

## MESSAGE FROM MAYOR DAL BROI

I am delighted to report that we have some great things happening at Council at the moment, with a host of staff being acknowledged for their exceptional efforts.

By now most of you would have heard that GRALC's Splash Swim School was named the winner of the SwimsAFER award, but I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank them for the work they do in delivering the School Swimming and Water Safety Program.

Not only did they provide free lessons to students but when they realised that some children did not have swim suits the instructors and other staff from GRALC donated swimwear so they could attend their lessons.

It's this kind of compassion and consideration, going above and beyond, that sets them apart and I'm extremely proud of what they are achieving.

To be able to offer swimming lessons to children in our community who may not have the opportunity otherwise is a wonderful thing.

On behalf of Council and the wider community I want to wholeheartedly thank Alan Anderson and his team for helping make a difference and save lives. As a Council we must never lose sight of our role, which is first and foremost, to be of service to our community and this program is evidence of that.

The wins keep on coming, with Council's Accountant, Grants Officer Alana Villata last week announced as one of the four winners of the Dick Cahill Memorial Scholarship. Alana is now in the running for the Col Mills Memorial Award to be announced at the LG Awards Dinner on 7 June. Well done Alana and best of luck for the next stage.

As it turns out Council will be well represented at these awards, with the Work Health Safety Day, Griffith Southern Industrial Link (GSIL) and the Long Term Flood Mitigation Strategy submissions also shortlisted as final-



ists. Just to have made it this far is proof that Council is doing something right and I acknowledge the hard work of those employees involved.

While I'm at it, I'd also like to congratulate our two new directors. Phil Harding is Council's Director Sustainable Development and Shireen Donaldson is the new Director Economic and Organisational Development. Both are currently dedicated Council employees allowing us the opportunity to witness firsthand their work and I am sure they will continue to perform their duties in the same professional manner.

I welcome the establishment of the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation, which will strengthen collaboration between local councils and the NSW Government on regional initiatives.

Last week the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation was formally proclaimed with nine member councils Albury, Berrigan, Edward River, Federation, Griffith, Hay, Leeton, Murray River and Murrumbidgee.

We've had a first preliminary meeting just to set some basic rules going forward and I can already see that this new regional body will offer many benefits to our local communities. By joining forces, we will put ourselves in a stronger position to deliver bigger picture projects. I look forward to this new era in regional strategic planning, advocacy, collaboration and the joint delivery of service.

And finally, I'd just like to remind the community they can get Council's latest news by subscribing to our online newsletter at [griffith.nsw.gov.au/cogsubscribe](http://griffith.nsw.gov.au/cogsubscribe)

Kind regards,  
Mayor John Dal Broi

## Setback for new skate park

Griffith City Council is seeking information from locals regarding the senseless vandalism which took place at the construction site of the new Skate Park overnight.

Council's Principal Planner, Peter Badenhorst said contractors arrived onsite this morning to find vandals had inscribed initials throughout the newly laid concrete.

"One section of a concrete feature was damaged so significantly that it will need to be replaced, costing anywhere up to \$5,000 - a direct impact on the ratepayers of Griffith," said Mr Badenhorst.

"The Contractor has been working long hours to ensure the skate park is delivered on time and at a high quality

for users and this act of vandalism has now not only come at a financial cost, but the delays will mean this long anticipated community facility will experience delays in opening."

"It is very discouraging for all involved," he added.

