

# COUNCIL CATCH-UP

## Full steam ahead for Griffith's new Community Centre



Griffith City Council is preparing to turn the soil at the site of the new \$4.5M Griffith Community Centre project, marking a significant moment for the region.

The construction of the new Community Centre is fully funded with the NSW Government funding \$3.65M and Griffith City Council and Country Universities Centre - Western Riverina each contributing \$440K, following years of lobbying by Griffith City Council and Griffith Community Centre Inc.

Griffith Mayor, Councillor John Dal Broi said the new state of the art building will replace the existing building, known as Neighbourhood House, in Benerembah Street.

"The new Community Centre will be constructed along Olympic Street - right in the heart of Griffith and within walking distance to many services," said Councillor Dal Broi.

"Council has worked very closely with staff from the Community Centre to create a building which is not only functional, but is sustainable and will cater to the growing needs of our community."

The Community Centre will act as a centralised 'one stop shop' for members of the Griffith community and will include community services, resources, and house the expanding Country Universities Centre - Western Riverina.

"Griffith has long needed a facility in which a range of community services could be offered, and the project team have delivered a design which will ensure these

services can be delivered," said Councillor Dal Broi.

"This includes clothing, food bank, counselling services, information resources, IT and printing facilities, after hours comfort rooms, shower and laundry facilities for the homeless, and state of the art change rooms for those with disabilities."

"The Community Centre will have 12 offices which can be leased by community service providers, as well as a large conference room which can be hired for events or meetings - truly making this a one stop shop," he added.

Griffith City Council General Manager, Mr Brett Stonestreet said this project will make a substantial difference to members of the community.

"Council has long supported the construction of a new community centre and we are pleased to be involved in being able to provide this facility," said Mr Stonestreet.

"Griffith City Council has approved the Development Application, and contracted Hines Constructions to complete the project. It is anticipated that Hines Constructions will take control of the site over the coming days, with construction to commence as soon as possible."

"We anticipate the project to be finalised by the end of May 2021, ready for occupation by local services and the Country Universities Centre - Western Riverina," he added.





## Griffith Spring Fest heading online

It has been a year like no other for the Tourism and Events industry and organisers of Griffith's flagship event, Griffith Spring Fest have used the time to look to 2021 and showcase the region to a much larger audience.

Councillor Rina Mercuri, Chairperson of the Griffith Spring Fest Working Group said while everyone is disappointed Griffith Spring Fest will not be the event we had originally planned for 2020, there are still positives to be taken from the situation.

"We had hoped that the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions would have eased by now, and that we would be able to have some sense of normality, but the ongoing crisis has meant our original plans could not go ahead," said Councillor Mercuri.

"While Griffith Spring Fest 2020 is not exactly going to be what we are used to seeing each Spring, we have been working on a way to bring the event to life digitally – this will include virtual tours, videos featuring tips and tricks to get your garden in great shape, and many online activities for you to enjoy at home."

"2020 was to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Citrus Sculptures and the 30th anniversary of the Garden Festival, the online festival will showcase how the events have evolved since 1991," added Councillor Mercuri.

"The Griffith Spring Fest Working Group and Council's Tourism Team are in the process of finalising

the online offerings that will be available for all to view and experience in October 2020," said Councillor Mercuri.

"The tourism industry has been hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, making the decision to cancel the festivities that much harder, however public safety is the number one concern.

"The online events currently being curated will offer those far and wide a sneak peek into what we can offer – and encourage more visitors to the region in 2021," she added.

Griffith City Council's Tourism Manager, Mirella Guidolin said the Team and Working Group have been reflecting on previous years and coming up with a strategy to make the 2021 event bigger and better than ever before.

"We have some exciting ideas on how to improve Griffith Spring Fest, to encourage the growth of the event and attract more visitors to Griffith next year," said Ms Guidolin.

"It would be great to see some new gardens added to the line-up - if you have been working hard in your garden during COVID-19 and want to join in on the festival, please get in touch with the Tourism Team."

"We are always looking for gardens, from small town gardens, to large expansive farm gardens, they all showcase Griffith's uniqueness and our visitors love the diversity," she said.

## Trees to be removed to make way for Sports Development



Griffith City Council would like to advise trees at Westend Oval will be removed in the coming weeks to facilitate the building of new sporting infrastructure.

A total of 30 large trees will be removed in order to allow the development of sporting facilities to proceed at the site. The trees include 15 large pines in and around Westend Oval, along with 15 large gum trees.

Griffith City Council's Director Business, Cultural and Financial Services, Mr Max Turner said while the removal would be an unfortunate loss, it is essential for the exciting new sporting project to move ahead.

