



# WALGETT SHIRE

'Rivers, Plains and Opals' Newsletter

AUTUMN 2020

## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL LAUNCH JIMMY LITTLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE ARTS



The daughter of the late Jimmy Little, Ms. Frances Peters- Little, founder of the Jimmy Little Foundation has enthusiastically endorsed the Scholarships as an amazing opportunity for those in the Walgett Shire involved in the Arts.

Frances Peters- Little said, "I would like to express my wholehearted congratulations and appreciation for making the Jimmy Little Memorial Scholarship available to artists living in the Walgett Shire. I know that my father, who loved Walgett dearly and claimed it as his home would have been delighted and proud of this scholarship.

A maximum of four scholarships with a maximum value of \$2,500 each be awarded in any one year. Scholarship will be available only for recognised courses of study being undertaken at recognised art establishments, tertiary institutions and TAFE Colleges. Scholarships will only be awarded to those students who have their principle place of residence located in the Walgett Shire area. Scholarships will be based on course fees, accommodation requirements and any other special requirements for study such as residential course attendance expenses.

Walgett Shire Council have introduced scholarships to all emerging artists in forms identified below that reside within the Walgett Shire. The new Scholarships are a tribute to world renowned Aboriginal artist, singer and songwriter Mr. Jimmy Little and seek to support those emerging talents across our Local Government Area.

The Scholarships in the Arts includes, but is not limited to, music (instrumental, vocal & compositional), dance & movement, drama, folk and performing art, creative writing, architecture and allied fields, painting, sculpture, photography, graphic and craft arts, industrial design, costume, textiles and fashion design, motion pictures, television, radio, film, video and sound-scaping.

Acting General Manager Walgett Shire, Mr Mike Urquhart said, this is a fitting legacy for the late Mr Jimmy Little. The Jimmy Little Memorial Scholarships makes provision for an amazing opportunity for the budding artists across many mediums of art within the Walgett Shire Local Government Area and we are so grateful the Jimmy Little Foundation have endorsed these annual Scholarships in the Arts.

Full details of the scholarship guidelines, together with application forms are available from Council's website [www.walgett.nsw.gov.au](http://www.walgett.nsw.gov.au)

Applications have been extended to:  
Friday 19th June 2020.  
For further information please contact Council's administration office on 6828 6100.

## PAINTING OF THE WALGETT WATER TOWERS

Acting General Manager Mike Urquhart said Council was in the process of finalising arrangements for painting the Walgett water tower in Dewhurst Street.

Council has held discussion with a number of artists regarding various options and is also seeking input from a local Aboriginal artist who would assist with the painting.

The General Manager reported, Council at its March 20 meeting, had agreed on painting an image of "Dr Jimmy Little AO," based on a photograph by John Elliot which has been approved by the Jimmy Little Foundation. The photograph is currently on display in the National Portrait Gallery of Australia.

Jimmy's daughter Ms Frances Peters-Little said she was thrilled by the decision in paying tribute to her dad and recognising his contribution to Reconciliation, Indigenous Health & Education programs. Jimmy was also voted a 'National Living Treasure' in 2004 and awarded the APRA prestigious Ted Albert Award for his 'Outstanding Services to the Australian Music Industry in 2010.

The General Manager said Walgett would join the growing number of silo and water tower art trails in NSW. "The Walgett tower would be a welcomed addition to the regions trail with water tower paintings already in Coonamble and Gulargambone to the South.

The paintings are having a phenomenal effect on the sustainability of these small towns through increased visitor numbers" he said.

## OUTSTANDING AWARD AT STATE DRUG FOUNDATION CEROMONY

A recent trip to the big smoke from Walgett Community Drug Action chairperson Mr. Reg Rutene, and member Mr. Carl Mason saw the local engagement program take out the Community "Drug Action-BEAT THE HEAT Focused Project Award" 2020"

Council's Manager Community Development Mr. George McCormick said "the Beat the Heat initiative is a one of a kind and engages the community during the summer heat wave offering resources, information, pool access and meals to all in attendance. It is supported by many local services and Walgett Interagency Group members and seeks support of the Walgett CDAT team every year. It's a great pat on the back and recognition from all the services that continue to support youth young people and community wellbeing."

## COVID 19 RATEPAYER FINANCIAL HARDSHIP RATE RELIEF

Walgett Shire Council's Mayor Manuel Martinez, said 'the Covid 19 virus had effected the life of every Australian, and he understood the challenges ratepayers may be facing in these uncertain and unprecedented times, he wanted to remind ratepayers, Council would consider financial hardship claims on an individual basis from those ratepayers experiencing difficulty in meeting their obligations to pay rates and charges'.

