

Lithgow

Council Connections

March 2012 Edition

Scenic views and vistas

Something for Everyone

Youth Council Planning an Exciting 2012

2012 marks the beginning of a vibrant and active Youth Council in Lithgow with membership now sitting at 18 people aged between 14 – 25 years of age.

- Some of the things Youth Council is currently working towards includes:
- Presenting to Councillors on issues related to sport and recreational opportunities in Lithgow
 - Providing young people with a variety of entertainment and cultural activities
 - Initiating a scholarship fund to support young people with educational needs
 - Organising a variety of activities for Youth Week 2012

The involvement of young people is very important. Council is eager to understand how young people throughout Lithgow feel about decisions that affect them. It is also a chance for young people to educate Council and let Council know what's working, and what their needs and dreams are for their home town.

Youth Council meets on a monthly basis. If you would like to be a member please email council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au or call 6354 9999.

Museums Advisor working with local museums to improve collections

Lithgow City Council's Museums Advisor, Mr Lynn Collins has been working closely with local museums and community groups improving their capacity to preserve and present the objects and places in Lithgow that tell so much of our story.

Over the past 12 months he has been working closely with The Glen Committee and family of the late Charlie Pinch to catalogue the collection and preserve and record its history.

During 2011, Lynn led a series of workshops for Eskbank House Museum volunteers training them in object handling and display, conservation cleaning, exhibition development and the photographing and recording of objects.

He was also recently on hand to provide valuable advice to the Curator and Manager of the Museum on how to best protect

and display the heritage aspects of the sub-floor in the former kitchen when it was discovered that the original sandstone flagging is still in place.



Eskbank House Museum - Winter Program

The 2012 winter program at Eskbank House Museum is full of creativity and history.

April sees the installation of the annual **Waste2Art Exhibition**, a vivid and lively collection of 3D and 2D art created by locals from recycled material. All are invited to the official opening on Saturday 7 April at 2pm to see the amazing artworks and meet the artists. The exhibition runs from 7 – 29 April.

Fraternal Lithgow, the first comprehensive exhibition created from objects in Eskbank House Museum, opens in May and focuses on the Unions, Co-operative and Masons in Lithgow in the early 1900's. Curated by Michael Stevenson, this exhibition promises to bring back memories and inspire with its stories of the support the Lithgow community has always shown for each other. The official opening is

on Saturday 3 May and the exhibition runs from 3 May - 29 July.

Entry fees for Lithgow LGA residents are: Children under 5 free, children over 5 \$1.50, Pensioners \$2.00 and Adults \$2.50.

Lithgow Reads... Jackie French!

Lithgow Reads....Jackie French! Portland Reads....Jackie French! Wang Reads....Jackie French!

From the 1st of March until December Lithgow Library Learning Centre and the branches at Portland, Wallerawang and Rydal are encouraging residents to read books by author Jackie French.

This event is part of the National Year of Reading events to be held by the Lithgow Library Learning Centre. Jackie French was chosen as the author for this major event due to her unique writing style and her wide range of books written for people across all ages and walks of life.

Residents are encouraged to visit their library and borrow one or many of Jackie's books and give them a go. When you borrow a book pick up an entry form and write your details and comments about the book and return them to the library to go into the draw for prizes.

It's hoped to get people reading and talking about the books. The library will be hosting Jackie French as a special guest later in the year to come and talk to the Lithgow community about her interesting life and the books she has written.

So join in and become part of Lithgow reads....Jackie French.

Sustainable Events Workshop

Council is seeking expressions of interest from local Event Organisers and anyone wishing to take part in a workshop on Sustainable Event Management.

The Workshop will look at the impacts the release of the International Standard for Sustainable Event Management Systems (ISO 20121) will have on events including:

- Compliance requirements for Event Organisers; and
- Possible requirements by Sponsors and Government funding bodies

To register your interest contact the Events Coordinator on 02 63 503231 or 1300 76 02 76



Neville Castle Mayor

Congratulations to the organisers of the 2012 Lithgow Flash Gift Carnival which is developing into a major two-day sporting event for Lithgow.

