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Wakefield Regional

WRAP

Spring/Summer 2021

Keeping the region informed of Council's progress, activities and topics of interest for the community.

Time to Get fire ready

Chris Chapman and sons Jacob and Bryce are starting to prepare their properties for the fire danger season - and they're doing a great job of it.

It's a timely reminder for all property owners to help play their part in keeping everyone safe.

SEE PAGES 4-5



Message from the Mayor

Travel through our beautiful region and you'll see that Spring is in full swing. After the cold winter we've had, I'm happy to welcome the sunny weather and the endless opportunities to get out and explore our backyard.

The onset of the warmer weather is also an indicator to our farming community to start preparing their properties ahead of the fire danger season, which usually begins in the first week of November.

Farmer Chris Chapman from Hoyleton continues to impress Council with the time and pride he takes in protecting his property and community. You can read more about Chris and how he prepares his property on page 4.

This season, a great place to visit is Lake Bumbunga – where we recently opened almost \$500,000 worth of new infrastructure, including a new-look Loch-Eel Monster, boardwalk, scenic frame and guided signage. These features will help support the many tourists who flock to the area.

Since the travel restrictions, we've spotted more caravans, camper vans and RVs pulling up through our region. It's common to see at least one or two vans in front of the silo artwork at Owen – a perfect spot to stretch your legs and admire the artwork.

With more people coming to see the silos, more dollars are coming into town and we've seen a new café open its doors, while the local pub is leveraging off the new attraction. I can't forget to mention a fantastic little community project has also opened with the Heart of the Plains selling local goods from local artists and makers who live in Owen and surrounds. See more about the economic springboard the new silo art has become on pages 6-7.

I hope to see you out and about in Wakefield making the most of the weather and calling into all these great locations across the region, as I will be.

Thanks,

Mayor Rodney Reid.



A BMX Event at Balaklava for Youth Week SA, hosted by Wakefield Regional Council and entertainment from the crew at Lighthouse Youth Projects.

We can help sponsor community events

Does your organisation have an idea for an event but don't have the funding?

Is your community keen to showcase your town or the region?

After the disruptions to 2020/21's social calendar, Council is keen to pencil in some events for the coming year and is offering event sponsorship to eligible organisations. Funding is available year round (or until funds are fully expended) for up to \$500 (minor) or \$2,000 (major) events grants.

Head to Council's website – wrc.sa.gov.au/our-community/grants – and find the Event Sponsorship Grant Program tab for more information on how to apply. Be sure to read the guidelines and check your eligibility first. Hard copies can be provided upon request.

For assistance with your application or to enquire about the program, please contact our Community Development Officer Holly Hannaford on 8862 0800.



At our scenic pink lake: from left, Wakefield Mayor Rodney Reid, Anna Herbert, Cr John Nicholls, Federal Member for Grey Rowan Ramsey, Wayne Dennis, Cr Peter Bowyer and Cr Terry Williams.

Lake Bumbunga opens to the world

The cutting of a pink ribbon – to match the famous tones of Lake Bumbunga – marked the official opening of nearly \$500,000 worth of new facilities at Lochiel last month.

Wakefield Regional Council partnered with the Lochiel Progress Association and was successful in the Federal Government's Building Better Regions grant program, receiving \$236,000 to support a \$472,000 Tourism infrastructure project.

The new-look Loch-Eel Monster is the main star of this project, skillfully constructed by Port Broughton local Wayne Dennis. To encourage more photo-taking, social media sharing and more exposure of the lake, a scenic frame was also unveiled, painted by Snowtown artist Anna Herbert.

The frame artwork is a collage of many scenes from the story of the town – from its beginnings as a salt production farm to today as a close-knit community - and featured many of the local faces that were in attendance at the launch.

The project also included new public toilets, the busiest in the council area, new town entry signs, free public Wi-Fi, new playground, car park, viewing platform, information podiums and directional signage.

Federal Member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey, cut the ribbon and joined Wakefield Mayor Rodney Reid and Lochiel Progress Association and local identity John Nicholls, in saying a few words about the project.

Mayor Reid thanked the Federal Government and pointed out the economic benefits the project had for the entire region.

"It is so important to support locals through trying times, and we acknowledge that the ongoing effects of the drought and COVID-19 have been significantly challenging," Mayor Reid said.

"Projects like this help restore hope in our communities, encourage localised spending and provide joy for people."

VET VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING Student of the Year Awards

CASH PRIZES UP FOR GRABS

VET Student Awards are back

Cash prizes are up for grabs in these annual awards that showcase excellence in school-based apprenticeship learning.

The VET Student of the Year Awards 2021 are on again! Joined as always by major sponsors Balco, Wakefield Regional Council is looking for vocational education and training students to pick up the crown and win some cash prizes.

