



Lithgow
City Council



COUNCIL CONNECTIONS Sept 2010

Lithgow City Council
PO Box 19
Lithgow NSW 2790

Administration Centre

180 Mort Street, Lithgow
Phone: 02 6354 9999
Fax: 02 6351 4259
council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au
www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au

Lithgow Visitors Centre

Phone: 02 6350 3230
tourism@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

**Lithgow Library
Learning Centre**

Phone: 02 6352 9100
lithgow.library@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

Eskbank House Museum

Phone: 02 6351 3557
eskbank@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

Council Meetings

11 October 2010
1 November 2010
22 November 2010
13 December 2010

Rate Instalment Due

30 November 2010
28 February 2010
31 May 2010
31 August 2011

**For emergency services
contact 02 6354 9999.**

**Lithgow Swimming Pool
will reopen on the October
Long Weekend.**

Hours are 7am - 7pm
Monday - Friday and
8am - 7pm Saturday and Sunday.

Phone: 02 6350 3200



Mayoral Message

Mayor Neville Castle

With spring in the air promoting new growth and new beginnings, council is pleased to be providing a wide range of activities and opportunities for you to take advantage of.

The Live Well Lithgow 2009 Program has recently received a Highly Commended award in the Local Government and Shires Association's R H Dougherty Awards for Excellence in Communication.

The Live Well Lithgow Program will be kicking off again in October. 1,300 challengers signed up last year and over half completed the challenge, lets see if we can better it this year and improve our health and wellbeing.

Stage 1 of the Farmers Creek Pedestrian/Cycleway will be completed in time for Live Well Lithgow, providing residents and visitors to the area with a safer walking/cycling route between the highway and the Sporting Precinct. Council will be constructing 700m of bitumen pavement from the Geordie Street Crossing to the George Coates Avenue Foot Bridge. Council is jointly funding the project with Lithgow Tidy Towns and the RTA.

As the weather warms up and the days get longer, it's a great time to pack a picnic, get together with family and spend time in our local parks. New play equipment, a Liberty Swing for children with disabilities, picnic tables and park benches are being installed in Queen Elizabeth Park, while the children's playground at Kremer Park in Portland is receiving a much needed facelift.

Eskbank House Museum provides a glimpse into our local history and

showcases local and regional talent through quality exhibitions and activities.

The Library offers a wide range of exhibitions and great children's programs and the Lithgow swimming pool will be opening on the October long weekend.

Recent rains may have provided a slow start to our works programs but they have definitely alleviated the strains on local water supplies. With Farmers Creek Dam reaching capacity and the Oberon Dam level rising, residents of Portland, Wallerawang, Cullen Bullen and Glen Davis are now on level 4 water restrictions.

Thankyou to everyone who participated in the household environment survey. Over 600 responses were received and they highlighted protecting the environment through waste reduction and energy saving as very important.

Everyone reported that they are taking steps and provided suggestions as to how we, as a community, can make our area more sustainable

The Youth Council has begun to plan a series of activities which will assist young people to transition from school to the workforce, address binge drinking and boredom and look at educational opportunities through scholarship development. These concepts are in their infancy and yet they show that our youth are looking towards a brighter future for young people in our area.

P2 Planning for a
Sustainable
- 3 Future

P4 Working together
to protect the
environment
- 5

P6 Providing
infrastructure
for growth
- 7

P8 Encouraging
Community
Involvement

Planning For The Future



Lithgow's Youth Planning for a Brighter Future

The Lithgow Youth Council held its first meeting in August and they wasted no time in getting down to business. Ideas already being tabled for action are:

- Transition from School to work education programs
- Addressing binge drinking among young people.
- Addressing boredom amongst young people through the provision of better services.
- Scholarships for young people.

The Youth Council is made up of 10 committed young people who will meet on the first Wednesday of every month.

For more information on the Lithgow Youth Council, or if you want to be involved, contact the Community Development Officer on 6354 9999.

