



Council Connections with Mayor Doug Batten

Your Council provides a wide range of services and facilities within the community. These services and facilities are funded in a variety of ways. This financial year Council will spend in excess of \$25m, of this \$3.6m or 14.4 percent will come from traditional rate collections. The remaining \$21.4m is made up of fees and charges and Federal and State Government grants. In the main Councils fees and charges reflect the cost of providing the service; be it water, sewer, waste or aged care or disability services. It is the area of rate income and associated expenditure where Councils community service obligations and economic reality do not meet. Therefore the proposed rates increase of seven percent per year, above rate pegging, for each of the next three years. An information package detailing the increase and effect on various categories of ratepayers has been posted to all shire residents this week.

This Council, which was elected in September 2012, is made up of six first term Councillors. As such we have started from scratch, so to speak, and have devoted considerable time and resources to reviewing our Community Strategic Plan and associated financial planning documents and operations.

The bottom line is that on current costs there is a shortfall of \$600k per annum on what we are spending on maintaining our transport infrastructure and on what

is actually required to maintain it. Additionally our ability to fund the replacement or renewal of ageing infrastructure is very limited, some prime examples of this are the bridges at Curban and Gummin Gummin, the Berida Bullagreen Road and various town streets, footpaths and kerb and guttering. The proposed rate increase will address the maintenance shortfall and will, over time, contribute to Councils ability to renew our ageing infrastructure.

I encourage you to work your way through the Ratepayer Information Package, which is also available from Councils website, and discuss any concerns or queries with either your elected representatives or the relevant Council staff. The public consultations during the first two weeks of December will be widely promoted. On a lighter note, past copies of *The Gilgandra Weekly* from between 1915 to 1955 are now available on the internet, thanks to our library staff, Marion Ferrer and Patrick Elliget; a previous Journalist with *The Gilgandra Weekly* and a grant from the State Library. What a wonderful way to fill a few hours with stories of the stark realities of war, the local goings on and an insight into local business activity by way of their advertising. All that and I have only looked at papers from October and November 1915. Just Google 'trove' to find the website.

Bowling for cancer



Rosalie Woods, Carol Carnvale, Toni Kingham, Margaret Richards and Joyce Everett at the pink luncheon.

The Annual Grace McLeod Day was held at the Gilgandra Bowling Club on Tuesday November 12. Proudly wearing pink t-shirts the women's day is in aid of cancer research and a donation was made to the Gilgandra Council Cancer Fundraisers. The bowling competition brings together teams from Gilgandra, West Dubbo, Narromine and Trangie.

"It's been a great day and it's a good cause to get behind as many of our bowlers are affected by cancer," said Trish Farrell from the West Dubbo Bowling Club.

"Grace McLeod was originally from Gilgandra, she moved to West Dubbo Bowling Club and did a lot for the sport," said Toni Kingham, the Gilgandra Women's Bowling Club treasurer.

After the competition on the green, a pink themed luncheon and presentation

was held in the Bowling Club Hall. Bowlers Barb Newbold, Judy Bateman and Nola Schroder from the Narromine team took out the winner's title.

Judy Bateman also won the raffle and Gilgandra's Heather Smith took out the spider.

Mid-West Women's Bowling President Joyce Everett made a special trip out to The Grace McLeod Day to present Gilgandra bowler Margaret Richards with her Veterans Badge. The 80 year old Margaret was a former secretary of the Gilgandra Bowls Club and has been a member since 1976.

Mrs Everett said it was a real honour to present Mrs Richards with her Veterans badge. "I have known Margaret for a long time, she is an excellent bowler and this is a nice milestone for her," said Mrs Everett.

Caravan rolls near Tooraweenah



A Victorian couple walked away without injury when their caravan flipped on its side as a result of being passed by a B-Double truck.

A B-Double truck overtaking a four-wheel-drive and caravan forced it off the Newell Highway, 36 kilometres north of Gilgandra last Wednesday morning.