"This work is required to facilitate the development of the new sporting facilities at Westend

Oval as all trees are infringing on building zones," said Mr Turner.

"As part of the development and landscape plan, as many of the removed trees as possible will be replaced to offset the loss of these trees."

An additional 39 small to medium sized melaleuca trees, located inside the depot, will also need to be removed.

The tree removal work is scheduled to take place over the next 4 to 6 weeks.

Construction of the new sporting complex at Westend Oval will include an additional five indoor basketball courts, seven all weather netball courts, a new synthetic athletics track with new lighting, a new synthetic turf hockey pitch and a new grandstand.





## Griffith region features in new tourism campaign



The Griffith Region has featured in the latest Destination NSW Local Stories campaign, aimed at taking future holidaymakers behind the scenes to motivate them to support local when planning their next escape.

Councillor Christine Stead, Chairperson of Tourism and Events Committee, said it was great to see that the Griffith Region had three local businesses featured out of the chosen 49 NSW operators.

"We are so fortunate to have such unique and passionate tourism operators in our region, and this campaign is an opportunity to touch on just how much Griffith and surrounds has to offer," said Councillor Stead.

"These videos were created by Destination NSW and feature Limone Dining, Yarran Wines and Altina Wildlife Park in Darlington Point, giving potential holidaymakers a rare behind the scenes look at these innovative tourism destinations."

"It is pleasing to see local businesses and operators being given the recognition they deserve," she added.

The 49 Local Stories were launched last week by Stuart Ayres, Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney, and will roll out over the coming weeks as part of Destination NSW's tourism recovery campaign, Love NSW.

It is a multi-channel campaign that promotes NSW's world-class experiences to inspire potential travellers through advertising and publicity, deals with industry partners and collaboration right across the travel distribution network.

The current NSW Health advice says there is currently no limit on the distance that a person may travel, however NSW Health recommends non-essential domestic travel should be avoided. Watch the videos [www.youtube.com/visitnsw](http://www.youtube.com/visitnsw)

## Vale Jim McGann

Passionate community stalwart Jim McGann has been remembered as a true gentleman. Jim was the dearly loved husband of Pam, much-loved father and father-in-law of Debbie and Col, Allan and Patsy, Graham (dec) and Denise and Sandra and Marco. He was adored Jim of his 9 grandchildren and Jimmy of his 6 great grandchildren.

He passed away peacefully at the Pioneers Lodge Nursing Home on Friday 28 August 2020 at the age of 85 years.

Jim proudly served as a Griffith City Councillor from 1983 to 1999



including as Mayor from 1992 to 1995, and Deputy Mayor from 1987 to 1990.

The retired rice farmer will be remembered as a tireless advocate for water and for his efforts as Griffith RSL Sub-Branch President where he increased membership and put the Sub Branch on the sound footing it is today.

## Message from the Councillor Rina Mercuri



Last week we had to make the difficult final decisions around our physical events for this year's Spring Fest.

We had hoped to be able to offer a pared back version of our popular event.

Unfortunately, the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, which has made it impossible for our operators to commit to anything, and means we have had to officially cancel Spring Fest events for 2020 including the Citrus Sculptures, the Launch Party and the Griffith Garden Festival.

All is not lost however, we will still be doing our very best to illustrate what a wonderful place Griffith is at this time of year with a series of virtual experiences including tours of some of our stunning gardens.

I don't want to give too much away at the moment, but I can say you will see some familiar faces featured in our online festival which will give you a sneak peek into what to expect in 2021.

You'll notice flags and signage up around the City to keep the Spring theme going and hopefully inspire locals as we ask everyone to get involved, by getting creative and sharing how great our region is at this time of year.

While we won't have our amazing citrus sculptures lining the main street this year, I think what we have planned will still be lots of fun and we've tried to think about everyone.

Having to find new ways to present Spring Fest is a reminder of how many great community events have been lost or have had to be altered during the pandemic, but the health and safety of our community is what comes first.

The silver lining to this, is that our keen Griffith gardeners now have an extra year to prepare for a spectacular 2021 Spring Fest.

I want to remind residents that we are here to represent you and we always welcome feedback.

To be effective, Councillors need to understand the views of the people they represent. However communication is a multi-faceted process that needs to flow both ways to be truly effective.

As Councillors, we do our best to provide information to the

community about the policies and decisions we make. But it is up to community members to relay their desires, concerns and opinions to the Councillors.

To represent both electors and Griffith City Council successfully we must keep in touch with the local community and this is something I have always endeavoured to do.

We need your feedback, good or bad so that we know what direction to take.

I seriously want to know what people in our community are thinking.

