KYOGLE & villages

Community Newsletter

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021



UPGRADE FOR

MALLANGANEE

AMENITIES

Council delivers on LGA's **FUTURE NEEDS**

In this

ISSUE

Kyogle Council has met the challenge of bushfires, flood, drought and COVID-19 while still rolling out another record capital works program, totaling \$20.8 million.

FROM THE

MAYOR

That brings the total to \$96 million in capital works Council has delivered since the adoption of its Long-Term Financial Plan in 2015, Mayor Danielle Mulholland said.

"The last 18 months or more has seen our community confront substantial challenges and I'm proud to be part of a Council and community, that continues to punch above its weight and deliver for our future," Cr Mulholland said following the release of the council's Annual Report.

"I am very proud that Council successfully secured State and Federal grant funding totalling \$19.7 million in 2019/2020.

"This assisted us to deliver increased road upgrades and bridge replacements across our Local Government Area (LGA) including the replacement of 13 timber



ROCKIN'

POOL PARTY

The old timber bridge over the Clarence River on Hootons Road, Tabulam was one of 13 bridges Council replaced last financial year. The new concrete bridge on Hootons Road, pictured, was built at a cost of \$1.8 million and was funded with assistance through the Australian Government's Bridge Renewal Program.

bridges.

COUNCIL

RECRUITS

APPRENTICES

"Our community confronted the challenges of devastating drought and bushfires and with State and Federal assistance Council delivered \$3.4 million in drought and bushfire recovery packages, including distributing over \$1 million in community and business grants.

"To ease the financial burden on drought-affected rural residents facing water shortages, Council waived its service charge for bulk water sales.

REFLECT

RESPECT

CELEBRATE

YOUTH ART

PRIZE

LAUNCHED

"We recognised climate change as a contributing factor to uncertainty and established a Climate Change Working Group.

"Council led a project to ensure local communities are more prepared and better able to recover from disasters, winning the NSW Get Ready Community Award.

"2020 produced challenges not seen in

Continued Page 4



from the Mayor ...

Well the Christmas parties and the New Years' celebrations have passed and I hope everyone enjoyed their break.

I think we'd all like to put 2020 behind us in the hope that the new year will bring an easing of restrictions and a resolution to the pandemic so that we can all get on with our lives.

Diving straight back into it, the NSW Government rejected Council's \$33 million application to upgrade the Clarence Way.

The program was cut from \$87m to \$20m due to Covid and only four projects under the Fixing Country Roads program were funded.

Our staff prepared a fantastic business case, meeting all the criteria however on a more optimistic note, a second round is opening in February.

We will, of course, reapply.

This is devastating news for those who live on the Clarence Way and we will continue to lobby and pester the Minister for this much needed funding.

Australia Day celebrations for 2021 are coming up and will be held in Kyogle, Woodenbong and Bonalbo.

Nominations for awards have been received and will be assessed to determine the winners in each category.

At the time of writing this, all our planned celebrations will continue but remain subject to any directions from the



State Government in relation to COVID-19.

We'll keep our fingers crossed that everything proceeds as planned, but it's a very flexible situation at present.

The year ahead will bring with it a comprehensive works program for our area including the completion of the Vision of the Villages projects for the west of the range villages.

We have already secured funding for these projects from State and Federal Governments and the majority should be completed by the end of the financial year.

Let's hope this year brings an improvement on the last and that there are brighter days ahead for all of us.

Council remains committed to delivering the best service we can and will continue to lobby hard to get the funding we need, particularly in terms of addressing our infrastructure backlog.

Until next time,

Cr Danielle Mulholland

Rural road numbers must be **HIGHLY VISIBLE**

Council is reminding landholders of the importance of ensuring their rural road number can be easily seen.

Not only is it crucial for mail deliveries, an easy to see rural road number is essential during an emergency.

Emergency services rely on correct and easy to see road numbers to get them to a property as fast as possible.

Precious time can be wasted when an ambulance driver, police officer, or fire fighter needs to stop and ask for directions because the rural road number has fallen off or vegetation has grown over it.



It can also mean that essential services such as energy and telecommunication companies can't find the appropriate property.

Landholders are urged to check their rural road number to ensure it can be easily seen and if not, to correct the problem as a matter of urgency.

Rural addressing, just like urban street addressing, involves placing a unique

number on a fence or gate near the property entrance.

The rural address number is assigned in a logical sequence based on the distance of the access of the property from a starting point, usually the start of a road. Each number represents 10 metres in length, with odd numbers assigned on the left and the even numbers allocated on the right from the start of the road.

