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Wakefield Regional WRAP

Autumn/Winter 2021

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



ACTIVATE *Wakefield!*

A suite of exciting projects that will help create liveable communities, a thriving region and a sustainable future are forging ahead.

Activating these projects – and the many other parts of our Wakefield 2030 Community Plan – will help achieve our vision of Wakefield: 'a great place to do business, and a great place to belong.'

SEE PAGES 4-6





Message from the Mayor

Look around the Wakefield region and at each turn you'll see exciting projects finishing or just beginning to take shape. From the quirky new Loch-eel Monster at Lake Bumbunga, to the impactful painting of the Owen Silos, to the major works in Balaklava and Hamley Bridge main streets, to swimming pool upgrades.

The community's plan for the future – Wakefield 2030 – identifies liveability, vibrant towns, a growing region and quality assets as key priorities. The projects I've just listed work to ignite spaces for people, enhance the environment and encourage economic investment. We are truly activating Wakefield!

One of the most exciting announcements we've made recently is the State Government funding approval for the upgrade of Balaklava Pool. The current facility has a healthy user rating – about 15% of Balaklava residents are paid members. We're looking forward to seeing this usage boosted and more Wakefield residents dipping in after the upgrade, with modern features like a water-fun splash pad sure to entice: read more about this project on page 5.

In the past months, Council has been reviewing its major asset and financial plans, along with some ideas for making our approach to rating more equitable. Thanks to those of you who have had a say. We will now create a rating policy using that feedback. We'll keep you updated on this as we consult on the policy later this year.

Another major review is the Electoral Representation Review that will determine, among other things, how many Council Members and Wards we have in place - see page 8 for details.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Wrap and have a lovely Autumn/Winter.

Thanks,
Mayor Rodney Reid.



The WRC Infrastructure Team outside the new depot in Balaklava on Gwy Terrace.
Below: The new welcome signs at the depot.

Moving into the new depot

Since our last Wakefield Wrap, we are well and truly on our way to setting up the new works depot, located in Balaklava, ready for our infrastructure teams to move in.

CEO Andrew MacDonald said the new depot had been planned with the growing needs of the region and safety of employees in mind.

"This will become a significant asset for serving the Wakefield community. The new depot is over twice the size of the old one on Railway Terrace, so staff can use the area within safe distance from machinery and traffic," Andrew said.

"The depot layout has also been designed with efficiency in mind, ensuring easy access to vehicles, signage and other plant, equipment and landscaping needs so the teams can spend most of the time in the field."

While most of the infrastructure team will work from the depot, Council's Scotland Place civic centre remains the primary service location for any customer inquiries.





Pitch your project for funding now

Our new and improved Community Grants Program makes it simple and easy for your organisation or club to apply.

The program runs each year to support local community groups that deliver services, projects and events to the residents of the Wakefield region. This funding can help you complete a wish list project, cover the cost of an appliance or technology, or sponsor a cool event.

We're looking to fund projects that help drive our three themes for Wakefield 2030 – to create Liveable Communities, a Thriving Region, and a Sustainable Future.

There are three separate funding categories:

- **Minor Grants cover up to \$2,000**
- **Major Grants cover \$2,001 to \$25,000**
- **Minor or Major Event Sponsorships up to \$500 to \$2000**

Events sponsorship applications will be accepted throughout the year, subject to Council approving a budget and until available funding is expended.

Minor and major grants are **open now**:

- Apply using the online application through Council's website – wrc.sa.gov.au
- Download an editable PDF from Council's website, fill in, and email to admin@wrc.sa.gov.au or upload and submit online
- Or submit in person at the Council Office on Scotland Place, open Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm.

You don't want to miss out!

Applications close end of May 2021 and successful grant recipients will be notified in late July. If you have any questions please contact our Community Development Officer Holly Hannaford on 8862 0800.



Blyth Progress Association member Graham Van Heerde with Secretary of the management committee Tracey Andriske in front of one of the new signs.

Blyth's bigger, better sign

Travellers through Blyth are being greeted by new entry signs.

Located on both the east and west entry to town, the signs display iconic Blyth imagery including tributes to its thriving agricultural industry, the largest employer in the region, and its strong community ties.

As part of a Council program residents were asked to combine creativity and understanding of their local communities to come up with conceptual designs for a series of new township entrance signs for Blyth, Brinkworth, Hamley Bridge, Lochiel, Owen and Snowtown.

The Blyth designs were the creation of the community management committee and reflect the town's other remarkable signage at Padnaindi reserve.

The town signage program continues to roll out with Owen's signs expected to be completed this May, and Snowtown and Brinkworth in coming year.

Upgrades are making our streets light up

Iconic buildings in Balaklava and Hamley Bridge main streets are shining brighter thanks to new feature lighting and a host of restoration works being unveiled.

Extensive footpath upgrades, access ramps, kerbing and road reseals across April and early May, will make way for other exciting developments such as fresh planting. New irrigation systems will help keep the new 'greening' alive and thriving.

