

**Council wishes you a happy and joyous Christmas and peace, goodwill, and prosperity throughout the coming year.**



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## Flood recovery a priority **FOR COUNCIL**

Kyogle Council has emerged from the most challenging period ever faced by the organisation and its people having completed more than \$88 million in flood damage and capital works in a 12-month period, Mayor Cr Kylie Webster (Thomas) said at the release of Council's Annual Report.

Following the catastrophic 2022 floods, Council was faced with a massive flood repair program and a worrying shortage of resources to undertake the rebuild and recovery.

"That meant Council had to be innovative in the way it worked and prepared to adapt quickly to the changing circumstances," Cr Webster said.

"The success of this strategy can be seen in the record-breaking amount of work we've been able to complete in the 12 months to July 2023."

The \$88 million works program completed is \$61 million more than the previous record of \$27 million set in 2021/2022.



***In the 12 months to July 1, Council replaced a staggering 32 bridges . That equate to 2.6 bridges replaced every month.***

Cr Webster said Council's financial position remained strong despite the challenges generated by the floods.

"We are in a good position going forward, with money in the bank and grants coming in at a higher than expected rate," she said.

"It's been an extremely challenging time for everyone, and on behalf of the Councillors, I want to thank our valuable staff. Even during the flood restoration

works program, Council staff exceeded expectations and continued to deliver a high level of service to the various communities in our shire.

"The Council would also like to acknowledge the community for their support and understanding during this challenging period and thank the many

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## New citizens take PLEDGE

*Kyogle Council Mayor Cr Kylie Webster, right, congratulates Kyogle Local Government Area's newest Australian citizens, from left, Dr Rebecca Bull, Ms Yi-Ching Lin and Mrs Guihua Li. The three women took the Australian Citizenship Pledge, the final step in becoming an Australian citizen, at a special ceremony at the Council Chambers in late October.*



## Annual report details Council's ACHIEVEMENTS

### From page 1

people who have taken the time to contact Council and thank staff for their efforts.

"As challenging as last financial year was, Council has once again proved it's ability to punch well above its weight."

Cr Webster also thanked her fellow Councillors for their support and acknowledged the important role they played in setting the strategic priorities and providing the resources needed to overcome the challenges of the past 18 months.

The annual report, which is available on Council's website, provides details of Council's operations over the 2022-2023 financial year including a summary of achievements.

Achievements include:

- A total of 32 timber bridges replaced with concrete or steel structures – 29 bridges replaced under the Fixing Country Bridges Program, two bridges jointly funded by Fixing Country Bridges and the Bridge Renewal Program and one bridge completed under the Kyogle Page Bridge Package;
- 15.3km of sealed roads rehabilitated;
- 409.4km of roads re-sheeted/graded, which includes the emergency works associated with

the February 2022 floods and natural disaster;

- More than 59,000 potholes patched;
- Initial sealing of 1km section of Dyraaba Road completed under the Fixing Local Roads Program;
- Collins Creek Road initial seal to Tims Lane completed using a combination of flood damage and Council co-contributions to build back better;
- 1,185.04 tonnes of material recycled
- 33,568 visits to Kyogle library
- Continued support of the Kyogle Writers Festival, Pumpkin Festival and a series of other events across the LGA;
- Bonalbo Caravan Park refurbishment completed;
- 42,620 pool attendances;
- Purchasing of land at Tabulam for future water and sewerage treatment plants;
- Implemented a new three-bin waste collection service for general waste, recyclables and food and organics waste including community education campaign;
- Adopted the Flying-fox Camp Management Plan and developed protocols for managing extreme weather incidents and works near the flying-fox camp;
- Successful in securing \$200,000

grant from the Environmental Trust and LGNSW to create 4.7 hectares of flying-fox habitat north of the Kyogle Recreation Reserve;

- Installed three separate displays in Kyogle to showcase the Sinclair Collection – a substantial collection of minerals, crystals and fossils gifted to Council by the family of the late Lloyd and Glenys Sinclair;
- Continuing marketing of the 'Kyogle Up for It' campaign to promote tourism and visitors to the Kyogle LGA;
- Eleven exhibitions held in the Roxy Gallery showcasing local artists and ten exhibitions in the 'Steppin' Up Gallery' to support young, emerging artists and artists living with a disability;
- KMI Hall Supper Room improvements completed;
- Secured betterment funding for Grieves Crossing and the Clarence Way to allow for building back better post natural disaster;
- Mobile phone blackspot mapping completed across the LGA.
- 91 development applications approved with a total value of \$15.64 million;
- Partnering with Tweed Shire Council to progress the Northern Rivers Feral Deer Prevention Program.