Lithgow Learning Centre Homework Zone

Tuesday and
Thursday afternoons
3.30pm - 5.30pm
During School
terms

Phone 6352 9100

Economic Development Strategy Summary Now Available

Council's Economic Development Strategy Summary details the challenges and opportunities that Lithgow faces as it moves forward promoting a sustainable future for the Lithgow Region.

Members of the community are encouraged to obtain a copy of the summary which is available from the Council Administration Centre, local libraries or can be downloaded from Council's website www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au.

Lithgow's future is everyone's business, so take the time to find out how you can play a role in building a viable and prosperous future for the Lithgow area.

Portland Men's Shed is Open for Business

The Portland Men's Shed is now open with lots of opportunities for men to get involved.

The Portland Men's Shed is a great place for all men to come along and meet other men with similar interests, learn new skills or just sit around for a chat and a cup of tea.

Men's Sheds are becoming more common across Australia. One of the most exciting aspects of Mens' Sheds is how varied they are. Projects undertaken by men involved in Men's Sheds can range from building toys for charity, the restoration of old buildings, and to educational programs run by members.

For more information on the Portland Men's Shed contact the Community Development Officer on 6354 9999.

2010 Mayor's Christmas Gift Appeal

With Christmas being the season of goodwill to all, Mayor Neville Castle is inviting residents of the Lithgow area to donate a gift to the 2010 Mayor's Christmas Gift Appeal.

Council is working closely with the staff and volunteers at our local nursing homes: Tanderra, Coinda, Three Tree Lodge, Tabulam Cottages and Coleman House to develop a Christmas Gift Appeal.

Many of our elderly residents living in nursing homes are incapacitated and unable to attend functions to celebrate the festive season. The Christmas Gift Appeal has been developed to show appreciation to the residents of our aged care facilities for their contributions to our community.

These people have given so much to their friends, families and the broader community throughout their lives. So let's give back to them with a little gift that says thankyou.

Details on how you can donate a gift to the 2010 Mayor's Christmas Appeal and suggestions for suitable gifts that are non-allergenic or provide visual and sensory stimulus to alzhiemers patients will be available through local media and on Councils website in early November or by contacting the Corporate Planning and Communications Officer on 02 6354 9999.

Meeting Your Needs



Re-valuation of Land in the Lithgow Local Government Area

The Valuer General has advised that the process to re-value land in the Lithgow LGA will commence shortly. The land values will be supplied to Council in the New Year and will be used from the 2011/12 rating period.

Notices of Valuation will be issued to individual landowners which will include a 'Your Land Value Brochure' that will explain the process.

Should a landowner not be satisfied with their valuation, the Act provides for an objection process for

the review of the land value which must be made within the timeframe defined on the valuation notice.

Objections may be lodged online or by phoning a specialist customer service team who will assist the public with land value enquiries. Phone 1800 110 038 or visit the website www.lpma.nsw.gov.au/valuation.

Landowners also have the option to write to: Valuation Objections Customer Service at PO Box 745 Bathurst NSW 2785.

Facts and Figures About Lithgow

Lithgow City Council is providing a new online Community Profile and Atlas free of charge.

The latest 2006 Census data are presented in an easy to use and informative way. The Profile and Atlas will be an invaluable tool for school or post school students needing information for an assignment; local businesses wanting to better target their products and services; prospective new residents wanting to move to Lithgow, or; business or government agencies thinking of relocating to Lithgow.

The profile provides information on a large number of characteristics including how old we are, the countries we come from, how we travel to work and the type of housing we live in. The Atlas provides the same information as the Profile but in map form so that you can easily see, for example

where the concentrations of older people or children are or where the different types of housing are concentrated.

The Profile and Atlas will be updated once data from the next Census in 2011 becomes available. Council, the community, business and educational institutions now have ready access to the most up to date information which will greatly assist them to know their community better and in planning for future services and facilities to meet community needs.

