2017/18 was a big year for Council. So big in fact, that we completed 119 Capital Works projects across the Shire valued at $17.2 million. Projects delivered included the construction and commissioning of buildings, roads, bridges, footpaths and stormwater drains. Mayor Duncan Gair said improving essential public services and infrastructure was a core commitment of Council.

“The delivery of these projects proves that the Investing in Our Future Special Rate Variation Improvement program is making a real difference,” he said.

Importantly, the completed projects came in $334,000 under budget.

Some of the key projects delivered include the construction of the new Colo Vale Rural Fire Station, refurbishment of the Stephens Park amenities building, resurfacing and tiling of Bowral Swimming Pool, construction of Belmore Falls Road bridge, reconstruction of Church Street in Burrawang, widening of a section of Old South Road and upgrade of Exeter’s Bundanoon Road.

Mayor Gair said that while the completed works were a credit to Council staff and contractors, the year ahead would be just as busy.

Upcoming Capital Work projects to be undertaken this financial year include major stormwater drainage construction projects in Lyell Street Mittagong and Queen Street in Bowral. Other jobs include the renewal of Kirkham Road in Bowral and works on Wilson Drive in Hill Top.

Council staff and contractors unveil Bowral’s refurbished Stephens Park amenities building
WIPES DON’T BELONG IN PIPES

One of Council’s key responsibilities is the management of our Shire’s reticulated sewerage network.

Like many water and sewerage utilities around the world, we’ve been experiencing an increase in problems associated with wet wipes in our wastewater system.

Flushed wet wipes can block pipes because unlike toilet paper, they don’t breakdown in water. They stay intact and as they travel through the sewerage pipes they get caught on debris, roots and within our pumps and machinery.

We estimate that more than half of all of our sewer blockages involve flushed wet wipes and other items that don’t belong in the wastewater system.

But it’s not just our wastewater system being clogged by these wipes. Wet wipes can also block household sewerage pipes which can result in a costly plumbing bill for home owners.

Remember that despite claims from manufacturers - wet wipes are not flushable.

Rags, nappies, sanitary items, cotton buds, dental floss, cigarette butts, cooking fats and oils are other common items we find clogged in our system. All of these items should be disposed of properly in your red lidded household garbage collection bin or at Council’s Resource Recovery Centre.

When these items combine in your wastewater pipes they can form a hard blockage called a ‘fatberg’.

These blockages are costly and time consuming to repair and can result in overflows causing health and environmental problems.

Remember the only things that should ever be flushed down the loo are the three P’s – pee, poo and (toilet) paper.

Resource Recovery Centre Christmas hours

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

- Tuesday 25 December (Christmas Day)
- Wednesday 26 December (Boxing Day)
- Tuesday 1 January (New Year’s Day)

On all other days the facility will operate as per the Centre’s normal trading hours of 7.30am to 4.30pm.

In addition, from 24 December through until 18 January 2019, Council will carry out additional weekly recycling pick-ups of your yellow-lidded bins to help dispose of your extra Christmas packaging.

For further information visit waste.wsc.nsw.gov.au or phone Council on 4868 0888.

Fencing requirements for inflatable pools

Summer is the perfect time for a refreshing swim but an inflatable pool may not be the cheap and cheerful option.

The Swimming Pools Act 1992 requires all swimming pools that are capable of being filled with water to a depth of 30cm, including inflatable and portable pools, to have a child resistant barrier. Portable or inflatable pools that have the capacity of holding more than 2000 litres of water also require Council approval. Failure to erect proper pool fencing can attract hefty penalties.

Council’s Deputy General Manager Corporate, Strategy and Development Services, Mark Pepping said the precautions were brought in by the State Government in an effort to curb the number of drowning deaths.

“Last year alone 29 children under the age of four tragically lost their lives as a result of drowning,” Mr Pepping said. “Inadequate pool fencing was highlighted as a contributing factor in many of the incidents.”

“Kids love pools but it’s vital that children are always actively supervised around water,” he added.

“It’s important to remember that inflatable pools are not toys and must always be properly fenced.”

For more information on NSW Pool Fencing Law visit www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au.

