

Wingecarribee Today

Keeping the Southern Highlands in touch with Council



Memorial Hall renovations to become headline production

Bowral Memorial Hall is set to be transformed to its former glory following a multi-million grant secured from the Australian Government.

A total of \$2.8 million was secured from the Australian Commonwealth Government's *Building Better Regions Fund* and joins an existing \$3.7 million already set aside by Council.

Mayor Duncan Gair said that the combination of funds was critical to restoring the historic hall.

"I congratulate the Federal Member for Whitlam Stephen Jones for recognising the importance of investing in projects that support local businesses during these difficult times," he said.

"These joint funds will enable Council to progress plans to renovate the hall and ensure it once again becomes one of the Shire's premier performance and entertainment destinations."

The redevelopment of the hall will include structural upgrades to the existing building including the installation of a new roof and lifts, upgrading the kitchen and bathroom facilities and



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF BOWRAL MEMORIAL HALL: Image courtesy *NBRS Architecture*

providing access for all abilities. Other improvements will include the installation of a new air conditioning system, sound and lighting equipment, upgraded seating and improved building acoustics.

The building's façade and other heritage elements will also be protected and restored.

"On completion the refurbished hall will be able to accommodate a wide range of cultural events, particularly unamplified musical

performances, conferences and community events," the Mayor added.

"I am confident that once the renovations are complete the venue will once again become a major drawcard for local and touring productions."

In late October Council resolved that a short-list of five companies will be invited to submit a tender for the delivery of the refurbishment project expected to begin in 2021.



Backyard burning and the Bush Fire Danger period

With the Bush Fire Danger Period starting on 1 October 2020, permits now apply for anyone undertaking a pile burn.

Council's Manager Environment and Sustainability, Barry Arthur said it was now mandatory for anyone undertaking a burn to obtain the proper approvals.

"We recommend that before anyone even considers undertaking a burn they first check they are allowed to do so," he said.

"The easiest way to do this is to visit Council's online Backyard Burning Map App to see when, where and how backyard burning can be undertaken."

As per Council's *Urban Backyard Burning of Vegetation Policy*, only properties larger than 4,000 square metres can undertake backyard burning of dry vegetation if certain conditions are met.

Penalties apply for breaches and all burns are prohibited and permits automatically suspended on *Total Fire Ban* and *No Burn Days*.

Across the Wingecarribee Shire, fire permits are allocated by either the Rural Fire Service (RFS) or Fire and Rescue NSW depending on the location of the property.

To access the online interactive Backyard Burning Map App and view the full list of conditions, fact sheets and learn how to apply for a fire permit, visit wsc.nsw.gov.au/backyard-burning.

"With last summer's horror bush fire season still fresh in our minds, we strongly encourage residents to consider alternative methods for green waste disposal," Mr Arthur added.

"Using an additional garden organics bin, mulching and composting are a few examples which are safer and more sustainable than burning off."

Further information including forms to order additional garden organics bins can be accessed through Council's website at wsc.nsw.gov.au/domestic-service-request-forms.

To learn more about the Bush Fire Danger Period visit rfs.nsw.gov.au or contact your local Fire Control Centre.



Wattle Street car park open for business

Motorists and shoppers in Bowral have more car parking options following the opening of Council's newly expanded Wattle Street Car Park.

Council's Acting General Manager Barry Paull said the expanded car park was ideally situated in the town's central business district.

"This free car park will provide multiple benefits for Bowral," he said. "It will help remove cars off the streets, encourage more customers into town and provide safer and more convenient long-term parking for shoppers."

"It's a great outcome for retailers, residents and visitors to Bowral."

Located at the intersection of Wattle Lane and Banyette Street in Bowral, the refurbished car park now provides parking for 98 vehicles. In addition to providing 41 additional car spaces, the car park also received new lighting, asphalt surfacing and landscaping.

Mr Paull said easing traffic congestion in and around the Shire remained a key priority.

"Residents consistently tell us they want action on traffic congestion in our towns," Mr Paull said.

"Along with our proposed traffic upgrades for Bowral, this car park is part of Council's long-term vision to deliver on this request by driving more business into the township, removing cars off the main thoroughfare and reinvigorating the business district."

The Wattle Street Car Park improvements were designed and delivered by Council staff and contractors at a cost of \$955,000.

