

# MURRAY Matters

APRIL 2022

  
murray river  
council

*Your council  
news & updates*

## Council meetings hit the road.

Last month we hit the road and took our Council meeting to Moulamein!

This was the first of our travelling meetings this year and it was great to see some local faces turn up and say hello.

Visiting other locations gives our community the opportunity to attend our meetings and see what goes on. It's also a great chance for residents to attend the informal catch-up sessions prior to the meeting to chat with councillors and staff over lunch.

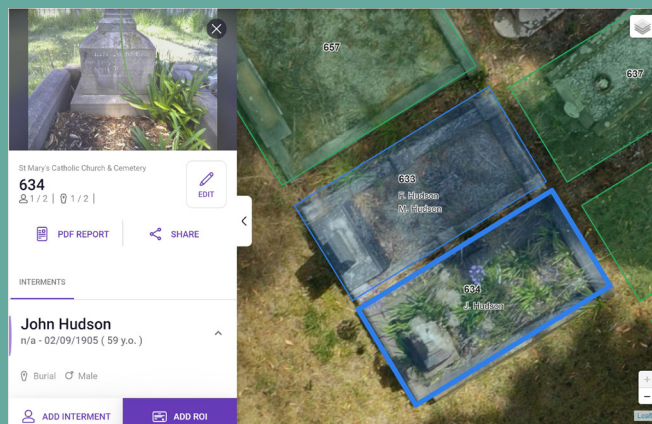
If you love the idea of travelling meetings, be sure to let us know as it's a great way to personally engage with residents from all corners of our council.

The next touring meetings will be in Barham on May 24 and Mathoura on August 23. Stay tuned for more details.

All other dates remain at the Council Chambers in Moama.



## You can now access our cemetery records online.



We recently launched a new digital platform for cemetery records covering all 6 operational cemeteries; including Barham, Mathoura Lawn, Mathoura Pioneer, Moama, Moulamein and Tooleybuc.

Families and friends can now conduct historical enquiries in our live database to access cemetery records and information.

This has been a huge undertaking with many hours spent cleaning up historical records and confirming the information.

The new system will assist with faster processing for new sites, burial bookings, cremated remains interments and monumental works.

You can search the platform via our website at [www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au/Our-Services/Cemetery-management](http://www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au/Our-Services/Cemetery-management)

If you've got questions, call us and speak to one of our staff: 1300 087 004.



## TOP NEWS *inside*

- Message from the Mayor
- Community Strategic Plan
- Building Team updates
- Snap, send solve!
- Timber bridge replacement updates
- Youth ZOOM sessions
- Resources available to you



## From the Mayor's desk...

We're about to hit the display period for our annual budget documents, along with our new and updated 4-year Delivery Program.

'What's this' you ask?

A Delivery Program is the single point of reference for all principal activities undertaken by the Council during its term of office.

More importantly, this is the document that unpacks the community's goals that are detailed in our Community Strategic Plan and translates them into actions. These actions then become the principal activities to be undertaken by the Council based on the resources and support available.

And then of course we need to deliver on this each year, and that's where the annual Operational Plan comes in.

This document details individual projects and activities that will be undertaken each financial year to achieve the commitments made in the Delivery Program.

See the linkages?

Our new Delivery Program has been informed by what you told us in the recent Community Strategic Plan consultation, but as always, we want to hear from you on whether we captured it all and got it right!

The documents will be on display via our Your Say platform in the coming month. Keep an eye out locally for dates and submission details as we encourage you all to take a look and have your say.



Cr Chris Bilkey  
MAYOR



## Community Strategic Plan.

In February, we spent a week travelling the Council area holding consultation sessions with the community to capture ideas and feedback to help us develop our new Community Strategic Plan.

We also opened a range of online tools and feedback methods so that our residents could share their projects and suggestions.

We had over 200 people turn up to the face-to-face sessions and collected 1017 ideas! This ranged from the very easily addressed to the big picture suggestions. We thank each and every one of you for your interest and engagement – it certainly makes the process a lot more fun when the community has a say!

Thanks to those who also submitted ideas via our Your Say platform, email, letter or in person. These avenues also provided us with hundreds of ideas and we have loved going through them all.

### So what is the CSP?

The Community Strategic Plan is Council's ten-year plan that outlines the long-term vision and goals of the community. It also directs both short-term projects and a longer-term program of works to be delivered by Council. Our yearly program of works must link back to our Community Strategic Plan- so the importance of community input cannot be overstated!

### Where can I see the CSP?

The draft CSP has been on display for the past month, and will be presented to Council for final adoption in the coming month. You'll be able to access this via our website.

### What happens to all the ideas?

All ideas submitted have been collated to form projects and programs of works. These suggestions are currently being assessed to determine capability against budgets, government frameworks and grant opportunities. From there we will submit suggestions to Councillors for recommendation and adoption into the 4-year Delivery Program and Yearly Operational Plans. These documents will be on display very soon during the yearly budget period.

