



To the resident

Muswellbrook Shire

Community News

April 2010

Karoola Park, Muswellbrook

Construction begins on \$3.6m library renovation in Muswellbrook

The Muswellbrook branch of the Upper Hunter Regional Libraries is now closed to receive a major extension. A smarter floor plan will accommodate more diverse library functions, including a communication hub that allows socialising and Internet access, separate young adults' and seniors' areas, a regional history room, a climate controlled room to protect local heritage documents and an impressive new children's collection and activity area. Each section of the library will be fitted out in custom designed finishings and furniture.



Conceptual drawings of Muswellbrook Library extension

This project has been made possible through the Federal Government Economic Stimulus funding of \$2.17m and funding of \$200,000 from the State Libraries NSW Library Development Grant. Remaining funds will be a direct contribution from Muswellbrook Shire Council.



Temporary library opening 10th May

Muswellbrook library will reopen at a temporary location in the former 'HACC' building, 157 Maitland St Muswellbrook. All other Upper Hunter Regional Libraries are operating as usual.

Muswellbrook CBD improvements

New kerb and guttering, improved footpath surface, seating, plants, planter boxes and lights are all planned for a section of Bridge Street, with the goal to revitalise Muswellbrook's CBD.

These works will take place on the eastern side of Bridge Street between Market Street and Brook Street and is due

to commence mid year. While the construction work will create some inconvenience, Council will make it a priority to keep this to a minimum.

This project forms part of the CBD Strategic Plan, a joint production of the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Muswellbrook Shire Council aimed at revitalising Muswellbrook's town centre.



Conceptual drawing of the proposed Bridge Street improvements.

A message from the Mayor

Council is calling for the State to address growing concern over rail issues in the Shire

The urban centres of Muswellbrook and Denman are home to rail track infrastructure that is more than 100 years old. Muswellbrook is the junction of the Western/Ulan, Great Northern, and Hunter rail lines – the three lines servicing the Gunnedah, Ulan, and Hunter coal basins.

By 2015 it is estimated by the Australian Rail Track Corporation (the ARTC) that there will be 100 million tonnes per annum (MtPA) of coal transported into Muswellbrook along the Western/Ulan line and 20 MtPA transported into Muswellbrook along the Great Northern line.

The three lines intersect in the urban centre of the township at the southern end of the central business district. The bridge on which the lines intersect sits proximate to a second bridge which forms part of the National Highway.

The rail corridors are not attenuated for noise. They are single tracked corridors with little potential for duplication without significant acquisition of property.

Moreover, there is no requirement under present law for coal mining proponents to undertake noise attenuation on the rail corridors. Clause 87 of the State Government’s

Infrastructure Planning Policy prohibits the granting of consent to residential developments near the lines unless noise levels are less than certain thresholds. The effect of that policy is to place the onus of attenuating rail noise on residential developers but not on the owner of the rail infrastructure or its users. That is a significant problem in Muswellbrook where residential development is already constrained by the availability of land for urban release noting that:

- (a) the town is encircled by coal mines or past workings;
- (b) mining buffers and land offsets occupy a significant proportion of the urban hinterland; and
- (c) the three rail corridors – carrying a significant proportion of the State’s coal, all penetrate to the heart of the urban centre.

It is also a problem in Denman where the Western/Ulan line – projected by 2015 to carry 100MtPA of coal – traverses the urban centre from east to west.

The rail lines present safety and traffic convenience issues. In most instances, the local road network traverses the rail lines by level crossings. The intensification of coal movements therefore has the potential to effect the division of Denman in two and Muswellbrook, in three.

The State needs to fix these problems and guarantee the future of the Shire’s passenger rail service.

Stormwater Management Service Charge

The flooding that occurred in June 2007 showed the importance of having a well constructed stormwater management infrastructure that can ensure stormwater is, as far as possible, diverted away from homes and businesses.

Council has recognised the need to improve stormwater infrastructure in both Muswellbrook and Denman and will therefore be proposing a range of works in the Draft Management Plan for 2010/11. The proposed works include improved safety at stormwater drains and the installation of gross pollution traps between Wilkinson Avenue and Bridge Street.