Anyone with access to the internet can have free use of the Profile and Atlas simply by visiting the Lithgow Council website at www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au or from the Lithgow Portland and Wallerawang Libraries.

Supporting Community Projects

Council's Financial Assistance program provides small community grants to not-for-profit organisations or community groups to undertake community projects in the Lithgow area. Applications will be called for in October and can be obtained from Council's website www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au or by contacting the Community Development Officer on 6354 9999.

A New Children's Services Directory

Lithgow City Council is currently developing a Children's Services Directory which will not only benefit existing residents but families who are looking at Lithgow as a possible place to live.

Similar to the Community Services Directory, this document will focus on child and family related services such as child care, before and after school care, pre-schools and health services etcetera.

It is expected this directory will be ready for distribution towards the end of 2010.

For more information on the Children's Services Directory, Contact the Community Development Officer on 6354 9999.

Lithgow Learning Centre Storytime

Every Tuesday and Wednesday morning at 10.30am.

We sing songs, read a story and do some craft

Free for pre-school children accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Working Together



Greenwaste Collection Dates

11 October 2010
6 December 2010
7 February 2011
11 April 2011

During the growing season Council provides a Greenwaste Collection Service. so, if you have any gardening plans for spring you can pencil into your calendar the Greenwaste dates above. 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 a 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.

Gold Star for Lithgow Households

Its Official! The results of the household environment survey are in and Lithgow households are on the path to environmental sustainability.

Of the more than 600 responses received, 92% reported that they have ceiling insulation and save power by turning off lights when leaving the room, 90% use energy efficient light globes and 75% have grown their own vegetables and would buy solar cells if they were more affordable.

Recycling

Although 87% of respondents already recycle, 70% would recycle more if provided with a wheelie bin for their recyclables instead of a crate. Even the 13% who don't recycle said they would start recycling with a wheelie bin.

Shopping and Farmers' Market

Most people shop locally (86%) but only 58% shop with reusable bags; 25% use a combination of reusable bags and single use plastic check out bags, and 17% use plastic bags only.

See the huge range of reusable bags available in Lithgow at the Urban Sustainability Project's display in your local shops. At a cost of one dollar or less a reusable bag is great value and can be used for at least two years or 140 shopping trips.

Almost 94% of people said they would consider shopping for food at a farmers' market, depending on the location, price and quality of food offered. If you have good organisational and management skills and would like to be involved in setting up and running a farmers' market, contact the Urban Sustainability Project Coordinator on 6354 9999.

Composting

Just over half of respondents compost their food scraps, with most using compost bins or heaps and a small percentage feeding scraps to chooks or pets. Backyard composting has the potential to dramatically reduce the load on our landfills.

Free Composting Workshops

Did you know that up to 60% of the rubbish Australians put in their garbage bin could be put to better use in the garden as compost and mulch or could be returned to agricultural land to improve soil quality!

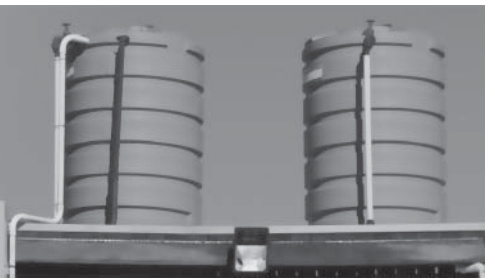
Alarming, a huge amount of organically-active material buried in landfill causes over 3% of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions annually by producing methane: a gas with 35 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide! If properly composted instead, this same organic waste could help to abate climate change by sinking carbon back into the soil.

Using compost on land reduces the need for water by an average of 30%!

Compost products can also regenerate ravaged areas (like mining and salinity affected sites) and can even be used to help clean stormwater before it travels into our creeks and rivers.

Lithgow City Council will be offering free composting workshops and advice as part of the Urban Sustainability Project. If you want to start composting, contact the Project Coordinator on 6354 9999 for workshop dates and locations. Who knows, you might win a compost bin to get you started.

