

Newsletter

Jerilderie Shire

PLANNING WORK TO A HERITAGE ITEM OR IN THE JERILDERIE HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREA?

If you are planning to undertake works, more than basic maintenance, please contact the Environmental Services Department of Council on 03 5886 1200, as the approval of Council may be required.

Examples of basic maintenance include:

- Painting the building the same colours. *If you would like to change colours please speak with Council as this may require approval.*
- Replacing windows and doors with the same type and style of windows and doors.

All other works require consent and include such minor additions as:

- New or additional sign(s)
- Solar panels, or antennas or receiving dishes.

STAFF RETIREMENTS

Two long serving staff members have recently tendered their resignation from Council.

At the end of June, Mr Geoff Portbury retired from his position as a highly regarded Weeds Officer after 24 years in Council's employ.

Mr Denis Taylor retired on Friday 18 July 2014 after having spent 44 years working for Council as a skilled Grader Operator.

Both employees have brought considerable knowledge and expertise to their positions, and their dedication and commitment to our organisation will be greatly missed. We wish Geoff and Denis all the best in their retirement.

YAMMA CENTRE

On 1 June 1984, the Yamma Sports Centre was opened by Hon Michael A Cleary, MP, Minister for Leisure, Sport and Tourism.



30 years on, the Yamma community hosted a party, Saturday evening 14 June 2014, to celebrate this milestone. It was a great evening of family and community, and it is pleasing to see that the Yamma Centre continues to provide a community hub and venue for social interaction within that community.

Interesting to note that it is also 30 years since the opening of the Jerilderie Sports Centre (opened 2 June 1984).

LETTER FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Included with Council rate notices is a short survey. This survey will also be available elsewhere.

The survey is an important part of our consultation with you on the content of our budget proposals for the next few years.

Minimising expenditure on a number of areas and increasing income is crucial to our sustainability into the future. The NSW State Government is looking to revitalise Local Government, with one of the proposals being a reduction in the number of Councils. Those Councils most at risk are ones with limited sustainability. If you wish our Council to remain viable into the future you need to have your say, and one way is to respond to this survey.

It is important for Council to be able to clearly understand the level of service you desire, and are willing to pay for. Maintenance of existing levels of service into the future will require an increase in rate income, with 10% next year and the year after being proposed. This increase, in effect, removes the discounted rates which have been in place for 25 years. Alternatively, we need to know if you are willing to sacrifice services, or delivery of some services, to reduce the need to increase rates.

Another pressure on Council has been the reduction in Financial Assistance Grants from the Federal Government, expected to be \$50,000 this year, growing to an annual reduction of \$200,000 in the fifth year.

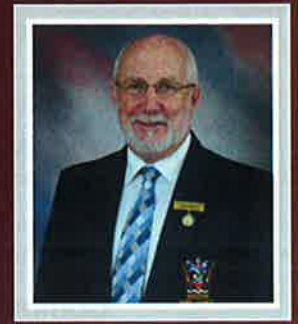
For many years we have been active in on-farm private works. This has not only supported the farmers, it has provided Council with the ability to maintain a modern plant fleet and establish and maintain higher levels of expertise. As private works needs have changed, so have the activities of the Works staff. In recent times we have been active in road work maintenance in our neighbouring Shires to assist them in their backlog of work. The steel fabrication ability in the Works Depot has been put to good use, and we have constructed four rural fire sheds, one of which was built in a neighbouring Shire. This group's capability has been expanded to achieve the successful construction of a Rural Fire Service Control Centre in Jerilderie, with all work being carried out by Council staff and our regular local subcontractors. The result is a credit to all involved, especially when one sees the substantial reduction in cost in comparison to the adjacent similar building for Fire and Rescue's town brigade.

Remember, fill in the Survey – have your say!!

Regards

Craig Moffitt
General Manager





Newsletter

Jerilderie Shire

SIR JOHN MONASH DINNER

We were privileged to once again welcome to Jerilderie, the Hon Tim Fischer, AC, as guest speaker at the 2014 Sir John Monash Dinner and Lecture, on Saturday evening 15 November 2014. Mr Fischer was guest speaker at the inaugural Dinner in 2008.