In order to fund these works, Council will be proposing the introduction of a stormwater levy in 2010/11. If adopted the levy will be applied to almost all residential and commercial properties within the urban areas of the Shire.

If applied, the Stormwater Management Service Charge would be levied at the following rates:

Dwelling type	Per annum
single residential	\$25
residential strata	\$12.50
business rated properties	\$25 per 350m ² (or part thereof)

It is intended to adjust the residential and business rates to partly offset the new levy.

In future years the income will be used to fund a variety of additional activities associated with the management



The Maitland and Bell Street intersection during the 2007 June long weekend floods.

of storm water run-off and a variety of other stormwater recycling initiatives including:

- Construction and maintenance of drainage systems, including pipes, channels, retarding basins and waterways receiving urban stormwater.
- Construction and maintenance of stormwater treatment measures, including gross pollution traps and constructed wetlands.
- Construction and maintenance of stormwater harvesting projects.
- Monitoring of flows in drains and creeks to assess effectiveness.
- Stormwater education programs.

Further details about the proposed levy can be found on Council’s website and full details of the levy will be included in Council’s 2010-11 Draft Management Plan.

Planning the year ahead

Each year, Council undertakes a management planning process which incorporates the preparation of a detailed budget for the next year and projected budgets for the next four years. This process is well underway for 2010-2011 with drafts now reviewed by Councillors and senior staff.

It is expected that the final draft will be presented for public exhibition and comment in May; notices of the exhibition will be posted in local papers and on our website. Council will then adopt the budget and Management Plan at the following monthly Council meeting in June.

Some exciting initiatives proposed for the year ahead:

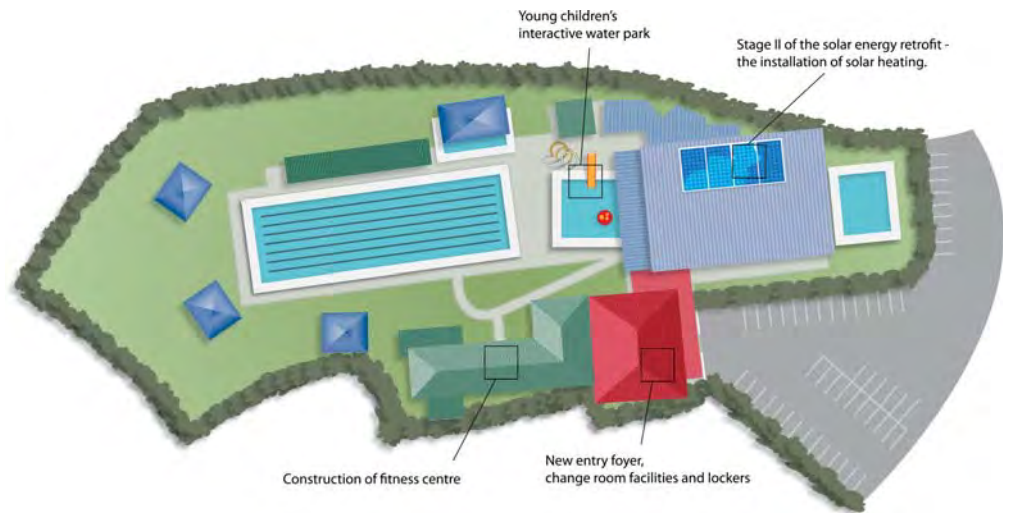
Widening and reconstruction of Skellatar Stock Route

Enhanced facilities at the Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre
(see illustration above)

Completion of the rebuilding and expansion of the Muswellbrook Library (full article of front page)

Relocation of the SES and Rural Fire Service to new premises

Stage 2 of the Muswellbrook CBD improvements



Some proposed improvements for Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre include a fitness centre, young children's interactive water park, new entry foyer and new change room facilities, including lockers.