The Flash Gift is becoming an internationally recognised event with the Lithgow McDonalds Men's race hotly contested by national and international competitors. Sierra Leone's Bangalie Keita came second to Tom Paavola from Narara. Bangalie will be representing Sierra Leone at the London Olympics.

The main event of the Day, the Centennial Coal Lithgow Flash Gift for Women was won by Jacinta Doyle of Miranda.

A variety of Off track attractions were provided on the day including live entertainment, a sports expo and Produce and Artisans Market.

135 junior and senior athletes competed in the Lithgow Triathlon on the Sunday making the day a great family event. With competitors wanting to know the date for next years event so that they pencil it in their calendars.

Council is continuing to work towards developing a holistic approach to the Farmers Creek Corridor. Surveying and planning for Stage 2 of the Flood Mitigation Works is currently underway which will see channel widening works constructed to 350m beyond the Albert Street Bridge.

This will be enhanced through the development of cycleways and walking tracks linking key destinations along the corridor.

Planning for the future of the Lithgow local government area is a priority for Council and during April/May we will be exhibiting the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework which will include the Delivery Program 2012-2016 and Budget and Operations Plan for 2012-2013. I look forward to getting out to the community information sessions and hearing your thoughts on the future direction of the area.

Protecting our Environment

At a cost of \$20 million, the completed Lithgow Sewage Treatment Plant has the capacity to service 23,000 "equivalent persons" or about six million litres of sewage a day which will ensure it meets the needs of the Lithgow community for the next 30 years. With the bulk of the treated effluent discharged into Farmers Creek and onto the Sydney Catchment, the plant has been designed to achieve best practice requirements for environmental protection standards.



The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson, pressing the button to officially launch the Lithgow STP.



Aerators in the IDEA Tank in operation

Lithgow Sewage Treatment Plant Launched

Sewage has never looked so good! At least that was the consensus of the guests at the official opening of the Lithgow Sewage Treatment Plant Augmentation on Tuesday, 7 February, 2012.

The Minister for Primary Industries and Small Business, the Honourable Katrina Hodgkinson, was not daunted by the complexities of the computer control system when it came to switching on the most significant project ever undertaken by Lithgow City Council. The Minister, local member Paul Toole, the Mayor, senior representatives from the Public Works Department, the Environment Protection Agency, the Sydney Catchment Authority and other dignitaries were unanimous in praising the importance to health and the environment this improvement to Lithgow's sewage treatment process will provide.

What was obvious amongst those present was the pride of the quiet achievers of the

project, the treatment plant operators and Council's engineers. The staff were closely involved from the very beginning and each milestone reached during construction was testimony to their assistance over the past 2 years.

The Augmentation of the Lithgow Sewage Treatment Plant was undertaken to meet Environment Protection Licence requirements for treated effluent. The augmentation focuses on secondary treatment and improves effluent quality from the plant. The configuration adopted for secondary treatment at Lithgow STP is a hybrid plant that comprises new intermittently decanted extended aeration (IDEA) tanks operating in series with the existing trickling filter units. The works include effluent disinfection and sludge handling and management facilities.

The Lithgow Sewage Treatment Plant Intermittent Decant Extended Aeration augmentation is a showcase for operation, design, construction and teamwork amongst multiple levels of local government, state government and the private sector.

In the IDEA tanks a mixture of sewage, solids and organisms is formed. Over time the organisms feed on the sewage, converting part of it into more stable chemical

compounds, and use the remainder to build more cells as the micro-organisms multiply. As the mixture circulates into low oxygen parts of the tank, other bacteria are able to remove nutrients.

Sludge organisms settle to the bottom and the treated water collects at the top. The excess sludge organisms which settle to the bottom of the tank produced by the multiplication of micro-organisms are drawn off to keep the concentration of sludge in the IDEA tanks at a constant level.

Chlorine is added as a disinfectant to kill pathogens and the water is then dechlorinated to ensure no harm comes to the receiving ecosystem. Finally ultra violet light is used to destroy cryptosporidium and giardia, two organisms which have historically been a problem in the Sydney drinking water catchment. The water is then discharged into Farmers Creek with more than 95% of its pollution load removed. Constant checking is carried out to ensure high water quality standards are met and maintained.