Grant funding for Wombeyan Caves Road

Wombeyan Caves Road is set to receive an \$8 million upgrade thanks to a joint NSW and Commonwealth Grant funding arrangement.

The road sustained serious damage in last summer's bushfires and subsequent rains and has been closed beyond Goodmans Ford since.

Mayor Duncan Gair joined the Member for Hume Angus Taylor and Member for Goulburn Wendy Tuckerman onsite at Bullio for the announcement.

"This is a great example of all tiers of government working together to help local residents," he said.

"Wombeyan Caves Road remains an important and historically significant route and it deserves future protection.

"I thank both the Members for Hume and Goulburn for this crucial funding and congratulate the staff of Council for preparing the successful grant submission."

Mrs Tuckerman said the upgrade would eventually enable the road to reopen allowing locals and tourists to once again travel the length of the road west to the caves and beyond to Taralga.

"For locals who have had to divert around the road closure, this will mean a return to normality, saving them valuable time, and will be a direct stimulus for our local economy," she said.

Funding will be provided via the co-funded NSW and Australian Governments *Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund*.

Repair works will begin in 2021.

PHOTO: Member for Goulburn Wendy Tuckerman, Wingecarribee Shire Mayor Duncan Gair and Member for Hume Angus Taylor at the upgrade announcement.



Bowral Cemetery works



Upcoming Works

- **Lake Alexandra, Mittagong**
Outlet works to lake
- **Throsby Street, Moss Vale**
Road reconstruction
- **Cook Street, Welby**
Design for playground upgrades to commence
- **Penola Street, Bundanoon**
Drainage construction
- **Cavendish Street and Old Hume Highway, Mittagong**
Blackspot roundabout construction
- **Argyle Street, Moss Vale**
Footpath construction
- **Exeter Road, Sutton Forest**
Road reconstruction
- **Kangaloon Road, Bowral**
Finalisation of Bowral Cemetery works

Find out more about Council's current and future works including water and sewerage improvements at wsc.nsw.gov.au/road-closures



Council scoops State water award

Council has taken home top honours at the 2020 Local Government NSW Water Management Conference for the work being undertaken on improving the Shire's water and sewerage systems.

The *Sam Samra Award* was presented for the initiatives the organisation has undertaken to continually improve the Shire's water and sewerage systems.

Council's Manager of Assets Stace Lewer said the judges highlighted Council's in-house improvement processes when presenting the award.

"The panel cited our Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy, Total Asset Management Plan and Financial Plan as key factors when making their decision," he said.

"Our implementation of digital technology to help reduce water losses and the multi-million dollar upgrades we're rolling out across our Shire's sewage treatment plants were also mentioned."

The annual award is co-sponsored by Local Government NSW, the NSW Water Directorate and



CONGRATULATIONS: Executive Officer from the Water Directorate Brendan Guiney (left) presents Council's Manager of Assets Stace Lewer with the Sam Samra Award

the Department of Industry – Water with almost 90 local water utilities across NSW eligible for nomination.

"Winning the award is fabulous recognition for the hard work put in by Council's water and sewerage staff," Mr Lewer said. "But being acknowledged by our peers and knowing that they're watching with interest how we manage our Shire's water and sewerage network is even more satisfying."



Dive in to your local pool

With the warmer weather upon us, there's no better place to cool off than an outdoor Council pool.

"Our outdoor Swimming Centres in Bowral, Bundanoon and Mittagong are the perfect venues to enjoy the summer months," said Council's Pools and Facilities Supervisor, Laura Hill.

"All of our outdoor Swimming Centres have dedicated lap lanes, toddler swim areas and wading pools," she said.

"In the case of our Mittagong Swimming Centre we also have an accessible ramp, aqua wheel chair, covered splash pad and water toys.

"And all of our outdoor pools are heated to 24 degrees!"

For details on all of Council's Swimming Centres including opening hours, fees and facilities, visit wsc.nsw.gov.au/swimming-pools.





How roads are built

There's a lot more underneath the surface of a road than meets the eye.

Roads are made up of three layers - the top layer, middle and subgrade base.

Before constructing a road Council engineers first investigate the existing ground conditions to determine the strength of the subgrade. At the same time the existing sub-surface drainage conditions are examined to determine if they require improvement as poor drainage can affect the lifespan of a road.

Our Engineers then determine how much traffic and load the finished road will carry. Combined with the existing subgrade strength this determines the type and amount of materials that will be needed to construct the road and how thick each layer needs to be.

