

Lithgow

Council Connections

November 2012
Edition

Scenic views and vistas

Coming Events

Christmas Exhibition

From 1 December at Lithgow Craft Centre, Sweetbriar House, GWH, Lithgow
Ph: 6352 3541

Christmas Carols

Sunday 9 December at 6pm
Lithgow Uniting Church
Ph: 02 6351 3134

Australia Day Celebrations

Saturday 26 January
Contact Lithgow VIC for details
Ph: 1300 76 02 76

Rydal Show

Saturday 2 February
9.00am - 9.30pm
Rydal Showground
Ph: 02 6355 6223

Lithgow Flash® Carnival

Saturday 23 February from 11am
Tony Luchetti Showground, Lithgow
Contact Lithgow VIC for details
Ph: 1300 76 02 76
www.lithgow.com/flashgift/

Capertee Markets

3rd Sunday of every month
Capertee Memorial Hall
Ph: 02 6359 0054

Lithgow Folk Club

1st Sunday of Every month at 3pm
Court House Hotel, Lithgow
Ph: 0425 710 063

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



Don't miss meeting Jackie French

Between Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd November well known author and television presenter, Jackie French will be visiting Lithgow.

Throughout this National Year of Reading Lithgow Library Learning Centre has been asking everyone in the community to read a book by author Jackie French and many people have responded to the challenge.

Over 400 issues of Jackie's books have been read since March 2012, with local schools and members of local libraries participating.

This will culminate in November when Jackie visits the Lithgow Library and district schools. On the Wednesday and Thursday Jackie will be visiting schools in Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland.

However, if you have enjoyed reading Jackie's books and would like to take the opportunity to meet her in person, join us at the Lithgow and Portland Libraries where Jackie will be available for book signings, storytime and an authors talk.

Lithgow Library Learning Centre

Tuesday 20 November

5-6pm Get your favourite Jackie French book signed

7-8pm Enjoy an intimate chat with Jackie as she talks about her books.

Thursday 22 November

11am Enjoy a special storytime with Jackie

Portland Library

Wednesday 21 November

10.30am - 11am Jackie will be dropping by for storytime.

For details contact the Lithgow Library Learning Centre on 02 6352 9100.

2012 Mayor's Christmas Gift Appeal

With Christmas being the season of goodwill, Mayor Maree Statham is inviting members of the community to donate a gift to be given to a resident in one of our local nursing homes.

Many of our nursing home residents are incapacitated and unable to attend functions to celebrate the festive season. The Christmas Gift Appeal has been developed to show appreciation for their contributions to the community.

Each year, Council works closely with the staff and volunteers at local nursing homes; Tanderra, Cooinda, Three Tree Lodge and Tabulam Cottage and local schools and pre-

schools to coordinate Christmas functions for the residents.

So, this festive season, why not join in the spirit of giving and make this Christmas special for everyone.

All you have to do is make or purchase a small non-allergenic gift, wrap it, place a label on it identifying it as a male or female gift and drop it in to the Council Administration Centre or Lithgow, Wallerawang or Portland Libraries prior to Friday 7 December.

Your gift will then be distributed at one of the Christmas functions to be held at the Nursing Homes in early December.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss gift ideas contact Deborah McGrath, Corporate Strategy and Communications Officer on 6354 9999.

Summer Holidays at the Library

The Summer Reading Challenge at Lithgow Library Learning Centre will start on 2 January as part of the Library's School Holiday Activities.

The theme, *Untangled Tales*, will focus on multicultural folk and fairy tales, myths and legends from all over the world. So come along, join in the fun, and get lost in the magical world of mythical fantasy and traditional folklore.

For information on how to participate in this or other school holiday activities contact the Lithgow Library Learning Centre on 6352 9100.

Home Library Service for Portland

Council is revitalising the Home Library Service with a Pilot Program to commence at Portland.

If you are housebound or the full-time carer of a housebound person and would like to participate in the service contact Maureen Breckell at the Lithgow Library on 6352 9100 or Sue Millmore at the Portland Library on 6355 5355.

Anyone with existing HLS privileges will continue as before. However, the new service will begin with a pilot program and as the need is gauged it will be extended to other areas.

Nominations for Citizen or Community Event of the Year Closing Soon

Nominations for Lithgow's Citizen of the year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year will close on 28 November 2012.

These awards, presented on Australia Day as part of the Official Celebrations are a way for Lithgow City Council to show its appreciation of community service and achievements in the local area.

If you know someone aged 16 and over who deserves recognition, or if you would like to show your support for a local event, please contact the Cultural Development Officer, Wendy Hawkes on 6354 9999 or email wendy.hawkes@lithgow.nsw.gov.au for a nomination form.

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@LithgowCouncil



Maree Statham
Mayor

I feel extremely privileged and delighted to not only have been elected to Council but, to be considered worthy by my fellow Councillors for the position of Mayor.

