

Wakefield Regional WRAP

Summer/Autumn 2021

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

Inside ...

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- Markets draw crowds to Snowtown pg 6



Kristin follows in family's footsteps

Blyth local Kristin Carling has caught her volunteering can-do spirit from her aunty Tracey Andriske, who picked up the top honour of Citizen of the Year last year, and from her grandparents, who were also winners back in the old Blyth District Council days.

Read about Kristin and Wakefield's other top citizens on page 7.



Message from the Mayor

This is the first year with Wakefield 2030– our strategic vision for the region, which will guide us for the next 10 years.

In this, Council is driven by three simple focus areas: to create liveable communities, a thriving region, and a sustainable future. It has been very rewarding to see the feedback from the community transform and shape the direction of the plan. You can read about the themes and the priorities to complete on page 3.

Meanwhile, an exciting project tipped to help create liveable communities is the main street development in Hamley Bridge and Balaklava. The intention here is to activate these important streets, make them fun and relaxed social settings, with easier access to the services you love, and where you can walk around and enjoy the surroundings. We go into further detail on where we're up to on this project on page 4.

It goes without saying that our community spirit makes our main streets, towns, clubs, events and places shine so much brighter. Each Australia Day, Council celebrates these special people who contribute to our community, through the Citizen of the Year Awards.

This year Hamley Bridge local Richard Gregory is Wakefield's Citizen of the Year (see page 7). When reading his story and all the different roles he steps into, you can understand the impact he has had on so many people, and why he received a stack of nominations.

It's always a pleasure to present these awards and I'd like to congratulate Richard and our Young Citizen Kristin Carling and Event of the Year Mid North Ladies Wellbeing Gala, for their inspirational efforts.

Thanks,

Mayor Rodney Reid.



Field staff members Grant Willmer and Jarrad Seiboth at the current depot in Balaklava.

New works depot site secured

Wakefield Regional Council will get a new works depot in Balaklava – saving about half of the \$3.5 million price tag originally proposed.

Instead of a 'greenfield' site, which would have required a new build of all sheds, offices and other depot infrastructure, WRC has purchased 31 Gwy Terrace – formerly SA Complete Diesel Services – and two adjoining allotments which will allow council to 'move straight in' after settlement.

The recently purchased property was identified through an Expression of Interest process and determined suitable for Council's needs.

It includes a large shed, office, truck washing canopy and appropriate space and facilities to ensure Council operations can be carried out safely and efficiently.

The new depot will replace the existing site on the corner of Phillips Street and Railway Terrace, which does not meet several work, health and safety standards.

Mayor Rodney Reid said it was expected staff would be operating out of the depot by late January or early February and the transition of Council's fuel bays, fixed plant and other equipment will take place once the depot is established.

"The overall project cost is likely to be about \$1.7m, substantially less than our original plans for a purpose-built depot by the racecourse," he said.

"The relocation of the works depot from Railway Terrace has been on the cards for many years as the old site was too small, the sheds were unsuitable and the site did not meet all of the safety and environmental requirements demanded of a modern work site."

Designs for a lifestyle destination

A significant investment in Port Wakefield is under way, with plans in development to position the town as a tourism and lifestyle destination.

Council has engaged the Port Wakefield to Port August Alliance to undertake the master planning process, leveraging its work on the highway duplication project, and community consultation will begin in earnest in February.

The Wakefield 2030 Community Plan (see below) identified the Port Wakefield Masterplan as a priority action under the theme 'Liveable Communities' and Mayor Rodney Reid said Council was excited about collaborating with the community to swing the spotlight on the historic seaside town.

"As the highway upgrade takes shape, we will be focusing on the incredible opportunities to rejuvenate the town, improve tourism offerings and celebrate a proud history," Mayor Reid said.

"The project vision is to make Port Wakefield a more attractive, active, successful and enjoyable place for locals and visitors alike."

Consultation activities will include an 'ideas marketplace' to allow the local community and other stakeholders to contribute their thoughts on the project. Stay tuned for more information.