Owners of the vehicle and caravan, a Victorian couple Jacob and Malka Zeev said they lost control after the truck overtook them.

The couple was disappointed that the truck didn't stop after the accident. Mrs Zeev said only smaller vehicles stopped to check if they were okay and to alert authorities. "I was shocked that the truck didn't stop, he must have seen us," she said.

They said the two-year-old caravan was longer than other traditional caravans measuring seven metres when towed and the force of the air pressure from the passing truck caused the caravan to sway. "It started back up the road a bit, I tried to control the caravan but it was caught up in the trucks' air vacuum," Mr Zeev said.

The caravan ended up swinging the vehicle across and off the road onto its side with the car upright still

attached to the tow bar. "We were heading back home to Melbourne after visiting the hot springs in Moree and we have already told our children what a nice holiday we have had," Mrs Zeev said. Mr and Mrs Zeev appeared in good spirits and were not injured.

According to The Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development 34 fatal crashes occurred on NSW roads last year.

Various improvements to the safety of the freight transport industry have reduced this number from 57 in 2007.

Last Wednesday's caravan rollover highlights how easily environmental factors can cause a 'freak' accident.

Coonabarabran fire scare

Last Wednesday November 13, fire fighters from The New South Wales Rural Fire Service contained a large scrub fire that was burning on the outskirts of Coonabarabran. Some residents in the Baradine Street area, two kilometres north-west of the township, were evacuated. The fire burnt through 143 hectares of scrubland before being extin-

guished in the early hours. The sight of black smoke in the air is frightening but not unfamiliar to the residents of Coonabarabran who have already suffered through a catastrophic bush fire in January this year.

Gilgandra residents are reminded to prepare a Bush Fire Survival Plan for their properties.

Pool safety registration closing

In the 12 months since June last year, 22 children in NSW drowned in backyard pools.

The recent introduction of the Swimming Pools Amendment Act 2012 has placed statutory obligations on both councils and swimming pool owners, including outdoor spa pool owners.

Gilgandra Shire Council must develop and implement a Swimming Pools and Spas Compliance Program by April 29, 2014. As part of these new regulations Council will conduct mandatory inspections of tourist, visitor and multi-occupancy (high risk) developments every three years. Pool

owners selling a property will have to request an inspection to be issued with a compliance certificate for the compliant swimming pool fence.

The Council will take appropriate enforcement action where compliance is not being achieved.

This action could include the issue of notices or directions under the Swimming Pools Act 2012, plus the issuing of penalty infringement notices, or commencement of legal proceedings in the Land and Environment Court.

By November 19 2013, all swimming pool and outdoor spa owners must have electronically registered their swimming pools and/or outdoor spas with the State-based Swimming Pool Register www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au.

Registration to the database is free through the website which can be accessed at home or at the Gilgandra Shire Library. The Gilgandra Shire Council can also complete the registration on behalf of pool owners at a cost of \$10.

M H Thomas Real Estate

Quality New Listing - \$275,000

104 Wamboin Street, One look will do, all

renovations have been done - choices of heating and cooling. This charming home offers four bedrooms and office, study and reading areas off formal lounge room. Well equipped modern kitchen, fully renovated bathroom plus second shower and toilet in laundry. New roof, fresh paintwork inside and out. Powered colorbond lock-up work shed, part enclosed double carport, garden shed with toilet, rear yard access, well positioned - short walk to all schools. Inspection invited.

Appointments arranged to suit you. Please visit our websites realestate.com.au or mhthomas.com.au. Information supplied is unverified. Potential buyers should satisfy themselves regarding information herein.