I am looking forward to working with a united Council, restoring pride and promoting growth, prosperity and a sustainable future for the Lithgow local government area.

We live in an incredible part of the world; so close to the city and yet retaining our rural character and country lifestyle. I look forward to capitalising on this through tourism promotion and economic growth.

I would like to thank Council staff for welcoming me so warmly and my fellow councillors for their encouragement and advice. I would especially like to thank the public for the wonderful support I have received.

I wish everyone best wishes for a joyous and healthy festive season and a prosperous new year. I look forward to working with you all to build a brighter future for the Lithgow region.

Major Projects Completed

Stage 1 Lithgow Aquatic Centre - \$2.1 million
Wallerawang Sewage Treatment Plant - \$8.2 million
Bracey Lookout Redevelopment - \$100,000



New Administration Building, amenities, Cafe/Kiosk and Children's Hydro Play area.

The recent completion of three major projects offer increased lifestyle, development and tourism opportunities for the Lithgow region.

The completion of Stage 1 of the Lithgow Aquatic Centre in time for the 2012/13 Swimming Season includes a state of the art hydro play area for toddlers and a modern kiosk/cafe and amenities catering to the needs of users of the Aquatic Centre and adjoining ovals.

The recent completion of the Aquatic Centre has seen a further commitment of \$20,000 by Delta Electricity to the ongoing development of the facility. Council is currently seeking additional funding for the development of Stage 2 of the Centre which will include the installation of a 25m indoor pool.

Wallerawang Sewage Treatment Plant

The Wallerawang Sewage Treatment Plant was officially launched by The Hon. Katrina

Hodgkinson, Minister for Primary Industries and Small Business on 29 August.

The Wallerawang STP, is a smaller version of the Lithgow STP and features state of the art technology including intermittent Decanted Extended Aeration (IDEA) which is a sludge treatment system designed to remove nitrogen and phosphorus.

Like Lithgow, the Wallerawang STP uses ultra violet disinfection to destroy cryptosporidium and giardia prior to discharge into Pipers Flat Creek.

Designed to meet the needs of the Wallerawang community for the next 20 years, the plant has a daily maximum design capacity of 2.5 million litres of raw sewage. 800,000 litres is currently received on average from Wallerawang sewerage each day.

Recycled water is used throughout the plant saving drinking water. Whilst the electrical control system has been designed to reduce power costs and greenhouse gas emissions through the use of variable speed drives.

Bracey Lookout Redevelopment

The recent upgrade of Bracey Lookout is the first step in a series of activities to upgrade Hassans Walls Reserve.

The completed works at Bracey Lookout features landscaping, fencing, picnic tables and interpretive signage detailing the proud history of Lithgow and recognising the contribution made by the Bracey family over many years.

A Flora and Fauna Study has been completed of the Hassans Walls Lookout area to assist Council in protecting the biodiversity of the Lookout whilst undertaking improvements such as the construction of a boardwalk at the lookout.

Council is currently seeking design options for the boardwalk which will include a viewing platform and increase accessibility for people with a disability at the lookout.

Lithgow Swimming Pool's Turning 50

Let's Celebrate - Saturday 17 November

Details of festivities will be available through local media or



www.facebook.com/LithgowCity/Council



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 26 November
Monday 17 December
Monday 4 February
Monday 25 February
Monday 18 March

Rate installment Due

30 November 2012
28 February 2013



Bracey Lookout Redevelopment Launch



Wallerawang Sewage Treatment Plant



Farewell from Neville Castle

In writing my final piece for Council Connections I am pleased to say that the inception of this newsletter to keep the community informed was my idea. And now, I have been asked to write one last item for connections reflecting on my time as a Councillor.

Early in my term I worked hard to save and rebuild the Portland Hospital and we were successful in having a new Multi-purpose Service incorporating an Aged Care Section built.

We have been successful in attracting and retaining a number of major businesses in the area including:

- The State Debt Recovery service and the development of a State Office Facility in the CBD which includes the Police Assistance Line.
- Emirates Resort in the Wolgan Valley; a 6 star facility.
- The Mines Rescue Station has recently expanded its training facility.
- Thales has undergone a multi-million dollar expansion.

Over the years, Council has developed and supported a wide range of festivals and events including Ironfest now in its 12th year and the Lithgow Flash Gift Carnival.

In recent times we have seen the halving of the empty shops in Main Street and the CBD being rejuvenated through new development.

Council has built a new Visitor Information Centre, Library Learning Centre and funded a makeover of the Portland Pool.

In the last four years, approximately \$40 million dollars has been spent on infrastructure improvements to allow for future development, as well as providing one of the best sporting/cultural precincts of any country town in NSW, particularly in and around the Showground, the swimming pool and the hockey fields.

