

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



After reviewing our projected population statistics Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) has announced there will be no changes to the Clinical Service Plan for the Griffith Base Hospital redevelopment. This is encouraging news for Griffith and the outlying communities that utilise the service.

I'd urge residents not to be distracted by calls to save the old Nurses Quarters as that site is needed if we are going to build a new hospital. We have to accept the advice of experts who recommend it be demolished so that progress can be made. At the end of the day, we all want, and need a new hospital and that's all that matters.

I will have more information next week after the breakfast session with MLHD that's being held on Tuesday 6 March. What is clear to me is that we need to lobby as hard as possible and extract as much money as we can for this project. We wouldn't be doing our job properly if we didn't.

On Monday night the NSW Farmers Griffith Branch hosted an event in which the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) and Water NSW representatives gave an update on the Basin Plan.

I wasn't there as it was invitation only so I can't tell you what information was provided, but I'm calling on the NSW and the Victorian Ministers to walk away from the Plan because I believe it will be no worse for us as an irrigation community.

Council continues to track well financially enabling us to take on more projects that will benefit the community.

This good financial outlook, combined with grant opportunities is allowing us to advance several projects including the sewerage scheme for the villages of Lake Wyangan, Nericon and Tharbogang. This is something Council has been working on for some time and I'm happy to say the grant from NSW Government

for \$2.1M, as part of Restart NSW Water Security for Regions Program, will help this \$5M project become reality.

Grant funding is also allowing the next stage of the Thorne Road development and the construction of our footpaths program.

We continue to seek funding opportunities wherever possible for the redevelopment of Griffith Regional and Aquatic Leisure Centre (GRALC).

The CBD and Yambil Street work should be kicking off later this year and that will make a huge difference to all concerned including motorists and businesses.

If you haven't already, I'd encourage you to register for this year's City2Lake Fun Run. This should be a great community event, supporting an extremely important cause, Griffith Base Hospital.

As vintage continues around the region I'd like to remind everyone again of the need to keep safe on our roads. If you are carting make sure loads are secure and other motorists need to be aware that there is extra traffic on the roads at this busy time, please be vigilant.

Council is holding a community meeting for Yenda residents on 14 March at the Diggers Club at 7pm. All interested residents and ratepayers are invited to attend. Council will provide an update on completed and upcoming projects around the Yenda Township.

I'm happy to report that plans are well underway for the upcoming Easter Party in Griffith. It is shaping up to a brilliant long weekend - get out with family and friends and enjoy all Griffith has to offer! Head to griffith-easterparty.com.au for more information.

Kind regards,

Cr John Dal Broi, Mayor

New Organisation Structure as Council looks to the future



Griffith City Council adopted a new Organisation Structure at Tuesday night's Council Meeting, securing two additional positions and adding a new Directorate.

General Manager, Brett Stonestreet said the purpose of the review of the Organisation Structure and subsequent changes came as a result of the upward economic trend within the region.

"Council has been operating at a surplus for some time now and is classed as Fit for the Future which has triggered a review of services with a particular emphasis on Economic Development and Tourism," said Mr Stonestreet.

"It was recognised that the need for a more focused approach for these growth areas was needed, and in turn, a larger emphasis placed on the importance of the Development Assessment processes.

As a result, changes have been made to the Structure with the creation of the Economic & Organisational De-

velopment Directorate.

"It is envisaged that this alteration will enable the Director of Sustainable Development (currently vacant) to have a greater input into the important work being undertaken within Development Assessment, Planning, Building Services etc."

Recruitment for the Director Sustainable Development will commence in the coming weeks with the General Manager eager to have the role filled now that the review has concluded.

"The other significant change to the Structure incorporates the current Executive Services group into the new Economic & Organisational Development Directorate," said Mr Stonestreet.

"This is in no way a reflection of staff performance, it is simply a way to ensure Council - and Griffith - continues to grow and prosper."

Griffith Mayor, Councillor John Dal Broi said that while the restructure will see two positions deleted from the Structure, there is an addition

of four positions.

"The Executive Service Manager and Governance Coordinator positions have been removed from the existing structure, however the positions of Director Economic & Organisational Development, Governance Manager, Governance Administration Officer, and a Lake Wyangan Project Officer (three year term) have been added," said Councillor Dal Broi.

"This is in response to the needs of Council and the greater community.

The Council staff directly impacted by these changes are outstanding members of the team and the changes are in no way related to any performance issues."

Recruitment for the Director Economic & Organisational Development will commence in the coming weeks.

Recruitment to the Lake Wyangan Project Officer role will commence following the preparation of a position description, incorporating the scope of duties.

Dinosaur Designs. *Collarbones*, cast resin (detail). Image courtesy of Dinosaur Designs.



10 MARCH - 15 APRIL

OLSEN ORMANDY

THE ART OF DINOSAUR DESIGNS



Please join us for the official opening of *The Art of Dinosaur Designs*.

FRIDAY 9TH MARCH, 6PM
Griffith Regional Art Gallery
167 Banna Ave Griffith

This exhibition is a colourful fusion of art, design and fashion, referencing Louise Olsen & Stephen Ormandy's iconic Dinosaur Designs label and exploring the artful and aesthetic prevalence throughout their work. The exhibition features a series of large-scale sculptural forms celebrating the pair's 30 year creative partnership as well as highlights of their career.

02 962 8338
GRIFFITHREGIONALARTGALLERY.COM.AU



- Every Sunday, 7am**
Griffith Rotary Markets
15 Collier Street
- 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
- Friday March 2**
Griffith Women in Business present Michelle Bridges
Griffith Exies Main Club
- Sunday March 4, 1pm**
All About Women Satellite
Griffith Regional Theatre
- Sunday March 4, 11am - 4pm**
Old Time Picnic Day
Griffith CWA Grounds
- Friday March 9, 6pm**
Exhibition opening, Dinosaur Designs
Griffith Regional Art Gallery
- Saturday March 10**
Sunday March 11
Australian Formula Powerboat Grand Prix
Lake Wyangan
- Saturday March 10, 8pm**
Johnny Cash the Concert
Griffith Regional Theatre
- Sunday March 11**
City2Lake Fun Run
Leaves from Jubilee Oval
- Wednesday March 14, 7am**
Soroptimist International Women's Day Breakfast
Exies Main Club
- Friday March 16, 8pm**
James Reyne
Griffith Regional Theatre
- Saturday March 17, 7.30pm**
Flickerfest 2018
Griffith Regional Theatre
- Wednesday 28 March, 10am**
Seniors Week Bingo
Griffith City Library
- March 30 to April 2**
Griffith Easter Party

See the latest event listings online at visitgriffith.com.au