## New 3 bin service delivers WASTE SAVINGS

There was a marked reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill in the first three months of Council's new 3-bin waste collection service.

Council has analysed waste data for the first three months of the service and has found that residents and businesses are doing a great job at sorting their waste into the right bin.

In 2022/23, prior to the introduction of the 3-bin service, an average of 81.54 tonnes of waste was being landfilled each month.

In the first three months of the new service, the monthly average has dropped to 50.86 tonnes. This means the monthly average has decreased by 30.68 tonnes or 37.6%.

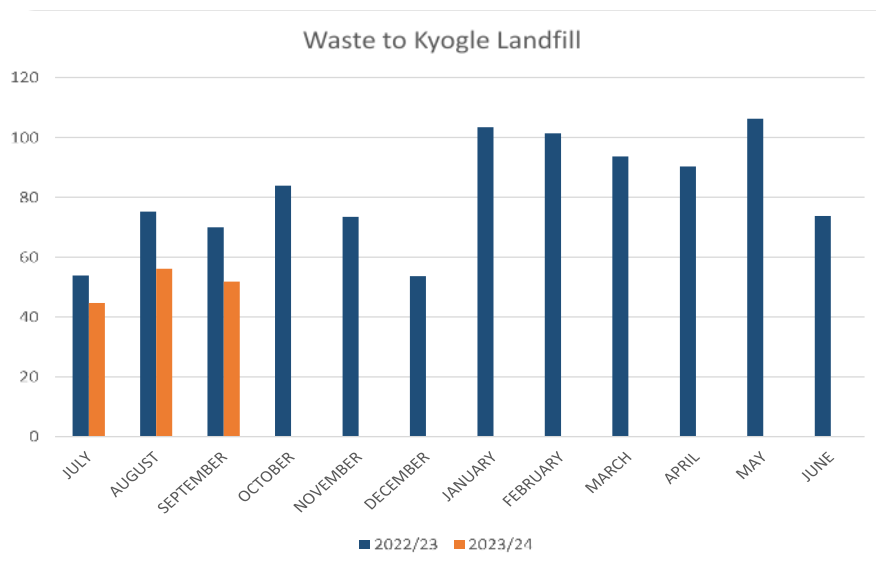
By reducing the amount of waste going to landfill, the community is reducing the impact on the environment, and saving thousands of dollars in taxes Council has to pay to the NSW Government each month.

Under the State Government's waste levy, Council has to pay the government \$94 for every tonne of waste that ends up in the Kyogle Landfill Facility. Based on the reduction in waste landfilled compared to last year's figures, Council has already saved almost \$4,500 in just three months.

While the results are pleasing so far, Council is encouraging residents and businesses to do even better and further reduce the amount of waste being landfilled each month.

You can reduce your waste by:

- Making sure ALL your food scraps and garden wastes are going into the



green-lid food and garden organics bin. Remember – if it can go on your plate, it can go into your green-lid bin!

- Ensuring ALL recyclable materials are going into the yellow-lid recycling bin. Remember to look for the Australasian Recycling Label on packaging and follow the instructions to make sure you are recycling everything you can.
- Using the Community Recycling Centre and Recycling Stations to recycle household wastes like batteries, light bulbs, printer cartridges, mobile phones, eyeglasses, cooking and motor oils, paint, smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, gas canisters and x-rays – it's free!

Remember to refer to the brochures and fridge magnets included in 3-bin information pack to help sort your waste correctly.

If you are not sure whether something belongs in your red, yellow or green-lid bin, you can also check out Council's new waste webpage which includes an A-Z guide on what can be placed in each bin and videos about how to recycle right.