All projects and programs of works that do not make it into the current Delivery Program will be placed in the 'Parking Lot' - MRC's project and programs of work holding location - for future review.





# RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU:

## Grab your FREE Weed ID Guide!



If you're a local landholder, be sure to grab a copy of our FREE Weeds Identification Guide!

The guide has been developed in collaboration with NSW Local Land Services and the Biosecurity Teams at Murray River, Edward River and Berrigan Shire Councils.

The guide is a great identification tool and includes descriptions and images of weed species through a range of growth stages to make the identification process as easy as possible for our landholders.

The priority weeds identification guide is available for free from any of Council's customer service centres or by calling 1300 087 004.

## Search for grants online.

Council has an online Grants Hub that provides a comprehensive list of all grant and funding opportunities available Australia wide!

This Hub is free for all businesses, community groups and not-for-profits located in our Council area.

You'll find the link to the Grants Hub on our website.

## Visit our Mobile Library.

Our Mobile Library and Service Centre continues to get busier as we visit schools and communities in Murray Downs, Wakool and Tooleybuc each fortnight.

The mobile centre is packed with plenty of books and resources and helps extend the reach of Council and library services.

A reminder also that residents can utilise the 2 public access computers inside the centre and that our team member Ricki is able to take Council service requests and payment of Council rates and water (no cash).

Our schedule is available on our website.



## Timber bridge replacement on the home-stretch!

If you've been following Council's efforts to replace the old timber bridges in the Council, then this one's for you!

In exciting news we recently awarded the contract for the replacement of all remaining timber bridges in our Council.

This is very exciting after years of gradual replacement thanks to behind-the-scenes planning and grant applications from our Infrastructure Team.

Works on the removal of the final timber bridges have commenced at Sandys Bridge Road / Barber Creek Bridge, Drysdale Lane / Merran Creek Bridge, Frasers Road / Maurrain Yarrein Creek Bridge and Tooranie Road / Yarrein Creek Bridge.

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## ON THE ROAD:

### Updates on a few of our project-based road works:

- We'll soon be kicking off the widening and reconstruction of **Speewa Road** and **Hollins Lane**, with designs currently underway.
- We've just finalised the planning documentation so that we can commence sealing of **Boundary Road** in Moama.
- We're in the middle of the **Bunnaloo Road** reconstruction.
- Widening and reconstruction works will soon take place along **Barham Road** in the **Thule** area.
- We're continuing to finalise the sealing of **Gilmoure Road** in Moama.
- We also just finished the **Punt Road** kerb, guttering and sealing in Barham, along with the **Gray St** reconstruction in Mathoura.

## Horseshoe Lagoon is getting a facelift.

There's plenty of movement at Moama's Horseshoe Lagoon, as we replace the old footbridges with new three-metre-wide steel structures.

The new bridges will deliver a fresh look for the well-utilised walkway and cater for shared access for both pedestrians and cyclists. Once replaced, both the eastern and western bridges will also have new viewing bays, offering ideal viewpoints of the picturesque horseshoe-shaped lagoon.

The alignment of the new footbridges will shift slightly to weave through red-gum eucalyptus with very little impact to the existing woodland vegetation. To minimise disturbance of the local aquatic habitats and waterways during construction, the contractor has also installed a temporary bridge from which to undertake the works.

The existing bridge area will be closed off to public use for the duration of the construction period.

The construction of the new footbridges is expected to be completed in the next 6 months and will re-open in time for the much-anticipated Moama Lights event in August!



Artist rendering of the bridges across Horseshoe Lagoon in Moama.

## Games afternoons at the Mathoura Visitor Centre.

Our Mathoura Visitor and Business Centre is running a 'games afternoon' on the first Wednesday of each month. Come and enjoy an afternoon of fun playing board games, cards or just enjoying a cuppa and a chat. Sessions run from 1pm-3.30pm.

## Youth Zoom sessions are back.

Are you or someone you know interested in youth issues? Would you like the opportunity to plan Youth events? Or maybe you just want to chat to other young people in your area?

Our Youth Engagement Program hosts weekly Youth Zoom sessions online where people can connect, share ideas and get things happening.

Join in each Wednesday evening. Find out more via our Youth Engagement Facebook page.



Murray River Council YEP

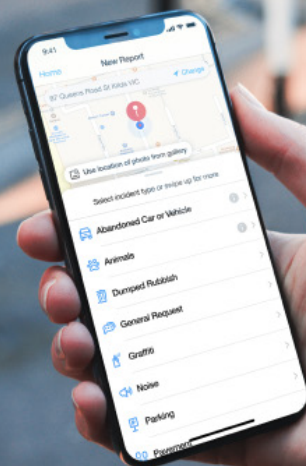


**YOUTH  
ENGAGEMENT  
PROGRAM**

## Reporting local issues is a

# SNAP

**Snap  
Send  
Solve**



## Reporting an issue can be done in just three easy steps: Snap. Send. Solve!

The Snap Send Solve app uses your smart phone camera to capture a photo of the issue and identify the location the photo is taken using the phones' GPS data. It then sends an email to Council from your email address, including the incident type, notes, address, phone and your contact details.