Protecting the Environment



Government Rebates

Seventy percent of household environment survey respondents haven't used any government rebates to make their homes more sustainable.

The Urban Sustainability Project is working with Council, State Government and local community groups to promote financial assistance schemes for households to improve their energy and water efficiency. The Home Power Savings Program, for example, will give a free energy audit and power savings kit to

anyone with a Centrelink or Veterans Affairs Card - phone 1300 662 416 to make an appointment.

Lithgow Council provides financial rebates to residents for rainwater tanks, washing machines, dishwashers and heaters (see table). So far this year 10 households have claimed rebates for rainwater tanks, 14 for dishwashers and 20 for washing machines. Using the rebates will ensure that they continue to be available to help increase household sustainability.

Introduction of Quarterly Residential Water Billing from 1 July 2010

In conjunction with the 2010/11 Management Plan Council has introduced quarterly water billing to assist consumers to closely monitor water usage.

As everyone is aware water is a valuable resource and Council wishes to encourage efficient use of the limited water we have. Water users in the past may have been disadvantaged by seasonal changes and the timing of water meter reads. With more regular billing, you will be able to better monitor water usage and manage your accounts.

All water users, both residential and business, will now receive four accounts per year.

Should you require further information on quarterly billing, contact Council's Customer Service Officers on 6354 9999.

Lithgow Council Financial Rebates

Item	Details	Rebate	Fine Print
Rainwater Tanks	Minimum 5000 litre tank connected to garden tap only	\$200	Must be residential property and connected to mains supply.
	Minimum 5000 litre tank connected to garden tap, toilet and washing machine.	\$800	Must be residential property and connected to mains supply.
Washing Machines	Four star WELS rating or AAAAA	\$150	Per appliance per household.
Dishwashers	Four star WELS rating or AAAAA	\$150	Per appliance per household.
Heaters	Fixed electric heater with thermostat controls, fixed flued gas heater, reverse-cycle air conditioner or gas central heating.	\$500 \$700 \$2,000 businesses	Must be a ratepayer in urban Lithgow, Portland Wallerawang or Lidsdale using a coal heater to heat home or business.

The Urban Sustainability Project

Recycling ~ Composting ~ Power Saving

Contact the Urban Sustainability Project Officer
02 6354 9999

Quality Community Facilities



Maintenance Works October to December

Remove excess gravel from fences and install additional pipe culverts.

Gangbenang Road, Kanimbla

Maintenance Grading

Clarke Simpson Road, Kanimbla
Wicketty War Road, Hampton
Dowdells Road, Hampton
Bonaventure Road, Mt Lambie
Curly Dick Road, Meadow Flat
Sir Thomas Mitchell Drive,
South Bowenfels

Gravel Re-sheeting

Quarry Road, Ben Bullen

Drainage Erosion restoration and protection
Barton Avenue, Wallerawang

Road Repair Work

Forest Ridge Subdivision,
Wallerawang

Bitumen Patching

Magpie Hollow Road, South
Bowenfels
Reserve Road, Marrangaroo
Portland Streets
Cox's River Road, Hartley
Cullen Bullen Streets and Cullen
Bullen/Portland Road
Rydal Streets
Cuthill Road, Rydal

Capital Works and Rural & Local Communities Infrastructure Program Update

Gravel re-sheeting has commenced on rural roads in the Kanimbla Valley with sections of Gangbenang and Marsden Swamp Roads already underway. Works will then commence on the resheeting of 2-3km of Cullen-bong Road and various sections of Table Rock Road.

Guardrail safety improvements commenced in early September with the replacement of old chain wire fencing on various sections of the Wallerawang/Portland Road and the guardrail on the western side of the Pipers Flat Cemetery. Council will begin works on the entrance to James O'Donnel Drive in Lithgow in September.

Line marking has commenced on a number of rural roads and at various rail crossing approaches including Sunny Corner Road, Magpie Hollow Road and Wallerawang/Portland Road.