The waste webpage can be accessed at <https://www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au/infrastructure-environment/waste-water/waste-and-recycling/>.

If you still have questions about using the new 3-bin service or would like to find out more about what's accepted in each bin and how to recycle beyond your bin service, then don't hesitate to contact Council on 6632 1611.

## New lights for PARKS

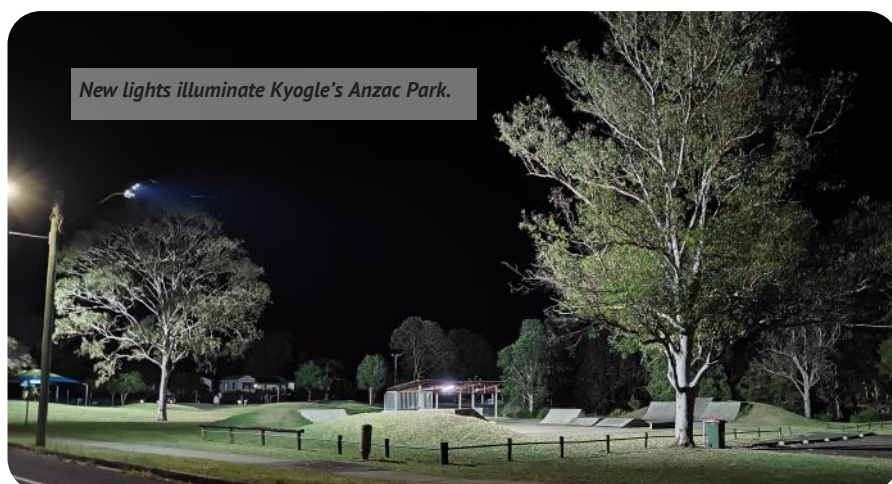
Council is proving to be a leading light in climate change adaption.

The Council has installed new flood lights at five parks across the local government area with the aim of making them more accessible

at night, when it isn't as hot.

The new floodlights have been installed at:

- Kyogle Anzac Park
- Kyogle VIC Carpark
- Woodenbong Rec Reserve park, next to the pool
- Bonalbo Norman Johnson Park
- Tabulam Sports Ground





# NOMINATIONS

## sought for Aust Day Awards

Nominations are still being taken for the 2024 Kyogle, Woodenbong and West of the Range Australia Day Awards.

All three nomination forms can be found on Council's website at

[www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au/kyogle-australia-day-nominations-now-open/](http://www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au/kyogle-australia-day-nominations-now-open/)

In **Kyogle**, awards will be presented in seven categories, with nominations closing on 15 December 2023.

Award categories are:

- Citizen of the Year
- Junior Citizen of the Year
- Senior Sportsperson of the Year

- Junior Sportsperson of the Year (under 18)
- Senior Student of the Year (High School)
- Junior Student of the Year (Primary)
- Senior Citizen of the Year

Please note that nominees are required to be notified and to sign the nomination form.

The **Woodenbong** Australia Day Committee will present awards in seven categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Senior Citizen of the Year
- Sportsperson of the Year
- Community Organisation/Event

- Business/Service
  - Environmental Citizen/Organisation
- Nominations close on 31 December 2023. Note: Nominees are to be notified of nomination.

The **West of the Range** Australia Day Committee will present awards in five categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Sportsperson of the Year
- Community Organisation/Event
- Business/Service

Nominations close on 16 December 2023.

## Reduce your festive FOOTPRINT

Christmas is a time of giving, sharing and creating memories with family and friends. It's also the time of year we tend to go a little overboard; buying gifts, food and other festive items we didn't really need or that were bought purely for the purpose of 'having something to give'.

On average, our waste increases 30 per cent over the festive season, with wrapping paper, packaging, and uneaten food being the main offenders.

It's estimated that our country generates 125,000 tonnes of plastic packaging waste alone and makes its way through 150,000kms of wrapping paper!