Not only does a rural road number help emergency services and essential service providers, it provides a guide for all road users

If you are looking for number 500 and pass number 300, you know you have another 2km to go before you reach your destination.



COUNCIL JOBS on offer for young people

Kyogle Council once again is taking direct action when it comes to getting young people into jobs.

The Council, together with NovaSkill, is offering apprenticeships and traineeships in the areas of bridge and road construction, water operations and business administration. Applications close on Monday, 18 January, 2021.

The new job opportunities come on top of the seven apprenticeships/traineeships the council is currently hosting, and the 14 opportunities created since the program started in 2018.

Kyogle Council Mayor Cr Danielle Mulholland said the Council took its role as one of the local government area's major employers seriously.

"Council believes very strongly that it has a responsibility to provide our young people with jobs where possible and to give them the opportunity to train and learn skills that they can use throughout their careers," she said. "Employing apprentices and trainees also helps Council address issues with its aging workforce and ensures we have the skills needed to provide critical services to the community into the future."

Apprenticeships are on offer in bridge construction and civil construction (road construction), while the traineeships are in water operations and business administration

Positions will be based in Kyogle, Woodenbong and Bonalbo.

Craig White, of NovaSkill said recruiting for the positions had begun and encouraged anyone interested in the positions to apply.

"Council represents a great opportunity for job seekers to kickstart their career and secure a long-term future,' Mr White said.

"Getting started is easy, simply visit novaskill.com.au and search our available jobs, or visit the Kyogle Council website for more information.

"All successful applicants will gain onthe-job training, as well as help to complete a nationally recognised qualification." Kyogle Council General Manager Graham Kennett said the program had been successful to date, with three of the apprentices ending up with full time employment post completion of their apprenticeships.

"It is very rewarding to see the development of new employees from the apprenticeship program, and particularly so when they become part of our permanent work force," Mr Kennett said.

"This program has also helped our older employees work towards a phased transition to retirement, with the transitional period providing them with another set of hands to help out with the daily tasks, while also allowing them to transfer their years of knowledge to the next generation of Council employees.

"It has been a real win-win for everyone involved.

"I would strongly encourage anyone looking for a career that provides both security, and an opportunity to serve their local community, to submit an application now."

UPGRADE FORMallanganee amenities

A \$280,000 project to replace and refurbish amenities in Mallanganee and upgrade the local sports ground is all but complete.

Council has built a new amenities block, *pictured top right*, and refurbished an old set of toilets at the sports ground and built a new public toilet, *pictured bottom right*, at Everson Park as part of the projects funded by the State Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 2.

The new amenities block, which includes showers, is fully accessible as is the new



public toilet in Everson Park.

The old cricket nets also have been refurbished, *pictured bottom left*, and a new fence built around the Council depot at the sports grounds as part of the twin projects.

Kyogle Council Mayor Cr Danielle Mulholland said the upgrade of the amenities at Mallanganee was part of a suite of projects Council was delivering to the villages in the local government area.

"Council's aim is to enhance the attractiveness of the villages to tourists and ensure they have a good 'first experience'," Cr Mulholland said.

"We also want to build the capacity of these communities to host events, bringing a much needed boost to their local economies.

"We identified these projects through a comprehensive community engagement process and by securing the funding through the SCCF, we are able to deliver on our promises.

"There is still a lot to do and we continue to actively lobby for funding so Kyogle and the villages become a desirable destination for tourists, and attract industry and greater investment in our local government area."







PARTY at the pool

Kyogle Youth Action will be running events and programs right through the Kyogle Council local government area throughout 2021.

The first event off the mark will be a 'rockin' pool party' featuring local bands from Kyogle and Byron.

It will be held at the Kyogle pool on Saturday, 30 January 2021 from 2-5pm, with free buses running from Muli Muli, Woodenbong, Bonalbo, Jubullum and Tabulam.

The pool party is for young people aged 12-25 and their families and is a drug and alcohol free event.

As well as enjoying live music, pool party goers will

be able to test their 'bull riding' skills on Bazza the Buckin' Bull, with prizes on offer for the best cowgirl and cowboy.

There will also be an art space and a free barbecue.

To book a seat on the free bus phone Paul on 0460 578 866 or email youth.worker@ kyogletogether.org.au

The pool party will launch Swoopin' Season and the Village Youth Program.

If you want to create fun events in your area, have your say and talk up to council why not come and join the Swoopin' Season crew at the pool party or just come and chill out, make some art and kick back.

This project is being run in partnership with Kyogle Council.



Festival in MAY

The inaugural Kyogle Writers' Festival will be held in May.