The solid matter which has been removed from the sewage is concentrated and water is removed on a belt filter press. After treatment which composites the dewatered sludge to the consistency of soil, the dry solids are to be tested for use for agriculture or landscaping.

Lithgow Sewage Treatment Plant's innovative design will meet the needs of the City of Lithgow for the next 30 years.

Coming Events and School Holiday Activities



Lithgow Cooperative Society Cart at Eskbank House Museum

Waste to Art Exhibition

7 - 29 April at Eskbank House Museum
Ph: 02 63513 557

School Holiday Activities at the Library

13 and 20 April - 10am - 12 noon at Lithgow Library Learning Centre
Ph: 02 6352 9100

Thomas and Friends

13 - 15 April at the Zig Zag Railway
Ph: 1300 76 02 76

Ironfest

21-22 April at Tony Luchetti Showground, Lithgow
Ph: 1300 76 02 76

Fraternal Lithgow Exhibition

3 May - 29 July at Eskbank House Museum
Ph: 02 6351 3557

Rocking Horse Exhibition

14 - 31 May at Lithgow Library Learning Centre
Ph: 02 6352 9100

National Simultaneous Storytime

23 May at 10.30am - Join us reading "The Very Cranky Bear" at the Lithgow Library Learning Centre for the biggest storytime in Australia.
Ph: 02 6352 9100

Tea and Talk at the Library

Presentations from April - June include:

- History of Jenolan Caves
- Rocking Horses and more

Ph: 02 6352 9100

For exciting things to see and do
Lithgow Calendar of Events
www.tourism.lithgow.com



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 Dates

Monday 23rd April
Monday 14th May
Monday 4th June
Monday 25th June
Monday 23rd July
Monday 13th August

Rate installment Due

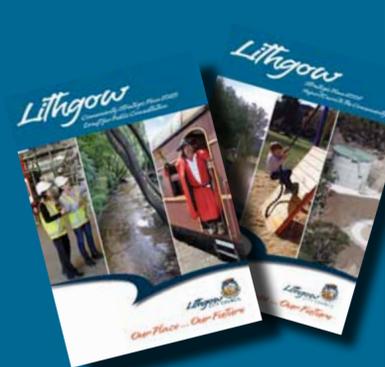
31 May 2012



Guy Boncardo from the NSW Public Works comparing treated and untreated effluent samples



The Official Party and guests at the launch of the Lithgow Sewage Treatment Works on Tuesday 7 February 2012.



Lithgow... Surrounded by Nature

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

Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

Council will be calling for public submissions on the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework between 24 April - 24 May.

The Framework consists of a suite of documents which will include the:

- Community Strategic Plan 2025
- Strategic Asset Management Plan
- Long-Term Financial Plan
- Work Force Plan
- Delivery Program 2012-2016
- Operations Plan 2012-2013

Address Submissions to General Manager Lithgow City Council PO Box 19 Lithgow NSW 2790, or Email: council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

Information on the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework is available on Council's Website www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au/integratedPlanning/

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.

Shopfront Facades Funding Increased



Revitalising Bridge Street Lithgow

Since 2010 Council has provided support to owners of commercial premises in the business areas of Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland who wish to improve the exterior of their premises. Council has recently increased the financial assistance to business owners, by providing a subsidy of up to \$2,500 on a \$ for \$ basis with the land owner.

Works likely to be funded as part of the program include minor repair, maintenance, or reinstatement of traditional windows, awnings or decoration as well as reinstatement of colour schemes.

Council's Economic Shopfront Committee representative, Councillor Grahame Danaher was recently quoted as saying that "as we know, an area of a town is often judged by the "look" of its CBD and we are aware that during the term of the current Council there was originally 42 vacant shops which has now been reduced to approximately 20."

Lithgow is experiencing a number of new major developments and the recent announcement that the University of Western Sydney will be establishing a campus presence in the Lithgow business precinct will have a major impact on the changing outlook of the CBD.