Before COVID-19 restricted my movements, I tried to get out and about as much as possible and some of you may have seen me in Griffith Central or Griffin Plaza chatting to people.

All of the current Councillors are more than happy to have the residents who elected us contact us with any issues or concerns.

I urge anyone wanting to provide feedback to come along to the Council Café. It's held each month at the Kiosk in Banna Avenue and sometimes, depending on the weather, at Griffith Central.

The next one is scheduled for Thursday 17 September 2020 from 11.30am to 1.30pm.

I understand that not everyone is comfortable speaking directly to Councillors or senior staff, so if you'd prefer to just fill out a feedback form which will be available at Council Café, you can drop it in the box instead.

Alternatively you can also head to the Council website where you will find a feedback button and the contact details of each of our Councillors.

We don't mind how you provide us with your input, the most important thing is, that we are made aware of what our community wants so we can act on your behalf and make informed decisions.

Until next time.

Stay safe, be kind and enjoy Spring in Griffith.

Cr Rina Mercuri

## POSITIONS VACANT

Are you looking for a rewarding career? Then join our team and make a difference to your community. Griffith City Council offers the chance to work in a stable and secure environment while providing excellent opportunities to develop your skills and career potential. Council is proactive and passionate about creating ongoing opportunities for our growing population. Council is seeking applications for the following positions:

### Design Engineer (Permanent) Re-advertised

The purpose of the Design Engineer is to prepare engineering design plans for all of Council's civil infrastructure whilst providing a professional, high quality, effective, yet functional standard of design for projects undertaken with due recognition of codes, standards and adopted guidelines. The successful applicant will be required to hold a Degree in Civil Engineering acceptable to the Institute of Engineers Australia; be proficiency using Road Design Software such as AutoCAD, Civil3D, or 12D as well as experience using Drainage Software such as DRAINS; and experience in investigation and design of pavement thickness, using both empirical methods recommended by Austroads. Please include copies of all relevant licences and qualifications with your application. **Hours of work:** 35 hours per week **Salary and conditions:** Annual salary range \$86,866.96 to \$95,556.19 (Grade 17) and a rostered day off once a month.

If you have any questions about the role please contact Joe Rizzo on 6962 8100.

### Project Administration Support Officer - Urban Design (12 month term)

The Project Support Officer will provide high level administrative services to the Urban Design and Strategic Planning section of Council. This role involves documenting activities associated with projects, assisting with community engagement and creating communication products in relation to many varied projects across Council. The successful applicant will require certificate IV qualification or substantial job related experience in high level administration, excellent communication skills and proven ability to meet deadlines and work independently. **Hours of work:** 35 hours per week **Salary and conditions:** Annual salary range \$62,320.80 to \$68,554.67 (Grade 10) and a rostered day off once a month.

If you have any questions about the role please contact Peter Badenhurst on 6962 8100.

### Project Administration Support Officer (Casual)

The project Administration Support Officer will provide high level administrative services to Project Managers within all Directorates of Council. This role involves documenting activities associated with projects, assisting with community engagement and creating communication products in relation to many varied projects across all areas of Council. The successful applicant will require certificate IV qualification or substantial job related experience in high level administration, excellent communication skills and proven ability to meet deadlines and work independently. **Salary and conditions:** Commencement ordinary hourly rate \$34.24 plus 25% casual loading Monday to Friday and penalty rates for any weekend work (Grade 10).

If you have any questions about the role please contact Shireen Donaldson on 6962 8100.

### Electrical Technician (Permanent)

The role of the Electrical Technician is to provide electrical and electronic trade support skills in the construction and maintenance of associated process control equipment primarily in the water and sewerage operations within the Council. This is an ideal opportunity for a qualified electrician who would like to gain experience in SCADA, telemetry and PLC programming. The successful applicant will require to hold the following qualifications:

- Certificate III in Electro technology - Electrician and Qualified supervisors Certificate – Electrician
  - Current Australian Class C diver license
  - Demonstrated relevant working experience on industrial electrical equipment
- Please include copies of all relevant licenses and qualifications with your application.

**Hours of work:** 38 hours per week **Salary and conditions:** Annual salary range \$68,449.04 to \$75,295.88 (Grade 12) and a rostered day off once a fortnight with participation in an on call/overtime roster.

If you have any questions about the role please contact Mick Walsh on 6962 8100.

