



Walgett Shire

'RIVERS, PLAINS AND OPALS' NEWSLETTER

SPRING 21

LOCAL HERITAGE FUNDS AWARDED

In October 2021 Walgett Shire Council agreed to disperse \$13,900 from the Walgett Shire Council Local Heritage Fund 2021-2022 in accordance with the recommendations of Council's Heritage Advisor. The program also aims to increase community engagement and raise awareness of listed sites through recognition, conservation, preservation and access to Heritage Listed places.

The successful recipients included:
Angledool Station Meat House, Castlereagh Highway, Angledool
Bush Cottage Hospital, Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge
The Pink House, Fox Street, Walgett
CWA Hall, Waterloo Street, Burren Junction
Tattersalls Hotel, Wilson Street, Collarenebri

CLOSEDOWN OF COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION OFFICES OVER FESTIVE SEASON 2021/2022

Council operations close from 17th December 2021 to 4th January 2022. During the closedown essential service staff remain on duty in the garbage and water/sewer service areas and emergency service staff are rostered to be on call in other areas of Council operations.

WINNERS NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS 2021

The challenges faced to deliver Youth Week 2021 activities and opportunities was an experience our youth teams had not expected to endure. However some amazing outcomes have been achieved with the programs and initiatives engaging 2800 plus young people across the Shire in 43 individual events delivered over a three week period this year. The final evaluation & acquittals were submitted to the NSW Government funding bodies and Councils youth and community staff waiting anxiously for the announcement of finalists. During mid-October Council were informed they had been named as finalists in (3) three of a possible (4) categories for the Youth Week 2021 Local Government Awards. During an on-line Awards ceremony Walgett Shire Council were announced winners of the NSW Local Government "Best on-going commitment Youth Week 2021" and took out the prestigious award over top of much larger city based Councils in Camden and Fairfield. This outcome places the succession of NSW awards at 14 years in which Walgett Shire Council youth and community teams have been awarded winners of numerous categories of the NSW Local Government Youth Week Awards. Plans and discussions have already begun in preparation and a commitment to improve and capture youth and young people for the 2022 Youth Week program which will be delivered next April.

PUBLIC NOTICE

LANDFILL SERVICES FOR WALGETT & LIGHTNING RIDGE OVER THE 2021/2022 CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR FESTIVE SEASON

Walgett Shire Council wishes to advise residents that over the Christmas and New Year period both the Walgett & Lightning Ridge landfills will be closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, otherwise the Landfills will be open as usual. Council's Contractor will have metal skip bins placed at the front gates for anyone wishing to dispose of rubbish on these three days.

Council apologises for any inconvenience caused to residents/ratepayers during this period.



FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

As the year comes to an end I would like to wish everyone a merry, joyful and safe Christmas, and I trust during the festive season you can reconnect with family and loved ones.

It's been a hard slog this past year and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our amazing resilient community, it's been a horrendous and unprecedented time for the community with Covid reaching the shire, months of stay at home restrictions, mouse plague and flooding across parts of the shire. Also, a big thankyou to every-one for rolling up their sleeves and having their vaccinations to keep family, friends and the wider community safe from this insidious disease.

It's been another big year for Council with many projects continuing to roll out across the entire shire, and I thank the staff for their commitment to the on-going betterment of the Walgett Shire and its many communities. Below are some of the projects that were completed or commenced during the past twelve months.

- New picket fence around number one oval Walgett
- Completion of footpath/cycleway in Lightning Ridge
- Council is supporting the OPA 4 community consultation process
- Lightning Ridge landfill consolidation completed
- Upgrade of Walgett pool drainage
- Commenced refurbishment of the Colless Grandstand
- Resealing Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri Streets
- Construction of the Lightning Ridge Multi-purpose Centre (See picture below)
- Sealing of Multi-Purpose Centre carpark in Lightning ridge
- Construction of the Burren Junction Bore Baths amenities
- Fencing around the Collarenebri waste facility
- Completion of the Walgett Weir
- Burren Junction Hall new roof completed
- Completion of the Leonard Pavilion and amenities upgrade Walgett Showground
- Refurbishment of the Collarenebri Showground Grandstand and Bar underway
- Purchase of flags for Walgett CBD
- Facilitation and lobbying both the NSW State and Commonwealth Governments for a heavy vehicle permit system in the opal fields
- Historic interpretive signage for Walgett CBD (Installation November)
- Collarenebri Golf Club rebuild nearing completion
- Planning underway for the Lightning Ridge recycling centre shed
- Completion of footpath/cycleway Fox Street Euroka to Trevallion Park
- New children's playground for Gray Park Walgett
- Footpath and stencilling for Euroka/Fox Streets
- Council contribution for maintenance of "Tracks in Use" in the opal fields
- Completion of new Collarenebri Sportsground amenities
- Cumberdoon Way rehabilitation
- Rehabilitation Come-By-Chance road
- New fencing at Lightning Ridge Spider Brown Oval
- New playground completed for Come-By-Chance village
- Planter boxes & paths in Apex Park Walgett
- New footpath Wee Waa Street Walgett
- Jimmy Little mural Walgett water tower
- Contribution to new PCYC for Walgett youth centre
- Solar system installed at Council administration centre
- Shire road 103 Bugilbone rehabilitation
- Reconstruction of damaged sections of Merrywinebone Road
- Burren Junction drainage emergency works
- Completed a section of the Gundabloui Road