It will be held over three days and will feature: inspiring writers' workshops; award winning and regional author interviews; quest question and answer panel; social activities: literary networking; music, poetry, street events, and community fun.

Further details to follow in coming months.

COUNCIL WORKS with, and for, the community

From Page 1

100 years due to COVID-19, and we managed to keep our doors open and deliver essential services to our community without disruption."

To help the community through the pandemic, Council also adopted relief measures to support businesses and rate-payers, including;

- rent relief for Council's commercial tenants,
- suspension of debt recovery measures, and
- waiving interest payable on outstanding rates and charges

"COVID-19 slowed tourism but we are confident of the future after recording 23,000 unique visitors to the Visit Kyogle website in 2019/2020 alone," Cr Mulholland said.

"Further adding to confidence in our local economy, we saw \$15.2 million of development approvals in our LGA across 2019/2020.



Council installed two accessible cabins at the Kyogle Gardens Caravan Park to provide new visitor accommodation.

"Planning for our future is one of the most important jobs Council has and earlier this year we adopted a \$412 million Long Term Financial Plan to future proof our Local Government Area, which includes over \$162 million in capital works over the next 14 years.

"Once again, one of the most significant achievements of the year was the improvement in Council's financial position.

"Council was issued with a clean audit opinion from the NSW Audit Office, and achieved five out of the six financial bench-

marks, with only the Own Source Revenue Ratio below target, which is due to an increase in external grant funding.

"Kyogle Council is no longer the forgotten Council in the hinterland of the Northern Rivers, instead we are a recognised leader in our field.

"Recognising the importance of strong leadership and his role in ensuring Council continues to deliver for our community, we also reappointed Graham Kennett as our General Manager for a further five years."



DAs now must be lodged via **ONLINE PORTAL**

Council is reminding everyone that under State Government legislation that came into effect at the start of the year, it is now mandatory for planning services to be provided online via the NSW Planning Portal.

This means that from 1 January this year all development applications must be submitted to council and processed electronically, via the Planning Portal.

This includes:

- development applications
- applications to modify a development consent (section 4.55 applications)
- complying development applications
- Construction Certificate applications
- Subdivision Works Certificate applications
- Subdivision Certificate applications, and
- Occupation Certificate applications
 The shift to electronic planning services is designed to make the development application process easier and deliver a

more effective, efficient and transparent service for proponents of development.

Proponents will be able to track the progress of their application with Council, view and respond to communications from Council about their application and obtain copies of relevant approvals and certificates.

To use the Portal you will need to register for a Portal account with the NSW Government.

Once you have registered, you will be able to log in to the Portal, complete an online application form and upload any documents required to support your application such as a Statement of Environmental Effects, planning reports, engineering plans and drawings and technical assessments.

You are still required to prepare and submit all documentation that would normally be required to accompany an application submitted to Council in hard copy – the only difference is now your application must be submitted electronically via the Portal.

For further information on the Planning



Portal including instructions on how to lodge a development application, please visit www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au.

If you have any difficulty using the Online DA Service, please contact the ePlanning support team at eplanning@planning. nsw.gov.au.

Council looks forward to receiving your development application via the Portal in 2021.

NEW PROGRAM TARGETS

local businesses hit hard by bushfires, COVID

A new program is now available to help Kyogle local government area businesses hit hard by the Black Summer bushfires and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the Entrepreneurs Program, Strengthening Business is a new service from the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources to assist businesses with recovery and to become stronger, more resilient and prepared for the future. Through the Strengthening Business program local businesses can get a dedi-

cated facilitator to work with them to provide assistance in areas including:

- Planning for growth, adaptation, pivoting, or
- Diversifying their operations, systems or strategies, and
- Building long-term strategies and frameworks for resilience and continuity

This service is available to businesses with a current ABN that were operating in the Kyogle Council LGA during the Black Summer bushfires.

For more info or to apply for this program go to www.business.gov.au/EP or contact Nathan McGrath via 0428 029 354 or nathan.mcgrath@ep.industry.gov.au.

Calendar Calendar

Kyogle Bazaar

Kyogle Bazaar is held on the fourth Saturday of each month, 9am - 2pm in the Kyogle Amphitheater.

The Bazaar is operating with COVID-19 measures in place.

Come along and enjoy a day browsing the artisan, secondhand and garden stalls while enjoying a delicious coftee.

For further information checkout the Bazaar's Facebook page facebook.com/kyoglebazaar or email kyoglebazaarmarket@gmail.com.

The first Bazaar of 2021 will be held on Saturday 23 January.