Adoption of Wakefield 2030



"Wakefield is a great place to do business and a great place to belong." That's our community vision and we're already working to bring it to life.

After many months of community engagement, Council adopted our Wakefield 2030 Community Plan in November, setting a direction for the region for the next 10 years.

The three themes that make up Wakefield 2030 are:

- **Liveable Communities**
- **Thriving Region**
- **Sustainable Future**

Visit our website to see the full Wakefield 2030 community plan and find out about all of our priority actions.



Aim to get pools back in the swim of things

Council's three community swimming facilities have been awash with activity in recent months.

Owen Swimming Pool opened to the public in December following some minor filtration system upgrades, with significant compliance works planned for the off season in 2021.

Council has applied for a State Government grant to assist with the upgrade, with works expected to cost more than \$800,000.

Major upgrades to the Hamley Bridge filtration system and plantroom, set to cost more than \$400,000, started in December and were scheduled to finish in January.

Detailed design and costings for replacing the Balaklava Swimming Pool's main pool shell, which cracked in May, have been received.

Council has applied for a grant to assist with replacing the main pool shell and required plant room and filtration upgrades previously identified.



Drone image of Balaklava's George Street today.



OPPORTUNITY | REINSTATE ORIGINAL STYLE
PARAPET & DEVELOP COMPLEMENTARY
SIGNAGE

CONSTRAINT | INTRUSIVE
CONTEMPORARY SIGNAGE

OPPORTUNITY | REINSTATE ORIGINAL STYLE
PARAPET & DEVELOP COMPLEMENTARY
SIGNAGE

OPPORTUNITY | REPLACE WITH
SYMPATHETIC HERITAGE SIGNAGE
CONSISTENT WITH ADJACENT

^ Concept plans of Balaklava streetscape.

Main Street upgrades taking shape

Residents and visitors alike will notice some significant steps forward in the main street upgrades at Balaklava and Hamley Bridge.

Full streetscape and architectural concepts were presented to Council in early November, which were then discussed by the Main Street Community Reference Groups from the respective towns.

The plans were refined to reflect the feedback from those groups and the wider public.

A large portion of the feedback about the Balaklava element of the project revolved around the retention of the town Triangle in its current form, avoiding large amounts of landscaping or paving impacting on the grassed area.

Members of Council's infrastructure and works team have been on site in both towns, marking proposed new locations for pram (access) ramps, protuberances, planter boxes, trees in footpaths and garden beds.

In Balaklava, two new proposed outdoor dining areas have been marked on George Street to cater for customers at local cafes and the bakery.

New pedestrian crossings also feature on Wallace Street outside Foodland and the Post Office.

Suggested crossings are also marked on Edith Terrace, while conceptual median strips with in-ground tree plantings are outlined in the centre of Edith Terrace as well.

The plans also include the lighting of three significant buildings in Balaklava, including the Town Hall, Balco office and former ANZ Bank.

In Hamley Bridge the community has stressed its desire for the heritage character of the town to be complemented through the upgrade. Seating and other street furniture in keeping with the town's character is the top choice for residents.

Council's building surveyor, Peter Morgan, has been busy working with local businesses and building owners, along with tradesmen, to coordinate improvements and upgrades to business facades in both towns.



Council's Building Surveyor Peter Morgan (right) with local contractor Andrew Clearly.

What's lurking beneath the lake at Lochiel?

There's something lurking below the surface at Lochiel as the town looks to bring more than salt to the tourist's table.

The Lake Bumbunga Tourist Infrastructure Project, jointly backed by Wakefield Regional Council, the Lochiel Progress Association, and the Federal Government's Round 3 of the Building Better Regions Fund, has made gradual progress since starting in 2019.

While the early stages included new town entry signs and public toilets, the remaining elements will be ticked off in coming months.

A new free Wi-Fi service has gone live, to encourage visitors to upload their photos and videos of the area and promote the region.

