other funding available or the property owner does not meet eligibility requirements.

The money will be distributed by Council staff based recommendations from the BlazeAid co-ordinator and DPI Recovery Officer.

Council has also set aside recovery funds to cover the cost of development applications and associated approvals for people rebuilding structures lost or damaged in the fires.

The Council will engage an external planaffected property owners to help them through the process.

Funds have also been provided to improve the capacity and capability of the community led emergency evacuation centres. These include the Kyogle Memorial Institute Hall and Kyogle Community Centre, the Wiangaree Hall, the Woodenbong Hall and Cross Roads Church, the Bonalbo Hall, the Mallanganee Hall and Campdraft Grounds and the Tabulam Hall.

Council will conduct audits of each facility before putting together a program of works and training for each of the community led evacuation centres.



from the Mayor ...

Council has really hit the ground running this year with various projects being rolled out across the local government area.

With water security being a big issue, Council is currently looking to establish additional groundwater sources in Bonalbo and Tabulam as part of the Drought Communities Program Extension and to enhance the existing town water supply in Bonalbo.

The drilling has commenced in Bonalbo with mixed success to date.

The first exploratory drilling near the existing river extraction point has provided a location that looks to be suitable for a future bore, but the second location near Council's works depot was found not to be suitable.

There are still a couple more locations for exploratory drilling in Bonalbo, and once completed the constructed bores will be tested for both water quality and quantity before decisions are made as to which bore or bores will be permanently commissioned.

A similar process is then to occur in Tabulam.

The exploration and testing is expected to take two to three months to finalise, and the commissioning of the final bores will take a further two to three months to complete.

However, these bores will hopefully go some way to ensuring our future water



supply in these areas, particularly during periods of drought.

Three Australia Day events were held across the Council area, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committees who coordinated these events for their communities.

My congratulations to not only all the Australia Day award winners but the nominees as well - not everyone can win but to be nominated is an honour in itself and recognition by your community of your contribution to, or excellence in a particular field.

A lot of work goes into the coordination of these events and I have heard nothing but positive feedback from these communities.

At the Woodenbong celebrations, Cr Lindsay Passfield was the recipient of the LGNSW Outstanding Service to Community medallion, organised by Council in conjunction with the office of our State Member Janelle Saffin.

Cr Passfield has indicated that he will be stepping down this year, and I would like to congratulate him on his award and thank him for more than 20 years' community service.

The newly built Bonalbo Hall deck, *pictured*, was also launched on Australia Day, a project delivered in partnership between Council and the Bonalbo community.

Congratulations to all those involved with a special mention to Vilya and Marion for their lovely welcome and enthusiasm for their ongoing plans for the deck.

Disaster recovery meetings postbushfires have been held in Woodenbong and Bonalbo in January and ongoing support is available.

For assistance or help finding what assistance is most appropriate for you, contact Bushfire Customer Care at Service NSW, phone 13 77 88.

Although I have had a few health issues recently, I would like to assure everyone that I am almost fully recovered and back on deck.

We have a project application in under Fixing Country Roads for \$33 million for the Clarence Way and the projects funded under the Stronger Country Communities fund have already begun, and will hopefully be finalised this year, particularly those projects West of the Range.

We have a big couple of months coming up, particularly in terms of lobbying so stay tuned for news.

Until next time,

Cr Danielle Mulholland

TRAVEL CARD for eligible seniors

Applications for the \$250 Regional Seniors Travel Card are now open.

Eligible seniors can apply through service.nsw.gov.au, by calling 13 77 88 or visiting a Service NSW Service Centre.

To be eligible to receive the \$250 Regional Seniors Travel Card you must be an age pensioner with a valid Pensioner Concession Card or hold a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card issued by either the Department of Human Services or Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Seniors must also live in regional NSW

outside Sydney, Newcastle or Wollongong City Council boundaries.

The card is aimed at easing the cost of travel for regional seniors.

It can be used for pre-booked NSW TrainLink Regional services, taxis and fuel

NSW Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Paul Toole said successful applicants would receive their card in the mail, with a PIN to follow a few days later with an explanation on how to activate the card.

Eligible seniors will have a minimum of 12 months to use their card from the time of activation

HAVE YOUR SAY on disability inclusion in NSW

Local people with disability, their carers and service providers are urged to have their say on disability inclusion in NSW.