This is the last year that Council will be preparing its budget and Management Plan in the current format. There is a requirement for future years to comply with a new planning and reporting framework which has been introduced by the State Government. This new framework includes a requirement to prepare a 10 year Community Strategic Plan and Resourcing Strategy. The result of this process will be a strategic plan that identifies the community's key priorities, supported by strategies to achieve long-term financial sustainability, maintain and develop Council's assets and ensure the necessary workforce capacity and capability is available. From this Community Strategic Plan a 4 year Delivery Program will be developed and a more detailed annual Operational Plan. Work will be commencing in the new financial year to engage the community in the consultation process.

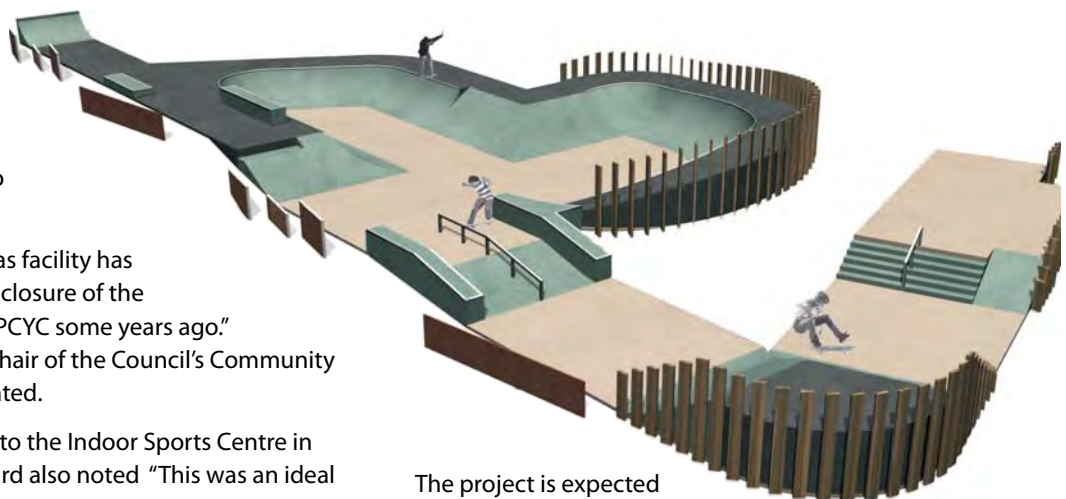
New skate park for Muswellbrook

A new skate park for Muswellbrook has been designed for all levels of skaters and free range bikers from beginner to experienced levels.

"The demand for such a facility has been evident since the closure of the previous facility at the PCYC some years ago." Cr Stephen Ward, the Chair of the Council's Community Services Committee stated.

To be located adjacent to the Indoor Sports Centre in Rutherford Road, Cr Ward also noted "This was an ideal location for a skate park due to its close proximity to shops, toilet facilities, existing lighting and the passing surveillance offered by Rutherford Road traffic."

With approximately 30%* of youth between the ages of 5 and 24 years living in Muswellbrook Shire, we can expect the new skate park to receive 700 occasions of use per week.



The project is expected to be substantially completed by late June 2010.

Muswellbrook's youth will be invited to participate in the landscape planting as part of their contribution to the construction of the skate park.

* Statistics derived from 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data

What's On

April

- 16-18 Apr **19th Annual Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Eisteddfod 2010**, Vocal Muswellbrook South Public School. Call 6541 4187 for details.
- 20 Apr **Lecture - The Life and Times of Governor Lachlan Macquarie**. From 7.15pm, Muswellbrook Shire Local and Family History Society at 17 Acacia Drive Muswellbrook.
- 24 Apr **Old Time Dance**, from 7.30pm at Muswellbrook Workers Club, presented by the Upper Hunter New Vogue and Old Time Dance Group, bring your dancing shoes and dance along with the band. \$5pp to Ronald McDonald House Charity.
- 24 Apr **Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre exhibition launch**, from 6.00pm. **Hanna Kay** - Weightlessness, a survey 2003-2010, **The Anzac Day Exhibition** - from the Collection of Bruce Webber, **Worlds Apart - International Photographers Gutt, McIntosh and Perrin, Wood** - selected works from the Max Watters Collection, Exhibition ends 6th June 2010.
- 25 Apr **Anzac Day Parade**, 9.45-11.00am along Bridge Street and Market Street, Muswellbrook.
11.30am-1.00pm along Ogilvie Street, Denman.
- 30 Apr **Bush Poet Evening**, 6.00pm for seating and soup, doors close at 6.55pm for performance. Denman Memorial Hall. Table of eight \$240, table of ten \$300. 16 years and older. Call 0427 472 290 for details.

