

## IN THIS EDITION

- Griffith Easter Party a success
- Locals create fitting tribute to Anzacs
- Work underway on Barber Road
- Message from the Mayor
- I love you right up the moon – and back



## Griffith in Top Ten Affordable Regions across Australia

The Griffith Local Government Area (LGA) has been named one of Australia's Top Ten Affordable Regions in an article from Smart Property Investment last week.

PRD Chief Economist Dr Diaswait Mardiasmo delved into Australia's suburbs to find the "top 10 regional affordable areas 2022", based on five selection criteria.

Griffith came in at number 6, alongside Whitsunday (QLD), Mackay (QLD), Toowoomba (QLD), Upper Hunter (NSW), Wagga Wagga (NSW), Northern Grampians (VIC), Wodonga (VIC), Greater Bendigo (VIC), and Central Highlands (TAS).

Dr Mardiasmo called these locations "roaring regions", considering them as affordable alternative areas with solid fundamentals for future growth.

According to Dr Mardiasmo, regional areas are leading the way when it comes to affordability and liveability, while the Australian dream of property ownership still exists. She also acknowledged that regional areas became the most attractive option in 2021, with buyers "capitalising on lower median property prices and utilising flexible remote working conditions introduced amidst COVID-19".

Dr Mardiasmo used the following five selection criteria to name the top ten:

1. Affordability – that the local government area (LGA) has a median house price below the calculated maximum affordable property sale price. This is the state average loan, plus

20 per cent.

2. Property trends – the LGA considered must have had 20 or more transactions take place in 2020 and 2021 and have witnessed positive median house price growth over those two years.

3. Investment – the LGA must have showcased on-par or higher rental yield than its corresponding capital city, as well as an on-par or lower vacancy rate compared to its city.

4. Project development – the LGA has a high estimated value of future project development, inclusive of a higher concentration of commercial and infrastructure projects, hence ensuring a positive economic outlook.

5. Unemployment rate – the LGA should have an on-par or lower unemployment rate than the state average, as of the September quarter 2021, to ensure there is local job growth.

In all of these areas, recorded median house prices remain below \$550,000 – well below the weighted average Australian median house price of \$1.02 million.

Griffith Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran welcomed the findings, saying Dr Mardiasmo's research confirmed what he already knew – Griffith is booming!

"Our LGA has been experiencing continued growth for some time now, a fact which we are very proud of as a Council," said Councillor Curran.

"Dr Mardiasmo has conducted a very thorough study and I am pleased to see

Griffith meets all of the five criteria – our housing is affordable, our real estate market is strong, the rental market and investment properties are in demand, we have a higher than average number of property, commercial and infrastructure projects underway, and our LGA boasts a low unemployment rate – all in all, we are in a very strong economic position. "We are committed to seeing Griffith prosper and thrive now and into the future and this study demonstrates that we are on the right track," added Councillor Curran.

Councillor Curran said Griffith really is the envy of our region, if not the State, and Dr Mardiasmo's findings are proof of that.

"You don't have to look far to see a project, an investment opportunity or a new business thriving – Griffith continues to grow and develop the local economy despite the external challenges and I know many LGAs would be excited to be experiencing the level of opportunity we are," he said.

The demand for housing is high in Griffith thanks to a strong economy and high employment rates, however affordable housing demand outweighs the current availability. Council has developed a Housing Strategy to address the gap, and is currently working with Argyle Housing and the Australian Government on the \$12M Griffith Green Affordable Housing Project which will see approximately 42 affordable housing blocks and 20 townhouses constructed.

**MEMBERS BRING A  
FRIEND FOR FREE**

# BLACK COCKATOO

**TUESDAY 03 MAY 8PM**  
[griffithregionaltheatre.com.au](http://griffithregionaltheatre.com.au)



## Griffith Easter Party a success



The Griffith Easter Party saw Griffith a hive of activity last weekend, with events and activities for everyone to enjoy.

