



# WALGETT SHIRE

'Rivers, Plains and Opals' Newsletter

SPRING 2020

## THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCILLORS HAVE CHOSEN MICHAEL URQUHART AS ITS NEW GENERAL MANGER.

Mayor Manuel Martinez said "2020 has been a difficult time for everyone and Mike has been the Acting General Manager and Chief Financial Officer for the past seven (7) months and has demonstrated a high level of commitment to the shire.

Councillors are very pleased with the direction he has taken the Council, his response to local water emergencies, handling of the Covid Pandemic, his successful achievements in lobbying for additional grant funding and communication with Councillors and the community"

Michael has worked in Local Government for 39 years having held senior management positions with Quirindi, Liverpool Plains, Walgett, Central Northern and Castlereagh Macquarie County Council's. His experience includes finance, administration, community and property services, tourism and economic development.

Michael said "his priorities for the shire included a greater focus on the renewal of road infrastructure, water security, economic and tourism development. He said "Walgett Shire is not unlike other smaller rural Councils it too was facing the challenges of a changing demographic with a drift of its young people to the eastern seaboard.

Economic and tourism development are the fundamental elements for the well-being of a community and its individuals. We need economic development in our community, investment in the people and local businesses and from this we will generate social development and build community capacity"



Michael said" he also wanted Council to focus on the development of sporting and cultural facilities, parks and gardens, community events, and beautification of all towns and villages in the shire.

In closing he said "I am passionate about quality service delivery and I will be working closely with the Councillors, community and Council staff, as together we can create a healthy, vibrant and sustainable shire.

## 2020 RECONCILIATION ART COMPETITION

The recent Shire wide Reconciliation Art competition has been judged by renowned Aboriginal artist Mr Frank Wright.

Council community development and youth teams partnered with Mission Australia and Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service to stage the competition throughout the Shire in a bid to raise awareness and understanding of reconciliation with the youth and young people.

Mr Frank Wright, who judged the competition said, "There were some outstanding entries and the competition has unearthed some very talented young people in all the communities."

With such a high number of entries received, Council would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all work and appreciates the time and effort children have put into their artwork and a big congratulations to all the winners from each town.

The categories were:

Kindergarten - Years 3 / Years 4 - Years 6

Years 7 - Years 12

**WINNERS:**

Lightning Ridge:

Meg Barry

Hunter Brack

Collarenebri:

Lashanti Werribone

Joyce Adams

Walgett:

Gabriel Siemer

Rafael Siemer

Alexis Aylett

Vincent Hill

Leslie Wallace

The winners were awarded their prizes which included an original artwork by Frank Wright, goody bags from Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service and Mission Australia and a voucher from Council. Council is appreciative of the support of other services in this initiative.

## LIGHTNING RIDGE COMMUNITY GARDENS



The community gardens in Lightning Ridge are in full bloom with many vegetables and other produce being grown and nurtured by an outstanding group of community minded people.

Community members are encouraged to visit the gardens and speak with Nick and Ana who will gladly offer some healthy produce to families. The gardens are a credit to the volunteer group and proudly supported by Rotary and Walgett Shire Council.



Winning Entry by Leslie Wallace

### FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor Manuel Martinez

Walgett Shire Council Mayor, Manuel Martinez said “he was extremely pleased with the way the Walgett Shire community had adhered to the Covid restrictions as outlined in the Public Health Order, from individuals, families, sporting groups, and businesses, all have played a role in keeping the spread of Covid out of the shire.

The Mayor said “Covid 19 had impacted the entire Australian economy in some way, and everyone has a story about their individual accounts of dealing with these unprecedented times.

“Council staff are continuing to comply with the many Covid Plans that are in place at the various facilities, playground equipment and toilets are being disinfected daily.

I would encourage all businesses and residents affected by the restrictions to log onto the Australian Government's web site ([www.australia.gov.au](http://www.australia.gov.au))

For assistance with; Advice on restrictions, becoming a Covid safe business, financial support, seasonal employment, permits for farmers and workers outside the border zone”, he said.