Here are some ideas to help you reduce your festive footprint:

1. Consider using reusable fabric, *pictured above*, or card gift bags instead of wrapping paper. You can reuse the bags year after year, and they can also save you a lot of headaches trying to wrap odd-shaped presents and the inevitable battle with the sticky-tape!
2. Try making your own Christmas bon-bons using an empty toilet or kitchen
3. Plan your menu and only buy what food you need. If you cook too much food, then why not ask your guests to bring containers so they can take home any leftovers.
4. Make sure that all food scraps go into your green-lid FOGO bin, including meat, bones, seafood and prawn shells. If you are concerned about odours, freeze the scraps in a Council approved compostable kitchen caddy liner until bin night.
5. If you are gifting battery-



paper roll, fabric and ribbon. You can fill the bon-bons with something special for your guests (instead of those little plastic figurines that end up in the bin anyway) and reuse the materials again year after year.

operated toys or tools, consider buying rechargeable batteries instead of single use ones. And remember to never put flat batteries into any of your kerbside collection bins. Flat batteries can be recycled by dropping them off at the Kyogle Library, Ritchies IGA, Community Recycling Centre at the Kyogle Landfill Facility and the Bonalbo Community Hall.

6. Finally, remember to check the label!! The Australasian Recycling Label has made the process of identifying which household products can go in which bin much easier now. Keep an eye out for the instruction labels on packaging and follow what the label says.

## IT'S TIME to 'get healthy'

It's never too late to look after ourselves, so as the year comes to an end, we are sharing some information about the Get Healthy Service.

The Get Healthy Service is available to anyone who lives in NSW and is over 16.

Best of all it's free! When you join Get Healthy, you'll get:

- your own university-qualified coach to help you set health goals that are important to you
- six or more regular phone and video coaching calls
- tools and guides to help you stay on track
- emails and texts to motivate and encourage you
- reminders about appointments
- help to overcome challenges to reaching your goals.

To join, call 1300 806 258 or go to <https://www.gethealthynsw.com.au/>.





## Four more new bridges COMPLETED

Bridge works have been completed on Station Road, Roseberry Creek Road (Comerford Bridge), Baileys Bridge Road and Williams Road (Barker Bridge), with all the bridges now open to traffic.

Crews have started construction works on Brindle Creek Road, Needhams Road (Eight Day Creek), Askews Dip Road, and Gambleys Road bridges together with the replacement of Kyogle Road bridge over Back Creek.

November saw the completion of Stage 2 for the Geneva Bridge Landslip Remediation. Site demobilization is now in progress.

Pavement works have been concluded in Short Street as well as the initial sealing of one section on Sextonville Road near the Richmond Valley Council boundary.

Construction crews have started work on the first three sections of the Clarence Way upgrade, between Bonalbo and Urbenville.

Work on the full project between Sandilands and Urbenville is expected to continue until mid 2025.

Pothole patching has been focused on the Gradys Creek, Clarence Way and Fawcetts Plains catchments. Vegetation crews have been carrying out slashing in the Findon Creek, Bruxner Highway and Gradys Creek catchments.

Landslip restoration continues at Dugan Road, Williams Road, Gabal Road, as well as



**Above:** The new Barkers Bridge on Williams Road, which was one of four bridges recently built and open to traffic. **RIGHT:** Work has started on the new Brindle Creek Bridge.

the three landslips on Lions Road. The landslip repairs on Edward Lane are expected to be completed this month.

Of the 106 major landslips which occurred in the Kyogle local government area as a result of the 2022 floods, 38 have now been rehabilitated.



## PREVENTION IS better than cure with weeds

Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) does not currently grow in Australia but it is listed as a prevention weed in the North Coast Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan.

It is now naturalised and a major weed of lakes and reservoirs in North America and if introduced here, it could become a major weed in our region.

The objective of weed prevention is to prevent the species from arriving and establishing in the region.

For this to succeed it is essential that authorities continue to work together in partnership and collaborate with landholders, community members and

government stakeholders.

Eurasian water milfoil is a perennial aquatic weed that is mostly submerged except when flowering.

If left unmanaged, it can block waterways, displace native aquatic plants, and reduce fish habitat. It spreads mostly through plant fragments which take root after drifting in water currents.