‘Fatberg’ choke extracted from Bowral Wastewater Treatment Plant

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SRLX SECURES MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR GRANT FUNDING

Council’s Southern Regional Livestock Exchange (SRLX) is set to receive a $5.25 million upgrade following the announcement of a successful grant from the NSW State Government.

Wingecarribee Shire Mayor Duncan Gair joined the Member for Goulburn Pru Goward at the saleyards for the announcement.

“The SRLX services the larger NSW south east region and turns over approximately $70 million per year,” Ms Goward said.

“This upgrade will not only increase revenue opportunity, but will also create more regional jobs and business activity for Moss Vale and the greater Southern Highlands.”

Improvements to be incorporated as a result of the funding include the installation of soft-flooring in the cattle yards, an expanded truck wash with effluent recycling, ramp scanners to improve tracking and biosecurity and upgraded seating within the selling ring.

“These upgrades will allow us to open the SRLX to new markets such as education and agricultural tourism,” said Mayor Duncan Gair.

“It will also help elevate our facility into one of the premier cattle saleyards in the State.”

Improvement works will begin in 2019.

The SRLX grant monies are part of the NSW Government’s $500 million Growing Local Economies Fund.

DIVE INTO YOUR LOCAL POOL

With summer finally here, there’s no better time to cool off than with a refreshing dip in a Council pool.

Pools and Facilities Supervisor, Laura Hill, said that facilities were in top condition for the 2018/19 swim season.

“Last year our pools had close to 50,000 visitors and we’ve made lots of improvements in the off-season to make them even more attractive destinations this summer,” she said.

Repair work to Mittagong Swimming Centre is nearing completion and weather permitting will open in time for the summer school holidays.

“Our outdoor swimming centres in Bowral, Bundanoon and Mittagong are the perfect places to enjoy the warmer months,” said Laura.

“If you’ve never been, now is the chance to give it a try and if you’re a regular user, bring a friend along and show them what they’ve been missing out on.”

For further details on each swimming centre and the facilities on offer including opening hours, squad training, swim club, water polo and Learn to Swim programs, visit Council’s website at www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/swimming-pools.

Remember too that all of Council’s outdoor pools are heated to 24 degrees so there’s no excuse not to enjoy a dip!
CELEBRATE AUSTRALIA DAY

Looking for something to do this Australia Day?

Why not join the fun of the Shire’s official Australia Day celebrations in Berrima.

Council and the historic Berrima Court House will host the festivities from 9.30am on Saturday 26 January 2019.

Highlights from the morning include a Citizenship Ceremony, address by our Australia Day Ambassador and announcement of our Shire’s Australia Day Citizen of the Year.

Celebrations continue with the famous grand parade at 12 noon featuring vintage cars, fire engines and tractors.

The day will also feature live music, market stalls and rides for the kids.

For more information contact Council’s Australia Day Coordinator on 4868 0888 or visit Council’s website at www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/australia-day.

Australia Day nominations close soon

We need your help to find Wingecarribee Shire’s Australia Day Citizen of the Year recipients.

Entries for the 2019 Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year awards close Friday 21 December.

Our Young Citizen Award is open to persons aged 25 years or younger and nominees for both categories must reside in the Shire.

To nominate an unsung local hero contact Council’s Australia Day Coordinator on 4868 0888 or visit Council’s website at www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/australia-day.

But hurry, time is running out!

Citizenship ceremonies

Did you know that each year Council hosts a number of Citizenship Ceremonies for residents wishing to become an Australian citizen?

Ceremonies are hosted by Council for residents who have applied for citizenship through the Department of Home Affairs.

This year we’ve welcomed 60 members of our community as Australian Citizens.

Ceremonies are held regularly throughout the year at Council’s Moss Vale Civic Centre.

If you would like more information on becoming an Australian Citizen or Citizenship Ceremonies, visit www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/citizenship or phone 4868 0888.

Aleksandra Gomolka is congratulated by husband Dominic and baby Amelia at the October Citizenship Ceremony

E-NEWSLETTERS

To have Council news and information delivered direct to your email inbox, register online at www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/newsletters.
Don’t dump on charities

Christmas is a time for giving and charities in particular are always in need of thoughtful donations.

“Good quality clothes, books and household goods are just some of the items that are warmly welcomed by our local charities,” said Regional Illegal Dumping Project Officer Sara.