Griffith Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran, said this Easter in Griffith was fantastic and the great weather was the cherry on top.

"It is great to see the return of so many events, as well as exciting new events being added to the calendar this year," said Councillor Curran.

"The last two years have been difficult with COVID-19, so it's great that we were able to get back out there and enjoy events with our family and friends. I was fortunate to be able to attend many of the events over the weekend and was pleased to see so many people out and enjoying Griffith's Easter events."

Griffith City Council's Tourism Manager, Mirella Guidolin, said approximately \$900,000 was injected into the local economy over the 4 days based on Tourism Research Australia figures.

"With many operators and businesses taking a hit during the pandemic, it was wonderful to see so many people visiting Griffith, attending events and enjoying restaurants and eateries," said Ms Guidolin.

"Many visitors remained in town for an extra couple of nights which will see a bigger financial boost."

The Easter Party festivities kicked off with Sooshi

Mango at Griffith Regional Theatre and many seafood frenzies and raffles at the local clubs on Thursday night which were well attended. The weekend also featured the Bacchus Fun Run/Walk out at Lake Wyangan and Pioneer Park Action Day on Good Friday.

Banna Avenue was bustling on Easter Saturday with the Sidewalk Sale and Children's Brunch, while the afternoon had the hugely successful Craft Beer Festival - Blood Sweat & Beers which sold out in its first year, as did the ever popular Riverina Winemakers event Griffith Vintage Festival.

All winery cellar door and event numbers were in abundance over Saturday and Sunday with Berton Vineyards, Calabria Family Wines, De Bortoli Wines and Yarran Wines each hosting events. The first producer and artisan market stall held at Piccolo Family Farm was a huge success with locals and visitors alike catching a glimpse of their new Visitor Experience Cellar Door.

Local cafes, restaurants and clubs were overflowing and local retailers acknowledged a large increase in visitors, with everyone enjoying shopping and local delicacies.

Councillor Curran thanked the local operators for their participation in the Griffith Easter Party program and campaign.



"Without operators, business and retailers supporting the Easter Party by staying open and hosting events, the weekend would not have been nearly as successful – we simply could not do this without their commitment and dedication to showcasing Griffith," said Councillor Curran.

"I would also like to extend my gratitude to the many volunteers and staff who gave up time with their families to assist at many of these events over the weekend."

Ms Guidolin said she was pleased the marketing campaign was so successful and found many visitors were well informed before they arrived, having already booked their tickets to many events on offer and had even pre booked their breakfast lunch and dinner reservations.

"It is really positive to see that our out of town promotions are working and of course word of mouth through local friends and relatives is essential," said Ms Guidolin.

"This is where the 'Visiting Friends and Relatives' market is so powerful and has so much potential for Griffith.

"Save the date for next year's Easter Party, which will be held from 7 – 10 April 2023. We look forward to welcoming visitors and families to town next year," she added.

## Locals create fitting tribute to the Anzacs



Anzac Day, 25 April, is a day of national remembrance. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War.

Locals, Angelo and Diana Dal Broi have transformed their yard into a beautiful tribute for Anzac Day, in an effort to educate young people on what our forefathers went through.

Mr Dal Broi said he and his wife wanted to do something to draw attention to the sacrifices made by those in the Armed Services.

"My wife and I are at an age where we remember what our parents and grandparents went through in the war, the sacrifices made, the lives lost, all so that we can have the freedoms we enjoy today," said Mr Dal Broi.

"I would like to see young people take a moment to consider what happened during war time, to understand what soldiers went through in order to provide the life we have. We felt that at times their sacrifices are forgotten and we wanted to do something to start that conversation - and this display is how we decided to do it."

The spectacular display fills the front garden with poppies, soldiers and other war time memorabilia, creating a fitting and moving tribute. You can take in their display at 100 Wyangan Avenue.

