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**AND MORE...**



# Contact council

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Moama Office  
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Moama NSW 2731

Moulamein Office  
Tualka Terrace  
Moulamein NSW 2733

Mathoura Visitor & Business Centre  
Cobb Highway  
Mathoura NSW 2710

Moulamein Business Centre  
Morago Street  
Moulamein NSW 2733



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Elected September 2017 Moama Ward



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Elected September 2017  
Greater Wakool Ward

# Message from the Mayor

Welcome to our first Murray Matters for 2019.

I've written before about the three key elements of our Council's economy: agriculture, tourism and industry.

The last year has been a very tough year for agriculture, as bad as we can remember. Of course, it's all about water, and the fight for better access will continue through this year and beyond. While that is happening, we need to continue to assist communities that are bearing the brunt of that downturn.

Tourism has been on the improve, with visitor numbers and duration of stay increasing. This is certainly evident in the jam-packed streets in Echuca Moama, and in growing visitor numbers in other centres along the river. The attraction of two major events to the Council area – the National Darts Championships and the National Seniors Golf Championships- will boost the tourist economy in Moama and in Murray Downs. Both events are the result of work done by our Economic Development and Tourism team.

We are also seeing the upswing in interest and commitment to base industries in the Council area. This is often with the assistance and support of our Council staff, and more

importantly, through the innovative ideas and drive of members within the community. Ventures both small and large are on the drawing board, and most seek to add value to our agricultural product.

Meanwhile, Council is continuing the process of building new infrastructure in our communities with lots already completed, and more progressing and reaching completion in the course of the year. You can see updates on some of these projects in this edition.

This edition also outlines the key timeframes for the upcoming budget preparation process. The planning stages for new financial years sure do come around fast and we already have 2019/20 firmly in our sights! The public consultation stages are there for a reason; we want you to tell us if we have it right, what we should look at changing, and to ask us questions about where the money is coming from and where it is going. Keep an eye out locally for information on how you can make a submission or get involved in the process... we'd love to hear from you.

**Cr Chris Bilkey**



## After-hours request reminders

Got an urgent water or sewerage issue at 7pm? Found a stray dog at 5am?

Please remember to contact our after-hours numbers so that the right person can get onto the job as quickly as possible.

### **AFTER HOURS Emergency Greater Mathoura and Moama Ward**

Mathoura Water and Sewerage	0429 843 439
Moama Water and Sewerage	0417 747 911
Ranger	0408 823 852
Roads On-call	0408 928 303

### **AFTER HOURS Emergency Greater Wakool Ward**

Road and General	0447 074 614
Water and Sewerage	0428 324 886
Ranger	0448 190 613

It's important that residents remember to use the above numbers and not contact staff directly at home or other locations other than the workplace... it makes it much easier to attend to the issue!

# The project updates...

## New life for sports courts

*Five Murray River Council sports courts have received a facelift, with recent resurfacing works now complete..*

\$400,988 in grants was awarded to council in 2018 to breathe new life into local sports surfaces, thanks to NSW Government funding through the Stronger Country Communities Fund.

The Mathoura and Bunnaloo tennis courts have had surface repair and repainting works to extend the life of the current courts and maintain safety for user groups.

The Koraleigh tennis courts have also undergone major resurfacing works to remove the existing synthetic surface and replace with new material.

The Barham basketball courts have had a facelift with all 3 courts being repaired and remarked and the netball court in Wakool also had the current infrastructure removed and was completely rebuilt.

And not forgetting those that like to get a recreational fix away from the sports courts ... construction of the new bike and walking track at Murray Downs has now also been completed!

## The Pontoons

*Barham and Tooleybuc riverfront areas will soon receive a brilliant new asset, with planning for the construction of pontoon/wharfs well underway.*

In Barham, the project involves the construction of a boat mooring / pontoon as an addition to the Barham Boardwalk. This will enable vessels to moor at the Boardwalk and access the township's

businesses without the need to remove their boat from the water. It would provide access for and entice Paddlesteamers to visit Barham more regularly from Echuca, creating connections along the river.

Similarly in Tooleybuc, the pontoon area will provide direct access to the town as well as access to the public amenities for water traffic. This project will complement the redevelopment of Mensforth Park area that is also currently underway, showcasing Tooleybuc as a great place to stop...whether you're on the road or water!

With the addition of the pontoons this year, both park areas will be transformed into accessible,



■ Tooleybuc pontoon concept drawing.



■ Barham pontoon concept drawing.