For several years these awards have highlighted the hard work and dedication of students enrolled in a school-based apprenticeship, who undertake a TAFE course part-time while completing high school.

Participation in the awards is a fun and worthwhile experience and something you can add to your resume to help you stand out. You also go into the running to win cash prizes!

Past nominees are also more than welcome to apply for this outstanding program again.

Those enrolled or who have recently finished a VET course and who reside in the Wakefield Regional Council area or attend school in the area, you can apply online using the editable PDF forms on Council's website - wrc.sa.gov.au/vetstudentawards.



Chris Chapman and his sons are getting their Hoyleton property ready for fire danger season, taking extra measures to remove possible fuel sources and stop the spread of a fire in an emergency situation.

Chapman's checklist for fire prevention

Chris Chapman, like other farmers, prepares his property for the fire season each year and, according to Council's Community Compliance Officer Katie Walker, "he does a top-notch job" of it.

The Chapman family has farmed at Hoyleton since the 1860s, following best practices to protect their historic property and the community, something very important to Chris.

"We spray fence lines, slash roadsides and spray yards to keep areas clear of vegetation," Chris said.

"We also cut hay tracks around paddocks near homes and buildings and townships, and plough a fire break."

At this stage, the requirement for a property of Chris' size is to reduce all vegetation to a maximum height of 10cm within 100 metres, each side of any building, shed and the perimeter of the property; creating what is defined as a 'fire break'.

Katie said Chris had not only met the requirements with flying colours but also made the extra effort to plough out his fire break – which is above the standard requirement.

"What a great example of someone taking care and attention to properly safeguard their property," she said.

"It comes down to a whole community effort, we all need to work together to reduce possible fuel sources, which in turn reduces the rate of a fire spreading quickly across properties and endangering lives."

The fire season is expected to kick off in early November so now, while the weather is cooler, it's a perfect time to start preparing your property and ensure you meet all the requirements.

All requirements for property owners are outlined, based on hectareage, in the poster on page 5 and further information is available on the CFS website.

IS YOUR PROPERTY FIRE SEASON READY?

1 THE STANDARD for all properties in Wakefield:



Reduce all grass, pest plants and undergrowth within 20 metres of any building on any property to a maximum height of 10 cms.



2 PICK WHICH PROPERTY TYPE SUITS YOU ...

PROPERTY TYPE		THE STANDARD		CREATE A FIVE-METRE FIRE BREAK		
Under half a hectare	→	✓	→		→	Slash entire block. A fire break is not mandatory for this property size.
OR						
Over half a hectare	→	✓	→	✓	→	Requires a fire break around the entire property as close as practicable to the perimeter.
OR						
Primary production or industrial/commercial	→	✓	→	✓	→	If within 500 metres of any townships, buildings or structures, create a fire break along the perimeter and 100 metres on either side of the neighbouring assets.

A fire break is a five-metre wide strip where all grass, plants and undergrowth are less than 10 cm in height.

New grants give small operators a leg up

Wakefield is open for business – and we're backing small operators by helping them build their business prowess through the Small Business Incentives Program.

Since opening in September, the program has made its mark within Wakefield's business community; helping businesses purchase new technology, fund refurbishments for extra space opportunities to start up, expand and grow.

One of the highpoints in business news has been the impact of Owen's silo artwork on local traders. Last year, Council worked with the Owen community to bring the artwork to life with a \$100,000 contribution from the Federal Government's Drought Communities Programme.

The attraction has become an economic springboard for new and existing businesses in the area. In the stories on these pages, hear from the owners themselves and how they accessed the program and seized a rare opportunity to capitalise on the droves of tourists.



The Steamy Beanz ladies, Kelsey and Lacey, are ready to treat travellers to a caffeine fix.



Cathy Gregory shows us the old cellar that is soon to become another entertaining space for the pub.

Owen's local looking underground

The Owen Arms has been owned by the Gregory family since 1992.

Offering great food and entertainment, silo art hunters from everywhere love to relax with a country pub lunch and linger a little longer in town.

Looking to further develop a converted cellar into a multi-functional entertaining space, Cathy Gregory applied for a grant under Council's Small Business Incentives Program.

"We are expecting to grow our business due to the silo art in Owen and have already had many tourists coming in for a meal or a drink, and they usually like to spend some time looking around the hotel and seeing what we have on offer," she said.

"This room being fully functional for our patrons will provide us with more options when spreading people throughout the hotel in the various licensed areas due to COVID regulations."

Hot sensation Steamy Beanz is coming to town

Kelsey and Lacey are behind Steamy Beanz, a new community-focused café coming soon to Owen.

The crafty duo saw an opportunity with the increased visitors to open a coffee shop that also doubled as a place to sell locally made giftware and their own handmade products.