The report will then be forwarded on to our relevant department. The more info you provide, the better we can help investigate the issue. Download the app and start reporting!

Snap Send Solve is available to download for free from the App Store and Google Play.





## Accessing Ombudsman services: FREE webinar.

NSW Law Week is a program of community events and activities that are designed to help you understand your rights, the law, the legal system and the legal profession!

Our Barham Library will be hosting a live online webinar where you can come along and learn about accessing Ombudsman services and related agencies.

In addition to the presentation, the webinar will also consist of an interactive question and answer session to involve the attendees.

**Thursday 19th May 2022 at 11:00am, Barham Library.**

You can contact the library for more information or turn up in the day!

## We're lighting up the rec reserves.

A number of recreation reserves in Murray River Council will soon shine brighter thanks to funding received to undertake LED lighting updates.

Council was awarded \$946,052 under Round 4 of the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund to undertake recreation reserve lighting improvements across the footprint.

LED lights will be retrofitted to existing towers and power supplies at the main football oval and netball courts in Barham and Moulamein.

Mathoura's tennis courts, football oval and netball court will have new lights retrofitted at its facilities, with Bunnaloo tennis courts also receiving an update.

Tooleybuc's football oval will have new towers, light controls and connectors installed, with the netball court area also having new lights fitted to its existing supply.

All these ongoing improvements will ensure our local recreation reserves remain an integral part of sport and community development in our local area for years to come.

Upgrades are expected to be completed in the coming months.

## From our Building Team....



### Rough-ins

Builders, Plumbers, Developers and Owner/Builders are reminded that 'Rough In' Inspections are no longer required by Council. This change commenced in late 2021 and the inspection is not a mandatory inspection prescribed by the Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation. Council will no longer be carrying out these inspections.

### Building checklists

Developers and applicants are reminded of our new checklists available on our website, to assist with the preparation of a Development Application and construction certificate.

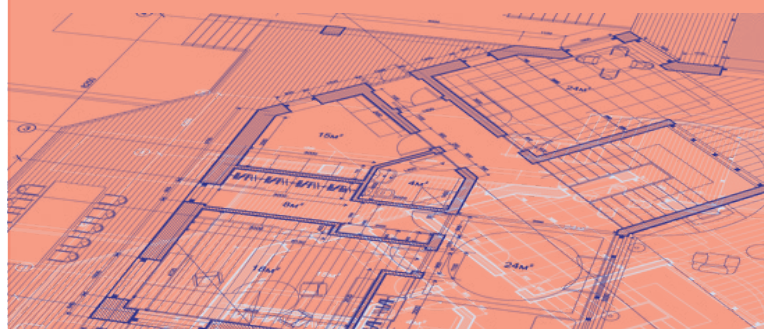
**TIP:** It is important to note that even when Development Applications and Construction Certificates are lodged together (at the same time) on the NSW Planning Portal, this does not mean they will be assessed or issued at the same time. Often, applications are separated and assessed separately by staff. This may also mean that any 'Requests For Information' are requested separately. The Development Application is the first component in the assessment and in many cases, the development consent will be issued prior to the Construction Certificate being issued.

It is also important to read your development consent and note any 'Prior to Construction Certificate' conditions that may apply.

### Duty Building Certifier Services

The community is reminded that Duty Building Certifier Services are available Monday to Friday from 9am to 12.30pm. This is the best time to make contact with Council certifiers with any questions or queries as they are dedicated to communicating with you during this time!

After 12.30pm, Building Certifiers switch over to other duties such as inspections or assessments. The community is still welcome to call Council after 12.30pm, however in most cases you may not be able to make direct contact and can expect a call back.



## If you're out-and-about, keep your furry friends on a lead.



When you take your dog outside your property you must ensure it is under the effective control of someone over the age of 16 at all times.

Keeping them under effective control is as simple as keeping them on a lead.

Council's Rangers will continue to monitor the community in general. Don't forget, penalties apply for breaches of the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998.



## Australian Open Darts are back.

The Australian Open Darts Tournament is returning to Moama in August 2022.

The 2022 Open Darts Tournament will be held 2 -6 August at the Moama Bowling Club.

The tournament will be held as part of a twelve day darts extravaganza in Echuca Moama, incorporating the Australian Darts Championships and Pacific Masters Tournament which will both be held at Rich River Golf Club in Moama between 7 - 13 August.

For more information on entering the tournament or spectator tickets visit [www.visitrivercountry.com.au](http://www.visitrivercountry.com.au)



## Smart water meter project: quick updates.

- The installation of smart meters on our filtered water network is 97% complete with a small number still to be changed over.
- Raw water smart meters are 95% complete with 500 units still to be installed by MRC in the coming months.
- The MiWater customer portal is expected to be up and running from July 1, which will offer customers easy access to usage information, water alerts and more! Stay tuned....



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