In Hamley Bridge, at least five shopfronts have been repaired, and two more are under way. Repainting works are now progressing using appropriate heritage colour palettes.

Continued on page 6...

Owen's wonder silos

A new feature is flying high over Owen - and can be seen across the surrounding plains.

Spectacular silo art is finally paying homage to Owen's war-time heroes as the artwork of internationally renowned artist Robert 'Alf' Hannaford AM comes to life thanks to experienced silo painter Cam Scale.

'Wheat Bags to Sand Bags' is a tribute to the town's strong agricultural background and its contribution during wartime.

Covid restrictions slowed down the original project timeline but the pace in recent weeks has seen the work nearing completion, telling the story of the transition of community life from pre-WWI to wartime, when locals moved from storing wheat bags to sand bags instead. It will be a memorial to the brave men and women who answer the call and their loved ones left at home.

Wakefield Mayor Rodney Reid said the Owen community had invested significant time, energy and fundraising efforts to bring the project to life.

"Given its location on the main road, this is sure to make an impact and create another reason for people to break up their drive and view the artwork," he said.

Council was able to contribute \$100,000 for the project through the Federal Government's Drought Communities Programme.

Mr Hannaford's artwork was commissioned by the Owen Silo Art Committee in conjunction with Viterra and the Wakefield Regional Council.

To view the silo art and how it has taken shape visit the Silo Art of Owen Facebook page or website.

Pictured: Owen Silos third week of progress.



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Wakefield

Mount Templeton local, Kyla, is ready for the splash pad to hit Balaklava Pool. Photo credit: Plains Producer.

Make wave for Balaklava pools \$3.2 million upgrade

The upgrade plans are locked in after the State Government announced its \$1.6 million contribution to the Balaklava pool project.

A splash pad is among the exciting new features for the facility and will provide a load of fun for youngsters, opening the pool gates to more families and providing a great spot for children's parties.

The project, named 'Balaklava's Pool for All', will completely replace the 25m pool – closed since May 2020 due to structural and compliance issues – and open up and grow the venue.

Creating an inclusive and accessible pool for all users and their varying needs has been addressed with the inclusion of a modern disability access ramp and other equipment.

There will also be an increase in swimming lanes from 6 to 8 and new diving blocks to bring the main pool to modern standards. All these elements will accommodate the school-run swimming carnivals that take place each summer.

Council has committed \$1.6 million to the project – matching the State's Local Government Infrastructure Partnership Program grant – but has applied for a further grant for the project in an effort to reduce the overall cost to Council.

It is expected the project will be completed in March 2022.



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Top: Construction of the Loch-eel Monster using wire around a stainless steel rod. Below: installation of the new-look attraction only took one day to complete.

New Loch-eel is the real deal

Looking better than ever, Lake Bumbunga's serpent dweller, the Loch-eel Monster, has re-emerged as a social media star.

Loch-Eel, named by the Lochiel Progress Association (LPA), is one of the major elements of Wakefield Regional Council's \$450,000 Lake Bumbunga Tourism Infrastructure project, supported by the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund and LPA.

The fibreglass sculpture – built by Port Broughton mechanic Wayne Dennis – took about two years to build around a stainless steel rod, with wire mesh and only one day to install.

Other elements of the tourism infrastructure project include a viewing platform, new public toilets, new playground and picnic area, free public Wi-Fi, designated car park with improved visibility in the town and new town entrance signs.

Information signage will be the final element of the project, set for completion in June 2021.

Lake Bumbunga has become increasingly popular for tourists over the past few years and we've seen a lot of interest from film makers, photographers and others wanting to use the lake for filming and fashion photo shoots.

The project aims to capitalise on this interest in Loch-Eel and provide some fun and interest for visitors at the same time.

Council asks people not to climb the sculpture – it was designed to view from a distance from the viewing platform.



Left: the old ANZ building on the corner of Edith Terrace and Wallace Street, Balaklava has been newly repainted.



Right: Hamley Bridge Public Toilets on Light Street have been refurbished.

From page 4...

Other elements like the public toilets in Light Street in Hamley Bridge have also been refreshed, plus an outdoor seat being made by the Owen's Men Shed will soon be fitted. Repairs to the war memorial lettering and plaque restoration are also on the way.

Street lighting has been added to Annie Street, and feature lighting installed to illuminate the Institute hall and some existing street murals on Annie Street.

As for Balaklava, the former ANZ building on Edith Terrace (pictured above) is now repaired and looking splendid in its fresh paint. This building along with other 'landmark' buildings including the Balaklava Town Hall and Balco building – have also had feature lighting of their impressive facades unveiled.

Many other high profile buildings in the main streets have had essential repairs completed. Outdoor dining locations on George Street have been marked out, and new street furniture, as selected by each town's main street reference group, is ordered and awaiting delivery.

The Main Street projects are part of the Drought Communities Extension Program, utilising \$550,000 in grant funding Council will contribute a further \$450,000 to bring the projects to life, as well as another \$592,000 grant for major street works as part of the project.