The Disability Inclusion Act 2014 is currently being reviewed and individuals, peak bodies and government agencies are encouraged to contribute.

To have your say go to www.dcj.nsw. gov.au/dia-review and read the discussion paper. To provide feedback on the discussion paper, you can complete an online survey or make a formal submission to the committee.

The review closes on 30 March 2020.



Applications now open for Council's special FIRE RECOVERY GRANTS

Council is calling for applications for a special round of Community Financial Assistance Grants including event sponsorship and support, and a one-off round of Business Grants as part of its bushfire recovery program.

Grants of up to \$5,000 without any co-contribution and \$25,000 with a co-contribution are available for both programs.

People and organisations running events are strongly encouraged to apply for a Community Financial Assistance Grant.

The Community Financial Assistance Grants will be open to individuals and organisations.

Business Grants are only available for businesses, or the owners of a commercial premise, in one of the villages (ie excluding Kyogle).

Priority for the Business Grants will be given to applications that contribute to;

- Local employment or training
- The visitor economy
- Improved visual amenity or activation of commercial buildings and streetscapes
- Improvements or fit-out of registered food premises.
 Applications for both grants are to be submitted on-line via the
 Council website and will close at 4pm on Monday, 6 April, 2020.
 Successful applicants will notified in May.

CR PASSFIELD receives LGNSW Award

Cr Lindsay Passfield has received an Outstanding Service Award from Local Government NSW.

The award was presented to Cr Passfield on Australia Day by Federal Member for Page, Kevin Hogan.

It was organised by Council in conjunction with Member for Lismore, Janelle Saffin.

The award recognises Cr Passfield's 21 years continuous service to Kyogle Council and the Council community.

First elected in 1999, Cr Passfield initially agreed to stand for Council after being approached by several members of the community concerned there was no Woodenbong representative on the council.

Roads and bridges were his passion then, and they continue to be his passion today.

During his time on Council, Cr Passfield has worked to improve the condition of Council's road and bridge network and continues to lobby State and Federal governments to improve and develop strategic road links between the Northern Rivers and Queensland's southern Darling Downs and Brisbane.

He also is a vocal advocate for the timber industry and timber communities.

During his 21 years on Kyogle Council, Cr Passfield has served on Council's former Technical Services Committee, Woodenbong Australia Day Committee, Summerland Way Promotional Committee, Downs to Rivers Action Committee, the Woodenbong to Legume Stakeholders Group, and National Timber Councils' Association.



Member for Page, Kevin Hogan, presents Cr Lindsay Passfield with an Outstanding Service Award.

LOCAL HALLS to receive \$10,000 grants

Council will provide 21 community halls across the local government area with \$10,000 each thanks to its inclusion in the Federal Government's Drought Communities Program Extension.

Council currently covers the rates for the 21 community-owned and run halls.

The committees which run the halls will be required to spend the \$10,000 on activities to repair, maintain, up-

grade, construct or fit-out the important community facilities.

Council received \$1 million under the Drought Communities Program Extension, which is an economic stimulus package for drought affected areas.

The remaining funds will be spent on: renewable energy projects (\$400,000); water supply projects including bores for Bonalbo, Tabulam and Kyogle and additional water carter fill points as Woodenbong and Bonalbo (\$360,000); and a security system for the Kyogle Community Gym (\$30,000).

PRESCHOOLS

receive one-off grants

Preschools in bushfire impacted areas of the Lismore electorate will benefit from a one-off payment by the NSW Government to provide fee relief and help with the recovery from this summer's devastating fires.

Schools announced by National MLC Ben Franklin which will benefit from the grant include: Bentley Community Pre-School; Ngallingnee Jarjum Tabulam & District Community Preschool; Bundgeam Community Pre-School; Cawongla Playhouse; Eden Creek/Fairymount Pre-School; Woodenbong Pre-School Kindergarten; Kyoqle Pre-School.



Kyogle LGA celebrates AUSTRALIA DAY 2020





Kyogle Citizen of the Year Colin Griffiths with Australia Day Ambassador Ethan Butson.

Unsung community heroes, local sports people and students were honoured at Australia Day celebrations held across the Kyogle Council local government area on 26 January.