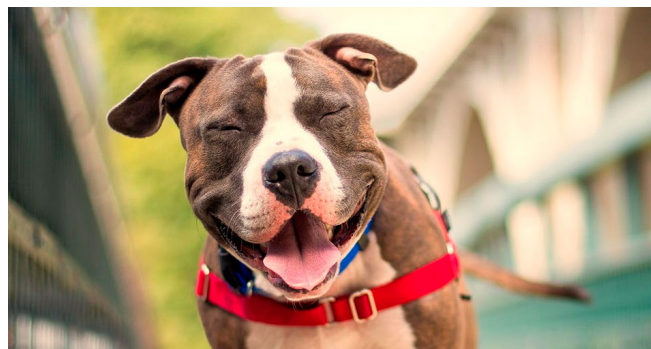
active and lively locations that connect the community directly to the Murray River.

Both projects are happening thanks to the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund.

## Doggy Fun!

*Moama residents and their four-legged companions will soon have access to a new off-leash area at the Rec Reserve.*

Council received \$266,125 of funding under Round 2 of the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund to develop a fully fenced, landscaped dog park adjacent to the old trotting track section of the Moama Recreation Reserve.



Whilst still in the planning stage there has been recent consultation with the community regarding its development, with ideas put forward for creative sensory landscapes, areas for obedience, open areas for exploration and lots of 'cool' things for dogs! Watch this space!

## Tooleybuc – Draft Master Plan

The NSW Government's Department of Premier and Cabinet has been working with Council and community members from Tooleybuc, Goodnight, Kyalite and Koraleigh as the growth of horticulture in the region is changing the demand for full time and seasonal workers and is creating a demand for increased housing, services and infrastructure.

In December last year, more than 50 members of the Tooleybuc community met with Council and the NSW Government to gather community views on the most effective ways to address future housing and services as the growth in horticulture continues. The NSW Government and Council again met with members of the community in January and February 2019 to discuss future growth options for the Tooleybuc district.

Tooleybuc is the first pilot NSW Government 'Local Activation Precinct' (LAP) in regional NSW. A Local Activation Precinct is focussed on supporting the creation of local jobs and economic development opportunities and is supported through streamlined planning processes. The final Master Plan which will be integrated into Council's Local Environment Plan will ensure that the Tooleybuc district is able to accommodate the additional housing needs associated with the growth in horticulture.

Further details on the draft Tooleybuc Master Plan are available on <https://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/regional-nsw/snowy-hydro-legacy-fund/special-activation-precincts/>

## Budgeting Begins

Murray River Council has now commenced the 19/20 budget development process. To stay in the loop of key milestones, take note of the dates in the table below.

The draft budget will be on display following the May council meeting where residents will have the opportunity to view and comment on the plans for the coming year.

May Council Meeting: Council to adopt draft plans with public exhibition then to follow for a period of 28 days	28 May 2019
Public consultation meetings to discuss draft plans	June - keep an eye out for dates!
Closing date for Public Submissions on draft plans	21 June 2019
Special Meeting – final adoption of plans	27 or 28 June 2019

# Digital Bootcamp for Small Businesses

The Digital Bootcamp is an interactive seminar, designed to give small business owners a positive shift in their knowledge and confidence on how to run a business in this digital world.

This Heavily subsidised workshop is run by the NSW Government as part of the Business Connect Program.

Netstripes, in partnership with Council are bringing the Digital Bootcamp to Murray River Council.

## ***The bootcamp is made up of four sessions and will cover:***

1. *Small Business Digital Readiness:* This session will cover the fundamentals every business owner must get right.
2. *Customer Personas and Buying Cycles:* This session is about identifying your ideal customers, the psychology of their buying decisions, and how we need to cater our online content to capture their attention, interest and sales.
3. *Design Thinking and Lean Start-up:* In this session you will learn techniques of how to create products and services customers demand as opposed to you having to do the hard sell to achieve the sales you deserve.
4. *Growth Hacking for Small Business:* This session is about using innovative digital strategies and tactics that help expand your sales and business.



■ If you're a small business owner, start-up entrepreneur or intending to start your own business, this is one event you should attend!

**Date & Time:** Tuesday the 7th of May  
8:30am till 5:30pm

**Location:** Cadell on the Murray,  
325 Perricoota Rd, Moama NSW 2731

**Cost:** \$99

**To register online visit:**

<https://www.netstripes.com/bootcamp-moama-may-2019>

## ***One-on-one Digital Strategy advisory***

Attendees also have access to NSW government-funded one-on-one Digital Strategy advisory, so attendees can put their learning into practice for their businesses. It is a dedicated and personalised program to help aspiring entrepreneurs start or grow their small businesses.