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.

Roxy Gallery

The February exhibition at Council's Roxy Gallery will feature works by members of the Practicing Artists Network (PAN).

The PAN members have created works that reflect Henry Lawson's poem The Wander-Light.

The exhibition was originally

to have been held last year, but was postponed due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

Bonalbo Market

A market is held at the Bonalbo Community Hall and grounds on the first Sunday of the month from 10am to 1pm.

The first market for 2021 will be held on Sunday, 7 February.

Stall tables cost just \$5. There is no need to book, just come along at 9.30am on the day.



Kyogle LGA to celebrate **AUSTRALIA DAY**

On Tuesday, 26 January communities across the Kyogle Local Government Area (LGA) will come together to reflect, respect and celebrate.

In the past 12 months, Australia has faced drought, bushfires, floods and the coronavirus pandemic.

Australia Day 2021 will provide a chance for the people of Kyogle, Woodenbong, West of the Range and surrounding areas to reflect on the challenges of the past year, respect the sacrifices and contributions of our first responders and celebrate being together and being Australian.

It will also give people the chance to reflect on the nation's past – a history which began more than 65,000 years ago with the First Australians, the world's oldest living culture - and to share the stories, histories and contributions of everyday Australians.

The Kyogle LGA will host three official Australia Day celebrations, with events planned for Kyogle, Woodenbong and Bonalbo.

Bonalbo

2021 West of the Range Australia Day festivities will be held in the grounds behind the Bonalbo Bowling and Recreation Clubhouse starting at 10am.

The festivities will include market stalls, barefoot bowls at the Bowling Club and an ambrose event at the golf course.

There will be a free sausage sizzle from 11.30am

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

Dr Brian Pezzutti, *pictured above*, will be the official Australia Day quest.

Dr Pezzutti, who was raised in Bonalbo, was elected to the NSW Parliament's Legislative Council in 1988 and served the State for almost 15 years.

While an MLC, he served as a member of the Australia Army Reserve in the Gulf War (1991), Bougainville (1995, 1998) and East Timor (1999). He was also Brigadier Assistant Surgeon General of the Australian Defence Forces from 2000 to 2004.

In line with Australia Day celebrations across the Kyogle Council local



Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate



government area, entry to Bonalbo pool will be free on the day. Bonalbo pool will host Council's inflatable activity centre on the day.

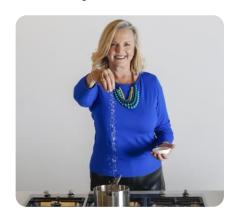
Kyogle

Kyogle's Australia Day festivities will be held at the Kyogle Amphitheatre Park 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 and a Citizenship Ceremony.

Australia Day Ambassador and celebrity chef Lyndey Milan OAM, *pictured below*, will deliver the Australia Day address.

Ms Milan is a familiar face on television and in print, has been instrumental in changing the way Australians think about food and wine via her nine best-selling cookbooks, eight TV series and influence as



former Food Director of the iconic Australian Women's Weekly.

For those wanting a swim after the Australia Day celebrations, entry to the Kyogle pool will be free on the day.

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 be held at 10am, followed by the official proceedings.

The Australia Day ambassador and 2020 NSW Young Woman of the Year finalist Julia Weber, *pictured below*, will deliver the Australia Day address.

Ms Weber is a 23 year-old university student who is dedicated to improving the financial literacy of young people from all backgrounds.

Her quest to improve the financial outcomes for all young Australians has led to her writing a financial literacy course that she has delivered in high schools right



across the Hunter. Julia has also focused her studies on financial literacy and is working on an app to enable young people to find funding for small business ideas.

After the official ceremony, there will a free lunch, then it's down to the Woodenbong recreation ground for the annual city versus country cricket match.

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



New art prize specifically for **YOUNG PEOPLE**

By PAUL SHIELDS

A new prize for young Northern Rivers' artists has just been launched.

Kyogle Youth Action, in conjunction with Kyogle Council's Roxy Gallery, are pleased to announce the opening of submissions for the first annual Brolga Young Persons Art Prize.

The prize hopes to capture the very best drawings and paintings of young artist from the local area.

The prize is open to anyone aged 12-25 who lives, works or studies in the Northern Rivers region, with artists asked to respond to the theme of 'change'.

Prizes include cash, showcases at the Roxy Gallery in Kyogle and professional development for the winning artists.

All submissions to the prize will be considered for a local exhibition for Youth Week 2022.

