

COUNCIL CATCH-UP



Council facilities now open for business!

Griffith City Council has welcomed news that Stay at Home Orders were lifted for the Griffith LGA from 12.01am Saturday, 11 September.

Griffith Mayor, Councillor John Dal Broi said while it was good news for the community, he reminds residents that the Deputy Premier John Barilaro has stressed that if we have one active case in our community, we'll go back into a 14 day lockdown.

"It is vitally important that we all follow COVID protocols and get vaccinated as soon as we can. Getting vaccinated is our passport out of this," said Councillor Dal Broi.

Council has responded to the lockdown lifting

with the opening of the following facilities:

- Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre
 - Griffith City Library
 - Griffith Regional Art Gallery
 - Griffith Pioneer Park Museum
 - Griffith Visitor Information Centre
 - Griffith Regional Theatre
 - Westend Stadium
 - Senior Citizens Centre - as per bookings and subject to restrictions for gatherings
- Council, Committee and Working Group meetings will also recommence under COVID safe conditions.

Under the eased restrictions gyms and indoor recreation facilities can open under the one person per 4sqm rule and can offer classes for up to 20 people.

Sporting facilities including swimming pools can reopen.

Masks will remain mandatory for all indoor public venues, including on planes and at airports, but only hospitality staff will be required to wear a mask outdoors.

A full list of restrictions is available from the NSW Government website at www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/lockdown-lifted-parts-of-regional-nsw

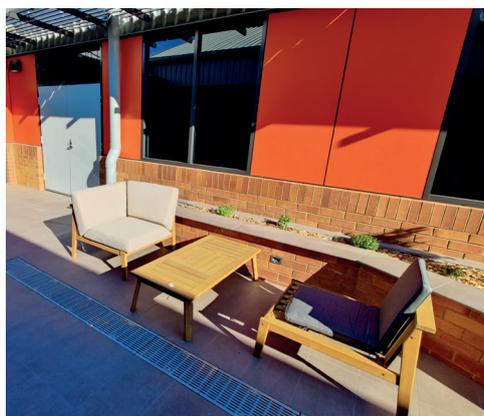
Griffith Community Centre construction completed

The new \$4.5M Griffith Community Centre project has now been completed, with services in the process of moving in.

Located in Olympic Street, the Centre will house the Western Riverina Country Universities Centre as well as community organisations including:

- Griffith Community Centre Inc.
- Griffith Counselling Service
- Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association
- Red Cross Humanitarian Services
- Regional Disability Advocacy Service
- Charles Sturt University – Three Rivers (Department of Rural Health)
- One Door
- Kerrie Weymouth – Arts Therapist
- Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)
- Narcotics Anonymous (NA)
- Griffith Grow Group

The construction of the new Community Centre was fully funded with the NSW Government funding \$3.65M and Griffith City Council and Country Universities Centre - Western Riverina each contributing \$440K, following years of lobbying by Griffith City Council and Griffith Community Centre Inc.



Bush Summit postponed to 2022

Organisers of The Daily Telegraph Bush Summit have advised Griffith City Council that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Griffith Summit will not occur this year.

The Bush Summit will be rescheduled for Griffith to 2022, with a date to be advised.

Council sponsorship will be carried forward to next year and there will be no additional costs to Council.

Griffith Mayor, Councillor John Dal Broi said it was disappointing that the Bush Summit could not be held here this year.

"We are a growing centre and this was an opportunity to showcase the wonderful place Griffith is to live and work," said Councillor Dal Broi.

"It is encouraging however, that there is a commitment to still have the Summit in Griffith next year."

"Unfortunately COVID-19 has caused havoc right across the country again this year and the Bush Summit is just the latest casualty.

"At least we will still have the opportunity to share with our political leaders exactly what issues we are facing and to showcase to a wide audience how great our City is."

Organisers will instead host an online Bush Summit in October, and while the virtual version will not highlight Griffith, it will still focus on the issues facing regional NSW.



Mobile Library back on the road

The Griffith and Murrumbidgee Mobile Library is back on the road, following a break due to COVID-19 lockdown.

Western Riverina Libraries (WRL) Manager, Karen Tagliapietra said, the Mobile Library was a well utilised and valued community service and it was great to have it back on the road.

"The Mobile Library will resume its visits to all of our usual spots at Yenda, Coleambally and Darlington Point, as well as in and around Griffith," said Ms Tagliapietra.

"We look forward to welcoming everyone back to our Mobile Library, but remind users to please be vigilant as we keep COVID-safe."

The Griffith and Murrumbidgee Mobile Library visits the township of Darlington Point at Murrumbidgee Council's Darlington Point Administration Office, the Murrumbidgee

Irrigation Coleambally office, the Coleambally township and Yenda township.

The Mobile Library will visit Coleambally on 22 September, Darlington Point on 23 September and Yenda on 24 September.

Onboard visitors can browse and borrow books and DVDs, access free Wi-Fi, and speak with experienced Library staff about all things reading and research.