“But items that are soiled, damaged or broken aren’t so welcome.”

Other items not accepted include used mattresses and electrical goods. Old items of furniture are also not taken by many charities.

“Your best bet is to call the charity ahead of your visit to ensure they can accept your pre-loved belongings,” Sara said. “If in doubt, it’s best not to include it because if the item can’t be re-used, then the charity is responsible for its disposal.”

Even worse is when items are left outside of the charities after-hours.

“Goods should never be dumped outside of a charity regardless of how late it is,” Sara said.

Dumping unwanted articles outside of a charity store or bin is not only illegal but offenders may be subject to an on-the-spot fine of $2,000 up to a maximum penalty of $250,000.

“Local charities play an important service in our community but unfortunately often pay the price when used as a lazy alternative to the responsible disposal of waste,” Sara added.

“In the lead up to Christmas, please make sure your donations count and don’t cost our local charities.”

For more information visit: www.epa.nsw.gov.au.

To report illegal dumping or to speak to a Council Ranger phone 4868 0888.

SCHOOLS ENVIRONMENT DAY THANKS

Thank you to all the primary school students from across the Shire who joined us for this year’s annual Schools Environment Day.

Held in October on the foreshores of Lake Alexandra in Mittagong, this year’s event saw over 700 students from 20 local primary schools join us for the hands-on field day.

Now in its 13th year, the event aims to teach children about the impacts we all have on our environment through interactive displays and experiments.

The 2018 Wingecarribee Schools Environment Day was principally funded by Council’s Environment Levy and was this year supported by the NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, NSW Dept of Primary Industries – Fisheries, WaterNSW, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Local Land Services, Australian Botanic Garden, Wollongong Botanic Garden, Illawarra Environmental Education Centre, Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre, Camden Park Environmental Education Centre, The Highlands School, Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre, Camden Park Environmental Education Centre, The Highlands School,
BUSH FIRE EMERGENCY CONTACTS

The Southern Highlands is blessed with an abundance of native bushland at our doorstep.

However in the event of bush fire this environment can quickly turn from beautiful to deadly.

Fingers crossed that our Shire remains fire free this summer, but should the worst case scenario occur and you or your property are threatened by bush fire, the below steps can help you minimise your risk.

- In the event of a bush fire emergency - always contact 000 first.
- For up-to-date information on bushfires near you, call the Rural Fire Service’s (RFS) Bushfire Information Hotline on 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737), visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or download the Fires Near Me App available for both Apple and Android devices.
- If time permits, move any livestock to well-grazed paddocks.

SNAKES ALIVE!

One of the best things about living in the Southern Highlands is our variety of native wildlife. However, this also means we need to tread carefully – especially now that the warmer weather has arrived.

Should you discover a slithery friend looking for a sunny spot to warm up, we recommend you call our friends at Wildlife Rescue South Coast or WIRES, who have been trained to handle rogue snakes.

It’s important to remember that snakes are not naturally aggressive and prefer to retreat and normally only bite when provoked or hurt. In fact most bites occur when people try to kill or capture snakes.

If you happen to see a snake, here’s what to do:

- If it’s in a local park or in the bush, calmly walk the other way and leave it be. All snakes are protected in Australia and are a vital part of our natural biodiversity.
- If the snake is in your house or yard, again, leave it alone and do NOT try to move it! Call Wildlife Rescue South Coast on 0418 427 214, WIRES on 1300 094 737 or try a licensed snake handler to have it removed.

Do not let livestock out onto roads.
- If you have to evacuate - take your pets with you.
- For general information updates listen to the National Emergency Message broadcaster (ABC Radio).
- Keep your mobile phone handy as SMS messages may be forwarded by emergency services.
- Remember – leaving early is your safest option!

Photo by John Tann

Here are some tips to safeguard against snakes:

- Treat all snakes as venomous
- Give snakes room to escape
- Keep gardens clear of clutter
- Slash grass along fences
- Mow lawns regularly
- When bushwalking always wear appropriate shoes, know how to apply a pressure bandage and stay on designated walking tracks
- And NEVER try to catch or kill a snake.
MAYOR GAIR RETURNS TO THE CHAIR

Councillor Duncan Gair will wear the mayoral chains for the next two years following a vote by councillors in late September.