31 Miller Street, Gilgandra Phone: 68472489
A/H Helen Oates 68472250, Bryce Thomas 0429 472957



Semmlers Sand & Gravel
Pines Drive Gilgandra

Suppliers of: Sands - Soil - Crushed Rock
Woodchip - Concrete Mix - Cement

For hire: Graders and
Tippers (large or small)
Backhoes - Water Truck

Phone:
68471222



Auction

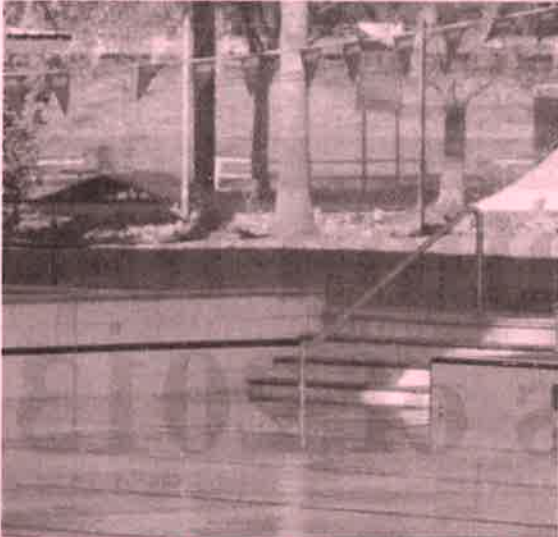
10am Friday, December 6
at Gilgandra Services Club
Gilgandra District Property
'Darus'

47.5ha - Freehold - 117ac
90 Back Creek Road

Three bedroom dwelling attached to large living area and fourth bedroom. Extensive covered shed area. Undulating paddocks, cattle yards, rainwater, share bore
Inspection by appointment

MH Thomas Real Estate
68472489

Pool hours changed



Gilgandra Swimming Pool's opening hours have been changed slightly.

After consultation with the Gilgandra Sports Council, Gilgandra Shire Council has decided to change pool opening hours on Saturdays. During the warmer months, the Gilgandra Swimming Pool will be open at 10am on Saturdays, instead of 6am. Due to poor attendance on Saturday mornings, swimmers can now sleep in on Saturdays. For the peak periods during summer school holidays, the Gilgandra Swimming Pool will now open at 10am instead of Middy.

Gilgandra Services Club Co-op

Trading Hours: Open 10am every day with NO entry after 10pm nightly
Phone 68472135
admin@gilgservices.com.au
www.gilgandraclub.com.au

Notice of Annual General Meeting Sunday, September 29, 2013 at 10am

Friday Members' Draw Now stands at \$2600

You must be on club premises with a current membership card if your number is drawn out. Drawn sometime between 7pm and 10pm. Permit No. LTPS/12/10938

Community Clubs Mega Draw

Congratulations to Wellington Soldiers Club on winning the \$36,000 last week. This week the draw is back to

\$10,000

The draw will take place between 6pm and 8pm.
Terms and conditions apply LTPS/12/09917.

Beat the Dealer is on from 7pm. Any purchase over \$2 from the bar will get you an entry. Place this entry in the barrel for your chance to win great prizes.

Sunday Roast

This week you have the choice of Roast Pork or Roast Lamb for \$8.90. Also all the kids meals are half price on Sunday night. Available for dinner after 6pm.

Dollar for a Digger

The Dollar for a Digger fundraiser on Saturday, October 5 looks set to be a great night out. Raising money for the erection of a Coo-ee man sculpture with the club matching all proceeds made on the night. It is free to enter an act with a \$10 entry fee for spectators. Tickets are on sale now from the office or bar. Limited spectator seats are available so get in early to avoid missing out. Contact the club for further information.

This Week's Takeaway Bar Special

XXXX Gold Stubbies - \$39
Jim Beam and Cola 24pk Cans - \$85

While stocks last



Thin Blue Line

A 17-year-old Gilgandra male has been charged by Dubbo Police on five counts of aggravated break and enter. This is in relation to break enter and steals that occurred in June to business premises on Miller Street and a Motel Complex on the Newell Highway.

A young person was bail refused at the Dubbo Children's Court and will appear in court on October 14.

Police are investigating three steal from motor vehicle incidents that occurred between Saturday September 21 and Sunday September 22. All vehicles that were targeted by these offenders were unlocked. Numerous property items were stolen and fuel was stolen from one vehicle. Police are reminding residents to ensure their vehicles are locked and no valuable items are left inside.

