

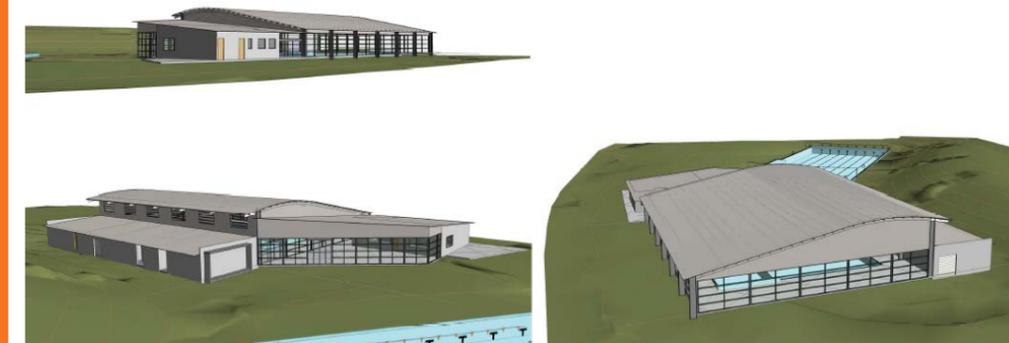
Lithgow

Council Connections

July 2012 Edition

Quality Recreation and Leisure Facilities

Stage 1 of the Lithgow Aquatic Centre is on target for completion in time for the opening of the 2012 / 2013 season.



The Lithgow Aquatic Centre Project Concept Plan.

Planning for this \$2.1 million project has been ongoing for a number of years, with Hines Construction commencing ground works in September 2011.

A number of delays were experienced during the construction due to the unseasonal rains experienced with 168mm received in November and continuing heavy rain through to February. In addition the Contractors encountered ground unsuitable for building once the wading and learners pools were demolished. However, these obstacles were eventually overcome, resulting in the Stage 1 works being completed in time for the 2012/13 swimming season.

Stage 1 works include a modern new entry featuring a kiosk, public amenities and administration building; new male, female and family amenities; a new plant room and

store building, as well as a state of the art new hydro play area for toddlers.

The kiosk and new public amenities will not only be open to Aquatic Centre patrons but, the general public can access this feature from George Coates Avenue. Making it open to users of other facilities in the sporting precinct such as the ovals, the Skatepark and nearby residents and travellers.

Completion of Stage 1 works would not have been possible without assistance from the Lithgow Indoor Aquatic Centre Advisory Committee members, Commonwealth Government (Department of Health and Ageing), Centennial Coal, Delta Electricity, and Henry Plant and Equipment.

As part of the overall master plan for the Lithgow Aquatic Centre, Council is endeavouring to source funding to enable Stage 2 works to be accelerated. Funding of \$2.6 million is required for Stage 2 works,

which will involve the installation of a 25 metre heated multi purpose program pool which will cater for rehabilitation, learn to swim and general aquatic activities.

Once Stage 2 works are completed, Council will be sourcing funding to complete Stage 3 works, which will enclose Stage 1 and Stage 2 works, completing the Lithgow Indoor Aquatic Centre project.

Lithgow Memorial Pool is Turning 50

Council is working closely with the Lithgow Swimming Club to plan for the 50th anniversary of the Lithgow Memorial Pool. Celebrations will be held in November this year and details will be provided in the next edition of Council Connections and local and regional media closer to the event.

The kiosk and public amenities will be open to users of the Skatepark, Watsford and Conran Ovals.



Neville Castle
Mayor

Council has received official endorsement from the Department of Planning for the Lithgow Land Use Strategy 2010-2030.

In endorsing the strategy, the Department noted Council's resolution to retain the existing minimum lot size of 40ha required for a dwelling on rural lands along with all Council's adopted urban recommendations.

Development of the new Local Environmental Plan is now underway and is expected to be available for public exhibition and comment prior to the end of 2012.

In recent years, Council has spent \$7.9m on improving community infrastructure in the Lithgow Sporting Precinct to provide quality recreational and leisure facilities for the community.