Visitors to the Mobile Library must adhere to all COVID-safe requirements including social distancing, good hygiene and not attending if you are feeling unwell. Visitors are reminded to check in using the Service NSW QR code and use hand sanitiser provided. One person, or one family group will be permitted at a time to adhere to the 4sqm capacity rule.

For more information call the Griffith City Library on 6962 8300.



Swim School students welcomed back



With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions across the State, Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre is excited to be able to recommence swimming lessons with Splash Swim School.

Leisure Services Manager, Mr Alan Anderson said students will be able to resume lessons from Tuesday 5 October 2021.

"Preparations are under way and our instructors are very excited to be able to get back in the pool to provide swimming lessons," said Mr Anderson.

"While restrictions have eased, we will be following the guidelines as set out by the NSW Department of Health and Swimming Australia.

Staff will be implementing procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our customers," added Mr Anderson.

New enrolments for Term 4 will commence Monday 20 September. Students who were on direct debits will be automatically enrolled at their previous level and day, and emails have been sent to enrolled families outlining the details of their lessons.

"If your child is a current student and you wish to make changes to their enrolment, please contact us on 6962 8228," said Mr Anderson.

In addition, the Centre is offering Intensive Swimming Lessons during the school holidays, from 27 September to 1 October.

"Intensive lessons are held across the 5 days with students attending a lesson each day," said Mr Anderson.

"Intensive courses are a great way to boost children's swimming skills and increase their confidence around water, as well as giving their swimming a boost, and being a fun and productive way of filling up holiday time!"

Bookings are being taken now by calling 6962 8228.

It is important to remember when attending lessons to follow the restrictions and procedures in place:

- You must scan in upon arrival at the Centre using the QR code
 - Face masks are to be worn when in the Centre
 - If you or your child are unwell and have flu like symptoms please do not attend the centre. Contact us and we will arrange a make-up lesson for your child
 - Hand sanitiser is available at front reception and should be used upon entry. Instructors will also have this available poolside
 - Due to social distancing rules and the limited available seating within the Centre, we ask that only one parent attend lessons with their child. This parent will need to sign in at front reception for contact tracing purposes as per the NSW Government rules
 - Please limit the amount of time you spend at the Centre. We ask that you come ready to swim and minimise the amount of time using changerooms.
 - We will be implementing staggered start and finish times for our staff in order to limit the amount of people at the Centre at one time. This means that there will be a change to the current timetable
 - Equipment will be cleaned and sanitised regularly.
- "We have a COVID safe return to swimming lessons plan and have carried out risk assessments to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our patrons and staff," Mr Anderson said.
- "We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to welcoming our swim school students back to the water."
- If you have any questions, please contact the Centre on 6962 8228 or visit gralc.com.au

Councillor Catch Up – Councillor Rina Mercuri

Over the past few weeks I have been asked questions about the Rose Garden and why I am involved. I would like to provide my personal views and why I felt the garden near the Visitors Centre was a good idea.

Four years ago during Griffith Spring Fest, I spoke with some coach groups visiting our area. We were discussing what they liked about Griffith and what they felt could be improved. They mentioned the lack of a suitable area next to the Visitors Centre where coaches, caravans and motorhome owners could sit, relax and enjoy a coffee.

Two coach operators told me most coach groups supply morning and afternoon tea for their patrons. Other Visitors Centres have parks or gardens nearby where the operators can set up and serve their refreshments. Sadly, they said this is not the case in Griffith, there is only one small round table in a corner that is too small to cater for 40 plus people. Instead they set their table up on the footpath, with no seating, with their patrons

sitting leaning on the fence in front of the empty block next door.

I was horrified! Surely we can offer our visitors a more welcoming experience. That is when my interest in providing something better for our visitors started.

I have spoken to groups since about this, and I received the same response as the other groups. An area near the Visitors Centre to sit, relax and read the info they collected on what Griffith has to offer was needed. As a result, I became involved with the Rose Garden Working Group. This Working Group has two Councillors and 10 community representatives as well as Council staff. After extensive discussions we decided the best garden design option should only have a few roses, a large lawn area with trees and seating, garden beds with trees and plantings and a modest water feature, allowing visitors to sit, relax and enjoy. The Working Group thought this would be far more welcoming. This space is for everyone, it is perfect for a game of Croquet, a family birthday or

picnic, space activation with our new mobile café for everyone to sit and enjoy with a few friends. How about small craft markets on a Saturday morning, the possibilities are endless!

The other day I spoke to a few people and there are so many wonderful ideas about what to do with this site and I think some of them have great merit. Of course, it is imperative to hold community consultations before proceeding with this or any project, to give the community, the opportunity to let us know how you feel and what you want.

Following Tuesday's Council Meeting, the decision was made to further consult with the community with a view to investing the funds into Memorial Garden and the Art Gallery project, rather than the Visitors Centre site. I would encourage you to have your say on this - but whatever the outcome, my intention has been to make Griffith a beautiful, inviting place to live and visit! I am and will always be open to new ideas.



