

MURRAY Matters

DECEMBER 2023


murray river
council

Your council news & updates

Businesses now have access to the FOGO collection service!

Businesses and Schools can now opt-in to Council's Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) kerbside collection service.

This means businesses now have more options for separating their waste and helping to keep food scraps out of landfill.

By using a green-lid bin for food and garden waste instead of the red lid garbage bin, it can be turned into valuable compost - benefiting local parks and gardens! Every banana peel, uneaten sandwich and other food scraps that are moved out of the red bin and into the green bin is going to make a real difference!

How can your business opt-in?

Businesses in Barham, Moulamein, Mathoura, Murray Downs, Moama, Wakool and Tooleybuc who operate within the organics collection boundaries can request a green waste service. Simply touch base with our Customer Service Team to lodge your request.

Once your application is processed you will be issued with a 240 litre organics bin (Standard domestic green bin charges apply). You will then place your green-lid bin out for kerbside collection on the opposite fortnight to your yellow-lid recycling bin. Easy!

For more information on the FOGO service, collection boundaries and what can and can't go in the green bin visit murrayriver.nsw.gov.au/FOGO



Make the most your **FoGo** bin!

Almost 30% of the waste in our red bins is still made up of food scraps!

This is waste we can easily keep out of landfill.

If you have a green FOGO (Food Organics, Garden Organics) bin then you're one of around 4200 households that do, and that means you're in a prime position to help make a difference to where your waste goes.

Food scraps, meat, paper towel, tissue and garden clippings love the green bin!

If you don't have a green bin, you can also put your food waste back into your own garden, by adding it to a compost bin or worm farm.

TOP NEWS *inside*

- Message from the Mayor
- Pool Safety
- Moama Lights is back
- MiWater platform
- Christmas closures
- Storytime at the library
- Project updates
- Small Business Month

From the Mayor's desk...

It's hard to believe that we are in December already. This time last year many in our community were battling the ongoing effects of floods heading into Christmas. Now here we are twelve months later looking at a hot, dry summer ahead.

Although we are wrapping up the year and looking down the barrel of Christmas once again, one thing that is timely all year 'round is the matter of 'transparency'.

Councils are often criticised for making decisions behind closed doors, away from the public eye. However, transparency is a core principle embedded in the NSW Local Government legislation that governs our day-to-day operations.

Here at Murray River Council, we take this principle to heart. We strive to deliberate on as many matters as possible during the open sections of our council meetings. Even in cases necessitating confidential discussion, we make a concerted effort to split the report, ensuring that the majority of the issue is debated in the open forum. The confidential elements are then addressed in the closed section of the meeting.

It's important to note that the occasions when council can discuss matters behind closed doors are limited. Typically, these relate to sensitive topics like land purchase or sale, the acceptance of tenders for goods and services, matters affecting individual ratepayers or community members, and legal advice related to litigation.

In line with NSW regulations, any decisions made in confidential meetings are promptly disclosed to the public at the end of the open meeting. This practice ensures that the decisions taken behind closed doors become public knowledge on the very same day they are made.

At Murray River Council, we strive for a culture of openness, accountability, and transparency.... and this always guides our decision-making processes.

I encourage you to stay involved in these processes by taking a look at our council papers on the website, or even tuning into our meetings; all of which are livestreamed.



As a final note, and on behalf of everyone at council, I wish you, your family and loved ones a safe and happy festive season.

It's been a great pleasure to be part of a committed and hard-working group of Councillors over the past twelve months and I look forward to continuing our work together to move this council towards a strong and vibrant future.

Cr Frank Crawley

Reconnect in River Country

Take a look at our Visit River Country resources and discover the range of activities on offer in your town or just down the road this holiday period. Head to www.visitrivercountry.com.au



@visitrivercountry



@Visit River Country

How many pot holes??

One of the most important jobs our Transport Team undertakes is pothole patching. Whilst it doesn't sound glamorous, we know this is something our residents all take notice of!

So, in some interesting statistics, last month our staff patched 1923 potholes. That's one for every 5 minutes of working hours!

But that's not all...

