

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Welcome back to the Community Catch Up. It has been a few weeks since we have had the opportunity to provide the community with this publication and we appreciate your support and patience.

Griffith has had a very busy couple of months, as has Council in particular. The community production of WICKED - The Untold Story of Oz opened to a sell out crowd during June and I think I speak for everyone when I say it was absolutely incredible. We are so lucky to have a passionate and dedicated team at Griffith Regional Theatre, who worked extremely hard to bring this production to life.

The level of talent within our community is outstanding - the local shows were easily as good - if not better - than anything seen elsewhere! Thank you to all who assisted to bring WICKED to Griffith and make it the raging success it was.

The upgrades for Mallee Park in Nericon are now complete and the park is well worth the drive to Nericon to explore. This is now a great recreational facility for all to enjoy for many years to come.

McKirdy Park has also been completed, turning a bare site into a place where you can gather with your family and friends to enjoy the outdoors.

Council has completed the works on time and within a \$1.85m budget and we were very proud to welcome the Premier of NSW, The Hon Gladys Berejiklian, MP to Griffith to open the roundabout at the end of last month.

While here, the Premier announced \$35M to upgrade Griffith Base Hospital - an announcement which was a long time coming and well overdue. Council has been lobbying the Government for many years to invest in the Base Hospital and it was great news to see they were finally acknowledging that the Base needed significant investment.

Unfortunately it came to light earlier this week that despite this commitment,

a decision had been made to remove the histopathology services from our hospital, leaving two employees with little options.

I have been working in the background to get to the bottom of what seems to be a decision made in isolation with no regard to how this would affect services to clinicians and residents. I will be meeting with the Minister for Health, Brad Hazzard when the Premier and Cabinet meet in Griffith during August.

Council fully and wholeheartedly supports Griffith Base Hospital and stands with Dr Jaya and Dr Hopp. Downgrading or moving of essential services away from Griffith is unacceptable and Council will do all it can to see services - and clinicians - remain in Griffith.

In positive news, the recent Business Audit conducted by Council showed Banna Avenue is experiencing resurgence in business activity.

A number of new businesses are setting up in the main street and shopfront vacancies have decreased to 17 from the 25 in 2016.

Yambil Street also experienced positive growth in the last twelve months, with 21 new businesses being established from the time of the last audit.

The results of the Business Audit are very encouraging and shows business confidence is on the rise. The rise in Yambil Street businesses also reinforces Council's resolve to continue with planned CBD upgrades which target Yambil Street in the first phase.

If you would like to view the results of the Business Audit, you can visit Council's website at griffith.nsw.gov.au

Don't forget to 'like' Council's facebook page to keep up to date with all the latest news and information.

Regards,
John Dal Broi
Emeritus Mayor

What a 'Wicked' Production!



Above: Fiyero played by Jack Martin and Elphaba (Witch of the West) played by Deanna Farnell Griffith Regional Theatre's

community production of WICKED - the Untold Story of the Witches of Oz - took Griffith by storm in June and July, with sold out shows.

On behalf of Griffith City Council, the staff at Griffith Regional Theatre, Director Don Hillam and the entire cast and crew of Griffith Regional Theatre and Griffith Real Estate's production of WICKED - the Untold Story of the Witches of Oz, I would like to personally thank all our sponsors for your generous support. Without you we would not have been able to make this production fly!

Thank you to:

Presenting sponsor and Partner: Griffith Real Estate

Yellow Brick Road Sponsor: LINX

High Flyer Sponsor: McWilliams Wines, and Cammy's Dry Cleaning,

Celebration Sponsors: TLE Electrical, Griffith Dental Lounge, Total Property Services, Proten, and Made to Thrive

Backstage Sponsors: Yarran Wines, Lauren Renae Interiors, Codemo Machinery Services Pty Ltd, Sue Wegner, and Yummin Groove

Footlight Sponsors: Showtools

International Pty Ltd, Serafin Ag Pro, Owen Toyota, Ray White Real Estate, Individual Hair Care, AxiKem, Cirillo Excavations, and Rapid Clean

Ticket Sponsors: Dissegna Premium Family Produce, P & M Rossiter, Leading Edge Computers, Bella Vita Tours

And a massive thank you to every single person who supported the production by coming along to the shows - what would this production have been without the incredible audience?!

Regards, Raina Savage
Manager Griffith Regional Theatre and Art Gallery



TECH SAVVY SENIORS

Free technology training sessions for seniors

Register for a session at:

Griffith City Library, Banna Avenue, Griffith
Our four week course will be held on
Mondays 10am-12noon, commencing 7 August 2017

For more information visit:

www.wrl.nsw.gov.au

Or call:
69628300



Local government and its many functions are a big part of people's lives... whether they realise it or not! Everything from council-owned roads, libraries, sports fields and cemeteries, to food safety checks, building and development, and pet registrations are all operated by councils.

Local Government Week is from 31 July until 6 August. This year's theme 'Discovery Diversity Democracy' reflects the close connection between councils and their communities in a great year of change.

Council has a number of events and activities for locals to participate in during Local Government Week.

Council's Annual Volunteers' Morning Tea - Invitation Only, Tuesday 1 August 2017 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Animal Microchipping (Reduced Rate), Tuesday 1 August and Wednesday 2 August 2017. Between 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 4pm. \$10 per animal. Appointment to be made by phoning Council's Customer Service section on 69628100.

Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre - Free Classes

To Celebrate Local government week we will be offering a free class every day and free entry to the Centre (gym and pool) on Sunday 6 August. The free classes will be;

- Monday - Gentle Aqua 8:00am
- Tuesday - Les Mills GRIT 5:30pm
- Wednesday - Les Mills RPM 1:05pm
- Thursday - Gentle Aqua 8:30am
- Friday - Gentle Exercise 8:30am
- Saturday - Les Mills CXWORX 9:50am
- Sunday - Les Mills BODYBALANCE 10:05am

Griffith City Library

Celebrating Local Government Week 2017 with a "What's your favourite book?" promotion to include council staff, the Senior Management Team and Councillors.

The promotion will run for several weeks and will be on display in the Library.

Come down - you might learn something about Council staff and your Councillors though their favourite book!

Mini Action Day at Pioneer Park Friday 8 September 2017

Year 4 Primary School Students (all local schools invited).