The presentation of community awards was part of events held at Kyogle, Bonalbo and Woodenbong to mark Australia's national day.

As part of the festivities at Kyogle, four local residents officially became Australian citizens.

The Australia Day Award winners for the three centres are:

Kyogle

Citizen of the Year, Colin Griffiths.
Senior Citizen of the Year, Fae Little
Senior Student of the Year, Zac Clark
Senior Sportsperson of the Year, Alison
Coote.

Junior Sportsperson of the Year, Rigby



Kyogle Senior Citizen of the Year, Fae Little.

O'Meara

Special Community Service Awards were presented to all Bush Fire Brigades in Kyogle LGA including: Bonalbo; Green Pigeon; Grevillia; Hanging Rock; Kyogle HQ; Mallanganee; Mummulgum; Old Bonalbo; Sextonville; Tabulam; Toonumbar; Wiangaree; Woodenbong; and Wyneden.

West of the Range

Citizen of the Year, Pastor Peter Boughey. Young Citizen of the Year, joint winners Ryan Stubbings and Laura Sudholz Sportsperson of the Year, Emily Watson Event/Community Organisation of the Year, Bonalbo Show Society

Certificate of Appreciation - Samantha Ludwig

Woodenbong

Citizen of the Year, George Stein. **Business/Service of the Year**, Woodenbong Driveway (Rod and Kim Watson—pictured



Woodenbong Citizen of the Year, George Stein with Australia Day Ambassador Greg Donovan.

below).

Community Organisation, Woodenbong Rural Fire Service

Australia Day Appreciation Awards were presented to the POD Army (local farmers with water pods on back of their utes who helped fight bush fires) and BlazeAid.





West of the Range Australia Day award winners with Cr Earle Grundy, second from right, and Australia Day special guest Brigadier Warren Gould.



Community asked to review RESERVE PLANS

The community is being asked to review and comment on draft blueprints for the future of 10 parks, sports grounds and community facilities throughout the Kyogle local government area.

Council endorsed draft Plans of Management and associated Masterplans for the 10 reserves at its 10 February meeting. They are intended to guide the management, use and development of the reserves.

They cover: Norman Johnston Park; Mallanganee Lookout; Wiangaree Rodeo Grounds; Woodenbong Sports Ground; Kyogle Recreation Reserve; Old Bonalbo Reserve (Tennis Courts); Tabulam Sports Oval; Mallanganee Sports Ground; Aboody Park; and ANZAC Park.

Council has also prepared a Draft Generic Plan of Management covering all other community land where Council is the land manager.

The draft documents incorporate recommendations from the earlier Visions of the Villages Masterplans and allow for key projects which have been funded through the Stronger Country Communities Fund.

In line with Council's commitment to work with local communities when plan-



Plans of Management and Masterplans for the 10 reserves, such as this one for the Mallanganee Lookout, are available on Council's website.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

ning key spaces, the draft plans will be on public exhibition until 3 April 2020.

The documents can be viewed at Council's administration centre and on Council's website at www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au (go to the On Public Exhibition page).

Council also held drop-in sessions across the LGA in February and early March to

allow the community to view, discuss and comment on the draft plans.

Submissions on the draft documents close at 4pm on Friday, 3 April, 2020 and should be emailed to council@kyogle.nsw. gov.au or sent by mail to The General Manager, Kyogle Council, PO Box 11, Kyogle, NSW, 2474.

HAVE YOUR SAY on draft planning statement

The community is being asked to provide feedback on a draft plan that aims to guide land use and development in the Kyogle Council area over the next 20 years.

People have until 27 March to comment on the Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), which identifies planning priorities to protect the desirable attributes of the area and support the sustainable development of the LGA.

The State Government has mandated that every Council is NSW produce a LSPS. To view the Draft LSPS and find out how to make a submission, you can:

- Go online at www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au/onpublic-exhibition
- Drop into Council's administration centre at 1 Stratheden Street, Kyogle
- Or view the draft LSPS at the Wooden-



bong Post Office, Bonalbo Post Office, Tabulam Post Office, Mallanganee Post Office or the Cawongla Store.

Submissions close at 4pm on Friday, 27 March, 2020.