### Mechanical Fitter - Relief Water Treatment Plant Operator (Permanent)

The purpose of this position is to maintain and replace mechanical items within the Water & Wastewater department. This role has the responsibility to ensure the equipment such as pumps, motors and blowers, operate trouble free and a suitable supply of spare parts are maintained. At times, assistance with water and wastewater treatment operations will be required. The successful applicant will require to hold a Trade Qualification in Engineering or Mechanical background such as Fitter and Turner, Mechanics, Welding or Metal Fabrication, a current Australian Class C diver license and a White card / General Construction Induction Training certificate. Please include copies of all relevant licenses and qualifications with your application. **Hours of work:** 38 hours per week **Salary and conditions:** Annual salary range \$65,375.96 to \$71,914.35 (Grade 11). Rostered day off once a fortnight.

If you have any questions about the role please contact Mick Walsh on 6962 8100.

Applications for these positions close Monday 14 September 2020

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Draft Griffith Local Strategic Planning Statement

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) requires each Council to prepare a Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which sets out the 20-year vision for land-use in the LGA, the special character and values that are to be preserved and how change will be managed in the future. The Griffith LSPS will implement the actions in the Riverina Murray Regional Plan and Council's Community Strategic Plan. It will also shape the land zoning and development controls in the Griffith Local Environmental Plan 2014 (LEP) and inform amendments to the Griffith Land Use Strategy Beyond 2030 (LUS). The draft Griffith LSPS is available for view at [griffith.nsw.gov.au/onexhibition](http://griffith.nsw.gov.au/onexhibition). Submissions on the draft Griffith LSPS will be received for 28 days commencing 26 August 2020. Submissions will be received until **4pm 23 September 2020** and can be directed to Council in the following manner: online at [griffith.nsw.gov.au](http://griffith.nsw.gov.au), email [admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au), post to The General Manager Griffith City Council, PO Box 485, Griffith NSW 2680 or delivered in person at Council's Administration Building at 1 Benerambah Street, Griffith NSW. Submissions should include a contact name, address and telephone number. Submissions made on behalf of a company should also include the names and addresses of all company directors. Submissions may be presented in a report to an Ordinary Meeting of Council for review. As such, copies of all submissions (including the writers 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.

### Tender 04-20/21 - Yambil Street Upgrade Stage 3 & 4

Griffith City Council invites tenders for a contract for Stage 3 & 4 infrastructure and beautification works of Yambil Street, Griffith. Tenders close 2pm Wednesday 7 October 2020. Tender documents may be obtained by contacting Tenderlink at [tenderlink.com/griffith](http://tenderlink.com/griffith). Please contact Tenderlink Customer Service on 1800 233 533.

Tenders may be lodged online at [tenderlink.com/griffith](http://tenderlink.com/griffith), by mail addressed to The General Manager, PO Box 485 Griffith NSW 2680, or in person at Griffith City Council's Administration Building at 1 Benerambah Street Griffith NSW 2680.

A non-mandatory site tender briefing and site inspection will be held 9am Wednesday 16 September 2020 at Council's Administration Building.

*Canvassing of any Council members or officers will disqualify tenderers from the tender process.*

### Notice of Temporary Road Closures

Notice is hereby given under the Roads Act 1993, Section 122, for the temporary closing of:

**Dussin Street between Clifton Boulevard and Ballestrin Street will be closed from 7 September until 23 September 2020** for the construction of a median by MNC Pipelines and Civil. Access for residents will be available. A detour route will be provided via Zillio Street.

**Yambil Street between Ulong Street and Kooyoo Street will be closed on 2 September 2020 from 7:30am until 4pm** for the installation of street lighting poles as part of the Yambil Street stage 2 upgrade by Griffith City Council. Detours around the worksite will be provided.

**Gillmartin Drive and Rifle Range Road, Madden Drive between Gillmartin Drive and Tucker Street and Gillmartin Drive between Hardiman Way and Citrus Road will remain closed until 23 September 2020** as M.N.C Pipelines will be undertaking roundabout and road construction. Access for residents and detours around the worksite will be provided.

### Community Grants Program

Applications are now open for the first round 2020/2021 Community Grants Program. Council invites community groups, not-for-profit or charitable organisations and individuals to apply.

**Applications close 4pm Friday 2 October 2020**, late applications will not be accepted.

Application Forms including the Program Guidelines can be found at [griffith.nsw.gov.au/grants](http://griffith.nsw.gov.au/grants) or by contacting Council on 6962 8100.

### COVID-19 Community Grants Relief Fund Open

Griffith City Council welcomes applications for the \$100,000 COVID-19 Community Grants Relief Fund. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available to community groups, not-for-profit organisations and sporting bodies for eligible projects aimed at assisting those organisations affected by the COVID-19 lockdown.

To find out more or to apply, please visit [www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/grants](http://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/grants)

If you have any questions regarding the Community Grants Program or the COVID-19 Community Grants Relief Fund, please contact Mrs Shireen Donaldson, Director Economic and Organisational Development, on 6962 8100.