Councillor Gair is the Shire’s longest serving current councillor being first elected in 1995. His re-election as Mayor is his fourth term in the position having last served in the job in 2014.

Mayor Gair said one of his first items of business would be to discuss with staff ways in which Council can improve its delivery of customer services.

“I plan on ensuring Council delivers on its core promise of improving essential public services and infrastructure,” he said.

“At the same time I intend to continue to promote our Shire’s stunning natural environment, tourist destinations, lifestyle attractions and business opportunities wherever I can.”

On the same evening Councillor Garry Turland was sworn in as Deputy Mayor.

Wingecarribee Shire councillors sit for a four year term with the position of Mayor opened every two years and determined by elected councillors.

All mayors across the State now serve a minimum two-year term.

The Shire’s next mayoral vote will coincide with the 2020 NSW Local Government Elections.

Major upgrade for Shire’s sewerage system

Like much of the country our Shire’s population has grown in recent years with the construction of new houses and the release of new residential sub-divisions.

However with more people comes greater demand on our public infrastructure.

Transport, energy, water and wastewater supply are all major infrastructure elements that have to be carefully managed to meet current and future requirements.

Across the Shire Council manages a reticulated sewerage network that includes more than 600 kilometres of sewerage pipes, 77 sewer pumping stations and six wastewater treatment plants.

Each year the demand on this wastewater network increases and to ensure we meet the demand for future growth, Council has mapped out almost $80 million in improvements over the next four years.

Central to these improvements will be a $33.5 million upgrade to our Bowral and $28.6 million upgrade to our Moss Vale Sewage Treatment Plants respectively. These upgrades will allow for greater growth and further improve the already high treatment process.

The remaining monies will go towards replacing sewage pumping stations, renewing valves and upgrading sewer mains.


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.

www.wsc.nsw.gov.au
COUNCILLOR CONTACTS

Clr Grahame Andrews
Mobile: 0408 337 679
E: grahame.andrews@wsc.nsw.gov.au

Clr Ken Halstead
Mobile: 0498 119 788
E: ken.halstead@wsc.nsw.gov.au

Clr Graham McLaughlin
Mobile: 0408 244 915
E: graham.mclaughlin@wsc.nsw.gov.au

Clr Ian Scandrett
Mobile: 0418 296 161
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Clr Larry Whipper
Mobile: 0407 932 922
E: larry.whipper@wsc.nsw.gov.au

Clr Duncan Gair
(Mayor)
Mobile: 0409 039 731
E: duncan.gair@wsc.nsw.gov.au

Clr Gordon Markwart
Mobile: 0408 226 945
E: gordon.markwart@wsc.nsw.gov.au

Clr Peter Nelson
Mobile: 0408 486 884
E: peter.nelson@wsc.nsw.gov.au

Clr Garry Turland
Mobile: 0408 371 759
E: garry.turland@wsc.nsw.gov.au

Christmas arrangements at Council
Council’s Moss Vale Civic Centre and our libraries will be closed for a half day from noon Friday 14 December 2018. Libraries will reopen for normal business on Saturday 15 December 2018. The Civic Centre will reopen on Monday 17 December with the last day of trade before the Christmas shutdown being Friday 21 December 2018.

Following the holiday break Council will resume normal trade from Wednesday 2 January 2019.

Council will maintain essential services and normal emergency call-out arrangements throughout the Christmas closure. This includes providing operational capacity for Council’s public amenities, water and sewer, roads and traffic, tourism, rangers, customer and waste services. This also extends to the management of essential facilities including cemeteries and swimming centres.

For emergency assistance phone 4868 0888 (24 hour Contact Centre).

For a full list of library services, including library opening hours, the library ROADS vehicle schedule and special events, visit www.library.wsc.nsw.gov.au.


The staff, management and councillors of Wingecarribee Shire Council wish all our residents and visitors to our Shire a joyous Christmas and a happy, healthy and safe new year.

CONNECTING WITH COUNCIL
ONLINE 24 HOURS 7 DAYS : www.wsc.nsw.gov.au EMAIL: mail@wsc.nsw.gov.au
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)