**LIKE US ON  
FACEBOOK**

Keep an eye on updates or community information via our Facebook Page: Murray River Council.

# Community Grants Program - now open

*Applications are now being sought from community groups and not-for-profit organisations for Round 2 of Murray River Council's 2018/2019 Community Grants Program.*

The program offers financial support for various projects, equipment, events, exhibitions, performances etc, which contribute positively to the Murray River Council community.

Applicants can apply for grants of up to \$3,000 via the program.

Applications will be accepted until 4.00pm on Monday 15 April 2019.

For information and access to the online application form, visit [www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au/community/grants/council-grant](http://www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au/community/grants/council-grant)

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*Did you know you can receive your rates notice electronically?*

eNotices allows you to self-manage all your properties, send notices to multiple email addresses and print off additional copies!

To register, simply find the eNotices logo and your individual reference number on your rates notice, then head to [murrayriver.enotices.com.au](http://murrayriver.enotices.com.au)

# Words on weeds

*Weeds are one of the biggest environmental issues in Australia, costing billions of dollars each year in management programs and lost production.*

Over this past season, Council has been carrying out inspections right across the municipality and has continued to work with landholders to support them in their efforts to manage weeds and their impacts.

In particular, council are:

- carrying out inspections for Silverleaf Night Shade, Spinyburr Grass, Bathurst Burr and Khaki Weed and mapping any of these infestations in an effort to contain them and eradicate new entries;
- mapping and carrying out river inspections along the Edward River and Murray River, with the support of Central Murray County Council;
- planning to implement a control program for infestations of African Boxthorn near Yanga National Park later in the year, funded by Murray Local Land Services; and
- currently engaging with landowners to control Silver Leaf Nightshade in the Murray Ward. This project is funded by Murray Local Land Services.

Did you also know that Council has fully trained Bio Security Officers who are available to meet with landholders seeking advice in the Wakool Ward?

For information relating to weeds in the Murray Ward, landholders should contact Central Murray County Council.

Contact us if you'd like more information about our control programs for noxious and environmental weeds, or if you'd like some advice on identifying and controlling weeds at your property.



## Community Services



■ The Hoffmans will hit the stage in Tooleybuc.



■ Anthony Tenace (as Elvis).

## MRC Seniors Week 2019

### *Love your Life*

Events for seniors over 55

9-11 April 2019

There'll be a Library Expo day in Barham, a fun day of local displays and hands on-experiences in Moulamein and remember the sounds and sights from an ole time Dinner Dance in Moama!

Keep an eye out locally for extended details on all the events for our residents 55 years and over!

### *Feature senior's week event:*

## Tooleybuc Extravaganza

Murray River Council and the Tooleybuc Home Support Program will celebrate Seniors Week with an afternoon of live entertainment!

Wednesday April 10, 2019.

12 noon - 3.30pm

Tooleybuc Sporting Club

With entertainment from:

The Hoffmans

Anthony Tenace (as Elvis) & Jeanette Young.

Entertainment, lunch and transport: \$12.00

Bookings required via your local  
Home Support Office

## Volunteering with Community Services

The aim of our Commonwealth Home Support Program is to help older people live as independently as possible- with a focus on working with you, rather than doing it for you.

To make this happen all of our programs require staff and volunteer support.

*Are you volunteer material?*

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at Council, we will meet and work with you to best place you in an area that suits your goals whilst also meeting the needs of our clients.

As well as Home Support volunteers, we are also seeking volunteer drivers who take people to medical appointments locally and to Melbourne.

All volunteers are provided with training, ongoing support and mentoring. The amount of time someone may volunteer is completely up to the individual; it may be a couple of hours or a full day once a week...every little bit counts!

If this sounds like something you'd like to get involved in, contact your local Community Services outlet.

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## Client Advocacy meetings

These regular meetings held across the council area help the Community Services Team gain valuable feedback from clients and their advocates, as well as any suggestions or ideas for the development of services.

The scheduled meeting dates for the remainder of 2019 are:

Barham: 8 May

Moulamein: 14 August

Moama: 11 September

Tooleybuc: 13 November

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**Youth Week in Murray River Council is just around the corner! Keep an eye out locally to find out what's happening in your community.**

## Our exercise program is kicking goals... have you tried it yet?

We all know that being physically active is good for us, but not everyone can take part in activities like walking, cycling or aerobics classes! If that's the case for you, but you want to keep active, then chair-based exercise could be just what you're looking for.

Murray River Council's Chair Based Exercise Program is currently offered in Moama, Mathoura and Tooleybuc but is soon set to expand to Wakool and Barham.