The Riverina launch of Mr Fischer's book "Maestro John Monash-Australia's Greatest Citizen General", took place on the evening. Jerilderie, and the time Sir John spent here as a child, is mentioned in the book.



Mr Fischer was a real drawcard for the event, with guests enjoying his talk and taking the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of his book.

Congratulations to Lachlan Westwood, winner of the 2014 Monash Bursary.

AUSTRALIA DAY NOMINATIONS

Nominations are still being accepted for the Jerilderie Shire Council 2015 Australia Day Awards and will be received in the following categories: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Sportsperson of the Year. This is a great opportunity to recognise the commitment and dedication of our community members and volunteers. All nominations are strictly confidential and nominations forwarded to the Council must be in a sealed envelope and clearly endorsed "Confidential - Citizenship Nomination". Nomination forms are available from the office or can be downloaded from our website. Nominations close **5.00pm Friday 5 December 2014**.

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

Jerilderie Shire Council sees education, particularly tertiary education, as a key process in the development and growth of our residents, particularly the youth of Jerilderie. In order to aid this development, as well as ease the transition and expense for rural students, Jerilderie Shire offers an accommodation scholarship at Charles Sturt University. 2015 scholarships have now opened on the CSU web site: www.csu.edu.au/scholarships/jerilderie-shire-council. Commencing and continuing students are eligible to apply for this scholarship. Applications close 28 November 2014 for continuing students and 8 February 2015 for commencing students. Applicant must be a long term resident of the Jerilderie Shire Local Government Area.

RAW WATER CONSUMPTION

As we enter the hot summer months, Council appreciates the efforts of residents to monitor their raw water usage to ensure waste does not occur.

A medium garden sprinkler can use up to 1000 litres per hour. The water waste if this is left to run all night is significant.

We must all share responsibility for this precious resource.

LETTER FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

RATE INCREASE

The Council proposal to increase rates for two years by an additional 7% above the expected limit of 3% set by the State Government (a total of 10% each year) commencing June 2015, has been the focus of two public meetings, several meetings with concerned ratepayers, and a questionnaire to all ratepayers. 91 questionnaires were returned, with 66% of responses disagreeing with the proposal.

Council has advised IPART of its intentions. A submission will be prepared for IPART analysis and approval. If approved, the special rate variation will be included in the draft 2015/16 Operational Plan & 2015-2019 Delivery Program. These drafts will be presented to ratepayers for comment prior to adoption in June 2015.

DISPOSAL OF THE WILLOWS

The Willows, formerly the home of the Jerilderie Museum, and the now in recess Historical Society, is owned by the State Government, with Council operating the building as Trustee. As Council's budget continues to have pressures of decreasing income and rising costs, a decision has been taken to reduce expenditure by disposing of costly, low use assets.

The Willows is being handed back to the State Government, and we believe that the State will, in due course, offer the building for sale. The disposal of buildings has been part of Council's discussion with the community on proposed rate increases next year. There has been widespread support for Council's actions to dispose of unused assets.

DEMOLITION OF RSL HALL

At its October meeting, Council resolved that demolition of the RSL Hall in the centre of the Jerilderie CBD is its preferred option. This is as a result of a predicted restoration cost of up to \$250,000, for a building which has had minimum use over a long period. Quotations for demolition of the Hall are being sourced. Although Council has long term plans for the construction of a Sir John Monash Centre, this project is totally dependent on external funds being successfully obtained from a variety of sources.

In the interim, it is proposed that additional street trees and park benches be installed to beautify this area.

COAL SEAM GAS

Jerilderie sits on the Oaklands Basin, an area identified in the "State Profile 2014 - NSW - A Strategic Planning Guide" (pg 34). This part of the document under Energy Resources, Coal and Coal Seam Gas, identifies coal, the expansion of coal and coal seam gas projects as having the potential to bring great prosperity. However the report notes that regions close to coal (and coal seam gas) resources, will need careful planning, with input from the local community.

Council identifies that accurate information is the foundation of community input. To that end we are arranging for community meetings to be held when all relevant local information is available. The State Government is the source of this information. We encourage landowners to actively participate in acquiring knowledge, as landowners individually have the final say in any coal seam gas activity on their property.

Craig Moffitt
GENERAL MANAGER