Council will be replacing two rural **timber bridges** on the Dark Corner Road close to Mt Horrible with new concrete foundations and decking.

Council is currently custom building **bus shelters** and will roll out the new shelters in new subdivisions as well as replace older shelters in rural areas.

Lithgow's Main Street will receive another facelift with the continuation of general **cleaning and sealing of the pavers**.

The current **Regional and Local Communities Infrastructure Program** is on track and scheduled for completion by the end of December.

Queen Elizabeth Park is getting a revamp with new playground

equipment and a Liberty Swing for children with disabilities and the replacement of park benches and picnic tables. New playground equipment has also been ordered for **Kremer Park** in Portland

Major improvements to the **Civic Ballroom** are expected to be completed by 30 December and include the installation of disabled access, upgrades to the main entrance, installation of a heating/cooling system, lighting and sound system, inclusion of community rooms and upgrading of the bar/kiosk.

Architectural plans have been drafted for the refurbishment of both **Meadow Flat and Hermitage Halls** with works scheduled for completion by 30 December.

New ramps, concrete paths and handrails to improve accessibility are to be installed at the **Lithgow Croquet Club**.

Construction of new amenities, upgrading of the old TOTE building, improved spectator seating, refurbishment of the canteen, dressing sheds and club storage rooms will ensure that the facilities at the **Tony Luchetti Sports Ground Precinct** are of the highest standard.

The new synthetic water turf and water re-use system at the **Glanmire Oval Precinct** was launched earlier this year in conjunction with the State Hockey Championships. The installation of spectator seating, lighting and an electronic scoreboard will put the finishing touches on this project providing Lithgow with a quality recreational facility which meets both national and international standards.

Improving Our Assets



Major Farmers Creek Projects

Two major projects are about to get underway along Farmers Creek.

Flood Mitigation works totalling \$225,000 will complete the final section of the southern side of Farmers Creek at Watsford and Conran Ovals.

Channel widening and the installation of 100 metres of block wall will assist in decreasing flood levels and storm flow velocity in this area.

The Farmers Creek Cycleway is a joint funded project between the Roads and Traffic Authority, Lithgow Tidy

Towns and Council costing \$62,000.

Stage one of the project is a shared pedestrian/cycleway between the Geordie Street Crossing and the George Coates Avenue Footbridge.

This project will be completed by the end of October, just in time for this years' Live Well Lithgow Challenge providing residents with a safer walking and cycling route between the highway and activities and facilities held in the sporting precinct.

South Bowenfels Reservoir Construction

Council has commenced a \$1.4m upgrade of the drinking water reticulation system at South Bowenfels to cater for new land development and residential growth in this area. This includes the construction of the South Bowenfels Reservoir which will have a capacity of 2,000,000 litres when full. The reservoir will be ready for commissioning by November and will ensure that Council is able to cope with future development in this area.

Water Restrictions for Portland, Wallerawang, Cullen Bullen and Glen Davis

Due to recent rainfall, Farmers Creek Dam Number 2 has reached 100% capacity and Oberon Dam levels are rising. At the time of printing, level 4 water restrictions apply to all consumers using the Fish River Water Supply.

These restrictions apply across the entire Lithgow supply area.

Level 4 water restrictions for residential garden watering means that sprinklers, hand held hoses and micro-systems can be used 4 hours a day on odd dates for odd numbered houses and on even dates for even numbered houses.

Should water restrictions change information is available on Council's website www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au and advertised in the Mercury.

Frequently Asked Water Questions

A new resource which provides answers to all those commonly asked questions about Council's water services is the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) page on Council's website.

It provides the answers to all of those important questions such as:

- How can I check for and prevent water leaks;
- How is water pricing determine;
- How will I be notified of water quality issues;
- What causes discoloured water and what should I do if my washing gets dirty? And;
- Where does my water supply come from?