However, one of our greatest achievements has been securing two universities for Lithgow; UWS College soon to commence redevelopment of the Hoskins Building and Notre Dame Rural Medical Clinic at the Lithgow Hospital.

I would like to thank the dedicated Council staff for their efforts and all the great people on the huge variety of Committees throughout the entire Council area who all work to make our area the great place it is.



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

Home Swimming Pool Safety Checklist

With over 300,000 backyard swimming pools in NSW swimming pool safety is a vital issue that affects the whole community.

Drowning is a leading cause of accidental death in young children. The NSW Deputy Coroner, in relation to an inquest into the deaths of eight children in swimming pools between 2006 and 2009, recently found that the breakdown of supervision was a significant factor to all deaths.

Failure to ensure the barrier was properly constructed and maintained was also a significant contributing factor to the deaths of several children.

Changes to swimming pool regulations have been introduced to improve safety standards. The laws are designed to work hand in hand with a high level of adult supervision in preventing near drowning and drowning deaths.

A copy of the Swimming Pools Law Brochure and Home Swimming Pool Safety Checklist can be obtained from Council.

Street Addresses and Rural Numbering

Ensuring that you have the correct street or rural number prominently displayed on the front of your property can save valuable time and reduce anxiety during an emergency.

Lot numbers, portion numbers and property names are not sufficient for emergency services or Australia Post requirements. If you are unsure of your correct street address or rural number, Council's Customer Service Staff will be happy to assist you. Residents are advised that a fee for this service may be applicable and that reflective numbers and support plates are available for purchase from Council.

Once a street or rural number is allocated, it must be displayed on the front of the property facing the road for full view of passing vehicles.

From Engine House to Dance Hall



The task of demolition and relocation of this building in 1936 was a great volunteer effort. The original building was 100ft by 84ft, contained 31 windows and more than 80,000 bricks.

On 3 June 1936, the Sydney Morning Herald reported the proposed relocation of the 'old power house' from the steelworks site to the showground site. This is a wonderful story of adaptive re-use - an industrial building to a dance hall which is still serving the community in this capacity today.

In 1936, the Lithgow Municipal Council purchased the building from Australian Iron and Steel for £275 to be used as an exhibition pavilion during show time and dance hall. The demolition and re-construction of the building was overseen by Mr E.L. Parker, Council's Works Overseer. Mr Parker was also the first Secretary of the Show Society and the building, although

commonly known now as the Civic Ballroom, was named the Parker Pavilion by the Lithgow A H & P Society.

Over the years the building has been added to and in recent times received a \$1m upgrade as part of the Federal Governments Regional Local Community Infrastructure Program. Modernisation of the "largest ballroom west of the Mountains" included the installation of disabled access to the entry foyer, improvements to the amenities and the installation of heating along with:

- refurbishment of the bar/kiosk area,
- replacement of the kitchen
- inclusion of a community room
- Installation of new sound and lighting equipment.

Proposed Landfill Closure Dates

Cullen Bullen and Wallerawang Landfills are now being extended by a further 12 months and will not be closing until late 2013 and early 2014 respectively. Proposed landfill closure dates are now as follows:

- Glen Davis - September 2013
- Cullen Bullen - October 2013
- Wallerawang - April 2014
- Portland - 2016
- Capertee - 2018

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.

Don't forget to Lock your doors!

Lithgow Police would like to remind residents not to leave valuables in plain sight in motor vehicles and to lock your doors.

Valuable items including GPS units, iPods, cameras, purses and other valuables, if left in your vehicle, should be kept in a secure location such as a locked boot or glove box. If you do choose to leave these items in your car then make sure all your windows and doors are locked and make sure you have the model and serial numbers of these devices written down and stored in a secure location so that if in the event that they are recovered, they can be returned to their rightful owners. Additionally, park your car in well lit and busy areas.

These tips are also applicable to your home, so please note that the majority of break and enters occur during the day time when nobody is home. Remember to:

- Secure your garage door
 - Always ensure that all your doors and windows are closed and locked
 - Activate your alarm when you leave your house
 - Don't leave valuables such as bicycles or lawn mowers in your front yard
 - If you go on holiday, ask a trusted friend or neighbour to regularly collect your mail and bring the garbage bins in
 - Leave a light on to discourage people from prowling on your property
- Finally, keep an eye out for any suspicious activity in your neighbourhood and report it to Police.

Land for Wildlife

Lithgow City Council supports the Land for wildlife conservation program for landholders.

By participating in this voluntary program Landowners receive a free sign and environmental property assessments. Land for Wildlife also gives landholders the opportunity to participate in workshops, meet like minded people and receive up to date information via fact sheets and regular newsletters. If you have native birds and animals on your property you probably qualify for Land for Wildlife membership.