Mayor Martinez went onto say “A vaccine is a long way off and this is not the time to become complacent, the community must keep strong and maintain its adherence to the restrictions, as we are all in this together, we need to ensure physical distancing, wash hands regularly, be aware of the symptoms and make sure workplaces are regularly cleaned.

Community members requiring more information on Covid-19 should call the “National Coronavirus Health Information Line” on 1800 020 080.

### 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



### NSWRuralFireService - Walgett Headquarter Brigade is looking for volunteers

There are many reasons why people choose to become a member of theNSWRFS these include to protecttheirfamilies, theirfriends, their assets, theircommunityandtheirwayoflife for more information why not contact District Office or attend Community Meeting at Walgett Sport Club 16/9/20 at 5.30pm RSVP to District Office on (02) 6822 4422

visit:[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

email: [northwestteam@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:northwestteam@rfs.nsw.gov.au)



## ECONOMIC & TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

Council welcomed the commencement of Economic and Tourism Development consultant Gary Berry on Tuesday 4th August 2020.

Gary will work in collaboration with Council, Tourism Staff & the Community to increase visitation and the economic impact of tourism across the region.

The scope of works for his engagement include:

- Reviewing the Walgett Shire Destination Management Plan
- Development of an Economic Development Plan
- Creating a new Shire Wide Tourism web site
- Creating a new Walgett Shire Council web site
- Creation of a Shire Tourism magazine (self-funding)
- Development of a marketing strategy
- Review of tourism information centre operations and layout
- Investigate development of a Chamber of Commerce for Walgett and Lightning Ridge Communities.



WALGETT OUTDOOR  
COMMUNITY MARKETS

**SATURDAY 12TH  
SEPTEMBER  
2020**

8:30AM - 12:30PM  
APEX PARK, WALGETT

WALGETT CWA CAKE & A CUPPA -  
With proceeds going to Barwon Cottage in aid of  
Domestic Violence Awareness CWA Awareness Week 2020

JOHN MCGOVERN BAKED GOODS, AVALON BY NATURE  
HAT HARE, PEARLS FOR GIRLS, JOAN PEARSON,  
EZIJAK, DUNN'S ICECREAM VAN,  
TOP WIRE PHOTOGRAPHY, STEWIECHICKS,  
QUILTER'S GROUP, TOYS & GIFTS, JEWELLERY,  
HOMEMADE RELISH, CAKES,  
, OPAL JEWELLERY, KNITTING, TIE DYE CLOTHING,  
& MORE

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS WILL BE IN PLACE

## DROUGHT STIMULUS PACKAGE APPROVED FUNDING PROJECTS

Walgett CBD Improvements -  
Refurbishments of traffic islands, bollards installed on corners, garden installed, medium strip and flags installed on poles.

Carinda Sporting Facilities Water and Drainage Improvements - Completion of drainage works, installation of water tanks and pumping works at the sportfield.

Shared Cycle-way and Footpath -  
Construction of 360m of pathway at Sherman's Way Lightning Ridge.

Amenities Lions Park Lightning Ridge -  
Construction of a colorbond toilet and shower facility including septic installed, prefabricated block and poured cement slab. The facility will be connected to Council's water, shower and power services.

Rowena Hall Improvements -  
Refurbishment of Rowena Hall including repairs to walls, windows, door, floors and roof.

Burren Junction Hall improvements -  
Re-roofing of Burren Junction Hall including replacement of galvanised iron roof and guttering.

Come By Chance Playground -  
Playground installed including softfall, fencing and shade sail.

Grawin Playground -  
Playground installed including softfall, fencing and shade sail.

## GENERAL RATING INFORMATION FOR 2020/21 RATING YEAR

Important - COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis (for the 2020-2021 year)

Due to COVID-19 the first instalment or payment in full will now be 30 September 2020 for the rating year 2020/21. Thereafter instalments will fall due for payment on 30 November 2020, 28 February 2021 and 31 May 2021 as per the Local Government Act 1993.