The latest upgrade, Stage 1 of the Aquatic Centre provides for public access to the facility from George Coates Avenue, allowing the public amenities to be utilised by users of other facilities in the precinct. In addition, during swimming season, the kiosk will also be accessible to the general public. In this way, Council is working towards ensuring that we provide integrated facilities to increase the overall marketability of the precinct.

In coming months the Lithgow History Avenue will be taking form with the installation of the first sculptural guide posts depicting the industrial history of Lithgow in Inch Street.

This contemporary art project will draw visitors from the top of Main Street to Eskbank House Museum, Blast Furnace Park and Lake Pillans Wetlands.

As Council continues to plan for the future growth and sustainability of our area, we are showing that we are listening to our community by implementing plans and studies, such as the Cultural Precinct Study and Open Space and Recreational Needs Study to develop recreation and leisure facilities that improve our quality of life and wellbeing.

Scenic views and vistas

It's a dog's day at School



In May, Ranger Chris and his trusted sidekick, Bear, suitably adorned with a red bandanna, attended St Patricks School in Lithgow Street as part of Council's Animal Education Program. The children were shown how to approach an animal correctly and what to do if confronted by a dog in the street.

Council's animal education program is separated into primary and infants with an emphasis on safety for the students and their dogs. Some of the subjects covered were: When and how to approach an unfamiliar dog, Safety near dogs; even the family pet and the function of Rangers at Council.

The primary students were given a practical demonstration on how to handle their own dogs, how to lead and some basic training tips.

Ranger Chris showed photos of dogs that appeared to be threatening and guided the children through some of the signs to look for when a dog is approaching to determine its possible intentions. A poster on Dog Safety Tips was presented to the school as a reminder of the lessons learnt during the session. Bear interacted with the students and made an impromptu stroll among the attendees allowing them to pat him.

The students were then given a question and answer session relating to the topics discussed. These questions ranged from: How does a micro chip work? To what is the best kind of dog to have in families? Many students were very interested in what the Rangers do within Council and the role they play within the organisation.

The infants children participated in a hands on program designed to be interactive allowing them to learn how to

approach a dog and what to do if an unfamiliar dog approaches them. At all times students were reminded of safety around dogs and to be prepared to move away if needed.

Chris and Bear showed the children some of the do's and don'ts of playing with a dog and how to protect themselves should a dog run at them or try to bite them.

They also showed the students the correct way to talk and pat him so that he would not become agitated or afraid. The students were shown how to ask a person to touch their dog, what to do with their hands and where to pat the dog.

Bear was later introduced to the Special Education students and the teacher was delighted with how well he was received.

For details on the program, contact Peta Lette, Team Leader Environment on 6354 9999.

Celebrate NAIDOC Week

Celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at the Lithgow NAIDOC celebrations on 15 September 2012 at the Tony Luchetti Showground.

Local Aboriginal group, MINGAAN Aboriginal Corporation, have partnered with various organisations in Lithgow to bring NAIDOC celebrations to the community once again.

There will be a variety of activities on offer for the whole family to enjoy, including storytelling, bush tucker, Aboriginal dance, live music, and by popular demand the "Zoo Mobile" to wow folks with Australian native animals such as snake, possum, frog, echidna, lizard, young crocodile and phasid (leaf or stick insect).

This year's NAIDOC theme is "Spirit of the Tent Embassy: 40 years on", which acknowledges the champions who worked to renew the spirit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through the establishment of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in 1972. In honour of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, the MINGAAN Aboriginal Corporation will be hosting a Recognition Awards Ceremony during NAIDOC celebrations to acknowledge current Aboriginal champions in Lithgow.

To nominate a person for the NAIDOC Recognition Award, please visit Council's website at www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au download the nomination form and return to Lithgow City Council, PO Box 19 Lithgow 2790, by 3pm Friday 31 August 2012.

NAIDOC week celebrations will kick off at 12.00pm on Saturday 15 September 2012, so come on down to the Tony Luchetti Showground and have a fun day out with the whole family.

