

Wingecarribee TODAY

Keeping the Southern Highlands
in touch with Council

March 2018 - Issue 102

BERRIMA ROAD WORKS BEGIN



The Moss Vale Enterprise Corridor Scheme continues to grow with construction commencing on the Berrima Road Deviation Project.

Key elements of the \$9.2 million project include the construction of a new 600 metre long realigned road and a B-triple capacity roundabout at the intersection of Berrima Road and Taylor Avenue in New Berrima.

The safer and more convenient route between New Berrima and Moss Vale will remove the T-intersection and also include a new bridge over the railway line to avoid the existing level rail crossing. On completion

the project will also deliver quicker and more direct access to and from the Hume Highway. This in turn is expected to attract new business to the Shire as commercial operators take advantage of our proximity between Sydney and Canberra.

Preliminary earthworks began in January with the construction of a site compound and embankments for the erection of an overbridge to divert traffic over the rail line.

Other works already completed include the installation of 70 nesting boxes to house bats, possums and other native animals that may be displaced during construction.

Pending works involve the construction of drainage culverts, further embankment construction and the planting of trees to offset any that may require removal for the road works.

Work on the project is expected to continue for much of 2018. During this time 40 kilometres per hour speed restrictions will be installed around the construction site.

The Berrima Road Deviation Project is the latest stage in the development of the \$82 million Moss Vale Enterprise Corridor Scheme which is designed to attract greater business and commercial opportunities to our Shire.

\$4.6 million in funding for the project has been provided by the Australian Government via its *National Stronger Regions Funds* program with the remainder of monies to come from Council's reserves.

To learn more about construction milestones and to sign-up to receive regular project updates, visit www.yoursaywingecarribee.com.au/berrima-road or phone 4868 0888.

SHARE YOUR LOVE OF THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS



Renee and Jen sharing the love at the Welcome Centre

Love was definitely in the air when the team from Council's Tourism and Events Unit, *Destination Southern Highlands (DSH)* re-launched their award-winning *My Heart Lives Here* campaign.

Unveiled on Valentine's Day at the Southern Highlands Welcome Centre, the *My Heart Lives Here* campaign expands on the team's previous romance-themed promotions.

"As locals we all know that the Southern Highlands is a great place to live, play and visit," explained Destination Southern Highlands Manager Steve Rosa.

"And this campaign is a fun way in which locals can publicly share their love and pride of our region with the rest of the world."

Coinciding with the *My Heart Lives Here* promotion was the 2018 launch of the *My Southern Highlands Local Community Tourism Ambassador Program*.

"The Ambassador Program aims to reacquaint locals and their guests with some of the unique experiences that can be found across our Shire," Steve added.

Food and wine, attractions and activities, arts and shopping and accommodation and services are just some of the offers and discounts available via the program.

To download offers, rewards and promotions visit www.mysouthernhighlands.net.au.

For more information visit the DSH team at the Southern Highlands Welcome Centre in Mittagong or phone on **4871 2888**.

Reporting crime

Council reminds residents that all non-urgent calls for Police assistance including incidents of lost property, theft or graffiti can be reported via the *NSW Police Force Community Portal* online at www.police.nsw.gov.au/community_portal/home or phone **131 444**.

To report information about crime in confidence call *Crime Stoppers* on **1800 333 000**.

To report any emergencies requiring Police, Ambulance or Fire personnel always call **000**.

For more information visit www.police.nsw.gov.au.

New rules for backyard burning

Council's updated *Urban Backyard Burning Policy* will take effect from 1 April 2018.

Council's Manager of Environment and Sustainability, Barry Arthur said the most significant changes involved the scope of policy.

"In previous years the policy was a bit patchwork," he said. "There were different rules for different towns and villages across the Shire."

"The biggest change is that only properties larger than 4000 square metres, irrespective of the town or village, can now undertake backyard burning of dry vegetation as long as certain conditions are met," Mr Arthur said.

These conditions are detailed within the policy and include:

- ensuring the burn meets the Rural Fire Service (RFS) Standards for Pile Burning document,
- obtaining appropriate permits from the RFS or Fire and Rescue NSW during Bush Fire Danger Periods,
- giving adequate notice (24 hours) to neighbours,

- only burning dead and dry vegetation,
- minimising air pollution and smoke,
- ensuring firefighting resources are immediately available, and
- having a responsible person stay with the fire until it is extinguished.

"It's also important to remember that burning of any description is prohibited on Total Fire Ban and No Burn Days," Mr Arthur added.

The policy does not apply to the use of barbeques, camp cookers or wood heaters.

For a full list of the new conditions including an interactive property map, visit www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/backyard-burning.