New exhibition tells

CARLA'S STORY

Regional emerging artist Carla Davey will be exhibiting a new body of her work in the Stepping Up Gallery in the foyer of Council's Roxy Gallery.

I WAS....SHE IS....I AM! is Carla's story of when she was born, where she went to school, how people saw her with a disability and how she became an artist.

Carla is involved with RealArtWorks, a not -for-profit 'post disability' arts organisation that works alongside artists in assisting them to undertake their practice as well as supporting inclusive opportunities for artists to collaborate on larger community art-based projects.

From her studio space at SeeSpace, Carla writes: "I have my own art space.

"I like it. I love it.

"No-one can touch my stuff.

"I play music and dance.
"I make art so I can be free."
I WAS....SHE IS....I AM! by Carla
Davey will be on show from 4 March,

I am Carla
I am special because....
I am talented.
I am funny
I make people laugh
I have a heart
A really big heart
Making art makes my heart grow
It makes my fingers feel people
It makes me feel their happiness.
I say to you art is really good for you
Do it.

RIGHT: One of Carla Davey's works which will feature as part of the I WAS...SHE IS...I AM exhibition at the Stepping Up Gallery.



MOTHER AND SON join together for Roxy show

Council's Roxy Gallery will celebrate its first year in its new abode with an exhibition by longtime local artist Julie St Aubyn.

Remains to Be Seen is the title Julie has given her retrospective exhibition which will be held at the gallery from 4-29 March.

The exhibition spans 20 years' of creative works and features paintings, drawings and mosaics, *pictured right*.

It is a testament to Julie's journey as a new settler to the bush and the striking contrast she has experienced between urban living and country life.

The imagery in Julie's works are drawn from both the natural and unseen worlds, with some obvious and some subtle.

Julie's childhood intrigue with, and fear of, death and her interest in the human spirit and our place in the world, lead her into working within the fields of palliative care and funeral directing.

This has influenced her creative journey and prompted her to explore themes of impermanence and death.

Julie has asked her son Jasper St Aubyn West to contribute some of his work into this exhibition.

Jasper is a multidisciplinary artist with a primary focus on the moving image.

His visual aesthetic has been heavily influenced by his many years working in the film and televi-



sion industry and he often blends cinematic compositions and narrative elements with surreal and unexpected flourishes.

He twists and transforms the familiar to create new perspectives and windows into other worlds. Jasper is a young Kyogle person who has gone on to achieve some amazing accolades in his field of multimedia and he has produced a video of his works for the gallery to project throughout the course of this exhibition.

Remains To Be Seen will officially open on Friday 6 March from 6-8pm.

Water security a **PRIORITY**

Although water restrictions at Kyogle, Woodenbong, and Bonalbo have eased due to recent rain, water security for our communities remains a priority.

Water restrictions were reduced to Level 1 at midnight on 18 February 2020.

Under Level 1 restrictions, domestic micro-sprays and drippers/subsurface can be used for a maximum of 15 minutes and hand held hoses can be used for one hour every second day, between the hours of 4pm and 9am, on an odd or even day matching your house number.

Other domestic irrigation methods and unattended hoses are banned.

For commercial premises the same restrictions apply, except for businesses such as nurseries and where business hours dictate use—then sprinklers can be used for up to two hours a day.

Community

Calendar

Stretch and tone

Stretch and tone classes, which are a combination of pilates and yoga are held at the Bonalbo Hall on Mondays from 10.30-11.45am.

Cost is a gold coin donation.

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 Robert on 0407 506 548 or Anne on 6632 1851.

Bonalbo Market

The Bonalbo Hall and Park Markets are held on

the first Sunday of every month at the Bonalbo Hall and adjoining park.

The markets run from 10am to 1pm. Table sites cost \$5, just come along at 9.30am on the day.

Save the date

The Kyogle Garden Club will hold its annual Flower and Foliage Display at the Kyogle Memorial Institute Hall on Friday 17 April and Saturday 18 April, 2020.

Le Bon Café

The Le Bon Café at the Bonalbo Hall has reopened after recent renovations.

It is open weekdays between 10am-2pm and Sundays from 9am-noon.

Come along and enjoy home cooked meals, great coffee and the village ambiance.

Drama program for LOCAL YOUTH

DIRT, the youth drama program of the Village Hall Players for children aged 8 to 16 years, has resumed weekly classes.