I would just like to give you some information on the number of people that visit our city. In 2019 an analysis was carried out by the Visitors Centre for Griffith Spring Fest, it was estimated 15,329 people attended all Spring Fest events, 45% from outside Griffith, staying an average of 3 nights, this led to \$3.4 million being injected into our local economy. This analysis shows us the huge contribution of visitors to our economy.

As this is the last column I write for this term of Council, I thank you all for the opportunity to represent and serve you over the past 5 years. It has at times been trying and sometimes frustrating, however, I must say it has also been an honour and a privilege. I wish you all well, keep safe and God bless.

Kind Regards, Cr Rina Mercuri



Qantas has temporarily suspended flights between Sydney and Griffith due to the impact of ongoing travel restrictions and will contact impacted customers as soon as possible. Qantas looks forward to resuming flights once restrictions ease.

Q.

HOW CAN I MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO BE VACCINATED?

COVID-19 VACCINATION



A.

If you are eligible to be vaccinated now, you will be able to view vaccination locations and book an appointment using the Eligibility Checker available on [health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au).

You will be able to view and select clinic locations near you.



Public Notification

Community Grants - Apply Now

The first round of the Community Grant Program for 2021/2022 financial year opened Wednesday 18 August 2021, with community groups, not-for-profit and charitable organisations or individuals encouraged to submit an application. Applications are welcome for projects and activities which can demonstrate they will deliver new initiatives which align with Council's Strategic Plan – Guiding Griffith 2040. The Community Grant Program will close Friday, 1 October 2021 at 4pm. Late applications will not be accepted. Application Forms including the program guidelines and Community Grant Policy can be found at griffith.nsw.gov.au/grants or by contacting Council on 1300 176 077.

Should you have any questions or queries in relation to the community grants and eligibility, Please contact Council's Community Development officer Melissa Canzian on 1300 176 077.

Pest Control Program - Tharbogang Waste Management Centre

The Waste Department of Griffith City Council will commence a pest control program at the Tharbogang Waste Management Centre from 6pm on Friday 24 September 2021 and the program will end at 6am on Sunday 26 September 2021. Please ensure that all pets are secured on your property for this period. For further information contact John Roser – Waste Operations Manager during business hours on 1300 363 077.

Kooyoo Street Reconstruction – Banna Avenue to Yambil Street Tender No: 08-21/22

Council invites tenders for a contract for the Kooyoo Street Reconstruction works, between Banna Avenue and Yambil Street, Griffith.

Tenders close on **Thursday 7 October 2021 at 2pm**. Tender documents may be obtained by contacting **Tenderlink on www.tenderlink.com/griffith**

Please contact Tenderlink Customer Service by telephoning 1800 233 533.

Tenders may be lodged by email at www.tenderlink.com/griffith, hand delivered to Council Offices at 1 Benerambah Street, Griffith NSW 2680 or by post to PO Box 485 Griffith NSW 2680.



GRIFFITH POP-UP COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC



NO BOOKING NEEDED

Saturday 18 September 2021
1.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Sunday 19 September 2021
1.00 pm - 4.00 pm

GRIFFITH BASE HOSPITAL
Noorebar Avenue
(Entry via Emergency Department)

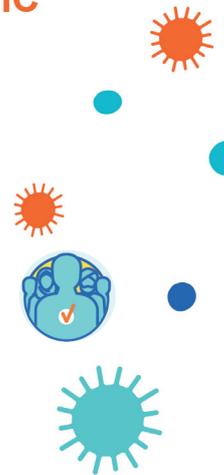
VACCINE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO:

>> **12 years old and over**

Pfizer for people who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or have a significant underlying medical condition or disability

>> **16 - 59 years**

Pfizer is available for anyone from general population aged between 16 and 59



Join the Council team!

We are currently seeking applications for a number of exciting positions including:

- Building Certification Coordinator - Re-advertised position** (Permanent)
- Trades Assistant – Water & Wastewater X 2** (Permanent)

Applications close Monday 20 September 2021

For more information or to apply visit our website: www.griffith.nsw.gov.au

Fight the Bite!

Mosquitoes are going to be out in force this summer. Mosquitoes can give people serious diseases like Ross River Virus, Barmah Forest Virus and Murray Valley Encephalitis. Follow these 4 simple steps to protect your family from mosquito bites.

- 1 Try and avoid areas where mosquitoes are common, like swamps and marshlands.
- 2 Wear loose, long and light coloured clothing, especially around dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- 3 Wear mosquito repellent. Use brands that contain either DEET, Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), apply to all uncovered skin and follow the label directions.
- 4 Get rid of mosquitoes around the house by using plug-in insecticide mats, flying insect knock-down sprays and fly screens. Remove any water-holding containers outside the house where mosquitoes could breed.

For more information: health.nsw.gov.au

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Women from all walks of life are being encouraged to stand for their community

Are you ready to make a difference and run for your local council?

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS
4 September 2021
www.olg.nsw.gov.au