## Works underway on Barber Road



Griffith City Council has commenced the upgrading and sealing of Barber Road, extending 6.6km south of Brogden Road, with the project being delivered in two stages, Stage A and Stage B. Stage A is between Brogden Road and Australian Grain Link access way and Stage B is a small portion between Australian Grain Link access way to the M1 bridge over the supply channel.

The project is funded under NSW Fixing Local Roads Program, Roads to Recovery Program, Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and also a contribution from local farmers & Australian Grain Link Pty Ltd.

Council's Works Manager – Construction, Mr Shree Shrestha said Stage A construction commenced Monday 4 April 2022, with the closure of section of Barber Road between Brogden Road and Australian Grain Link Access.

"Work is scheduled to be completed by November 2022, weather permitting with Stage B planned to commence during November 2022 following the completion of Stage A," said Mr Shrestha.

Stage B will see the closure of the section of Barber Road between Australian Grain Link Access and Twaddell Road and is scheduled to be completed by January 2023, weather permitting."

Drew Road (from Barber Road to Woodside Road) and Bayley Lane

will also be closed during the duration of construction works. Local residents and local businesses are advised to use alternate access during the construction period.

The detours for the closure of Barber Road will consist of;

- Stage A & B – Detour – Brogden Rd, Bringagee Road and Twaddell Road.

During the Stage B, Stage A portion of the road will be partially open for local traffic only.

The construction work will be facilitated typically between the hours of 6:30am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday with no works to occur on Sunday or public holidays.

In rare cases, works will be done on Saturday.

Preliminary works like vegetation removal and potholing were undertaken without a road closure. The scope of works includes but is not limited to drainage, relocation of utilities, pavement construction and sealing.

Griffith Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran said he is pleased to see the works underway.

"Council is committed to seeking funding for our road network to complete projects such as Barber Road," said Councillor Curran.

"This project demonstrates what can happen when Government, enterprise and stakeholders come together for common goal."

During the construction period, the affected local residents are requested to drive cautiously.

## Message from the Mayor

Happy Belated Easter to the Griffith community, what a special time Easter is in Griffith - perfect weather, and plenty of activities for everyone to enjoy.

Congratulations to the organisers of the many events held over the weekend. The Pioneer Park Action Day, Bacchus on the Lake, Banna Avenue Sidewalk Sale, Children's Brunch in CWA Park, Griffith Vintage Festival, Blood Sweat & Beers and the Markets at Piccolo Family Farm, just to name a few!

There was truly so much to do for the entire family. I think sometimes we forget how fortunate we are in Griffith with such strong community spirit and entrepreneurial flare. Well done to all involved in the many activities.

We have our budget deliberations starting this week following the decision of Council to apply for a 2% increase in rates for the forthcoming financial year. I know rate increases are always hard to accept, however the iPART decision this year left Council in a precarious position and I fully support the 2% increase. I am happy to discuss any concerns residents or ratepayers may have. Don't forget the Griffith Esports Cup this Friday and Saturday at the Griffith Regional Theatre, this



should be an excellent event for the youth of Griffith during these school holidays, good luck to those that participate.

ANZAC Day is an extremely important day in Australia's history, and I look forward to attending the dawn service in Yenda at 6am and the main service in Griffith beginning with the main street march at 10.30am.

Please consider attending and showing respect for the many Australians, including many from Griffith and Yenda that went to war to protect our way of life.

I have had a chance to speak to many residents recently and the overwhelming feedback is the appreciation for the positive way Council is currently operating. It is great to hear that and I along with my Councillors are working very hard to ensure that continues.

Thank you for the feedback, cheers for now.

Kind regards,

Cr Doug Curran, Mayor



# GRIFFITH ESPORTS CUP 2022

FRIDAY 22 & SATURDAY 23 APRIL 2022

GRIFFITH REGIONAL THEATRE



Join in 1 v 1 Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Minecraft or Mario Kart 8 competitions! OR just play some friendlies with your mates in the free play zone with the above games plus: Just Dance, Age of Empires, Halo & more!