The statutory interest rate on overdue amounts for the period 1st July 2020 to 31 December 2020 will be the 0% per annum and from 1st January 2021 to 30th June 2021 the statutory interest rate will be 7% per annum.

## SHIRE WIDE ANTI-GRAFFITI INITIATIVE

Council's community development team will present the first ever anti-graffiti policy and procedure to Walgett Shire Council for adoption.

The policy will support effective and measurable methods, proven in many communities throughout NSW in reducing and addressing issues with graffiti and vandalism.

Aligning with the development of the graffiti policy, is the recent revitalization of existing murals and paintings carried out by local artist Mr Frank Wright and the council team.

The sporting mural on the corner of Fox & Neilly streets was first painted over 21 years ago by David O'Neill. The original artwork was focused on former NRL player Ricky Walford.



## 20/21 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Council at its July meeting formally adopted its 20/21 Operational Plan, pricing policy and revised long term financial Plan.

For 20/21 the budget parameters are:

- General purpose rate increase 2.6% IPART approved.
- Fees and charges generally increased by between 2.5% and 3%.
- Waste management charges increased by 2.6%
- Sewer charges have changed to reflect operational costs of individual town systems. Walgett \$514, Collarenebri \$427 and Lightning Ridge \$444.
- Water supply access charges increased by 2.5% and water usage charges increased by 5%.

Major works for 20/21 include

- Council is seeking grant funding for a new visitor information centre at Lightning Ridge
- Purchase/construction of additional staff housing
- Rowena Hall refurbishment
- Collarenebri Hall refurbishment
- Arts / cultural statue in Walgett
- Walgett Oval 1 picket fence
- Come By Chance playground, shade sail, fence, soft fall and picnic shelter
- Grawin Park playground, shade sail, fence, soft fall and picnic shelter
- Re-turf Collarenebri Sporting Oval and new irrigation system
- Shade sails over all town skate parks
- Carinda Sportsground irrigation upgrade
- Carinda Swimming Pool upgrade
- Lightning Ridge - Lions park Amenities
- Walgett - Apex park Amenities
- Carinda Road rehabilitation
- Ridge Road reconstruction
- Gundabloui Road rehabilitation
- Mercadool Road upgrade
- Brewon Road upgrade
- Cryon Road upgrade

## ENGINEERING SERVICES UPDATE

### Apex Park Walgett:

Play equipment installation completed. Softfall installed. New bore completed.

**Grey Park Walgett:** Solar light installation completed.

**Walgett Weir:** Concrete work in the weir completed. Sheet piling for fishway in progress. Two box culverts completed.

**Collarenebri Bore:** Cooling tower completed. Power upgrade by Essential Energy in process. Distillation from Effluent Pond No.4 and widening two banks on the pond completed.

**Burren Junction:** Road widening on Bugilbone Road (Pilliga end) is in progress. Design of refuse Island is progress.

**Cumborah:** Drinking water management plan for Cumborah bore is in progress. Pump installational completed and will be operational from 8th August 2020.



## WALGETT SHIRE LANDFILL CLEANUP

Significant works are occurring at Council's landfills in order to tidy up the landfills, promote safer sites and to ensure compliance with Environmental Protection Authority requirements.

Works have been undertaken recently at Collarenebri which include:

Filling of the offal pit. Old stockpiles at the site were moved into the offal pit cavity with the offal pit capped appropriately upon being filled.

Existing concrete and other stockpiles at the site to be capped to EPA standards.

Storm water and leachate control measures are put into place and monitored.

General site clean-up. Site clean-ups can be minimised through appropriate site use. Refer to the entry sign at each site to determine what wastes are accepted (village landfills accept domestic household waste only).

Large loads of waste or any building, industrial or commercial waste should be directed to Walgett or Lightning Ridge. These bigger landfills have the capacity and processes in place to handle these types of wastes.

Waste should be placed into the active cell (not on the edge) and scavenging is not permitted. Lighting of fires is prohibited and any asbestos waste should be directed to Walgett Landfill only.

Council staff are always happy to assist with any questions or concerns relating to landfills.