Classes are held at the Kyogle Memorial Institute Hall during school terms on Wednesdays from 4.15-6.15pm. In Casino, classes are held from 4-6pm on Tuesdays in the Mirage Room at the Casino RSM Club.

DIRT instructor Lynette Zito said places were still available in both classes

"This semester the children will begin rehearsing for their June production of *Alice in Wonderland*, as well as learning acting, theatre techniques and singing," she said.

"They will also be taught a couple of dances for the show – the Lobster Quadrille and a line dance. So, if your son or daughter is interested in performing, DIRT may be right for them." For information, contact villagehall-players@gmail.com or Lynette on 0429 922 169.

VHP is also looking for anyone aged 18 years and older who may be interested in working with this program or in joining the company.

There are many backstage roles to be filled. All volunteers must undergo a NSW Working with Children check.



IMPROVEMENT projects completed

Council has completed improvements to the Bonalbo pool, the Old Bonalbo Hall and the Woodenbong Hall.

All three projects were funded under Round 2 of the State Government's Stronger Country Communities (SCC) program.

Improvement works at the Bonalbo pool included the installation of accessible stairs, and the refurbishment of the grandstand and the male and female amenities.

The pool was also painted as part of the project which cost \$60,000, of which Council contributed \$10,000.

The Old Bonalbo Soldiers Memorial Hall got an interior paint job and a septic system upgrade as part of its SCC improvement project. The hall's timber floors also were sanded and sealed.

The Old Bonalbo Hall Trust chipped in \$9,000 of the \$59,000 total cost of the project.

The Woodenbong Hall received an electrical upgrade and had air conditioning installed under the SCC program.

The project cost \$55,000 and involved the installation of six inverter reverse cycle air conditioners.







FLOOD DELAYS

Council's works program

The heavy rainfall in February has caused slight delays to the works program.

Council staff had some initial extra work dealing with minor bridge repairs and clean-up of landslips and silted bridges but response was rapid and access was quickly restored in most areas.

Three roads remain closed due to flood damage at time of writing – Sextonville Road where bridge approaches were badly damaged, Boomi Creek Road where a culvert was washed out, and Dyraaba Road where a bridge was washed away.

Many other roads have suffered damage to road surfaces and culverts and signage has been lost in many places, especially near bridges.

All repair and restoration work will be funded by the Federal Government's Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements and Council will add these works in to the existing work program which will have an impact on previously planned maintenance work.

One project delayed by rainfall is the Hootons Road bridge replacement where the piling contractor's access to the site is currently impeded by higher water levels. Construction of the new bridge was expected to commence in February, but is now likely to begin in March.

Burt Rayner Bridge on Findon Creek Road is almost complete. The bridge was opened to traffic in mid-February but a few small jobs such as sealing of bridge approaches and installation of signage are required before the project is finalised.

The replacement of Mulcahys Bridge on Needhams Road is expected to be open to traffic by the time this newsletter reaches mailboxes.

Council is very pleased with the results of the work carried out in February to improve a section of Omagh Road.

Due to some cost savings on other projects, we were able to extend the length of the section of road rehabilitated, although the heavy rain in mid-February slightly delayed completion of the work which then flowed on to delay commencement of improvements at the intersection of Imbreys Road and Summerland Way.



After completion of the Imbreys Road project, the crew will move to Burnetts Creek on the Summerland Way.

Rain also slowed progress on the Clarence Way sealing project south of Bruxner Highway, but work is still moving along at a good pace.

Earthworks have been carried out in February to upgrade safety at the intersections with Old Lawrence Road and Pagans Flat Road with improvements to sight distances and road alignment.

Council MEETINGS

The next Ordinary Council meeting will be held on Monday 9 March 2020 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 Public Forum, which provides an opportunity for the public to speak to Council on items of business to be considered at the meeting. To request to speak at the Public Forum, you should email council@kyogle.nsw.gov.au or phone 6632 1611 by midday on the Friday preceding the meeting.

REGIONAL ROADS INFORMATION

www.myroadinfo.com.au

Council contact and info

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



A WARD

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KYOGLE COUNCIL HOURS 8.30AM-4PM
MONDAY TO FRIDAY