**When: Friday 22 April, 12pm - 6pm  
& Saturday 23 April, 10am - 4pm**

**Where: Griffith Regional Theatre**

## Scan here to book your place



Proudly supported by Dept of Regional NSW (Office for Regional Youth)

# Public Notification

## Draft Model Code of Meeting Practice Policy

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 22 March 2022 it was resolved that the Draft Model Code of Meeting Practice Policy be placed on public exhibition. The Draft Model Code of Meeting Practice Policy may be viewed at the Council Chambers, 1 Benerambah Street Griffith, the Griffith City Library and on Council's website at [griffith.nsw.gov.au/onexhibition](http://griffith.nsw.gov.au/onexhibition)

Anyone wishing to make comment on the Draft Model Code of Meeting Practice Policy can do so in writing addressed to the General Manager, Griffith City Council, PO Box 485, GRIFFITH NSW 2680 or visit Council's website to provide an online submission. Submissions received will be included in a report to be presented to an Ordinary Meeting of Council. As such, copies of all submissions (including the writer's name and address) will form part of Council's Business Paper and be available to the public. Should you wish to have your contact details withheld it is recommended that you request this in your submission.

Comments or submissions will be received up to **4pm 29 May 2022**.

## Draft Amended Policy (COM-CP-401) – Statements to the Media (Mayor & Councillors)

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Tuesday, 12 April 2022 it was resolved that the Draft Amended Policy (COM-CP-401) – Statements to the Media (Mayor & Councillors) be placed on public exhibition. The Draft Amended Policy (COM-CP-401) – Statements to the Media (Mayor & Councillors) may be viewed at the Council Chambers, 1 Benerambah Street Griffith, the Griffith City Library and on Council's website at [griffith.nsw.gov.au/onexhibition](http://griffith.nsw.gov.au/onexhibition)

Anyone wishing to make comment on the Draft Amended Policy (COM-CP-401) – Statements to the Media (Mayor & Councillors) can do so in writing addressed to the General Manager, Griffith City Council, PO Box 485, GRIFFITH NSW 2680 or visit Council's website to provide an online submission. Submissions received will be included in a report to be presented to an Ordinary Meeting of Council. As such, copies of all submissions (including the writer's name and address) will form part of Council's Business Paper and be available to the public. Should you wish to have your contact details withheld it is recommended that you request this in your submission.

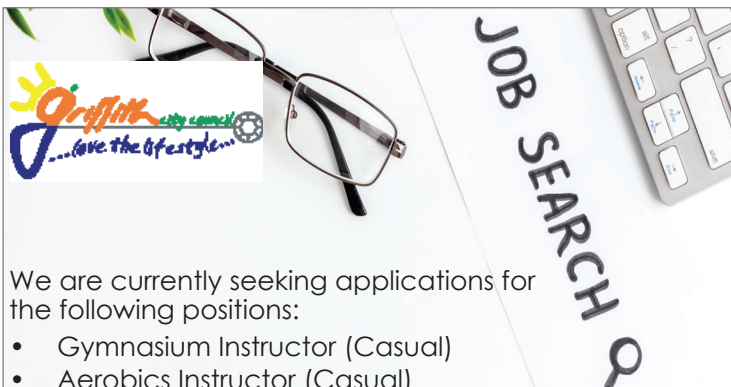
Comments or submissions will be received up to **4pm Friday 17 May 2022**.

## Notice of Temporary Road Closures

**Keary Road, Bilbul between Triaca Road and Bilbul Road. Keary Road will be closed from 8am until 3:30pm on Wednesday 27 April 2022** for powerline works by Essential Energy. Detours around the worksite will be provided.