The Mayor went onto say "Council had a role to play in the this crisis and would assist ratepayers where possible, and the finance staff where here to assist ratepayers completing the Hardship applications. Assistance may extend to alternative arrangements for payment of all rates and charges extending past relevant due dates, and would be subject to on-going review under written agreement with the individual".

He also said "In the next nine (9) months to the 31st December 2020, Council would not actively engage in the debt recovery process offering all ratepayers a window of opportunity to make adhoc payments if necessary during this time, without fear of legal action being taken against them.

Ratepayers having Financial hardship should contact Council on 68286100."

## FROM THE MAYOR



The past six (6) weeks have been unprecedented times for our community and i would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone for being so vigilant and patient in observing the social distancing, good hygiene and non-essential travel in the Shire. These efforts have not gone unnoticed and i believe we have have all made a valuable contribution to keeping the community free from COVID-19.

I would also like to recognise the joint efforts of our Local Emergency Management Committee and the work done by so many emergency and community service groups.

Council responded to the Health Order closing a number of services such as the playground, library, visitor information and youth centres. i am pleased to report the library is now providing a call and collect service which is the beginning of a roll-out to full services again in the coming weeks. Residents should check the Council website and Facebook page for regular updates.

On a much a brighter note, Council has received advice it was successful with its grant applications under the NSW State Governments Stronger Country Communities Fund. The projects include shading Council skate parks, new amenities building for Apex Park Walgett, refurbishment of the Collarenebri Hall, a new playground for Gray Park Walgett.

Council has applied for funding to expand the footpath network in Lightning Ridge, turfing of the Collarenebri Sporting Oval, replacement of footpaths in Fox St Walgett and a new picket fence for No 1 Oval Walgett under the Commonwealth Drought Community Program.

Successful grant applications in accordance with the NSW State Government Drought Stimulus Package will deliver a big boost to a variety of community assets including footpaths/cycleway and new amenities building for Lightning Ridge,

Playground, shade sail and fence for parks in Come-By-Chance and Grawin, upgrade of Carinda Pool, reroofing of the Burren Junction Hall,

## COUNCILLORS



Deputy Mayor Ian Woodcock



Clr Tanya Cameron



Clr Jane Keir



Clr Bill Murray



Clr Kelly Smith



Clr Michael Taylor



Clr Robbie Turnbull



Clr Lawrence Walford

Painting and refurbishment of the Rowena Hall and upgrade of the Walgett CBD.

Its great to see the follow up rains and hopefully the weather cycle will continue to be favourable and allow our farmers to have a much needed crop this year.

Please look after one another and keep a lookout for our vulnerable residents, we are a resilient community and together we can beat this virus.

Mayor Manuel Martinez

## WELCOME TO REBURDAH DENNIS



Walgett Shire Council welcomes the recent appointment of Miss Reburdah Dennis to the position of Aboriginal Liaison & Community Development Officer.

Reburdah has commenced work within the Community Development Team.

Reburdah 's positon will play a key support role in capacity building and community development, value adding to Council's team who has been regularly recognised across the State for their commitment to implementing and supporting social change across all communities within the Walgett Shire Local Government Area.

Reburdah is a local Walgett, Gamilaraay lady with a strong connection to country and community who spent the majority of her life here in Walgett. She places high value and respect in the community she lives in and involves herself in sports, cultural and recreational activities.

After completing her HSC a Walgett Community College she began work at Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service in administration and PCYC, where she was employed as an Activities Officer at Walgett, before journeying to Sydney where she was positioned in the administration role at PCYC NSW State Office.

Reburdah said, "I am very keen to support our communities across the Shire in this position and am enthusiastically looking forward to working alongside the Shire team, supporting and contributing to continuing the positive outcomes for community".

## CALL & COLLECT AT WALGETT SHIRE LIBRARY'S

Council recognises all the challenges community members have had to ensure during the COVID-19 situation and restrictions across our Shire. Regular visitation and drop-ins to the local Library are on so many people's weekly agendas.

We are happy to inform you that our Council is now able to offer Call & Collect at both our Libraries in Walgett & Lightning Ridge.

This will be a no contact service, members can call the library to find a book, DVD, magazine or Audio Book they would like to borrow, book a time for collection and pick up their books from outside their local library.

Borrowed items will have an extended loan date and will not need to be returned until 30th June.

The books will be placed outside the library doors for members to pick up at their elected collection times. When the item is returned it will be quarantined for 5 days, wiped down then placed back on the shelves.