Since we were awarded \$1,022,077 of funding for pothole repair earlier in the year, we've filled 6,809 holes and covered an area of 26,255 m²...which is almost four football fields in size.

We're now roughly 75% of the way under that funding program. Thanks you and well done to our Transport Services Team.

Small Business Month wrap-up

Local businesses had a great morning at Rich River Golf Club as they joined guest speaker Michael Licenblat to celebrate Small Business Month.

Michael is a resilience expert who helps businesses build pressure-proof cultures and high-performing teams that can bounce back from challenges, setbacks, and rejections.

Attendees enjoyed the high energy and practical motivation tips from Michael, who inspired them to ride waves, adapt to change and achieve more in tough conditions and competitive markets.

Thank you to everyone who attended!

The event was proudly delivered by Council as part of NSW Small Business Month.





Christmas and New Years Operating Hours

Kerbside Bin Collections

During the Christmas week, all kerbside collections will occur **one day later than your usual collection day**.

Details as follows:

- **Monday 25 December** – no collection
- **Tuesday 26 December**
- households who usually have a Monday collection
- **Wednesday 27 December**
- households who usually have a Tuesday collection
- **Thursday 28 December**
- households who usually have a Wednesday collection
- **Friday 29 December**
- households who usually have a Thursday collection
- **Saturday 30 December**
- households who usually have a Friday collection

The following week, from Monday 1 January 2024, kerbside bins will be collected on their normal days.

Customer Service

Our offices, libraries and depots will be closed for the Christmas/New Year period from 4pm Wednesday 20 December 2023 and will reopen on Tuesday 2 January 2024 at 9am.

The WAW service in Moulamein will be open on:

- Friday 22 December, 9.30am-1pm
- Thursday 28 December, 9.30am-1pm

The Bendigo Bank service in Mathoura will be open on:

- Friday 22 December, 9am-12.30pm
- Wednesday 27 December, 9am-12.30pm
- Friday 29 December, 9am-12.30pm



Waste Facilities

All waste facilities will be **closed** on Thursday 21 December, except Moama.

All waste facilities will be **closed** Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

All other operating days remain the same.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
from Murray River Council



Looking to lodge a planning or building application this month?

December is always the busiest period for our planning and building team as everyone makes the mad rush to get things finished before Christmas!

But this also means that any new applications lodged via the Planning Portal leading up to Christmas may now not be processed until the new year.

We appreciate your understanding as we work through this busy period.

MOAMA LIGHTS

LIGHTING UP THE MURRAY

The much-awaited Moama Lights event is back, and this time, it's even bigger and better!

From 5 – 28 July 2024, get ready to witness spectacular art curated by the world-famous entertainment design firm Mandylights.

The 2024 event will once again be held in the beautiful natural bushland of Horseshoe Lagoon Reserve in Moama, and will be more spectacular than before!

Tickets on sale soon.

www.moamalights.com.au

Local Housing Strategy



Council has adopted its new Local Housing Strategy, with the document now awaiting final sign-off from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

The two-part strategy outlines the key factors affecting housing supply and demand within Murray River Council and offers an implementation plan for land activation and housing delivery on a town-by-town basis over the next 20-years.

To aid its development, an initial round of consultation with the community sought feedback about the issues affecting local housing supply, with further input provided when the draft strategy was on display earlier this year. This has also been collated with census data and stakeholder input to inform the development of the final Strategy in consultation with the NSW Department Planning and Environment.

This is a key document for our planning team and will become even more crucial as the Murray River Council area continues to grow. Once we received the final tick-of-approval, it will be available for viewing on our website.

Barham water pressure project

Barham residents will soon have more reliable **filtered** water pressure thanks to a new booster pump being installed at the water treatment plant.

During our Community Strategic Planning Sessions in early 2022, the community raised concerns about the low filtered water pressure across the township. There were noticeable fluctuations in pressure, with some areas of town being worse than others.

Following some initial maintenance work and detailed modelling on usage and flows, a booster pump was designed to offer a more stable supply of water across the town.