**Barber Road between Brogden Road and Twaddell Road and Drew Road between Woodside Road and Barber Road until Tuesday 31 January 2023** for the upgrade and sealing of Barber Road by Griffith City Council. Local residents and local businesses are advised to use alternative accesses during the construction period. Detour will be via Brogden Road, Bringagee Road and Twaddell Road.

**Couch Road between Ulong Street and Jondaryan Avenue will be closed on Thursday 21 April 2022 from 9am until 2pm** for the replacement of a power pole by Essential Energy. Access for residents and detours around the site will be provided.



We are currently seeking applications for the following positions:

- Gymnasium Instructor (Casual)
- Aerobics Instructor (Casual)

**Applications for the above position closes Monday 2 May 2022**

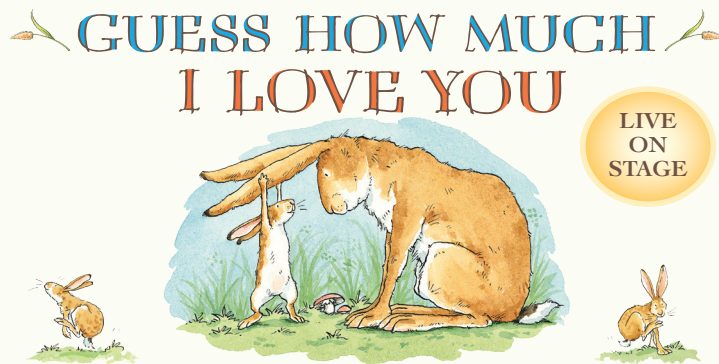
- Assistant Engineer - Traffic and Civil (Permanent) (Readvertised)
- Tourist Officer (12 Month Term Appointment)

**Applications for the above position closes Monday 9 May 2022.**

For more information or to apply, visit [griffith.nsw.gov.au](http://griffith.nsw.gov.au)

CDP Kids presents

A play by Richard Tulloch, Adapted from the books by Sam McBratney and Anita Jeram



**FRIDAY 27 MAY 10.30AM, 12.30PM & 4PM**

cdpKids

[www.griffithregionaltheatre.com.au](http://www.griffithregionaltheatre.com.au)

griffith  
regionaltheatre

## I love you right up to the moon – and back

Griffith Regional Theatre is delighted to bring to life a brand-new stage adaptation of Sam McBratney's beloved book GUESS HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU on Friday 27 May 2022.

In this dazzling new stage adaptation, children and their families will join the enchanting adventures of Little and Big Nutbrown Hare. This playful story of love and nature unfolds, with beautiful puppetry, music, and laughter as they discover the magic and colour of the seasons. This show comes to Griffith from CDP Theatre Producers, the team behind The Gruffalo and The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show and is an ideal introduction to first-time theatre-goers who may be familiar with the very popular book.

CDP Theatre Producers is an independent theatre production house and touring company with an unsurpassed track record for developing new productions, putting ideas into action and for producing some of the best theatrical entertainment in Australia. CDP was recently

described by Melbourne's The Age as "a reliable and prolific source of high-quality children's theatre".

Acting Manager of Griffith Regional Theatre, Marg Andreazza, said "CDP is a wonderful children's theatre company, patrons might remember The 91-Storey Treehouse from 2020 and David Walliams' The Midnight Gang from last year."

"We've had a sneak peek at the production and this such a beautiful show that will definitely delight young and old – especially fans of the books," said Mrs Andreazza.

A show that is fun for the whole family, with beautiful puppetry, music and laughter for children aged 3 years and up.

Guess How Much I Love You, will have three shows on Friday 27 May at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 4pm. Griffith Regional Theatre is accepting Discover and Parents NSW vouchers and tickets can be purchased from the Box Office, by calling 6962 8444 or visiting [www.griffithregionaltheatre.com.au](http://www.griffithregionaltheatre.com.au)

**ARJ BARKER**  
**COMES CLEAN**

Friday 19 August 8pm

griffith  
regionaltheatre