For further information about NAIDOC Week please contact Council's Community Development Officer, Viktoria Gulabovski, on 6354 9999.



Pictured: Members of MINGAAN Aboriginal Corporation: Leonie Williams, Helen Riley, and Kaye Ousby

Coming Events

Passionate Gypsy Music
28 July - 4pm at Jenolan Caves
Ph: 1300 76 3311

Yulefest Christmas Celebrations at the Comet Inn
Ph: 02 6355 2247

Lithgow Valley Community Cinema monthly program:
1st Friday 10.30am; Saturday and Sunday 1.30pm. - New release
3rd Friday 10.30am; Saturday 7.30pm - Classic Movie.
Ph: 02 6353 1897

"Concerts in Caves"
27 August - 4pm at Jenolan Caves
Ph: 1300 76 3311

Motocross Club Championships
26 August at Happy Valley MX Track, Clarence
Ph: 0419 116 085

Art Classes
Regular classes for beginners: children (8-12 yrs) and adults (13 yrs and onwards).
Ph: 02 6351 3518

Weekly Activities at Lithgow Library Learning Centre

- Children's Storytime - Wednesday and Thursday at 10.30am.
 - Home Work Zone - Monday to Thursday 3.30 - 5.30pm
 - Knitting Group - Thursday 9.30am
- Ph: 02 6352 9100

The Reading Hour

Don't Miss "The Reading Hour" Storytime for Everyone!
Saturday 25 August
(Time to be advised)
At the
Lithgow Library Learning Centre
Phone 02 6352 9100 for details



180 Mort Street
PO Box 19
Lithgow NSW 2790
Tel: 1300 661 033 or 6354 9999
Fax 6351 4259
council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au
www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au

Lithgow Visitors Centre
Tel: 02 6350 3230
tourism@lithgow.nsw.gov.au
www.tourism.lithgow.com

Eskbank House Museum
Tel: 02 6351 3557
eskbank@lithgow.nsw.gov.au
www.lithgow.com/eskbank

Lithgow Library Learning Centre
Tel: 02 6352 9100
lithgow.library@lithgow.nsw.gov.au
www.learningcentre.lithgow.com



Council Meeting Date
Monday 23rd July
Rate installment Due
31 August 2012





Our Place... Our future - Working and Planning Together

Lithgow District reads....Jackie French

Jackie French's books are flying off the shelves at our Libraries. In the three month period from 1 March to 1 June, 240 of Jackie's books have been borrowed.

Local Schools and Lithgow TAFE have also gotten behind the program and are encouraging students to read these wonderful books which cater to all ages.

The highlight of this community reading event will be the visit to Lithgow on the 21 & 22 of November by Jackie, who will be talking to school groups and also the community during her visit.

Jackie French is known for her organic gardening and many residents may remember her as a regular presenter on 'Burke's Backyard'.

What people may not realise however is that Jackie is also a very prolific author with a writing style that spans generations. Her amazing picture book stories about Mothball the wombat have delighted both children and adults for years. While her junior and young adult fiction is written in a style that appeals to readers of all ages even adults, and her many gardening books are also delights.

All of the libraries have a large selection of Jackie's books available for borrowing so call in and start reading.

Receive Rate and Installment Notices by E-mail

Contact the Customer Service Department on 02 6354 9999 or download an application form from Council's website www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au to receive your Lithgow City Council rate and installment notices by e-mail.

Parking Around Schools - Protecting Your Child and Others

Term 3 has begun and this means that designated school zones are back in force after the school holiday break.

Please remember on school days that 40km/h speed zones operate between 8.00am and 9.30am and 2.30pm and 4pm around local schools.

One of the main safety concerns at local schools is drivers parking illegally in the Bus zones, No Stopping zones and No Parking zones.

Bus Zone Signs: You must not stop or park in a bus zone unless you are driving a public bus engaged in taking up or setting down passengers or stopping for the purpose of a regular passenger service.

There are however, some exemptions to this rule and the bus zone signs identify the type of Public buses not permitted to stop in the bus zone.