We're now well and truly in the construction phase, with the pump-set due to be completed at the end of 2023.

What to expect:

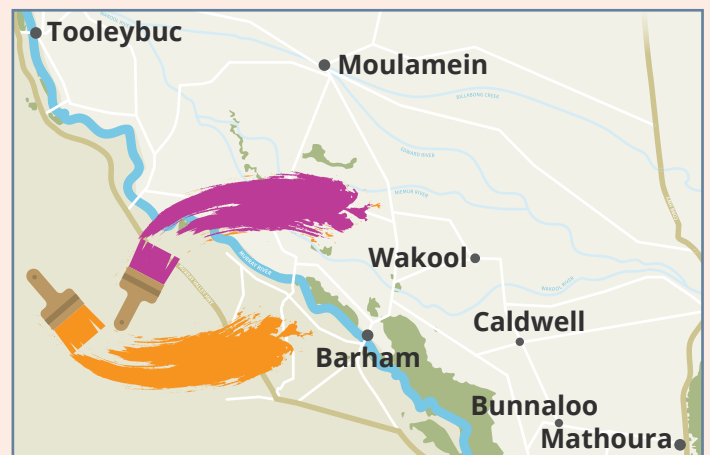
Once fully installed, the booster pump will provide increased water pressure, which residents will notice over time. The pressure will be gradually increased over the coming months and into early 2024 which will limit any potential pipe damage from a sudden increase in pressure.

Perricoota Road: works update

Stage 3 resheeting works along Perricoota Road have now commenced. The works area starts approximately 4.4km south-east of Jungle Lane and finishes at Jungle Lane. This area was noted as a priority by both the community and Council, so we are pleased to now have the upgrades underway.

The team will be undertaking works Monday – Saturday over the coming period, with completion expected in early February 2024. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause motorists and appreciate your understanding as we undertake these important works.

River Country Art Trail



The River Country Art Trail project is progressing nicely, with our consultants (FORM) visiting the sites at the end of November to start putting together the scope of works. This will also take place in consultation with the steering committees across each location.

The outdoor Art Trail will feature large-scale art installations set to be painted on local silos and water towers. Spread across seven locations - Barham, Bunnaloo, Caldwell, Mathoura, Moulamein, Tooleybuc and Wakool - the sites will collectively make up what will be known as the River Country Art Trail. The project will progress over the next couple of years, with the steering committees helping to capture local ideas and themes for the art, before we appoint specialist artists to undertake the works.

Koraleigh raw water pipeline

Installation works for the new Koraleigh raw water pipeline are progressing well, with completion expected over the coming month. Once complete, the new raw water supply pipeline will provide raw water (river water) to each residential property within the village boundary. Water will be pumped directly from the Murray River, via the Bungunyah-Koraleigh Irrigation Trust Pipeline Network to the Koraleigh Water Treatment Plant, then distributed through the new raw water pipelines to properties. This is an exciting project for our Koraleigh residents, offering access to raw water for use outside around the house and garden....just in time for the summer months!

Make pool safety a priority this summer

As we move into the warmer months and families begin to spend hours by the pool, there is no better time to remind pool owners to make pool safety a priority.

Young children are at an especially high risk of drowning, particularly as they become more mobile and curious about their surroundings.



What are your responsibilities as a pool or spa owner? Here's the wordy, but important stuff:

Under the Swimming Pool Act 1992, owners of any swimming pool or spa capable of holding 30cm or more of water (**including those that are portable and inflatable**) are **legally required to ensure the swimming pool or spa is surrounded by a compliant child-resistant barrier**, and register them on the NSW Swimming Pool Register. This can be done for free at www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au.

Swimming pools and spas that hold 2000 litres of water or more may also need development consent from Council, so be sure to check what consent is required before installing the pool or spa. Land owners are encouraged to view the Council consent and construction certificate approval documents prior to any installation works, as land owners are liable for works without consent. Undertaking works without the appropriate consent may result in fines and / or enforcement action requiring removal.