The new rules were developed following community consultation and the introduction of Council's Green Waste bin in 2014.

As per previous agreements the new rules come into force following the end of the 2017/18 bushfire danger period

BIKES BOUND FOR NAMIBIA DEPART RRC

Namibia's needy are set to benefit from the generosity of Southern Highlands residents with the imminent arrival of a shipping container of locally donated bicycles.

Bidding farewell to the container packed with bikes was Wingecarribee Shire Councillor Gordon Markwart and *Bicycles for Change* spokesperson Hans Radowitz.

"This is now the fifth container of bicycles that have been restored by the Southern Highlands branch of *Bicycles for Change*," Councillor Markwart said.

"That's an incredible effort by this tiny band of dedicated volunteers."

Bicycles for Change is a global volunteer group whose purpose is to recycle bikes to provide to overseas communities in need. The local branch is based at Council's Resource Recovery Centre (RRC).

Mr Radowitz explained that the bikes would be shipped to southern Africa where they would be used to assist health care and education workers cover distances normally travelled by foot.

"Even the containers are beneficially re-used and converted into bicycle repair shops once they arrive at their destination," he said.

Since starting in 2010 Mr Radowitz and his fellow volunteers estimate they have restored almost 2,000 bicycles donated from across the Shire.

"I reckon I've repaired almost every make and model of bicycle," he laughed. "But it's the generosity of our Shire's residents that still surprises us."

"The volume of bikes that comes out of the Southern Highlands is amongst the highest in the country."



(l to r) Clr Markwart joins volunteers Bob Clark and Hans Radowitz at the *Bicycles for Change* send-off

Mr Radowitz said as soon as the latest container left the premises a new one would take its place.

"We're not resting on our laurels and we already have plans in place to fill another Council sponsored container," he said.

"We accept all types of bikes but given the conditions they'll be used in overseas, mountain bikes are the most sought after."

In addition to bicycles, collapsible wheelchairs, crutches and walkers are also accepted.

Bicycles and wheelchairs can be dropped off free-of-charge at the *Resource Recovery Centre* during normal business hours. The RRC is located at 177 Berrima Road, Moss Vale.

For more information visit bicyclesforchange.com or phone 4883 7160.

Bicycles for Change is a registered NSW charity and incorporated association staffed by volunteers.

Council and Endeavour Energy roll out street light upgrade

Wingecarribee Shire Council and Endeavour Energy have partnered in a program to replace the Shire's old street lights with energy efficient light-emitting diode (LED) fittings.

The replacement program is one of the first such joint-projects between Endeavour Energy and a Local Government Authority in NSW.

Council's Environment and Health Systems Coordinator, Therese Smart spoke of the project which began in September 2017.

"Street lighting makes up around 15 per cent of Council's total energy consumption," she said.

"Once completed we'll have replaced approximately 2,200 old street lights with new energy efficient LED lights," Ms Smart said. "That's almost half of Council's street lights."

At the time of printing nearly 1,850 lights had already been replaced.

"When finished this project will help slash our energy consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by around 630 tonnes per year," Therese added.

The new 17 watt LED fixtures have been installed in predominantly residential streets as not all street lighting can be replaced with LED's at this time.

The replacement project has been made possible by incentives provided through the NSW State Government's *Energy Savings Scheme*.

The joint program complements earlier Council lighting efficiency projects undertaken at the Moss Vale Civic Centre, Bowral Library and Boronia Park in Hill Top.

"Energy saving projects such as this and our solar power programs demonstrate Council's commitment to reducing electricity consumption and our reliance on fossil fuels."

VESSELS OF CHANGE TO HEADLINE EARTH HOUR

Wingecarribee Shire Council is set to celebrate *Earth Hour* with a special community and art event at the *Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens* on Saturday 24 March.

The event will see the launch of *Vessels of Change*, a solar powered art installation designed by local artists Heidi McGeoch and Sam Larwill. The exhibition consists of 32 recycled 44 gallon drums with motifs cut into them that reflect elements of the natural earth.

Council's Cultural Development Officer Jenny Kena encouraged locals to immerse themselves in the hands-on installation.

"The artists have deliberately used recycled materials to inspire the onlooker to reflect on alternative sources of energy and to explore how we can breathe new life into materials otherwise viewed as rubbish," she said.

"The end result is a truly beautiful exhibition that promises to intensify as the sun sets."

Children attending the exhibition will get the opportunity to work with Heidi and make their own solar powered lanterns while parents can chat with local renewable energy providers and experts from the Office of Environment and Heritage.