Police are investigating damage to a front shop window at a business premises on Warren Road between Friday September 20 and Saturday September 21. Please contact Gilgandra Police on 68478999 or Crime-stoppers.

Police are reminding business owners that they will be collating security audits in the coming weeks. This will be completed by Orana Security Safety Officer Senior Constable Burns and will be invaluable for businesses wanting to improve their security. Any business that would like to be a part of a free security audit, please contact Gilgandra Police.

CCTV secure under Abbott?

Gilgandra Shire Council will be writing to Federal MP for Parkes Mark Coulton to confirm that the recent change in leadership from the Australian Labor Party to the Liberal National Party has not affected the \$150,000 grant which was secured for CCTV cameras.

Gilgandra Shire Council will be busy consulting with experts on the best way to implement CCTV cameras with the money available.

Unopposed Mayor



There was only one nomination for Mayor of Gilgandra Shire Council for 2013. Mayor Doug Batten will continue another term as Mayor. He will be joined by Deputy Mayor Ash Walker who was also a lone nomination. Photo supplied.

2 HOUR SPRAY TAN

Tan your way into Spring with Rox tan, look good, feel great in your Natural tan today.

Phone for an appointment

Tingles Massage & Beauty

68470676



Council Connections with Doug Batten

At its September meeting Gilgandra Shire Council resolved to begin the consultation process with the community to enable it to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Authority (IPART) for a special variation to general rate income of 7 per cent above the anticipated rate pegging level of 4 per cent each year for the next three years commencing in July 2014.

Since its election in 2012 the current council has been considering council's long term financial sustainability and its ability to continue to deliver the services expected of it by ratepayers. As part of the work council has completed to date it has established that in its major area of expenditure, that being rural roads, has a current shortfall in maintenance expenditure of \$600,000 each year. This was highlighted in community consultations held in May 2013 regarding the setting of the 2013/14 budget. In addition to this Gilgandra Shire Council, like the majority of councils in NSW is challenged in having the capital to ensure that its aging infrastructure is replaced when required. With transport infrastructure assets in excess of \$340m there is a need to ensure money is put aside each year to renew or replace them. Otherwise the situation with the replacement of the Terrabie Creek Bridge at Curban, where it has taken five years to coddle together the money necessary to build a new bridge will continue to be commonplace. The proposed rate increase of 7 per cent above rate pegging each year for three years will, on current figures, raise some \$240,000 in year one, \$496k in year 2 and \$770k in year three. This money will be used to progressively meet the current \$600k shortfall and, in a small way, increase funding of the capital renewal program. The financial model adopted by Council which involves the 7 per cent rate increase also includes an ongoing commitment by Council to reduce current expenditure by \$120k each year for the next three years. This figure of \$120k is consistent with savings that Council has achieved over the last 12 months by the ongoing systematic review of its service delivery and joint projects/tendering within the OROC group of councils. In considering the impact of this proposal on individual properties I will stress that the proposals only apply to the general rate portion of their overall rate notice. It does not apply to annual charges for water, sewerage or garbage.

Together with my fellow Councillors I look forward engaging with the community on this matter.

Gil's RFS National Cadet



Adam Lummis at the Gilgandra Fire Station. Photo supplied.

On Sunday September 29 Adam Lummis and five other Dubbo children will be making their way to Myuna Bay with their two instructors Carole and Brian. The Orana cadets is one of 27 teams competing at the championships.

They will be competing in various events including portable pumps, light tanker and hand tools, station response and knapsack, tanker and ladder and team challenge, plus more events. The team will compete in at least eight events per day over two days.

Adam was voted to be team captain for the Orana team and will be crew leader on some of the events.

He will also be pump operator on some of the events. Adam's family would like to wish him and his team mates the best of luck. "It doesn't matter if you win or lose just have a lot of fun and enjoy your time while you are there."

Christmas stock has arrived at Gilgandra Post Office. Great gift ideas for all the family. Be quick - We sell out, you miss out!