



To the resident

Muswellbrook Shire

Community News

June 2011

Reconciliation Mural at Simpson Park, Muswellbrook.

Flag raising ceremony at Simpson Park, Muswellbrook

The Reconciliation Mural at Simpson Park will be the site of the annual raising of the Aboriginal flag for Reconciliation Week on 1 June. Renewal and conservation works have recently been completed on the mural, which was first unveiled to the public in 2004.

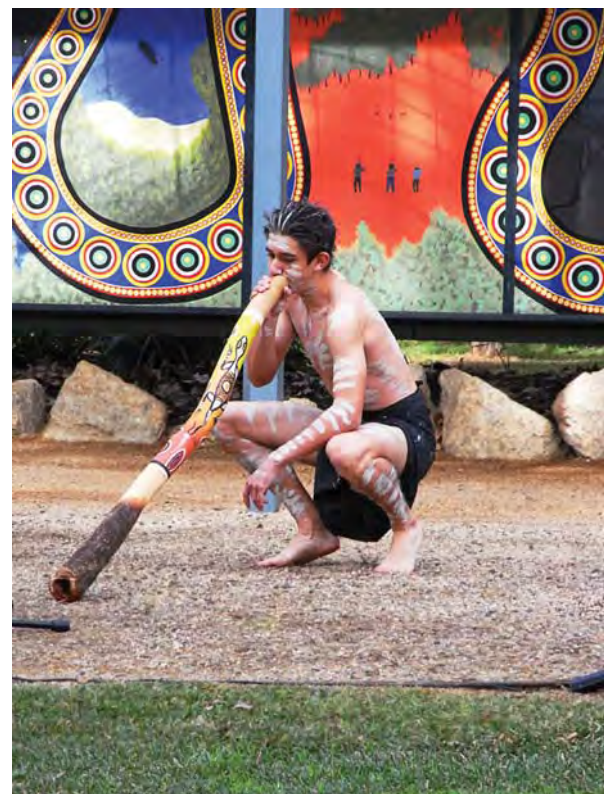
In addition to reconciliation, the event also highlights the importance of recognition for Aboriginal people, their contributions and their rights in the community. Muswellbrook Shire Council is pleased to assist in developing an awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture, and Reconciliation Week is welcomed as an opportunity to promote this history and culture to the broader community.

“Let’s talk recognition” is the theme for Reconciliation Week 2011, in part because the Federal Government has indicated that recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our Constitution will be on the referendum agenda, on or before the next election.

This year’s theme is also tied in to the overall reason for Reconciliation Week and its yearly celebration: 27 May, the week’s beginning date, marks the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum where more than 90% of Australians voted to remove discriminatory clauses from the Australian Constitution.

The week’s end date, 3 June, marks the anniversary of the 2002 Mabo Land Rights case in the High Court which recognised native title rights in Australia.

The flag raising ceremony is an event held by the Muswellbrook Shire Council Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee, which was formed in 1997 as part of Council’s commitment to the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to equity and access to Council, its resources and community services.



Casey Natty calls the crowd together at last years ceremony

**Bulky waste kerbside clean up
for residents of Muswellbrook,
Denman and
Sandy Hollow**

11-15 July 2011

Go to muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au/waste
or phone 6549 3840 for details.



Introduction to Council budget for 2011/2012

Muswellbrook Shire Council has recently released its budget for the 2011/2012 financial year, with priority placed on projects in infrastructure, communications, health and community services, sport and recreation, the arts, and the continued upgrade of Muswellbrook CBD. Detailed plans of all proposed projects will be made available for public viewing before finalisation.

Road upgrade projects

Council's new \$6.27 million road capital program will include the first year in a two year program of reconstruction and widening of Thomas Mitchell Drive.

The program will also target upgrades to intersections as well as rural and urban roads.

Other capital works

Council has committed \$127,000 annually for the upgrade of footpaths, \$100,000 for car parks and \$370,000 p/a for storm water drainage measures in Muswellbrook and Denman. The sewerage of Muswellbrook industrial estate will be completed in the new financial year due to funding allocation in the 2010/2011 budget.

Communications projects

In 2011/2012 Council will work to upgrade its library website and continue to improve the functionality of our online presence. A Councillors' policy officer will be appointed to improve community consultation processes and develop better policy options from those consultations.

Youth services

Council has committed \$100,000 towards the construction of a skate and BMX park in Denman. A further \$86,500 has been allocated to improve services at the Muswellbrook skate park.

Health services

Council continues to work with Hunter New England Health Network to secure a second medical professional for the Denman area, with the Department of Health on issues to do with aged care and with the Department of Human Services to address results in the Australian Early Development Index.

Priorities for the new financial year include advocating for the relocation of the District Hospital's Emergency Department to the ground floor and for a more modern and accessible ambulance station in the same location.

Planning and environment projects

Council has allocated \$100,000 to the upgrade of its geographic information system to assist in land use strategic planning and further improve our impressive planning approval timeframes.

Town and Shire entry signs as well as town banners were funded in the previous budget and will be completed early in the new financial year.