The 21/22 year is also shaping up to be another big one with plenty of new capital work programs and general maintenance of shire infrastructure:

- New Artesian Hot Springs Pool in the Collarenebri main street with an adjoining park and amenities.
- Tender approved for the Mega Park in Lightning Ridge at the soccer grounds
- Sealing of the Burrenbaa and Lorne Roads Lightning Ridge.
- New Footpaths and drainage in Kaolin Street Lightning Ridge.
- New footpath/cycleway in Agate Street Lightning Ridge.
- Town and Village beautification program for flower beds, waste bins, flags and bollards.
- Tourism signage for parks include the Banjo Patterson poem theme in Walgett.
- New toilet block and showers for Lions Park Lightning Ridge.
- Improvements to Alex Trevallion Park Walgett.
- Construction of a recreation area and bird hide in Lightning Ridge.
- Walgett town beautification and cultural garden.
- New playground and toilet block at Grawin.
- Sealing of T intersection of Miners Road at Grawin.
- Development of a wetlands recreation area in Lightning Ridge.
- Improvements to Burren Junction Sportsground amenities.
- Refurbishment of the Carinda swimming pool amenities.
- Lightning Ridge new garbage bins for CBD (on order)
- Increased allocation for unsealed roads maintenance.
- Reconstruction of the Come By Chance Road, this is one of the largest roadwork projects undertaken by Council in recent times.
- Upgrade of the Lightning Ridge race track.
- New toilet blocks and showers for Trevallion and Apex Parks Walgett
- Drainage works for Collarenebri.
- Footpath works in Carinda, Walgett and Lightning Ridge.
- Construction of a new cooling tower and chlorination facility in Lightning Ridge.

I would also like to remind all business houses about the following Council "Main Street Beautification" programs that are currently open to all businesses in Walgett, Collarenebri and Lightning Ridge:

1. Removal of bars from shop windows and doors and installation of appropriate crim safe, or like security doors and window covers. Under this program Council will reimburse to a maximum of \$4,000 per premise upon completion and presentation of receipts.
2. Shop front painting program whereby Council will reimburse the owner to a maximum of \$1,000 per premise toward the purchase of paint. Labour and other costs related to painting the shop fronts is the responsibility of the owner.

Our sporting ovals, town entries, parks and gardens look absolutely amazing, a real credit to the Council staff who are going above and beyond, to make sure the towns and villages are clean, tidy and presentable for local residents and the many visitors that are expected in the coming months.

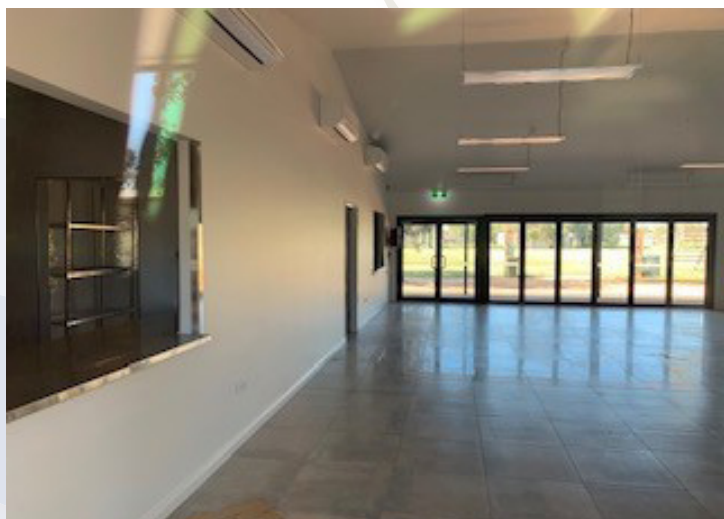
Michael Urquhart
General Manager



New footpath work in Euroka Street Walgett.