Growing up to seven meters long, Eurasian water milfoil, *pictured*, produces up to 112 seeds per stalk and seeds may stay dormant for many years. Seeds usually need at least 15°C for germination.

Eurasian water milfoil is categorised as prohibited matter under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. For more information visit [WeedWise <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/EurasianWaterMilfoil>](https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/EurasianWaterMilfoil).

Seen it? Call Rous County Council (02)

6623 3800 or use the webform

[www.rous.nsw.gov.au/report-a-weed](http://www.rous.nsw.gov.au/report-a-weed)







# TUMBLEWEEDS

## roll into the Roxy Gallery

A vibrant convergence of artistic expression is how the December-January exhibition at Council's Roxy Gallery is described.

*Blow Ins from Afar – But Here To Stay* is the inaugural group exhibition of the Tumbleweed Artists comprising Gillian Day, Dilys Bond, Vickie Steward, Rebecca Hale, Linday Worgan, and Carol Horton.

Running from 14 December 2023 to 14 January 2024, the exhibition will be officially opened on Friday, 15 November from 6-8pm.

Drawing inspiration from the nomadic nature of tumbleweeds, each artist in the collective has embarked on a creative journey rolling into the art world with an eagerness to learn and grow.

Through mutual support and a shared passion for art, group members have provided encouragement for each other while exchanging insights on mediums, techniques, and constructive feedback.

In the process both artistic expression and friendships have flourished.

The exhibition showcases their collaborative efforts, where individual interests

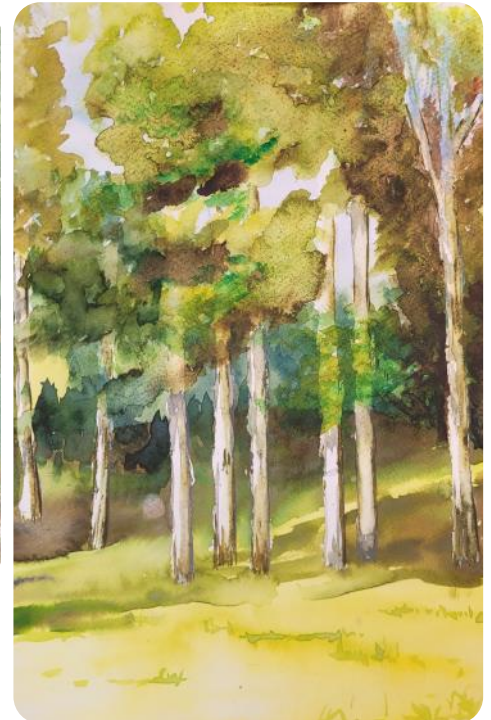


*End of the Road by Gillian Day*

and talents have emerged from collective workshops and discussions.

What began as a challenge to exhibit their works has evolved into a celebration of their artistic evolution.

The artworks on display and offered for sale are a testament to the artists' journey, evolving from shared activities to distinct-



*My Backyard Cawongla by Linday Worgan.*

tive expressions, fueled by a camaraderie that blossomed during their regular painting and drawing sessions.

## ROXY thanks

Kyogle Council would like to acknowledge and thank all the volunteers who have willingly given their support to the Roxy Gallery during 2023.

The gallery would not be able to operate as it does without the support of its volunteer helpers and supporters.

The Roxy Gallery will operate as normal over the festive season but will be closed on all public holidays.

## NEWS IN BREIF

### Upgrade works complete

Work to upgrade the general waste drop off area at the Kyogle Landfill Facility is now complete.

During September and October, work was carried out to ensure the public could drop off their general waste safely.

This included installation of new retaining walls, safety railings, foundations for skips bins and sealing the apron to the drop off area so customers have a safer footing when emptying waste from their vehicles into the skip bins.

A huge thanks to all customers for their patience and understanding.

### Grant for soccer club

The Kyogle Football Club is set to receive \$20,000 towards improved oval drainage as part of the NSW Government's \$37.2 million Local

Small Commitments Allocation Program.

Member for Lismore Janelle Saffin announced the grant saying it was one of her key election commitments to the Kyogle community.