Above: Heritage building 9 Light Street, Hamley Bridge has undergone a great transformation.

Road renewal record



We're smashing road renewal records this year with 84% of the unsealed road renewal program already complete.

The program was increased from 94km in 2019/20 to 105.4km in 2020/21 to deliver more quality roads for our community.

Some of the roads included in the program are: Bussenschutt Road, Port Lorne Road, Scott Road, Maxwell Road, Nottle Lane, Davies Road, Brown Road, South Hummocks Road, Berno Road and Lochiel Cemetery Road.

Mine Street revamp

The complete renewal of Mine Street in Port Wakefield is underway, with the transformation sure to make its residents proud to call it "mine".

The \$350,000 project will include new kerbing and footpaths, and a fresh bitumen seal, which has been booked in for May.

The project was supported by \$300,000 from the Federal Government, with Council contributing the remaining \$50,000 to see the project come to fruition.



Above: Initial kerbing construction being undertaken on Mine Street in March.

It is expected to be completed in June, weather permitting.



Jemma and Stewart Michael with Heidi, Hazel and Noah in front of the renovated shearer's quarters at Hummocks Station, which plays host to several accommodation options inside. Inset: Andrew and Rosemary Michael with some of their locally produced wool.

Station's new life as century raised since Soldier Settlement

Last month marked 100 years since Hummocks Station, one of the oldest and largest in the Mid North, was divided up into soldier settlements, helping shape the farming future of the region.

This landmark moment ended the operation of Hummocks Station but, a century later, the site retains strong historical appeal and is now offering country accommodation.

The iconic Hummocks Station homestead is still standing and under the ownership of the Michael family, led by Andrew and Rosemary, provides rooms, powered and unpowered camping sites and function areas in the restored original buildings.

While the station is no longer, the Michaels' stud, Leahcim, continues the tradition of wool production on the property.

"It's a piece of history we really push because I find it amazing, the early settlers' understanding of the geology with the sloping ironstone in the hills, which provided water sources to this side of the range," Andrew said.

"That knowledge is still important to this day and ensured the success of the soldier settlements."

Hummocks Station was owned by city-based businessman, Tom Elder Barr Smith, who sold the 30,000 acre station to the State Government for soldier settlement in 1918.

The government had been planning for the settlement of returned soldiers on farming properties since 1915 and made it known it was interested in purchasing large land holdings for re-subdivision into smaller holdings for soldiers following WWI.

Local historian, Alan Jones, who has studied regional SA for almost 50 years, said changing the use of nearly one-third of the property from grazing to broadacre farming transformed that area, boosting local population and grain production.

"About 9000 acres of the land purchased from Barr Smith was arable (suitable for growing wheat and barley) but had been used only for grazing sheep, apart from small areas cultivated to produce hay and oats for horse feed," Mr Jones said.

Soldier settlers who had arable land used it to grow grain, which required more manpower than grazing, especially in the horse-power era and consequently led to an increase in local population with all of the flow-on economic benefits.

"Despite the long drawn out process of re-subdivision and delayed allotment, the Hummocks is considered one of the most successful World War I soldier settlement projects in South Australia," Mr Jones said.

LOVE OUR HISTORY?

The South Australian History Festival, which runs throughout May (1-30 May 2021) is just around the corner. Check out what events are happening in our region by heading to their website - www.festival.history.sa.gov.au/



How do you want to be represented by Council?

We're reviewing the ward and elected member structure of the Council to ensure residents are fairly represented.

Thank you to everybody who provided feedback on our Representation Review Options Paper which was a way for us to 'test the waters' and understand our community preferences. The paper explored the number of required elected members, whether the division of the council area into wards should be retained and also the options for the size and number of wards.

Council will now prepare a Representation Review Report recommending the best approach for Wakefield and this will also be published for public consultation.

Any changes to Council's composition and/or ward structure as a consequence of the review will come into effect at the next Local Government election (in November 2022).

Later in the year, Council will also be seeking feedback on a new Rating Policy that will aim to deliver a more equitable approach to rating.

This will look at a range of issues, including the different rates applied against different land uses.

More information on our Elector Representation and Rating reviews will be made available in the near future.

In the meantime, like us on Facebook and check our website for information about these important Council activities.

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- Replaces postage delivery
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To receive your rate notices electronically, sign up on our website. Go to wrc.sa.gov.au, click the rates option under My Council, then select EZYBILL.

Let's keep in touch

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REGIONAL COUNCIL

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Your Quarterly Cut-Out

3 month bin collection



April						
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	

May						
Sun	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
30	31					
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

June						
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			

Our waste depot opening times

Owen
386 Pinery Road
Wednesday
10am - 11am
Saturday
9am - 11am
Sunday
11am - 12pm

Port Wakefield
150 Shrike Road
Thursday
10am - 11am
Saturday
10am - 12pm
Sunday
9am - 10am

Everard
106 Hancock Road
Tuesday
9am - 11am
Saturday
9am - 11am
Sunday
9am - 11am