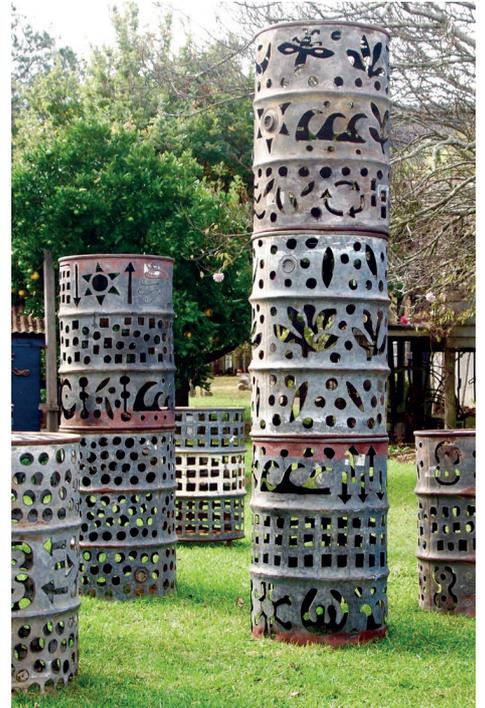
"The evening will also feature live music and light refreshments will be available for purchase at the venue," Jenny added. "So make sure to bring along your picnic hamper, rug or comfy chair."

Vessels of Change will be staged within the grounds of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens from 6pm until 9.30pm on Saturday 24 March 2018.

The Gardens are located on the corner of Kangaloon and Old South Roads, Bowral.

Entry is free however bookings are essential. For more information visit www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/earth-hour or phone Council's Cultural Development Officer on 4868 0855.

Vessels of Change is proudly supported by Wingecarribee Shire Council, the *Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens* and the NSW State Government's *Country Arts Support Program* administered by *Regional Arts NSW and STARTS – Southern Tablelands Arts*.



Australia Day fun

This year's official Australia Day celebrations were once again held in historic Berrima with guests treated to a program packed full of fun.

Presiding over the official ceremony was Wingecarribee Shire Mayor Ken Halstead and this year's Australia Day Ambassador, Ms Cheryl Koenig.

"It was an absolute pleasure to have Ms Koenig join us and hear her inspirational tale of strength and resilience," the Mayor said.

As part of the ceremony eight residents from the United Kingdom, India and South Africa took the oath of Australian citizenship.

"Welcoming new citizens to our Southern Highlands community is easily my favourite civic duty," the Mayor added.

Aboriginal Cultural Educator Aunty Wendy Lotter was named Wingecarribee Shire's 2018 Citizen of the Year for her role in sharing her Aboriginal culture and knowledge and educating non-indigenous and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



(l to r) Mayor Halstead joins Cheryl, Jonathan and Robert Koenig at this year's celebrations

Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Bowral High Student William Koek for his commitment to community and assistance to people in need.

"We're very lucky to have such dedicated, hardworking and compassionate people residing amongst us," the Mayor said. "Our Shire is without doubt a better place as a result of their selfless contributions."

The grand parade featuring vintage cars and emergency service vehicles closed out the official proceedings for another year of celebrations.

SEARCHING FOR PLATYPUSES

The platypus is one of our country's most unique native animals but because of their shy and solitary existence, much is still to be learnt about this fascinating creature.

In order to learn more about this iconic animal and help protect local populations and habitats, Council has launched a community-based survey and monitoring program called the *Southern Highlands Platypus Conservation Project*.

Platypus can be found in rivers, creeks and dams across much of eastern Australia including here in the Southern Highlands. The Wingecarribee River around Berrima is one known local hotspot with the best time to spot the elusive



egg-laying mammal being at dusk and dawn during the autumn and spring months.

For more information and to get involved in the project, visit www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/platypus or call Council on **4868 0888**.

Sightings, observations and photos can be submitted to the project team at citizen.science@wsc.nsw.gov.au.

Wingecarribee Community Assistance Scheme now open

Council's annual Community Assistance Scheme is now open with up to \$130,000 available to assist local not-for-profit organisations across the Shire.

Monies can be sought to fund programs, equipment or works which aim to establish, improve or enhance cultural, sporting, welfare, health promotion, community development or leisure services.

Returning for 2018 is the allocation of \$10,000 for environmental and sustainable specific programs funded via Council's Environment Levy.

Some of the 59 projects receiving funding last year included the purchase of equipment for sporting groups, the establishment of a community Aboriginal bush tucker garden, the purchase of musical and computing equipment and monies for signage.

Under the scheme three types of funding are available, donations up to \$600, environmental grants up to \$2,000 and general grants up to \$7,000.

All applications for donations and grants must be submitted online.