The new playground and picnic area under construction neatly tie in with the recently upgraded public toilet facilities.

Council has formalised a car park area with a neat rubble surface opposite the café and Pink Lake Tiny House to encourage tourists to stop in the town.

Pine trees have also been pruned back to improve visibility.

A viewing deck by the shelter near the lake is nearing completion, which will give people of all ages and abilities a premium location to take in the sights Lake Bumbunga offers year-round.

But the jewel in the crown for the entire project will be the unveiling of a new Loch-Eel sculpture, which will certainly make headlines for visitors and locals alike.

The project will be completed in the first half of 2021.

FREE WIFI



Council's Compliance Officer Katie Walker, oversees fire prevention, safety and burning permits.

Fire Permits

Between March and April, Council issues burning permits to property owners to help maintain land.

The most common is the schedule 9 permit which, once issued, grants land owners a 30-day window to burn safely. However, it immediately becomes invalid for 24 hours when a Total Fire Ban day is called and - if bad weather limits the ability to control burning effectively - property owners need to wait until it is safe to continue.

These are Council's requirements of a permit when burning:

- Have two people present with working mobile phones or, if out of range, individual two-way radios
- Keep a supply of water (about 1000 litres) close by ready to extinguish
- Permit owners must notify Council, the CFS, and neighbours before burning and on the day of actually burning
- Burning is only permitted between 9am and 9pm Monday to Friday and not allowed on public holidays, Saturdays, Sundays
- Check the area around is clear up to a distance of 4 metres

To ask for a permit, contact us at Council on 8862 0800 or drop us a line at admin@wrc.sa.gov.au. For more information on fire permits and your responsibility, head



December's Snowtown Community Market, with face painting and charming crafts on offer.



SCM volunteers and COVID Marshals including, subcommittee Chair Greg Stevens (back).



Stalls set-up outside Snowtown Soldiers Memorial.

Snowtown opens for market

The Snowtown Community Market (SCM) held each month is becoming a fan favourite on the country market circuit, attracting as many as 65 different stalls of makers, bakers, growers and collectors.

Announcing the first market in October 2020 – and with the COVID restrictions in play – fears of a disappointing turnout were soon squashed by the 500 visitor registrations that quickly came in.

SCM subcommittee chair Greg Stevens said visitor numbers had been so outstanding that other community markets had asked for advice in running theirs.

“It’s another leg-up for Snowtown and the surrounding community,” he said. “If Snowtown is on the map, Wakefield Regional Council is on the map, and people can go home through Balaklava, or see Lochiel – the whole region benefits.”

The committee secured a PIRSA grant to support its first market, and the Let’s Talk Bus mental health service on the day; intended to help anyone struggling with the challenges faced in 2020.

“Snowtown is in its fourth year of drought. This service gave people an outlet - to come in for an hour and have a discussion with someone,” Greg said.

The proactive committee has plans to use the income from the market to renovate the old Federation Shed into a space for artistic shows and performances.

“The markets are going to keep going around the same time – every third week of the month,” Greg said.

There’s something for everyone at the market. You’ll find artisan candles, clothing and accessories, gift items, food, drinks, garden ornaments, pottery, art and more!

Keep an eye on their Facebook page – Snowtown Community Market, to see next market dates.



Wakefield's top citizens

Each year on Australian Day, Council recognises and congratulates our local heroes – Wakefield's Citizen of the Year, as well as Young Citizen and Event of the Year winners.



Richard Gregory, Hamley Bridge

A "tireless contributor", Richard has put years of loyal service into local groups and clubs, including as Captain of the Alma CFS Brigade, Chairperson of the Community Association, Secretary of the Community and Sport Recreation Centre and trainer and now retired umpire of the Adelaide Plains Football League.

His dedication to local sport is matched only by his eager involvement in many events and fundraisers through his role at the Community Association.

Wakefield Mayor Rodney Reid said Richard should feel very proud of his achievements, which span over many years and feature heavily in the Hamley Bridge story.