It is planned that the University will improve and occupy the Hoskins Building on the corner of Bridge and Mort Streets, Lithgow. This will enhance the revitalisation of this section of the CBD which is currently seeing the re-development of the old Shell site. The new Lithgow Bolts and Bearings store has been sympathetically designed to retain the heritage streetscape.

Application forms and guidelines can be obtained from Council's website www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au or by contacting (02) 63549999

Farmers Creek - The Lifeblood of Lithgow



Stage 1 Farmers Creek channel widening construction works near Watsford Oval

Farmers Creek Corridor Concept Plan

Council is currently working with key stakeholders and the broader Lithgow Community to develop a Concept Plan to guide the future development of the Farmers Creek corridor.

The development of Farmers Creek corridor has enormous potential to provide active transport connections between open space areas and key town destinations via cycleways and walking tracks, incorporate unique opportunities to celebrate our cultural heritage, as well as deliver increases to biodiversity values within the Lithgow urban area.

The Concept Plan will identify and review factors relating to governance, community, environment and economy to ensure that the development of the Farmers Creek corridor follows sustainability best practice.

The community will be invited to participate in the development of the Concept Plan.

Council has also recently sought \$3m in grant funding from the Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund to undertake a 6 year weed removal and replanting program along the urban tributaries and reaches of Farmers Creek to address long standing impacts arising from 150 years of carbon based landuses within the Lithgow Valley.

A holistic approach is being taken

to planning the development of the Farmers Creek corridor to ensure that re-development work is undertaken in unison.

Farmers Creek Floodplain Mitigation Works - Stage 2

Surveyors have been engaged to undertake a comprehensive survey of both the northern and southern sides of Farmers Creek for future Stage 2 design works. It is anticipated that Stage 2 works will continue on from the recently constructed channel widening works for some 350m beyond the existing Albert Street Bridge.

Further geological ground work and identification of existing services locations and depths form part of the work in order to determine what existing ground assets may be affected by the new design alignment.

A tricky and critical key feature of stage 2 design works will involve ensuring the structural integrity of the Albert Street Bridge to withstand a more concentrated flow of flood water and height elevations surrounding the channel widening work.

Following 'Expressions of Interest' for formal design and hydrological water flow modeling concepts, a detailed costing of the final design and construction will be undertaken so funding can be sought between the Office of Environment and Heritage and Lithgow City Council.

Lithgow Switches to Digital Television Only

Residents across the Lithgow local government area are advised to prepare for the switchover to digital only television on 5 June 2012 under the Commonwealth Government's Digital Television Upgrade Program. No analogue signal will be broadcast after that date.

The effect of the switchover will depend upon the property location.

Urban Areas

Residents within Lithgow and Wallerawang urban areas and most residents within Portland urban area will receive digital only free to air transmission after 5 June 2012. If you live in these areas and are currently viewing digital free to air TV, (including ABC 2, SBS 2 etc), then you need to do nothing from 5 June 2012. If you have a digital television or digital set top box in conjunction with an analogue television, you will receive a high quality digital signal after the switchover date.

However, if you live in these areas and are not currently seeing digital TV you will need to prepare for digital only transmission by installing either a digital TV or digital set top box in conjunction with an analogue TV. Without this equipment, you will not receive a TV signal from 5 June 2012.

Assistance is available under the Household Assistance Scheme for eligible people, including those on the aged and other pensions, to receive digital free to air TV signals. Further information can be obtained by calling 1800 556443.

Non-Urban Areas Receiving Signal from a Self-Help Tower

If you live in Hartley, Capertee and in transmission blackspot areas around Portland and currently receive "analogue only transmission" from self-help retransmission towers managed by Lithgow City Council you are advised that these towers will be switched off on 5 June 2012.

While some residents in these areas may be able to receive digital signal after this date from an alternative nearby tower, it is anticipated that the majority of residents will receive no signal.

Residents in these areas will need to switch to a free satellite service known as Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST). Glen Davis and surrounding areas which also currently receive analogue transmission

from a Council self-help retransmission tower, are scheduled for switchover to digital only transmission in the second half of 2013 and will also need to switch to the VAST service. Despite the later switchover date, these residents are eligible to switch to the VAST service and for the Satellite Subsidy Scheme now.