The program is delivered by qualified and passionate staff and is well worth a try. Even a small amount of activity can be a tremendous boost to our wellbeing so why not give it a go? You might be surprised at just how good it makes you feel!



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## What's on... Mathoura

- Weekly shop to Moama each Tuesday with quizzes, cards and games in the afternoon
- Mixed Group cuppa and chat sessions on Thursday
- Chair based exercise on Tuesday mornings

If you want to find out about things you can get involved in with the Mathoura Group contact Janine or Peg!

# Tackling Illegal Waste dumping

*Illegal waste dumping in the Murray River Council area is being targeted as part of a campaign to tackle this growing environmental and public health issue.*

Council officers have identified a spike in the amount of illegal dumping of household, garden and industrial waste.

In an attempt to reduce the incidences, Council will initiate the use of video surveillance throughout the Murray River Council area.

The disposal of waste on private and public land creates social, financial and environmental impacts on the community.

Litter often ends up in our waterways and stormwater systems and other illegally disposed of products can often have serious public health implications.

Residents are encouraged to be on the lookout for anyone disposing of their waste irresponsibly and to contact council if you have any information.

Penalties will apply in accordance with Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 to all identified offenders.



■ Council is targeting illegal waste dumping in the area.



## Visual merchandising workshop

*Whether you run a cafe or supermarket, chemist or gift store, hairdressing salon, hotel or newsagency... if you have a shop front you can benefit from attending a visual merchandising workshop.*

This workshop can show you effective and sustainable ways of attracting customers into your store including:

- Designing effective store layouts
- Attention to detail
- Creating an experience
- Telling your story
- Making an impact!

A workshop is going to be held in Moama in May 2019, at no cost to attendees.

To register your interest, please contact Rachel Turnbull on [rturnbull@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rturnbull@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au) or 03 5481 0900.

## What is illegal dumping?

Illegal dumping is the disposal of waste on private land, public land or waterways without a licence, permit or approval from the relevant authority such as the EPA or Council. It varies from small bags of rubbish in an urban environment, bushland or isolated area, through to larger scale dumping of materials. Commonly dumped items include household general rubbish and items such as furniture, whitegoods, mattresses, garden waste, building waste, vehicles and hazardous material such as asbestos.

# Spotlight on.... Bridge Renewal

*Thanks to funding under the Australian Government's Bridges Renewal Programme, the replacement of both the Yarrein Creek Bridge on Colenso Park Rd and Merran Creek Bridge on Fountains Rd are now complete.*

The works successfully delivered two-lane reinforced concrete bridges with a 100 year design life. Completion of the bridges has provided access for large farm machinery and links high productivity freight vehicles to the road network for movement of grain, livestock and stock feed.



Murray River Council - Fountain Road Bridge



■ Merran Creek Bridge on Fountains Road before (left photo) and after (right photo).



Murray River Council - Colenso Park Road Bridge



■ Yarrein Creek Bridge on Colenso Park Road before (left photo) and after (right photo).

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## A word on training

MRC has started the year with a full training program and as a result has been successful in signing up 11 of our Plant Operators to undertake the Certificate III in Civil Construction.

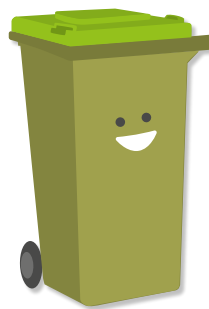
This has been at no cost to Council but will offer our staff a great opportunity to have their skills and expertise recognised as a National Accredited Qualification whilst maintaining a full time job.

The opportunity to ensure our staff are suitably qualified and skilled will continue over the remainder of the year with qualifications in CIV Local Government (Operations) and CIV in Leadership and Management, plus ongoing compliance training.

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## Garden Organics for Moama and Mathoura residents



### What goes in your green lidded bin?



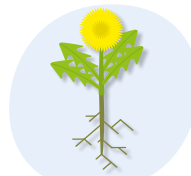
Lawn clippings



Pruned shrubs

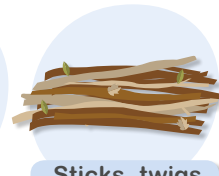


Cut flowers



Weeds

(NOT noxious or  
priority weeds)



Sticks, twigs  
and branches

(NO longer than 1m  
and 75mm in diameter)

## IS YOUR PIC FRONT COVER WORTHY?

Each edition, we want to feature some of the amazing gems that make our towns and communities such beautiful places to live.

If you have a high resolution snap that showcases your favourite part of the Council please send it in....it might just make the cover!

Email Courtney at [cdean@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cdean@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au)



POSTAGE  
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## To the Householder