Sometimes we add cement, lime or rocks into the sub-layers of the road if the existing materials aren't up to scratch.

Once the subgrade and base aggregate layers are rolled and compacted it's time to lay the top coat. A smooth and crack-free top coat is vitally important as this creates an even driving surface, reduces the chance of skidding and prevents water from leaching beneath the road surface.



Bitumen or concrete asphalt top surfaces are most commonly used across the Southern Highlands.

A bitumen seal is laid in two stages several months apart to ensure the road remains as strong and durable as possible.

In the Highlands we also have to factor in the weather when laying the final top coat because bitumen can't be laid when it's too cold or wet. This is why the majority of our roads are built in the warmer months.

Building a road is very labour intensive and the whole process from initial design through to being traffic ready can take several months.



Checking your water meter for leaks

Checking your water meter for leaks is a great way to save water and avoid unnecessary water usage charges. However, some leaks are difficult to detect.

Before you report a leak, you can try and identify where it's coming from.

We maintain the entire network up to and including your water meter. Home owners are responsible for the pipe that comes out of the meter and for internal pipes to their property.

To check for leaks:

1. Turn off all taps and water-using devices in your house
2. Check your meter reading before bed and record all the numbers
3. Wait overnight and make sure not to use any water – not even the loo
4. Check your meter reading in the morning – have the black or red numbers changed?

If the numbers have changed, you may have an internal leak and should contact a licenced plumber to investigate.

If water is leaking from the meter itself, or anywhere up to where pipes and fittings connect to the meter on the Council side, then it's our responsibility to attend to and repair the leak.

To report a Council water leak contact our 24/7 Contact Centre on phone **4868 0888**.



Resource Recovery Centre Christmas hours

Over the holiday period Council's Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) will be closed on the following public holidays:

- **Friday 25 December (Christmas Day)**
- **Monday 28 December (Boxing Day holiday)**
- **Friday 1 January (New Year's Day)**

On all other days the facility will operate as per the Centre's normal trading hours of 8.00am to 4:00pm Monday to Saturday and 8.00am to 1.00pm on Sundays.

In addition, from Monday December 28 through until Friday 22 January 2021, Council will carry out additional weekly recycling pick-ups of yellow-lidded bins to help dispose of extra Christmas packaging.

Customers visiting the RRC are reminded to arrive no later than 20 minutes prior to the close of gates to allow staff to safely secure the facility at the designated time.

For further information visit Council's website at wsc.nsw.gov.au/resource-recovery-centre or phone **4868 0888**.

Celebrate Australia Day

Australia Day is one of our most important days of the year but continued social distancing restrictions mean that our 2021 celebrations will be a little different than previous years.

In conjunction with the Berrima Court House we've made the difficult decision to cancel the 2021 community festivities in Berrima.

The Citizenship Ceremony and announcement of our Shire's Australia Day Citizens will however proceed. These ceremonies will take place at the Moss Vale RSL with limits placed on attendees.

More information will be provided closer to the event.

Celebrations will take place on Tuesday 26 January 2021.

For more information visit Council's website at wsc.nsw.gov.au/australia-day.



Contact your Councillors

Clr Grahame Andrews

e: grahame.andrews@wsc.nsw.gov.au
m: 0408 337 679

Clr Duncan Gair (Mayor)

e: duncan.gair@wsc.nsw.gov.au
m: 0409 039 731

Clr Ken Halstead

e: ken.halstead@wsc.nsw.gov.au
m: 0498 119 788

Clr Graham McLaughlin

e: graham.mclaughlin@wsc.nsw.gov.au
m: 0408 244 915

Clr Peter Nelson

e: peter.nelson@wsc.nsw.gov.au
m: 0408 486 884

Clr Ian Scandrett

e: ian.scandrett@wsc.nsw.gov.au
m: 0418 296 161

Clr Garry Turland

e: garry.turland@wsc.nsw.gov.au
m: 0408 371 759

Clr Larry Whipper

e: larry.whipper@wsc.nsw.gov.au
m: 0407 932 922



Connecting with Council

✉ mail@wsc.nsw.gov.au

☎ 02 4868 0888

📍 PO Box 141
Moss Vale NSW 2577

📍 Civic Centre
68 Elizabeth Street Moss Vale
(9.00am - 4.00pm, weekdays)

🚨 Emergency after hours:
4868 0888



Working with you