No Stopping Signs: You must not stop on a length of road to which a No Stopping sign applies. Where times of operation are shown on the sign, the sign only applies at those times.

Some No Stopping signs may have exceptions. In these cases nominated persons or vehicles are permitted to stop in the zone.

No Parking Signs: You must not stop on a length of road to which a No Parking sign applies unless you are dropping off, or picking up, passengers or goods.

You must not leave the vehicle unattended (i.e. be more than 3 metres from the closest point of the vehicle) and you must complete the dropping off, or picking up of passengers or goods within two minutes after stopping.

Where times of operation are shown on the sign, the sign only applies at those times. So protect everyone around schools and drive and park safely.

If you would like further information on parking rules in NSW please visit the RMS website at www.rms.nsw.gov.au or contact Lithgow Council's Road Safety Officer on 63 54 9999.

A message from your local government road safety program.

Celebrating our Heritage and Creativity



Local Blacksmith and Project Manager, Phil Sparks with a Guide Post Marker depicting one of Lithgow's many firsts. In 1880 the first chilled meat arrived in England from Thomas Morts Meatworks, Lithgow.

Lithgow History Avenue Project

The Lithgow History Avenue Project aims to honour Lithgow's history and heritage through a series of sculptures and guide posts along Inch Street. The sculpture trail will lead visitors from the top end of Main Street, past Eskbank Station, Eskbank House and into Blast Furnace Park. A Sculpture Park will be developed on the grass expanse along the entrance to Blast Furnace Park.

Philip Sparks, a blacksmith at the State Mine Heritage Park, is designing the project with works to be created by himself and other artists. They will use a style based on industrial construction techniques of the late 19th and early 20th century involving angle iron, flat plate and hot rivets. The sculptural works will act as guideposts suggesting the story of the development of industry in Lithgow. The Sculpture Park will initially comprise structures rescued from around the park, but in time these will be joined by specifically commissioned works.

The History Avenue Project (sponsored by Xstrata Coal) will provide a visually stimulating experience for locals and visitors which all of Lithgow can be proud of.

Lithgow Creatives

A new website to promote, network and resource our local creative practitioners is being created by Lithgow City Council. The "Lithgow Creatives" Website Project not only provides participants with a profile of their business, but will also include a Virtual Gallery featuring temporary exhibitions from member practitioners, news events and resources for creative industry practitioners and networking opportunities through social media.

Developed in conjunction with the NSW Department of Trade and Industry, the idea for the website was conceived during consultation with creative industry practitioners during 2011 on how to best promote and support local creative industries.

Everyone involved in a creative industry is invited to be a part of this exciting new initiative.

Expression of Interest forms can be filled in online at www.business.lithgow.com, or pick up a brochure and form from the Council Administration Centre.

Council Trainee Tops the Region Again

Council would like to congratulate Aaron Reid, Information Technology Trainee, on being awarded the Skillset Trainee of the Year for the Lithgow Region.

Aaron represented Lithgow as a finalist at the Skillset Awards that were held in Bathurst at the new Flannery Centre on the 25th of May.

Aaron commenced his traineeship with Council in November 2009 studying Cert III in Information Technology Network Administration and following early completion, then went on to study Cert IV Network Administration.

Lithgow City Council currently employs eight trainees in the fields of tourism, information technology, planning, engineering, administration, water treatment operations and records.

In addition nine apprentices are employed in the fields of greenkeeping, horticulture, mechanics, plumbing, electrical and painting.

Council trainees and apprentices are recruited through Skillset for Certificate III qualifications. University qualification traineeships and all other positions within Council are advertised through local media and on Council's website

www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au

Lithgow's CBD sees new life from Top to Bottom

The Lithgow CBD is undergoing a major transformation. Throughout the whole CBD, in Bridge Street, Tank Street, Railway Parade and Main Street construction works have been completed, are in progress or are planned to commence. A short stroll around the CBD shows the impact of this investment boom on our CBD.