The Club's grounds are in one of the lowest parts of Kyogle and the upgraded drainage will enable the grounds to be back in action more quickly after heavy rain or flooding in the adjacent Richmond River.

### Christmas lunch

The Kyogle Community Christmas Luncheon for singles and couples alone at Christmas will be held at the Kyogle Community Centre (formerly the Seniors Centre) in Bloore Street, Kyogle on Christmas Day (25 December).

There will be a full roast dinner and desserts as well as lucky door prizes.

Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. No alcohol

permitted.

Tickets are available from Clay Corner, Kyogle and T & W McCormack, Casino. Ticket sales will close at 5pm on Friday, 15 December 2023. The event is sponsored by Kyogle Rotary and Growing Kyogle.

### Memorial grants

Two local war memorials will be upgraded thanks to grants received under the NSW Government's Community War Memorials Fund.

The Barkers Vale Public School will receive \$9,450 to carry out works on the Barkers Vale War Memorial. The work will include repairs to the steps and mortar, cleaning of marble tables and flagpole supports.

Mallanganee Memorial Hall has been allocated \$9,979 for conservation works to the hall, including timberwork, plumbing and fire doors, and the provision of disabled access.



## Fun for all at family FESTIVAL

The Summerland Giant Pumpkin and Watermelon Festival will be held in Kyogle on Saturday, 20 January 2024 and everyone is invited to come along and enjoy a fun-filled family day.

The action will centre on Stratheden Street, where all the amazing giant pumpkins and watermelons will be on display.

This year's event is expected to attract entries from throughout the Northern Rivers and South East Queensland, with hopes high that a new Australian record for the heaviest pumpkin will be set.

Festival goers will also be able to check out the other giant vegetables entered in the Home Gardner Competition, enjoy live music, and be entertained by street performers.

And if that's not enough for the family, there will be artisan market stalls, the ever popular

Farmers Market, watermelon eating and gumboot throwing competitions, and train trips, courtesy of the Rail Motor Society, to Glennapp via the Border loop and Casino.

Train tickets will again be available on The Rail Motor Society website in January.

In the lead up to the festival, entries in the Still Life Painting Prize will be displayed at Council's Roxy Gallery from 17 January, along with the entries in the Woodworking, and Soft Crafts competitions. Opening night of the exhibition will be 16 January.

Prizemoney for all sections and age categories of the art and craft competitions is very generous and is expected to generate plenty of interest. Entry forms are available at the Gallery and from Clay Corner.

Once again, the festival will feature the Taste of Kyogle, with all Kyogle eateries and chefs invited to create a signature dish



for their menu showcasing pumpkin and/or watermelon . The dish is to be available throughout January.

For further information or enquiries, phone Joan Hayman on 6633 9143 or Rob Cullen on 0408 278 685.

## LIBRARY news

### Book sale

Great news! Kyogle library's book sale will continue through until the library closes for the Christmas-New Year break on 22 December.

### Summer Reading Club 2023-24

Kyogle library will again hold a Summer Reading Club for school-aged children this summer.

It will run from 1 December 2023 to 24 January 2024.

It's free to register and there are three great prizes up for grabs.

All you have to do to go into the prize draw is read any book, write a review, then drop your review with your details into the library.

Mystery books can be borrowed from the library if you want a surprise pick to review, or choose your own book to review.

### Book group reviews

Kyogle library Book Discussion Group reviews and star ratings for books read in 2023:

Hassanah – Her Radiant Curse by

Elizabeth Lim – 4.5 stars

Lesley – London Rain by Nicola Upson - 5 stars

Lynette – Wifedom: Mrs Orwell's Invisible Life by Anna Funder – 5 stars

Cate – Birnam Wood by Eleanor Catton – 4.5 stars

### Christmas closure

Kyogle library will be closed from 3pm Friday, 22 December, 2023 and will re-open at 10am, Tuesday 2 January, 2024

### Play time

The next Baby Bounce and Playdough Playtime sessions will be held at in the children's area at Kyogle library on Wednesday, 19 December.

The Baby Bounce session is open to babies through to three year olds, while the Playdough Playtime sessions are for pre-

school aged children and older siblings. Both are free to attend.

