

MESSAGE FROM CR MERCURI

Most of you may know me for my work as Chairperson of the Festival of Gardens Working Group, but what you may not know is that I am also very passionate about a host of other topics.

As a member of the CBD Upgrade Working Group I am looking forward to seeing a number of exciting projects completed and to commence planning the next stage of the revitalisation of Griffith's central business district.

It's a great honour for me to be involved in ensuring the heart of our city gets this important makeover. I am delighted to provide an update and can report that the tender documentation has been finalised for the Yambil Street upgrade and Council has now placed this on Tenderlink. It is anticipated that work will commence in September or October, and then stop for a short period over the Christmas break before resuming again in the New Year.

This is going to be a massive undertaking for Council and we acknowledge that it will have an impact on businesses, however Council will be consulting them every step along the way to minimise inconvenience during works. This is a wonderful project that establishes Yambil Street as a much-needed public amenity while ensuring it has infrastructure that will serve the public for many years to come. The work will include replacing infrastructure, pavement repairs and rejuvenation, establishment of street trees, installation of street furniture, and the construction of a new footpath. As with any major project, this hasn't been without its challenges. Nathan Farnell and his team have done an amazing job overcoming issues such as footpaths accommodating disability access. I'm sure everyone will be very pleased with the end result, which will be a beautiful streetscape, with shade trees, easy access to shops and seating.

Another excellent proj-



ect that I look forward to seeing come to fruition is the new skate park. After months of planning and acquiring funding we are just weeks away from an official opening on Saturday 14 July. Keep your eye out for further details as I believe this event will be outstanding.

This modern facility is the end result of community consultation and we thank all of those residents, particularly our youth, who provided valuable input. It's because of you we were able to design and construct an awesome skate park that our community, young, and young at heart, will be able to enjoy. We received funding to upgrade Memorial Gardens. The next step is to continue consultation, with Council consulting a range of stakeholders including members of the RSL and Griffith Musician Club over the Memorial Gardens Master Plan before development commences. I am certain that the addition of a community stage will be a terrific asset to the Gardens and should be very well received and most importantly put to good use. I can see it being utilised for a whole range of events such as Light up the Night at Christmas, plus it could be used to showcase the talents of our local dancers, singers, buskers or we can just sit and enjoy the space with friends. We've got a lot to look forward to in the coming months as we work to make our city an even better place to live. It is my desire to do whatever I can to help make Griffith the best it can be. If you have ideas about how Council can achieve this please share them. This is our city and together we can make it great!

Regards,
Cr Rina Mercuri

Warm welcome for refugees

Around 80 people gathered in Griffith last week to celebrate the contribution refugees make to the community, with Mayor John Dal Broi reinforcing the city's commitment to being a refugee welcome zone.

The special Refugee Week dinner was held on Thursday 21 June, 2018 at the Senior Citizens Centre, with guests sharing a wide array of delicious cultural foods from their homeland. During the gathering Mayor John Dal Broi extended a warm welcome to refugees in Griffith and beyond.

"We are happy to welcome more refugees here in Griffith because we know what valuable contributions they make," said Cr Dal Broi.

"More work needs to be done to ensure we have adequate accommodation and services available here and this is something we are look-

ing closely at.

"I want to thank those who have chosen to live in Griffith, our community is richer for having you here."

General Manager Brett Stonestreet said the dinner was a chance for locals to share their personal stories.

"It was a great night and I thank those who attended. Griffith City Council has been approached to participate in Amnesty International's My New Neighbour campaign that aims at helping more refugees set up a safe home in local communities," said Mr Stonestreet.

"We live in a world where people have no option but to flee their homes and countries and rely on the kindness of strangers to help them start again. Refugees and migrants have always made a positive contribution to our community and economy and Council is investigating

how we can be part of the My New Neighbour campaign."

Centacare Southwest, Settlement Grants Worker Joanne Fitzpatrick, said the night was a big success.

"It was a fantastic night. I would like to thank Griffith City Council for their support of the event and acknowledgement of refugees in Griffith," said Ms Fitzpatrick.