New Playground equipment and seating.



Construction of the Lightning Ridge Multi-purpose Centre

TENDER NOTIFICATION – COLLARENEBRI ARTESIAN HOT SPRINGS POOL CONSTRUCTION

Walgett Shire Council intend to release a tender in mid December 2021 for the construction of an artesian hot springs pool (bore bath) at Collarenebri. Contract award is expected to be the end of January 2022 with construction beginning February 2022.

The expected project activities include;

- * Construction of a bore bath with toilet and shower facilities
- * Fencing of the complex
- * Installation of a septic tank for waste management

The artesian hot spring pool at Collarenebri will include a large concrete pool, a pump station & in-situ concrete balance tank, multilevel seating and access, shade sails and an ablution block consisting of 3 disabled bathrooms (unisex), 1x outdoor shower and 1x ambulant toilet (unisex).

Further details will be available on release of the tender documents, available for download in Tenderlink. Please follow this link: <https://www.walgett.nsw.gov.au/council/council-tenders/> to access the tender portal when documents are released mid December. Please register with Tenderlink prior to tender release to view this opportunity.

Michael Urquhart. General Manager - Walgett Shire Council



AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2022: WE ARE ALL PART OF THE STORY

The 2022 Australia Day Awards recognise Walgett Shire unsung heroes. The awards pay tribute to the special people in our community who have gone above and beyond to help improve the lives of others and contribute to a diverse, friendly and strong community. This special person could be your neighbour, a friend or someone you have come across through your local school, church or sporting group. Whoever comes to mind, they are someone who works selflessly to help improve your life and the lives of others.

The efforts of these quiet achievers can often go unnoticed in our busy lives. The Australia Day Awards are about taking the time to ensure these remarkable individuals are honoured and receive the recognition they deserve. We are all part of the story.

Nominations for the 2022 awards are now open. Submit your nomination by 4.30pm, Friday 18th December 2021 for the person or organisations that you believe has made an outstanding contribution to the Walgett Shire community and tell us why you think they are deserving of an Australia Day Award.

The Australia Day Awards are presented annually to local citizens

and groups who have made outstanding contributions to the community. The awards are provided by the National Australia Day Council and are administered by local councils throughout Australia on their behalf.

Australia Day Awards are presented in the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year
 - Young Citizen of the Year
 - Health Award
 - Business Award
 - Student Citizenship Award
 - Volunteer of the Year Award
 - Lifetime Achievement Award
- Nomination forms and associated information must be received by 4.30pm, Friday 18th December 2021. For more information please contact George on (02) 6828 6107. Completed nomination forms should be sent to admin@walgett.nsw.gov.au



COMMUNITY WELLBEING INITIATIVE

Council continue to support and partner with agencies and community groups working to improve the health and wellbeing, skill enhancement, and general capacity of the residents across our Shire.

Over several years Council has partnered with Rotary and The Ridge Community Gardening Project in Lightning Ridge. The organisers of this group Ana and Nick and group of volunteers work tirelessly in an effort to supply fresh produce to the community of Lifting Ridge. Following a good season of rainfall and suitable growing conditions the group have pulled off some amazing fruit and vegetables this year. When we spoke with Ana she informed during the last six months the group estimate they have supplied

over 150 boxes of fruit and veg to community members and countless bags of other produce. They encourage any community members to drop down to the patch and come and engage in some purposeful activity.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Garbage Collection Services Over The Christmas / New Year Period

Walgett Shire Council wishes to advise all residents and businesses that garbage collection services within the Shire will operate and pickup as normal over the upcoming 2021-2022 festive season. Michael Urquhart General Manager

COLLARENEBRI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



RDA Orana is commissioned to undertake community engagement to support Walgett Shire Council implement the Collarenebri Economic Development Program. The overarching goal of the project is to enhance business capacity and connection in the Collarenebri community achieved through the creation and development of local strengths and opportunities.

Here is an image, part of a mural at Denyer Skate Park we discovered when in town "Home of the cod"... that tells the story of the fish traps in Brewarrina and of the links to Collarenebri community.

If you live or work in Collarenebri and would like to participate in the project or our community survey- we'd love to hear from you...

Register your interest @ <https://landing.rdaorana.org.au/collarenebri-economic-development-program> or Phone Kerry Palmer, Project Officer M 0436 026 321

WALGETT SHIRE BUSINESS SURVEY



Walgett Shire Council is undertaking research with RDA Orana so that we can develop a tailored business support package, to be delivered next year.

If you'd like local training on specific issues, take the survey NOW!
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WalgettBS>