The sessions are generally held on the third Wednesday of the month from 10.30am.

The theme for the December session will be *It's Christmas Time*.

Both groups will go into recess during the school holidays and will resume when school returns in 2024.

### Book launch

Ten people attended the launch of Gary Davis' book Tom Mortimer Pitt Street Bankers at the Kyogle library 21 November.

Gary's talk was fascinating bringing the financial crisis of the 1980s back to life through his character Tom Mortimer's experiences. The crisis harshly impacted many Australian families and small businesses.

Those at the launch learned that Tom Mortimer is set to have another adventure – so everyone is now looking forward to Gary's next instalment in the series.

# Council's Christmas/New Year OPENING HOURS

Council's administration centre will close for the Christmas-New Year period at midday on Thursday 21 December, 2023 and re-open at 8.30am on Tuesday, 2 January, 2023.

During that time, a skeleton staff will be working, carrying out regular facilities cleaning and maintenance and water and sewer operations. For emergencies during this time, please call Council's after-hours number 6626 6800.

Operating times for Council's waste facilities over the Christmas-New Year period are as follows:

## Kyogle Waste Facility:

**Open 7:30am – 12pm:** Thursday, 21 December; Friday 22, December; Wednesday, 27 December; Thursday, 28 December; Friday, 29 December.

**Open 9am – 4pm:** Saturday, 23 December; Sunday, 24 December, Saturday, 30 December and Sunday, 31 December.

**Closed:** Monday, 25 December; Tuesday, 26 December; Monday, 1 January, 2024.

## Woodenbong Transfer Station:

**Open 9am – 4pm:** Saturday, 23 and 30 December; Tuesday, 2 January, 2024.

**Closed:** Tuesday, 26 December.

## Bonalbo Transfer Station:

**Open 9am – 4pm:** Saturday, 23 December; Wednesday, 27 December; Saturday, 30 December; Wednesday, 3 January, 2023.

## Mallanganee Transfer Station:

**Open 9am – 12pm:** Thursday, 21 December.

**Open 9am – 4pm:** Sunday, 24 December; Thursday, 28 December; Sunday, 31 December 2023.

Please note that garbage collection services will run as normal if they fall on a public holiday.

As is always the case, all of **Council's swimming pools** (Kyogle, Woodenbong and Bonalbo) will be closed on Christmas Day (Monday, 25 December) and Boxing Day (Tuesday, 26 December).

Opening hours for the pools on all other public holidays during this period (apart



from Christmas Day and Boxing Day) are:  
Kyogle 10am-6pm: Bonalbo and Woodenbong 2-6pm.

And a reminder that Council is trialling new opening hours at the Kyogle pool, with community support required for the new times to become permanent.

The **trial opening hours** are: Monday to Thursday – 6am to 6pm; Friday – 6am to 7.30pm (6pm-7.30pm 50m pool unavailable to public due to use by Kyogle Swim Club); Saturdays – 9am to 6pm; Sundays and public holidays – 10am to 6pm.

## Council MEETINGS

The next two Ordinary Council meetings will be held on Monday, 11 December 2023 and Monday, 12 February 2024 at 2pm. Ordinary meetings are held on the second Monday of every month except January. Meetings start at 2pm and are held at the Kyogle Council Chambers, 1 Stratheden Street, Kyogle. The first item of general business is Public Forum, which provides a chance for the public to speak to Council on items of business on the agenda. To request to speak at Public Forum, you should email [council@kyogle.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@kyogle.nsw.gov.au) or phone 6632 1611 at least two hours before the start of the meeting.

## REGIONAL ROADS INFORMATION

<https://www.livetraffic.com>

## 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**

*\* Please note all Council waste facilities are closed on public holidays*



### A WARD

**Cr Kylie Thomas** (Mayor)  
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[crkylie.thomas@kyogle.nsw.gov.au](mailto:crkylie.thomas@kyogle.nsw.gov.au)

**Cr Hayden Doolan**  
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**Cr Janet Wilson**  
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### B WARD

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**Cr Maggie May**  
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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/KyogleCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/KyogleCouncil)

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