Applicants can access the 2018 Guidelines and submit their applications online from Council's website at www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/wingecarribee-community-assistance-scheme.

The Wingecarribee Community Assistance Scheme closes at 4pm on Friday 30 March 2018.

For further information or assistance in filling out an online application, contact Council's Coordinator of Community Development via email at cath.brennan@wsc.nsw.gov.au or phone **4868 0761**.

Have your say on Council's pools

Council is currently seeking feedback from residents on our Shire's public pools.

The annual survey asks users to rate factors such as cleanliness, customer service and overall satisfaction.

Results will be used to plan improvements for the following swim season and will be incorporated into a long-term assessment on the way in which Council delivers its aquatic facilities.

Two surveys are available, one for outdoor swimming facilities and the other for the Moss Vale War Memorial Aquatic Centre. Residents can participate in either or both surveys.

Last year, the overall satisfaction rate for Council's outdoor pools was 82 per cent and 87 per cent for the Moss Vale War Memorial Aquatic Centre.

To take part in the survey, visit www.yoursaywingecarribee.com.au/swimming-pools or your local pool.

Surveys close 25 March 2018.

For more information contact Council's Pools and Facilities Supervisor on phone **4868 0888**.



HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL CLEANOUT AT COUNCIL DEPOT

On Saturday 26 May Council will hold its annual Household Chemical CleanOut day.

Hosted in conjunction with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the day is an opportunity for residents to dispose of any unwanted household chemicals free of charge.

The event will take place from 9.00am to 3.30pm at Council's Moss Vale Works Depot.

Chemicals that will be accepted include residential quantities (20 kilogram or 20 litre maximum container size) of:

- household cleaners,
- fluorescent globes and tubes,
- car and household batteries,
- motor oils and fluids,
- paints,
- garden, pool and hobby chemicals,
- gas bottles, fire extinguishers and
- poisons.

Last year, almost 400 people took advantage of the free service and in the process surrendered over 16 tonnes of chemicals!

Entry to Council's Moss Vale Depot is via Parkes Road, Moss Vale.



Household Chemical CleanOut events are a NSW EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative funded by the NSW State Waste Levy with amenities and staff supported by Council's Environment Levy.

For more information call the Environment Line on phone 131 555 or visit www.cleanout.com.au.

If you're unable to attend the May CleanOut event, remember that problem wastes such as paint, gas bottles, smoke detectors, oils, batteries and fluorescent lights can always be dropped off at Council's Community Recycling Centre - located within the grounds of Council's Resource Recovery Centre - free of charge.

Reporting Illegal Dumping



Apart from being an eyesore and a possible threat to public health and the environment, illegal dumping costs our Shire thousands of dollars in clean-up costs each year.

Penalties for illegal dumping range from \$2,000 for individuals to \$15,000 for corporations including potential gaol time.

To report any incidents of illegal dumping visit ridonline.epa.nsw.gov.au or phone the EPA Environment Line on 131 555.

RID Online is a NSW EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative.



Youth Week in the Highlands

Music will take centre stage in Bowral's Corbett Gardens as Council launches the Shire's National Youth Week celebrations on Friday 13 April 2018.

The *Open Mic* session will start at 4pm and feature live acoustic music, food and coffee.

Celebrations will continue on Sunday 15 April at Loseby Park in Bowral with Aboriginal cultural workshops, inflatable games, live local youth bands and seminars with players from the Wests Tigers NRL team and ambassadors of *Five Ways to Wellbeing*.

Other events include an *Amazing Race* style run on Thursday 19 April and a *Pop-Up Movie Night* in Moss Vale's Leighton Gardens on Saturday 21 April.

All Council organised Youth Week events will be fully supervised and drug and alcohol-free.

National Youth Week celebrations will be held across the country between 13 and 22 April 2018.

The Southern Highlands National Youth Week celebrations are funded by *Family and Community Services* and are coordinated in conjunction with Wingecarribee Shire Council, *St Vincent de Paul Society*, *Highlands Youth Services* and students from Bowral High School.

For more information on Council's 2018 *National Youth Week* program of events visit www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/young-people or phone Council's Youth Liaison Officer on phone 4868 0859.

2018 DESTINATION PLANNER OUT NOW!

Visitors and locals wanting to organise their next Highlands getaway will find the job a whole lot easier with the launch of the new 2018 *Southern Highlands Destination Planner*.

On hand for the launch of the 2018 edition was Destination Southern Highlands Manager Steve Rosa.