The prize will be judged by artists Kate McGain, Rebecca Tapscott and Ross Tamlin all of whom have a deep connection to the



Local artist Rebecca Tapscott, pictured, will help judge the new Brolga Young Persons Art Prize.

local area and are excited to see what emerging practitioners they will discover through the competition.

The deadline for submissions is 31 January brolga-art-prize/

2021.

For further information or to submit an entry, go to https://kyogletogether.org.au/brolga-art-prize/

LIBRARY NEWS

Regular programs return

Welcome to 2021!

The Kyogle library has the following regular programs running.

Please note that bookings are essential for all of these, due to physical distancing regulations. Phone Kyogle Library for bookings and further details 6632 1134.

Monthly Playdough Play Time

The program is for preschool-aged children with a carer.

It is held on the third Thursday of the month from 10.30-11am.

Monthly Book Discussion Group

This group has resumed meeting and is having great fun getting together again COVID-style while discussing their latest reads at Kyogle library.

The group meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 10.30am (BYO a coffee/drink if you wish.)

Create Make Share

The library's Create Make Share program will resume in February.

Sessions are strictly limited to six participants with hand sanitising and social distancing required.

Those attending will be required to wear a mask where one-on-one assistance is required and a tool kit will be distributed to each participant to minimise sharing of resources.

Please feel free to BYO beverage/snack as tea/coffee making facilities remain unavailable.

Please contact Kyogle library staff for dates, bookings and further details. Ph 6632 1134.

Housebound delivery service

Are you or a family member, friend or neighbour needing assistance to get out and about to the library?

If so, the library is able to arrange a free fortnightly delivery service of library items to residents within the Kyogle township.

Contact Kyogle library staff for further details on 6632 1134.

Australia Day

Australia Day 2021 is a time to reflect,

respect and celebrate.

We reflect on the strength and resilience of First Nations Australians. We pay respect to our heroic frontline workers. We celebrate the Australian spirit, our mateship and our sense of community. We find optimism and hope as we look to the future.

All library branches will be closed on Tuesday 26 January for the public holiday.

Our digital perspective

Entries are now being taken in the next round of the Richmond Upper Clarence Regional Library's (RUCRL) monthly photo competition. January's theme is *I See Architecture*.

Entries close midnight 31 January. Voting will take place the following week on the RUCRL Facebook page.

Tech Savvy lessons

QR codes, the Cloud, Paypal, Zoom, WiFi, MyGov, email -- do you need help understanding it all?

Book a free 30 minute Tech Savvy lesson at Kyogle library by phoning 6632 1134.

DYRAABA ROAD

re-opens to traffic

Dyraaba Road is again fully open with the replacement of Lockharts Bridge completed at the end of December.

The Dunns Road bridge replacement was also completed in December. The two bridges were funded through the Australian Government's Community Development Grants.

The Ferndale Road bridge, *pictured during construction,* was also completed in December.

Council's grading crew commenced grading in the Cawongla/Lillian Rock catchment in January.

The area had been due to be graded at the end of the year but dry weather meant that the work was put off as Council could not access water for the road works.

Now that there has been good rainfall and creek flows are restored, Council can resume its planned grading schedule.

In February, Council will commence on a \$2.7 million improvement project on After-



lee Road.

Pavement rehabilitation will be carried out on 6km of the worst sections of After-lee Road between Ettrick Road and Brown Knob Road with works including drainage improvements, road resealing, and line marking.

Seventy-five percent of the funds for the \$2.7million project are being provided by the State Government through the *Fixing Local Roads* program.

Another exciting project for 2021 is the

long-awaited \$5million upgrade of Clarence Way between Urbenville and Woodenbong.

Again, Council has been very fortunate to receive external funding with \$2 million of this project's cost met by the Federal Government's Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program.

Council will commence work on the project in February, starting at Urbenville and moving northwards towards Woodenbong.

Council MEETINGS

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on Monday 8 February 2021 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 speak at Public Forum, you should email (council@kyogle.nsw.gov.au) or phone Council on 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 * All Council waste facilities are closed on public holidays



A WARD

Cr Kylie Thomas

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crkylie.thomas@kyogle.nsw.gov.au

Cr Hayden Doolan

0402 097 185

crhayden.doolan@kyogle.nsw.gov.au

Cr Janet Wilson

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crjanet.wilson@kyogle.nsw.gov.au

B WARD

Cr John Burley (Deputy Mayor) 6632 1436 or 0437 252 376

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Cr Maggie May

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Cr Robert Dwyer

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C WARD

Cr Danielle Mulholland (Mayor)

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KYOGLE COUNCIL HOURS 8.30AM-4PM
MONDAY TO FRIDAY