Residents of Glen Davis and surrounding areas are encouraged to switch to satellite digital TV now. Council may extend the operation of the Glen Davis tower for a period beyond 5 June 2012, however it is anticipated that the tower will operate for no more than a few months to enable residents to connect to the VAST service.

VAST includes the full suite of 16 free-to-air digital TV services plus a dedicated local news channel.

Non-Urban Areas Not Currently Receiving Signal from a Self-Help Tower

The Digital Taskforce advises that residents living in rural areas that do not currently receive an analogue signal from a self-help tower or other tower, are likely to be eligible for the VAST satellite service, but not for a government subsidy to access this service.

VAST Installation Subsidy

Access to VAST for eligible households will be available from 10 January 2012 to 17 April 2012. A subsidy of \$400 will be provided by the Commonwealth Government per household toward the installation of the required satellite dish and other equipment for one television per household. After the subsidy has been received, households will only need to make a co-payment of between \$200 and \$300.

Residents who don't apply by 17 April 2012 will miss out on receiving the subsidy and will have to pay the full VAST installation cost.

Council encourages eligible residents to ensure that they apply for the Satellite Subsidy as soon as possible and before 17 April 2012 to ensure that they are not left without television signal after 5 June 2012.

For details on the digital switchover process and how to apply for the Satellite Subsidy Scheme or Household Assistance Scheme visit the Digital Taskforce website at

www.digitalready.gov.au or alternatively residents can call 1800 201013

Browns Gap Upper Slope Remediation Works

Motorists can expect traffic delays on Browns Gap Road commencing in March/April for approximately 4-6 weeks as works are undertaken to eliminate the immediate roadside hazards from the upper slopes of Browns Gap.

Geological consultants were engaged to identify hazards and develop an action plan for remediation to the Gap. Two key sections have been identified as requiring work this financial year and involve removal of vegetation matter, boulder and rock debris from some parts of the hillside.

This work will reduce the likely hood and risk associated with any potential land or debris slippage from the upper slopes.

On-going works will be required to other upper hillside areas of Browns Gap Road over future years. However these works do not pose any immediate risk to users of Browns Gap Road in the immediate short-term.

Wolgan Gap Upgrade

Motorists can also expect traffic delays on Wolgan Road for approximately four weeks during March/April with construction works being undertaken to reinstate the down gradient section of road pavement.

This will include the construction of a retaining wall structure, reinstatement of the existing guard rail barrier and rectification work to the bitumen seal. The works may also include some minor drainage and stabilisation work to the upper slope of the Wolgan Road.

Waste and Recycling Strategy 2011-2016

The adoption of the Waste and Recycling Strategy 2011 - 2016 will mean major changes for the way waste and recycling is undertaken in the local government area.

The strategy recommends as a minimum, the replacement of the current recycling crate with a 140 litre bin. It also recommends including an option of a greenwaste bin when Council tenders for the new garbage and recycling contract later this year. In addition, the feasibility of providing a kerbside service to areas such as Glen Davis, Glen Alice and the Wolgan Valley will be investigated.

As all rural landfills are reaching the end of their practical lives and are targets for fires and illegal dumping the following timetable has been adopted for their closure:

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

Each rural landfill will be replaced by a locked transfer station at the landfill site. A key will be provided to residents in the locality upon the payment of a deposit (in case the key is lost) and will only be for household waste and recyclables.

If the landfill reaches capacity prior to the operation of the transfer station, then an interim arrangement with skip bin will be put in place.

The Strategy recommends providing two dedicated days per year at each rural transfer station where key holders will be able to dispose of bulky goods at the transfer station, similar to the service provided to urban residents.



Quality local and regional stallholders at the Lithgow Flash Gift Markets



Centennial Coal Flash Gift for Women 2012 Winner Jacinta Doyle with Samantha Burston (2nd Place) and Kristy Smith (3rd Place)



Blacksmiths Courtyard at Eskbank House Museum



New technology area in Portland Library



Repairing a water service in Martini Parade

www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au