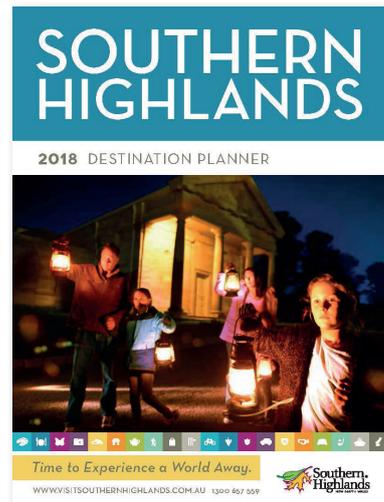
"This year's Destination Planner is easily the most colourful, informative and feature-packed edition yet," he said.

"It's crammed with ideas, contacts and offers for anyone wanting to plan a visit, establish a new business or make that tree-change to the Highlands."

Returning for the 2018 issue is the inclusion of smart technology links providing more detailed information.

"Hosts, venues and attractions all come to life in the planner via short video clips when readers scan the QR codes with their smartphones and tablets," Steve said. "We've even included GPS directional tags to help visitors find some of our major attractions."

The QR codes are also linked to a four-part series of short video clips featuring key tourist drives allowing motorists to plan their trips in advance.



New for the 2018 edition is the inclusion of a dedicated *Heritage Trail* that brings to life some of our Shire's historic buildings and locations.



The Mejias family join DSH Manager Steve Rosa at the launch of the 2018 Destination Planner

The launch of the 2018 *Southern Highlands Destination Planner* coincides with the unveiling of the Shire's new regional tourism website address: www.visitsouthernhighlands.com.au.

"The change in web address is consistent with our branding and easily recognised by both visitors and locals," Steve added.

However Mr Rosa reminded residents that the Destination Planner isn't just for visitors.

"We encourage locals to also grab a copy and perhaps re-discover some of the hidden treasures on offer in their own backyard."

To get your copy of the 2018 *Southern Highlands Destination Planner* visit the Southern Highlands Welcome Centre in Mittagong, Council's Moss Vale Civic Centre and participating businesses and attractions.

The 84-page planner is also available as a digital flipbook via the Destination Southern Highlands website at www.visitsouthernhighlands.com.au.

Events galore for Seniors Festival

Music concerts, technology classes, film screenings, exhibitions and workshops are just some of the activities Council has planned as part of this year's Seniors Festival kicking off on Wednesday 4 April.

Council's Ageing and Disability Officer Nicola Robson spoke about the events on offer as part of the 12-day festival.

"This year we have over 20 events being held across the Shire," she said. "We have something to suit everybody from bus tours to concerts, exercise classes to art and writing workshops."

With the 2018 theme being 'Let's do more together,' the aim of the festival is to promote inclusive communities and encourage seniors to remain active and engaged in the community.

"With so many activities available we really want our Shire's seniors to get out, try some new things and

perhaps meet some new friends in the process," Ms Robson said.

"Some of the activities are sure to be very popular so our advice to participants is to jump online to see what activities they'd like to take part in and book early."

Formerly known as Seniors Week, the *NSW Seniors Festival* has continued to grow each year since it began 60 years ago.

Wingecarribee Shire Council's *Seniors Festival* is presented in conjunction with the *NSW Department of Family and Community Services* and will run from Wednesday 4 April until Sunday 15 April 2018.

For more information including the full program of events, bookings and times, visit www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/seniors or contact Council's Ageing and Disability Officer on phone 4868 0888.

COUNCILLOR CONTACTS

Stay connected

There are a number of ways to connect with Council and stay up-to-date with the latest news and events.

Council's website, www.wsc.nsw.gov.au hosts a range of information for residents, business owners and visitors including:

- Development Application tracking,
- documents on public exhibition, and
- Council Meeting Agendas and Minutes.

Meeting Agendas can also be viewed in person at Council's Moss Vale Civic Centre or our public Libraries.

You can also subscribe to our electronic mailing list for information delivered direct to your inbox. Register online at www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/newsletters.

Our weekly *Community Update* is available online and published in Wednesday's *Southern Highland News* and Thursday's *Highlands Post*. A digital version is also available online at www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/advertisements.

Our dedicated community consultation website hosts a range of participation tools used to gather feedback. Have your say at www.yoursaywingecarribee.com.au.

To view Council's media releases and statements visit media.wsc.nsw.gov.au, like *Wingecarribee Shire Council* on Facebook and follow @WSCmedia on Twitter.



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CONNECTING WITH COUNCIL

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PHONE: 4868 0888 **FAX:** 4869 1203

POST: PO Box 141 Moss Vale, NSW 2577

IN PERSON: (8:30am to 4:30pm Mon – Fri) Civic Centre, 68 Elizabeth Street Moss Vale

EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS 4868 0888 (24 hour Contact Centre)