May

- 01 May **Upper Hunter Food and Wine Affair**, 11.00am to 4.00pm, Ogilvie Street Denman. Visit www.upperhunterwineandfoodaffair.com.au or call 0437835954 for details.
- 1-2 May **Muswellbrook Polocrosse Annual Carnival**, Saturday 8.30am-4.30pm, Sunday 8.30am-2.00pm Muswellbrook Polocrosse Grounds, Wybong Road Muswellbrook. Free entry. Call 6543 1492 for details.
- 09 May **Muswellbrook Markets and Poultry Auction** 8.00am -1.00pm. Muswellbrook Showground Maitland St (New England Highway). Contact: 6543 1141 for details.
- 22 May **Old Time Dance**, from 7.30pm at Muswellbrook Workers Club. \$5pp.
- 22-23 May **19th Annual Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Eisteddfod 2010**, Instrumental Muswellbrook South Public School. Call 6541 4187 for details.
- 28-30 May **19th Annual Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Eisteddfod 2010**, Piano division at Muswellbrook South Public School. Call 6541 4187 for details.

June

- 05 June **Denman Farmers Market**, 8.00am-1.00pm Lions Park Denman.

- 7 - 11 June **19th Annual Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Eisteddfod 2010**, Speech, Drama and Public Speaking division at Muswellbrook Public School. Call 6541 4187 for details.
- 11 June **Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre exhibition launch**, from 6.00pm. Rhondda Walters - a painter's journey, **NAIDOC Week 2010 - Local Aboriginal Artists Exhibition, Ceramics and Glass** - selected works from the Max Watters Collection. Exhibitions end 25th July.
- 13 June **Muswellbrook Markets and Poultry Auction** 8.00am -1.00pm. Muswellbrook Showground Maitland St (New England Highway). Contact: 6543 1141 for details.
- 21-24 June **19th Annual Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Eisteddfod 2010 - School Choirs and Bands division** at Muswellbrook High School. Call 6541 4187 for details.
- 22 June **Old Time Dance**, from 7.30pm at Muswellbrook Workers Club. \$5pp.

July

- 11 July **Muswellbrook Markets and Poultry Auction**, 8.00am -1.00pm. Muswellbrook Showground, Maitland Street (New England Highway). Call 6543 1141 for details.
- 12-16 July **19th Annual Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Eisteddfod 2010 - Dance** at Muswellbrook High School. Call 6541 4187 for details.
- 24 July **Old Time Dance**, from 7.30pm at Muswellbrook Workers Club. \$5pp.
- 30 July **Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre exhibition launch**, from 6.00pm. **Robert McFarlane - Received Moments**, photography 1961-2009, **Miniatures XIV - Local Artists Think Small**, **Paint the Town Red - Local Artists Interpret Muswellbrook**, **Ceramics and Glass** - selected works from the Max Watters Collection. Exhibitions end 5th September.

Tell us what's on

If you have a community event to promote tell us about it. We will publish it in the 'What's On' section of our next issue for free.

Mail, email or fax the date of your event along with a short description including the time and venue.

Email: whatson@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au

Mail: What's On
Muswellbrook Shire Council
PO Box 157
Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Fax: 6549 3701

Web: muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au/newsletter

Council reserves the right to omit any entries deemed to be not in the best interest of the community or where Council are unable to verify the legitimacy of your submission.

The information provided on this page has been provided in good faith. However, the accuracy of the information cannot be guaranteed. Please contact the event organiser directly if you have enquiries.