In the 2011/2012 budget, funds have been committed for a further six banners in the CBD in addition to \$50,000 for the beautification of Muswellbrook Cemetery, \$20,000 for the Denman Lookout, and \$106,500 for the next stage of the Muswellbrook tree planting and passive area beautification program.

Sport and recreation projects

Work has already commenced on the \$1.4m upgrade to Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre, with major redevelopments set to commence during the winter months.

Projects planned for 2011/2012 include: the sealing of Victoria Park car park; the redesign and sealing of the playground car park on Ironbark Road adjoining Highbrook Park; the laser-levelling of Weeramin Fields; construction of a \$1m amenities facility for cricket, league, and other sports at the Denman Recreation Area; and \$15,000 for playground planning.

Arts and culture projects

The recent purchase of the Campbell's Corner building marks the beginning of a project to convert part of the space into a regional convention centre, performance space, community cinema and home of the Upper Hunter Conservatorium, the Muswellbrook Amateur Theatre Society, the Upper Hunter Eisteddfod and the Shire Band. \$180,000 has been allocated to design works and costs for this project in preparation for later in the new financial year.

Muswellbrook CBD projects

Council has dedicated \$600,000 in the new budget to CBD renewal for work on the western side of Bridge Street to opposite the Court House, the northern end of Lower William Street, a pedestrian crossing between the Stage 1 work and the new Stage 3 work, and from the Cenotaph to the underpass.

Funding has also been provided for the creation of further car parking spots in William Street, and \$15,000 for detailed CBD design and investigation for the Sandy Hollow business precinct.

A rosy future for Campbell's Corner in Muswellbrook

Muswellbrook Shire Council has recently purchased the historic Campbell's Corner building.

Campbell's Corner is the ideal location for a regional convention and entertainment centre. Muswellbrook being at the heart of the Upper Hunter, and Campbell's Corner being well placed in the CBD. This will draw stakeholders and patronage from Scone, Aberdeen, Singleton, Denman, Merriwa, Cassilis, and Murrurundi as well as the broader Hunter/New England area.

Originally built in 1870, the site and its history are an integral part of Muswellbrook's sense of identity. Its tower and dramatic architecture make an impressive avatar for Muswellbrook as a whole.



Campbell's Corner as it stands today.

Council wishes to reinforce that no existing tenant will be dislocated as a result of the acquisition or any redevelopment Council undertakes. Council will shortly seek expressions of interest from the business community about the letting of the remaining vacant stores on a commercial basis.

Are you aged 12-25 and live in Muswellbrook Shire?

Take part in the online **Youth Recreation and Environment** survey to help Council to develop a 10 year plan of the future of Muswellbrook Shire.

Just go to muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au/youthsurvey
It'll only take about 7 minutes.

Denman set to get a skate park

When the skate park was built in Muswellbrook it didn't take long for it to become immensely popular. During holidays it is standing room only much of the time, and every afternoon after school there is a loyal gathering of enthusiasts.

For some time, the young people of Denman have been advocating for a skate park facility of their own, having no dedicated place in town to skate or ride. With Council's recent budget allocation of \$100,000 to the project, the Denman Skate and BMX Park is closer to becoming a reality.

Muswellbrook Christian School enjoys Eco-Cational Day



Muswellbrook Christian School students, back row: Tom Tate, Isaac Corliss
Front row: Portia Routley, Zac Leece, Declan O'Sullivan, Josh Leece, Aaron Gibbs, Blaire Baker.

Students at Muswellbrook Christian School took a break from the classroom and headed outdoors for an Eco-Cational Day run by Muswellbrook Shire Council. Students learned about Muswellbrook's 3 bin system and how to reduce the amount of waste that goes into landfill by using the bins correctly.

They also had great fun getting their hands dirty constructing a worm farm and planting vegetables and herbs.

Muswellbrook Shire Council runs a wide range of Environmental Education Sessions at no cost to schools and can also assist with Environmental Audits to assist in the development of the school's environmental management plan. If your school would like to participate in an Eco-Cational Day give Council's Environmental Projects Officer Tracy Ward a call on 6549 3778.

Have your say on the next ten years of Muswellbrook Shire

A long term community plan, labelled "Integrated Planning and Reporting", is currently being developed by Council. This is an important set of documents for the Muswellbrook Shire community. Look out for notices of the release of the draft version of this plan, which will be publicly available for comment soon. Your feedback will help shape our community goals for the next ten years.



What's on

Active Over 50 Tuesdays and Fridays from 8.30am at Muswellbrook & District Workers Club. Contact Julie Sneddon on 6543 2517 for details.