The borrowing service is only available via phone or email. Members who wish to borrow from the Library or speak with a staff member about a specific genre should call Cath or Sue on 02 6828 6104 or 02 68286103 or email [walgett@bsl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:walgett@bsl.nsw.gov.au) at Walgett or Bozana on 02 6829 0005 [lightning\\_ridge@bsl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lightning_ridge@bsl.nsw.gov.au) at Lightning Ridge

## RRT: FARMERS COMMUNITY CONNECT EVENT



Rapid Relief Team provide Free Coffee & BBQ



Walgett Shire Councillors meet with Deputy Premier John Barilaro



Council Ranger Paul Flint handing out free pet food



Ron Arcoll RRT, Alana Copelin WSC, John Barilaro MP

## WALGETT SHIRE LIBRARIES OFFER ONLINE RESOURCES

Due to the Government restrictions surrounding COVID-19 the Walgett and Lightning Ridge Libraries are closed until further notice.

We encourage members to utilise our online resources during this difficult and challenging time. Resources include eBooks, eAudio, eMagazines, and eMovies using your Big Sky Membership that are all free of charge.

Visit [bsl.nsw.gov.au](http://bsl.nsw.gov.au) website for full instructions.

# BORROWBOX IS ALWAYS OPEN

**DOWNLOAD THE APP NOW**

1. Install the BorrowBox app
2. Select your library service
3. Activate with your library membership
4. Borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks



The NSW Government is providing a range of services and support for those in your community impacted by drought.

Some residents in your community have been identified as being eligible for a \$2,000 Water Carting Rebate, designed to assist with the costs they may have incurred in meeting their domestic water needs.

The rebate applies to landholders of properties who typically access water from regulated rivers for their domestic supply, but where flows ceased for extended periods due to the drought.

The NSW Government will be informing eligible landholders of the rebate by post over the coming days.

Landholders are encouraged to apply for the rebate online through the [Service NSW website](http://Service NSW website), or phone Service NSW on 13 77 88.

For more information about this rebate, please visit the [Service NSW website](http://Service NSW website) or call 13 77 88.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES UPDATE

### WALGETT

- Sprinkler System installed at Walgett Cemetary
- 50 plants installed in Fox St garden beds as part of the main street beautification project
- Major works have stopped on the Walgett Weir Project due to major rain event and river flooding.
- Walgett Levee extension was completed in March

### ROWENA

- Rowena Flood Study prepared in January 2020 awaiting feedback

### GRAWIN

- Proposal for Grawin bore water drinking scheme is in progress. Waiting for a report from DPIE and NSW Health department

### BURREN JUNCTION

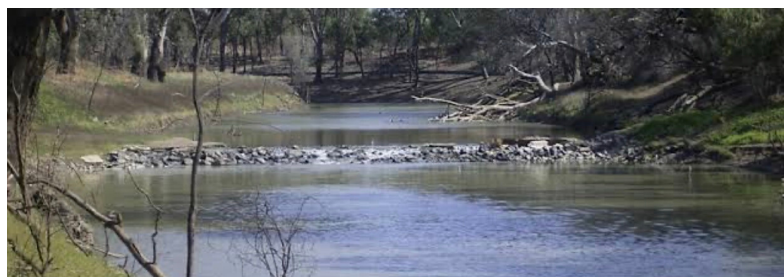
- Widening on Bugilbone Road Burren Junction is in progress

### LIGHTNING RIDGE

- Widening of sealed section in the Sunday market area near the Lightning Ridge Visitor Centre is in progress
- Water supply upgrade (Chlorination / Aeration) – in tender evaluation stage.
- Upgrade of Levee bank to protect the bore pump is completed
- Construction of new banks in effluent pond is in progress.

## WALGETT SHIRE WATER PROJECTS

Acting General Manager, Mike Urquhart, said the new emergency bore at Walgett was now complete at a depth of 705 meters and will produce in the order of 1 megalitre a day of raw water. While its production coupled with that of the other bores should meet daily demand, the Acting General Manager said he was disappointed with the outcome, as it was hoped it would achieve a similar result to that of the Collarenebri bore. Mr. Urquhart said Council would continue its investigations into alternative water sources to ensure Walgett had a reliable water supply into the future.



## SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME DONATIONS 2019/2020

Lightning Ridge Pistol Club \$3000

Lightning Ridge Community Radio \$900

Carinda District Race Club \$3000

Walgett Show Society \$3000

Burren Junction Rescue Squad \$3000

North West Plains Sustainability Group \$1500