Starting on the Corner of Mort and Bridge Streets, the University of Western Sydney has had its development application approved for the renovation of the Hoskins Building. The College is expected to open late in 2013 and proposes to offer a range of courses including:

- University Foundations Studies Programs for students who require preparation for formal academic study.
- Higher Education Diploma Programs in key discipline areas (e.g. science, construction management, health science etc) that can act as exit qualifications or enable students to proceed to a second year of study at a UWS or other University campus.
- Associate Degrees in key areas such as Engineering to enable local tradesman to upgrade their qualifications and gain professional recognition.
- Short courses that can accumulate to a postgraduate qualification in business.

Lithgow Bearings, Bolts and Fasteners have relocated into their new premises following the renovation of the Old Shell Eskbank Service Station. This modern renovation, sympathetic to the heritage streetscape greatly enhances the Main Street-Bridge Street intersection.

The Lithgow Workmen's Club is proposing to construct a motel in Tank Street adjacent to the Club. This tourist development will be at the head of the History Avenue and guests at the motel will be able to enjoy the guided trial to Eskbank House Museum, Blast Furnace Park and Lake Pillans Wetland.

Rejuvenating an old site which previously housed a dilapidated engineering workshop, local businessman, Paul Curran is constructing town houses on the corner of Railway Parade and Padley Street, next to the State Office Block.

Continuing along, over the railway bridge turning right along Gray Street back to Main Street we are greeted with the commencement of the greatly anticipated commercial development on the corner of Main and Lithgow Streets.

Then turning back up Main Street, the newly completed three-storey multipurpose development which will house commercial premises on the ground floor and serviced residential accommodation on the upper levels breathes new life into a vacant block. The building has been designed to maintain the heritage streetscape with the façade and balconies blending with adjoining buildings.

The most recent announcement for Main Street has been the purchase of the old Commonwealth Bank Building by Westfund and its proposed renovation. In addition to this a number of smaller scale building owners and business operators have invested in new branding, painting and repair of shopfronts along Main Street in the past 12 months.

Dwelling and Commercial Approvals

	May - April 2010/11	Total Cost	\$20,418,248
New Dwellings	83	Total Cost	\$28,525,821
Commercial/Industrial	37	Total Cost	\$26,699,057
	May - April 2011/12	Total Cost	\$33,876,757
New Dwellings	85	Total Cost	
Commercial/Industrial	39	Total Cost	

Mum's and Dad's Building Information Sessions

Lodging an application for development or building can be a daunting process for people unfamiliar with dealing with Council. With this in mind Council will be holding information sessions for mum and dad developers/builders.

The aim of this forum will be to provide advice to intending applicants on the council processes when lodging a development or construction application. Information will be available to assist mums and dads in making the process easier to understand. Council professional building and development staff will be available to answer any questions that may arise.

Further details will be placed in Council's Lithgow Mercury Column when times and dates have been determined.

To register an interest in attending Contact Jim Nichols, Development Manager on 6354 9999

Proposed Landfill Closure Dates

Landfill Name	Date of Proposed Closure
Cullen Bullen	October 2012
Wallerawang	April 2013
Glen Davis	September 2013
Portland	April 2016
Capertee	March 2018

Join the Library - It's Free

Becoming a member of your local library is free and provides you with a number of amazing benefits!

- You can borrow from an extensive range of books, magazines, DVD's and other items for up to 4 weeks.
 - Use the Library computers for free for one hour per day.
 - Join in a variety of free activities such as the Homework Zone, Children's Storytime, and school holiday programs, knitters group, tea and talk or the Lithgow Forums.
 - Attend exhibitions on a wide range of cultural and historical subjects.
 - Research local or family history in the local history archive.
- To become a member all you need is to provide proof of identification with a current address and all these free services can be yours to use today.

www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au



Matilda, considering a future career as a Blacksmith at Eskbank House Museum.



Quality Customer Service



Getting up close to view the artefacts under the glass floor at Eskbank House Museum.



Queen Elizabeth Park, Lithgow



Lithgow Library Learning Centre - a wide range of books, resources, quality exhibitions and displays.



Aaron Reid, Skillset Trainee of the Year being congratulated by Cr Bob Haddin (Parkes Shire Council) Skillset Director.