Anime Manga Club 2nd Thursday of the month from 6.00pm at Muswellbrook Library. Watch anime films, share your favourite manga, share your own sketches or talk about what's new. Call 6543 1913 for details or go to www.uhrl.nsw.gov.au

Aqua Aerobics Wednesdays at 6.30pm, \$10.50. Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre. Wilkinson Ave. Phone 6541 2999 for details or go to muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au/pools

Aqua Fun & Fitness for school aged children. 5.00pm Wednesdays at Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre. A mixture of swimming and other water exercises. Phone 6541 2999 for details or go to muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au/pools

Baby Rhyme Time 0-2 years a fun-filled half hour of rhymes, songs and fingerplays at Muswellbrook Library. 10.15am Wednesdays during school term. Enjoy one-to-one quality time with your baby! So baby can be given your full attention it's best to come without older siblings. Please bring a baby rug or mat to sit on the floor. Call 6543 1913 for details.

Body Balance Mondays 9.30am; Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6.00pm at the Baptist

Church, Muswellbrook. Contact Julie Sneddon on 6543 2517 for details.

Denman Farmers Market first Saturday of the month 8.00am to 1.00pm at Lions Park, except in May, see Upper Hunter Food & Wine Affair below.

Learn to swim holiday intensive program on Monday - Fridays during the winter school holidays. Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre. Wilkinson Ave. Phone 6541 2999 for details or go to muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au/pools

Mini-squad at Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre, Tuesdays at 4.45-5.45pm. Phone 6541 2999 for details or go to muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au/pools

Muswellbrook Bridge Club Mondays at 7.00pm, Challenge Disability Services, 11-13 Rutherford Rd, Muswellbrook. Beginners lessons available. Call Barbara Hunter on 6543 1228 for details.

Muswellbrook Markets and Poultry Auction second Sunday of the month 8.00am to 1.00pm at Muswellbrook Showground, Maitland Street.

Muswellbrook Ceramics Group Workshops Saturdays 10.00am to 3.00pm. The Pot House, Lions Park, Lower Brook Street, Muswellbrook. Contact Scott on 0427 101 697 for details.

First Thursday Book Club first Thursday of the month at 6.30pm. Muswellbrook Library. Call 6543 1913 for details.

Old Time Dance fourth Saturday of the month 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 goes to Ronald McDonald House Charity.

Preschooler Storytime 3-5 years Introduce your child to the joys of literature and language through story, poetry, puppetry, songs and craft. Join us at Muswellbrook Library, 11.00am every Wednesday during school term. Call 6543 1913 for details.

Muswellbrook Toastmasters club meeting guests welcome. At 6.45pm in the Ron Adams Room of Muswellbrook Workers Club on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Monday of the month. Contact Graham Turvey on 6543 3401 for details.

ZUMBA® Fitness classes Monday 6.00pm Sandy Hollow Hall. Wednesday 9.30am Zumba® Basics Muswellbrook Uniting Hall. Wednesday 10.30am Zumba® Gold (for the older active adult). Thursday 6.00pm Denman RSL Club. Zumbatomic® (for kids) call Christine on 6547 5011 for details.

01 Jun **Aboriginal Flag Raising Ceremony in Muswellbrook** in front of the Reconciliation Mural at Simpson Park Muswellbrook. Phone Kim Manwarring on 6549 3764 for more details.

01 Jun **The Upper Hunter Concert Band** in concert. 7.30pm at Scone High School. Call 6541 4888 for details.

08 Jun **The ABARES Muswellbrook Regional Outlook Conference** 11 speakers across four sessions. Muswellbrook & District Workers Club, 15-17 Sydney Street, Muswellbrook. Registration 8.30am, conference 9.00am - 5.00pm. Cost \$88. Call Michelle Burke on 02 6272 3051 or go to www.abares.gov.au/conferences-events/regional-outlook

16-17 Jun **Muswellbrook Hospital Auxiliary Boutique Banie and Bake sale** 16 June beanies only. 17 June beanies and cakes. Corner shop, Campbell's Corner Muswellbrook.

24 Jun **Friday @ Five: A new concept for the women of Muswellbrook** 5.00 - 6.00pm at Hunter Belle Cheese Cafe. 75 Aberdeen St, Muswellbrook. Cost \$15 includes beverage, cheese, biscuits and a slice. An initiative of the Trinity Uniting Church Muswellbrook. Call Leonie O'Keefe on 6543 4348 to RSVP.

6-7 Aug **St Heliers Heavy Horse Field Days** Bring the kids and see how they did it in Granddad's day. Parades, challenges, demonstrations and stalls. Evening campfire and sing along. St. Heliers Correctional Centre from 8.30am. For details go to www.muswellbrook.org.au/horse

16 Jul **Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre exhibition launch** 6.00pm. "A Continuous Conversation with Ivor Fabok/Paul Higgs/Kevin Norton/David Teer". "Miniatures XV". "3D's." Jean Davies, Andrew Davis & David Dolahenty Group Exhibition, "Selections From MW C", "50+ Photography As A Vehicle For Expression". Exhibiting from 17 July - 04 September.

28 Aug **The Celebration of Strings** an Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music event. Starts 3.00pm at Scone High School. Call 6541 4888 for details.

Are you organizing a community event?

Have your event details published in this quarterly newsletter and on our website. Just email your event details to whatson@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au

Go to muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au/newsletter for deadlines.

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. Email your event to whatson@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au. Go to muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au/newsletter for details.