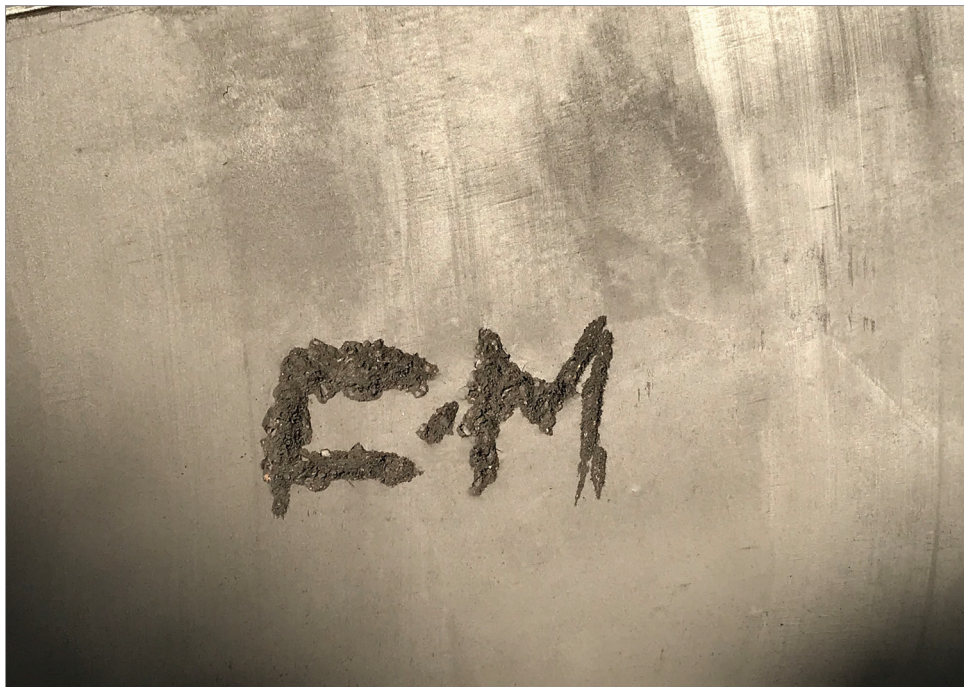
Acts of vandalism are not new to Council, with several facilities including City Park, Ted Scobie Oval and Chandler Park suffering damage at the hands of vandals over the years.

"Council suffers several incidents each month ranging from theft, to malicious damage and graffiti. The costs associated with these pointless acts are a continued burden on the community," said

Councillor Dal Broi.

"Council has a policy in place (GC-CP-314) which is there to encourage the public to play a role in safeguarding the assets of the community. Under this policy, Council will pay a reward of up to \$2,000 to members of the public for information resulting in the conviction against persons damaging Council property information received will be treated confidentially."

If any resident should see or hear anything that they believe is suspicious or has information relating to the identity of the culprits, they should report the incident to the local police or to Council on 6962 8100.



Above: Council is urging anyone with information about vandalism caused to the new skate park to come forward.

## Creative juices flow for citrus sculptures

It's that time of the year again when locals are urged to let their creative juices flow to come up with fresh ideas for the Real Juice Companies Citrus Sculptures.

Griffith City Council Events Coordinator, Karly Sivewright, said now was the ideal time for organisations wishing to enter a new sculpture, as part of the Griffith Spring Fest 2018, to start thinking about how they can make a statement.

"We'd love to see everyone think outside the box and get creative, even a bit quirky, it doesn't have to relate to your business," Mrs Sivewright said.

"We want to draw visitors' attention. Just think, would a visitor want to take a selfie with my new sculpture?"

"We already have plans for

a handful of new sculptures, but it is also the time of year to send your applications in for those who have entered in previous years."

Applications for new and existing sculpture plans are due by Wednesday 1 August 2018.

"We are looking forward to seeing all of the new sculptures this year and watching our event grow," Mrs Sivewright said.

"It's easy to participate in our incredible citrus sculpture journey, just fill out your citrus sculpture application form by heading to the bright new website [www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/cp\\_themes/springfestival/](http://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/springfestival/)

"I can't wait to see what people come up with this year." Chair of the Tourism and Events Committee Christine

Stead, said the citrus sculptures were a wonderful opportunity for businesses to capitalise on the influx of visitors.

"I urge locals to take advantage of this and promote their business using the sculptures," Cr Stead said.

"Thousands of visitors come to town for Spring Fest and



**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, 26 May**

Griffith Business Chamber Awards

Exies Bagtown Function Centre

**Thursday May 31, 10am**

10,000 Italian Roses Morning Tea Griffith City Library

**Thursday May 31, 6pm**

Expose exhibition opening

Griffith Regional Art Gallery

**Thursday May 31**

Kasey Chambers

Griffith Regional Theatre

**Friday June 1, 11am**

Italian Week Storytime

Griffith City Library

**Friday June 8**

Stolen

Griffith Regional Theatre

**Friday June 15**

Melbourne Comedy Festival

Griffith Regional Theatre

**Saturday 16 June - Sunday 22 July**

For Country For Nation Exhibition

Griffith Regional Art Gallery

**Thursday, July 19**

Melbourne Comedy Festival

Griffith Regional Theatre

**See the full list of events online at [visitgriffith.com.au](http://visitgriffith.com.au)**