The FAQs can be viewed on the Water page under the Regional Services section of Council's website at www.council.lithgow.com

Licensed Premises Hotline 6354 9999

Council encourages community members to report any faults in relation to the following facilities:

- Oakey Park Water Treatment Plant
- Lithgow Sewage Treatment Plant
- Portland Sewage Treatment Plant
- Wallerawang Sewage Treatment Plan
- Lithgow Solid Waste Facility
- Portland Garbage Depot

Encouraging Community Involvement



Lithgow Tourism Working For You!

Fresh from winning a highly commended award for Visitor Information Services at the Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Oberon Tourism Awards, Lithgow Tourism has been busy adding the finishing touches to the Lithgow Visitor Guide; an exciting new guide that promotes Lithgow to Visitors.

With tourism contributing an estimated \$54m each year, the Centre provides much more than tourist information. Tourists and locals alike use the Centre as a point of reference when trying to locate businesses in the area. Membership, allows local business owners to display advertising material and gives them an advantage over their competition. The Centre provides information that focusses on keeping people in the Lithgow City Council area.

Lithgow Visitor Information Centre

Open 7 days
9am - 5pm

For information,
membership or
marketing
opportunities
Ph. 1300 76 02 76

A Busy End to 2010 at Eskbank House

Eskbank House will be the venue for a range of exciting community arts and heritage projects in coming months, providing accessible cultural activities and injecting new life into this beautiful property.

The Enclosed Courtyard, has recently been upgraded with a professional hanging system and is available for hire for workshops and exhibitions to commercial operators and community groups.

Youth Worx Art Group and Lithgow Community Projects will kick off the program with a group show, featuring works done by young people. The show will officially open on 25 September and will close on 10 October with an open mic night to showcase local acoustic talent.

An exhibition of historic photographs depicting the construction of the Ten Tunnel Rail Deviation will be on display from 12 - 30 October.

On Sunday 17 October, the NSW Transport Minister, John Robertson MLC, will unveil a plaque to commemorate the 100 year celebrations. Later on that day, Dr Naomi Parry, Lithgow City Council's Cultural Development Officer will talk about the links between Eskbank House and Eskbank Station while Mark Landon, the author of 'Conquering the Blue Mountains', will explain the history and construction of the Ten Tunnels - keep an eye on Council's website and the Lithgow Mercury for exact times.

Finally from 8 November to 3 December Eskbank House will host the highly successful Waste to Art Travelling Exhibition.

Eskbank House is open 10am to 4pm, Wednesday to Sunday. Group Tours by arrangement. For enquiries, Telephone 6351 3557.

Live Well Lithgow - Sign Up Today!

Lithgow will come to life again this spring as Live Well Lithgow returns for a second year. This joint initiative between Sydney West Area Health Service and Lithgow City Council is aimed at encouraging us to be more active and adopt healthy lifestyle habits.

Live Well Lithgow 2010 will run for 4 weeks from Saturday 8 October, finishing with a Healthy Lifestyle Expo at the Lithgow Sportsground on Saturday 6 November.

Sign up for the Challenge by obtaining a challenge kit from Council, local doctors surgeries and libraries in Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland. This is a great way to develop healthy habits such as eating more fruit and vegetables and being more active every day.

At the Live Well Lithgow Festival, there will be numerous events and activities including walking groups, fitness classes, tai chi, aqua fitness

seminars, supermarket tours an open day at the Lithgow Swimming Pool, scenic and heritage walks. Regardless of your current fitness there will be something that you can participate in.

Visit the Healthy Lifestyle Expo on 6 November from 10am to 2pm at the Tony Luchetti Sportsground, Lithgow. Continuous activities throughout the day will include cooking demonstrations, fitness displays, seated massages, sports challenges and information stands.

Many food outlets, cafes and restaurants in the greater Lithgow area are participating in **Eat Well Lithgow** offering items that are not only tasty, but healthy! Look out for the green paw prints.

For more information go to www.lithgow.com/livewell