"We wanted to take on a new and exciting career pathway, that would not only be an adventure but would also help support our local community," Kelsey and Lacey said.

"[Both of us] are extremely family orientated, so we wanted to create a cosy, family friendly space where anyone and everyone is welcome to come and enjoy."

After successfully applying under the Innovate and Renovate category of Council's program, \$2,000 funding was put towards the purchase of "important appliances and electrical equipment", including a coffee machine and pie warmer.

Kelsey and Lacey added that the grant application was "easy to follow, with a straightforward approach of getting to know our project and goals."

"Not only was the Wakefield Regional Council very encouraging towards us, but they were extremely helpful in ensuring that we filed the application correctly. We were always notified on how our application was progressing, helping us move forward with the business more efficiently."



Building on the excellent feedback from Council's 2020 COVID-19 support package, the Small Business Incentives program aims to encourage small businesses to start up, grow, innovate and develop.

The program is offered in two separate grant categories:

- Up to \$1500 available under the Promote and Develop stream for businesses looking to enhance the skills of employees or market business activities.
- Up to \$3000 under the Innovate and Renovate stream for projects that seek to find new ways of working to give the business a competitive edge.

Overall, Council has a \$40,000 budget in 2021/22 to support these initiatives and grants will be offered until the funds have been expended.

Visit Council's website to find out more about the eligibility criteria: wrc.sa.gov.au

Maggie makes her business portable

Psychologist and Condowie local Maggie Hentshcke takes her services all across the region, but she needed her technology to keep up with her.

Maggie successfully applied for a Council Small Business Incentives grant to help her purchase new technology for her new business, allowing her to increase productivity and research new opportunities.

"The grant has helped me to achieve these aims and I believe it will increase my ability to react to opportunities in the future."

Maggie is a Clinical Psychologist who specialises in mental health and sits on the Country SA Primary Health Network board where she represents the needs of rural populations.

Looking to the future, Maggie is excited to continue advocating for mental health in regional communities like Wakefield.



Maggie Hentshcke is passionate about mental health and wellbeing support in regional areas.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.



Time to nominate your Citizen

It's that time again! When we ask you to nominate those special people in our community who make it all the better and brighter.

On Australia Day, we celebrate these people who volunteer their time and expertise through the Citizen of the Year Awards.

Last time round, Richard Gregory picked up the award for his contribution to the Hamley Bridge local community. Blyth's Kirstin Carling was awarded Young Citizen of the Year and the Ladies Wellbeing Gala for Community Event of the Year.

Do you know someone like this deserving of the recognition?

We are seeking nominations for three different categories:

- Citizen of the Year (must be an Australian Citizen)
- Young Citizen of the Year (must be under 30)
- Community Event of the Year

You can nominate now through the Australia Day Citizen of the Year website – www.citizenoftheyear.com.au/nominate/.

It doesn't take long to do! Nominations close 24 November 2021.

Main streets on home stretch

The \$1.8 million Balaklava and Hamley Bridge main street rejuvenation projects will be wrapped up in the coming weeks, with local businesses and residents praised for their support.

New kerbing and paved footpath work were completed on the southern side of Light Street earlier this year and contractors have returned to replicate the work on the northern side.

Major paving work at the Hamley Bridge Institute is also scheduled for October.

Hamley's garden beds will be dug out and replanted, while new play equipment will be installed at Apex Park and new planter boxes constructed by Owen Men's Shed will arrive as well.

In Balaklava, safety bollards will be installed around the new outdoor dining area but most of the major works are now complete.

Residents may also notice the Silent Cop also now has feature lighting, highlighting this heritage-listed landmark unique to the town.

The project remained on track for completion ahead of the 31 December deadline.

The project is supported by the Federal Government's Drought Communities Program (\$550,000) and Local Community Infrastructure Program (\$592,000), while Council contributed \$450,000.

Let's keep in touch

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visit our website for more information
wrc.sa.gov.au



WAKEFIELD
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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Your Quarterly Cut-Out

3 month bin collection

Recycle
Bin

Green
Organics
Bin

November						
Sun	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
December						
Sun	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
January						
Sun	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Our waste depot opening times

Owen	Port Wakefield	Everard
386 Pinery Road	150 Shrike Road	1060 Hancock Road
Wednesday 10am - 11am	Thursday 10am - 11am	Tuesday 9am - 11am
Saturday 9am - 11am	Saturday 10am - 12pm	Saturday 9am - 11am
Sunday 11am - 12pm	Sunday 9am - 10am	Sunday 9am - 11am

Collection Variations

Tuesday 28 December 2021 is a Public Holiday.
Waste & Recycle collection this week will be put back one day for all towns.