First step is to fill in an Expression of Interest and to send it to Council. The form may be filled in on line at www.cen.org.au/

landforwildlife/joinlfw/ and emailed, or download the pdf for a General Expression of Interest and fax or post.

When an Expression of Interest is received, arrangements are made locally to conduct an assessment and register the property.

The program is available to landholders who:

1. Have properties with half a hectare or more of native bush land
2. Are willing to manage all or part of their property in an environmentally sustainable way

The Land for Wildlife program is available to private landholders who own properties ranging from small bush blocks up to large farming and grazing operations.

Schools and council managed public land may also qualify for Land for Wildlife.

Landholders also receive a free newsletter twice each year.

Greenwaste Collection 3 December 2012

Council's next greenwaste collection will be on Monday 3 December in time to get the garden cleaned up and ready for summer and the festive season.

The following items will be picked up:

- Garden pruning's no longer than 2 metres, not thicker than 200mm and tied in bundles.
- Lawn clippings and leaves must be placed in a durable container, cardboard box or hessian or plastic bag.
- Weight limit of 16 kilograms for each bundle or box applies.
- Maximum quantity of 1 cubic metre (about 4 wheelie bins) for each collection.

On the SUNDAY NIGHT of the collection week, simply put your materials at the kerbside where you leave your mobile garbage bin.

Materials left for collection will be removed on the Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of the collection week

To arrange for collection phone 6354 9999.

Lithgow Aquatic Centre

Open Monday - Friday 7am - 7pm
Saturday & Sunday 8am - 7pm

For information phone: 6350 3200

Australia Day Festivities 2013

Saturday 26 January

Lithgow City Council is planning a fun-filled day of festivities for Australia Day.

Eskbank House Museum

Starting the day off with the Official Australia Day Ceremony; Australia Day Awards, meet the Ambassador and Citizenship Ceremony which will be followed by a classical music concert under the shade of the trees in the beautiful grounds of Eskbank House. Free Entry and tours of the museum all day.

Aquatic Centre Family Fun Day

Free entry to the Aquatic Centre. Giant Slide, Lifesaving Entertainment, DJ and the new Splash Park.

Dinner at Dusk

Australiana Dinner on the lawn followed by a Rock Concert, both at Eskbank House Museum

Council Closure Dates

Lithgow City Council will be closed for business on the following dates:

Christmas Closure

Council Administration Centre will be closed from close of business on Friday 21 December 2012 and will re-open on Wednesday 2 January 2013.

Lithgow Visitor Information Centre will close at 2pm on Monday 24 December and will re-open on Boxing Day, 26 December.

All Libraries will be closed from close of business on Friday 21 December and will re-open on Wednesday 2 January 2013 or normal operating days.

Eskbank House Museum will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 December. Eskbank House will be open Thursday 27 December - Sunday 30 December depending on volunteer availability. Please ring 6351 3557 to check opening times.

Rangers and Emergency Services

Rangers will be on call at all times and arrangements will be put in place for the Pound during closures.

Emergency Personnel will be on call out and can be contacted on 02 6354 9999.

Our Place... Our Future Community Satisfaction Survey 2012

Closes 16 November

Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of planning a brighter future for the Lithgow Region. This is your chance to:

- Tell everyone what's great about the Lithgow local government area
- Tell us what services and facilities are important to you
- Tell us how satisfied you are with Council's services and facilities

Copies may be filled in at the Council Administration Centre and Lithgow, Portland or Wallerawang Libraries or online at <http://www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au/integratedPlanning/information.html>

www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au



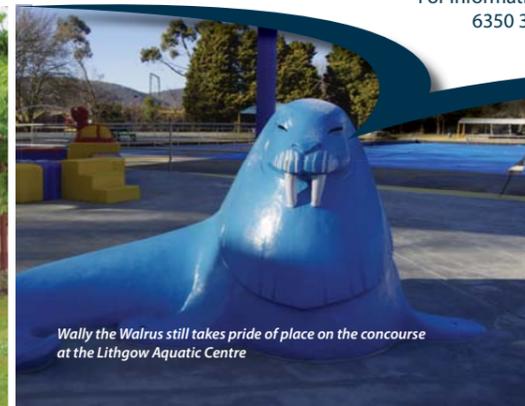
Musician Gustaw Szelski from the Lithgow Conservatorium of Music and fellow musician Robert Peters performing at Bracey Lookout as part of the Official Launch.



Stabilisation of Wolgan Gap



Lithgow City Band performing at Eskbank House Museum on Australia Day 2012.



Wally the Walrus still takes pride of place on the concourse at the Lithgow Aquatic Centre



Former Mayor, Neville Castle with the Honourable Katrina Hodgkinson Minister for Primary Industries and Small Business and Member for Bathurst Paul Toole, switching on Wang STP



The new Lithgow Aquatic Centre Administration Building and Splash Park