Keeping it safe

We are urging swimming pool and spa owners, and tenants of properties with a swimming pool or a spa to complete a simple **Home Pool Check It Fix It Watch It** check list. This check list and others can be found on the NSW Swimming Pool Register, as per the website above.

Whilst the checklist provides a useful tool for pool safety, nothing replaces the need for children to be actively supervised around the water.

Did you know...

In NSW, swimming pools and spas are required to be inspected by Council or a NSW Fair Trading accredited building inspector, and have a Certificate of Compliance issued every three years. To arrange an inspection of your swimming pool or spa you can complete an Application for a Swimming Pool Certificate of Compliance. You can find this under the 'forms' section of our website.

Special Storytime Event!

Join author Susea Spray for Storytime these school holidays.

Susea will be joining us in January to share her picture story, *A Big Blue Boat*, along with some special songs and craft!

Children will love joining in with the fun wording and rhymes in this award-winning story about a boat, a girl and the sea. If you love *Hairy Maclary*, *The Gruffalo* and *There was an Old Lady*, you are going to love *A Big Blue Boat*!

A retired teacher and photographer, Susea and her husband are ocean sailors. Her '*A Big Blue Boat*' stories come from the adventures they have had in their yacht, *Gratis*.

Join us!

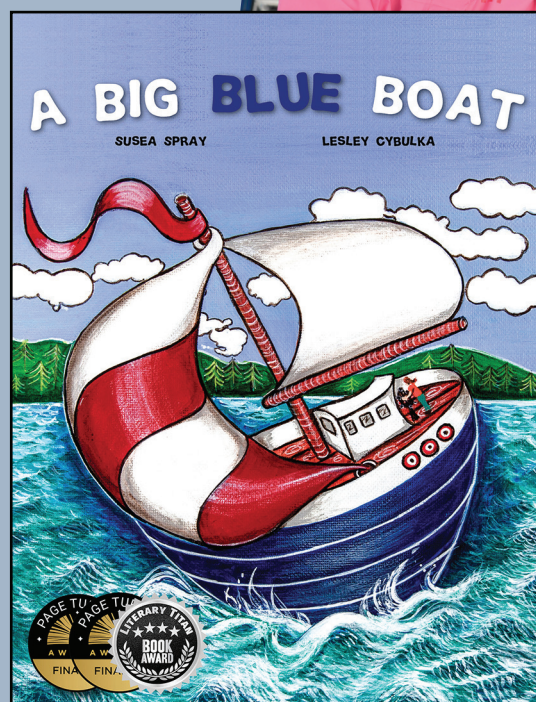
Thursday 18 January, 2024

Barham Library 10am - 03 5480 1587 to book.

Mathoura Library 1.30pm - 1300 087 004 to book.

About the book

Seas are calm, winds gently blowing, when a Big Blue Boat and her Captain head out for a day's sail. Then winds strengthen and the sea starts to rollick and frolic. What are a Big Blue Boat and her Captain going to do?



Managing your water use just got easier! Discover MiWater....

Residents can now monitor their water consumption anytime, anywhere, and all for free!

MiWater is an online customer portal where you can access all the information about water use at your property.

Sign up to track your daily water usage and keep an eye on how much it's costing. You can also choose your own water consumption targets and set up alerts to warn you if these targets have been or are likely to be exceeded.

Customers can add any of their properties to their MiWater profile and give others, including tenants and real estate agents, access to view water usage information.

Interested? Find out more at www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au/miwater



SIGN UP
TODAY

MiWater

Join the email list

Join our council email database and stay in the loop on the latest community, business and tourism initiatives straight from our Economic Development Team to your inbox!

Simply head to the home page of our website and click on the link to sign up. Easy!



Christmas in River Country

Discover Murray River Council's magical Christmas installations in Moama, Barham, Mathoura, Moulamein, Tooleybuc, Koraleigh and Wakool.

Head to visitrivercountry.com.au to find out more.

Looking for cemetery records?

If you want to access cemetery records and information, you can do so via our website. Our digital platform covers all 6 operational cemeteries; including Barham, Mathoura Lawn, Mathoura Pioneer, Moama, Moulamein and Tooleybuc.

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



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