"I also want to acknowledge the service providers and volunteers who worked hard to make the event a really good evening.

"There were so many wonderful elements with everyone being so generous bringing things on the night."

The Dinner was held in collaboration with STARTTS, Centacare Southwest, Sprinkles Playgroup, Griffith City Council, Wellways, Intereach as well as community volunteers.



Above: The special Refugee Week dinner held on Thursday 21 June, 2018 at the Senior Citizens Centre, allowed guests o share a wide array of delicious cultural foods from their homeland.

Local libraries go fine-free

From July 1, 2018 Western Riverina Libraries will waive fines for overdue Library items at the five Branch Libraries and two Mobile Libraries operating across the region.

Branch Libraries are located in Griffith, Hay, Hillston, Narrandera and Jerilderie, with two Mobile Libraries servicing the towns and villages of Yenda, Darlington Point and Coleambally, Carrathool and Merriwagga, Rankins Springs and Goolgowi, Binya, Barellan and Grong Grong.

Karen Tagliapietra, Regional Library Manager of Western Riverina Libraries, said the move is designed to encourage Library use and enhance the sharing experience.

"The Library's mission is to promote literacy and access to resources. We want to ensure that people feel comfortable visiting the Library and using our collections," Ms Tagliapietra said.

"The new system is intended to be more flexible and practical for the busy and geographically dispersed communities that we serve.

"Rather than charging fines, we will automatically renew items to give people more time. Then, when items become overdue we'll send a reminder and allow a further grace period before suspending member privileges. Upon return of the items, all privileges will be automatical-

ly reinstated." The policy of charging the replacement cost for lost or damaged items remains unchanged.

Ms Tagliapietra said if you have something that's overdue, it's never too late to bring it back.

"All past overdue fines will be waived so there'll be no penalty and no questions asked," Ms Tagliapietra said.

Membership is free to residents and you can join online www.wrl.nsw.gov.au or in person at your Library.

For more information visit Griffith City Library, 233-237 Banna Avenue, Griffith, online www.wrl.nsw.gov.au or 6962 8300.



Every Sunday, 7.30am

Griffith Rotary Markets Showgrounds

Every Tuesday, 10am

Baby Bounce, Griffith City Library

Third Thursday of Each Month

Movie Club, Griffith City Library

Every Friday, 11am

Toddler Time, Griffith City Library

Saturday June 16 - Sunday July 22

For Country For Nation Exhibition Griffith Regional Art Gallery

Friday June 29, Saturday 30

Marian Catholic College presents

The Addams Family

Griffith Regional Theatre

Saturday, July 7 - Sunday, July 8

Winter Beats Electra Vibe Music Festival

The Yoogali Club

Wednesday 11 July

The For Nation For Country

School Holiday Workshop

Griffith Regional Art Gallery

Wednesday, July 11

NAIDOC Week Barbecue

Griffith Base Hospital grounds

Thursday, July 19

Justice Crew

Griffith Regional Theatre

Saturday, July 21

Letters to Lindy

Griffith Regional Theatre

Saturday, July 28 - August 5

Lucky City: Highlights of the Collection

Griffith Regional Art Gallery

Saturday, August 4 - Sunday, Aug 5

Regional Firefighting Championships Jubilee Oval

Friday, August 3

Echoes of Pink Floyd

Griffith Regional Theatre

Thursday, August 9

Sydney Comedy Festival Showcase

Griffith Regional Theatre

Friday, August 17

Ian Moss - National Regional

Theatre Tour

Griffith Regional Theatre

Friday, August 17,

Griffith Musicians Club Annual Ball

Yoogali Club

Saturday, August 18 - Sunday,

August 19

Polymer Clay Workshop with Deb

Crothers

Wyangan Lakehouse

Saturday, August 25

Wax Jewellery Workshop with Hape

Kiddle

Bidgee Studio

Sunday, August 26

26th Griffith Festa del Salsicce e

Salami, Pioneer Park Museum

See the full list of events online at visitgriffith.com.au