"Richard has been involved in a mix of different projects and events. Hamley Bridge is his life's passion, his community is everything, and we are indebted to his contribution."



Young Citizen - Kristin Carling, Blyth

Kristin somehow manages to balance a full-time job with a long list of responsibilities around town and at the Blyth Snowtown Netball Club – and has done so very successfully! So far, she has gone on to coach two teams to Grand Finals in 2010, 2017 and to the Preliminary Final in 2019.

It's not just from the sidelines where Kristin shines, since age 20 she has cemented her place as a member of the netball committee, where she organises social events, coordinates umpires and looks after the club's newsletter.

Then, a year later, she undertook the mammoth responsibility of North Eastern Netball Association Recorder, collecting, checking and inputting scorecards for the whole association; eight clubs in total.

It's clear that all her leg-work is for the enjoyment of players and club members, as well as the boarder community, which she also serves through her role in the Blyth Town Management Committee as Assistant Treasurer.



Gala organisers Alisha Senior, Nikki McCracken and Bonnie Michael.
Photo credit: Plains Producer, 2020

Event of the Year - Mid North Ladies Wellbeing Gala, Balaklava

Held in August 2020, the Gala presented the perfect opportunity for local women to "kick off their Zoom attire" and frock up after weeks of isolation.

The Gala focused on bringing back together local ladies and raising awareness of a network of likeminded women that exist to support each other when times get tough. Former Hummocks netballer and founder of Positive Outlooks, Emma Ward got the conversation rolling with her talk on the power of positive thinking and resilience, equipping attendees with new skills to draw on in the future.

As many local businesses as possible were supported by the event, and a total of \$3,700 was raised and distributed to a long list of local charities.

It's alive! Monster blockages resurface

We're still experiencing issues from people flushing the wrong things down the toilet –causing monster blockages, like this record-smashing one pulled from Port Wakefield's wastewater system.



Monster blockage - caused by wet wipes - at Port Wakefield wastewater systems.

People need to remember the three P's: 'paper, pee and poo' - are the only things that belong in your loo. Everything else must go into the bin.

Monster blockages play havoc on our system, backing it up, and causing overflows into our environment – or even into your backyard.

The main culprit behind these blockages are wet wipes and their usage has more than doubled in recent years, creating a nightmare for the team which looks after the pumps and pipelines in our Community

It is important to NEVER EVER flush a wet wipe, even if it says 'flushable wipes' on the pack. They don't break down like ordinary toilet paper.

We know that wet wipes can stay in a system for months on end without breaking down, instead they cling to other wipes and things that shouldn't go down the toilet, resulting in a giant plug, and one of those monster blockages.

Think before you flush! Don't block up the loo with these ...

- Wet wipes (even if they say 'flushable')
- Tampons and sanitary pads
- Condoms
- Trade waste – oil, grease, paint
- Cotton buds
- Food scraps
- Paper towels (other than toilet paper)
- Nappies



Blocked pipeline from our Community Wastewater System.



Council staff spray sealing on Ralli Street, Balaklava.

Spray sealing towns

Maintenance crews are carrying out focused repairs on streets and roads in townships across the region.

As part of the preventative maintenance program, one week or two – depending on the degree of work – is dedicated to each town to repair identified road surfaces, and patch any wear and tear to bitumen.

Throughout the year we assess our roads and determine which need to be scheduled for maintenance to prolong the life and quality of the road. The idea is to get maximum value for the ratepayer's dollar and to maintain a service level the community expects.

The program started in November and will roll over into March with sections of road in Snowtown and Port Wakefield the current focus, including the Blyth Road.

Sections in Hamley Bridge, Owen, Balaklava and Brinkworth have already been completed.

Let's keep in touch

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



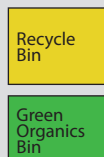
WAKEFIELD
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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Your Quarterly Cut-Out

3 month bin collection



January						
Sun	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
31					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
February						
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						
March						
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 386 Pinery Road	Port Wakefield 150 Shrike Road	Everard 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