



To the resident

Muswellbrook Shire

Community News

March 2011

Muswellbrook's vibrant new library

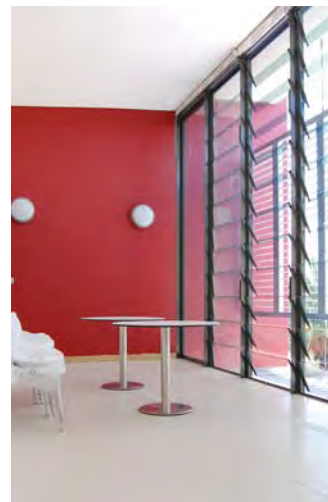
The temporary Muswellbrook Library closed its doors on Friday the 11th of February in preparation for its opening to the public at the newly renovated Bridge Street complex, with the official opening on the 14th March.

The library is now located in a completely modern complex equipped with conference space, extensive IT facilities, almost \$50,000 worth of new books, CDs and DVDs, and a massive gaming area with Sony and Nintendo consoles and big screen televisions.

A variety of programs and events will take place in the new library for guests of all ages. See the back page of this newsletter for details on the new First Thursday Book Club, Anime Manga Club and children's storytime sessions.



The new rear extension featuring two seminar rooms downstairs, and upstairs a students study area, local history room, periodicals reading lounge and balcony.



Soak up the fresh air and natural light in the new north facing balcony while reading a book or magazine.

Fun and fitness at Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre

The Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre is in the planning stages of developments that will improve appearance, performance and safety in facilities. Proposed updates



to disability access and amenities are being considered, and changes are being suggested that will both add new facilities to the complex and increase the comfort of existing features.

Muswellbrook Shire Council approved \$1.5 million in its 2010/2011 budget for capital works and improvements at Muswellbrook pool, with the intent of allowing the pool to cater to the wider health and fitness market, of all ages and abilities. It will also allow the pool to achieve better energy and other cost savings.

Plenty of activities already take place at the centre, including aqua fitness classes and swimming lessons for adults and children. Look out for the Autumn school holidays intensive swimming program and Giant Inflatable session times on the back page of this newsletter or go to muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au/pools.

Industrial estate sewer reticulation

In late 2009 Council's Water and Waste section initiated an investigation into providing a gravity reticulated sewer to Muswellbrook industrial area on Thomas Mitchell Drive.

The detailed design was ready in October 2010 and the Water and Waste section made arrangements to proceed with work, this included;

- providing information packs to property owners.
- engaging a valuer to assess compensation for required easements.
- engaging a consultant to prepare a review of environmental factors.

Unexpected delays were met with the easement valuations and the review of environmental factors. These issues are almost rectified and Council expects to have final reports for both very soon.

Pending finalisation of negotiations, tender invitations for construction will be sent out this month and construction should begin before the end of this financial year.



The animal shelter needs you

It is a very stressful experience for any dog or cat who ends up at the animal shelter. We are thankful for any donations of warm and hygienic bedding or toys received, however we are also looking for people who can donate some of their time to help make each animal's experience at the shelter more comfortable.

An animal shelter volunteer will spend time showing some TLC, grooming, walking and teaching dogs basic commands - helping to make them more endearing to potential new owners.

Choosing to become an animal shelter volunteer can be a very rewarding experience and will only require up to two hours of your time a week during the shelter's operation hours. Please phone Trina Holmes on **6549 3700** or go to muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au/pets for further information and to download the volunteer nomination form.

Your time and effort will be appreciated by all involved.



Photography by David Atwell

Application for rate increase to fund road maintenance

An application has to be made to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of New South Wales seeking the authority to increase rates collected by 4% more than the approved rate pegging amount in order to meet increased infrastructure requirements. It is proposed that the increase be funded from an adjustment to the coal mining rate.

The rate pegging amount for 2011-12 is set at 2.8%. If the application for an increase is approved, this will be an additional amount of \$360,000 to be spent on roads maintenance.

Community consultation will take place in the near future, providing you with more details and the opportunity for you to provide feedback on this subject.

Keeping the Shire clean



Council is working to prevent our bushland and natural areas from becoming a dumping ground, as part of a region-wide campaign against the illegal disposal of waste.

On-the-spot fines for illegal dumping range from \$750 to \$1,500 for individuals and \$1,500 to \$5,000 for corporations. Fines can be substantially more if court action is taken.

Services and facilities for legal waste management include annual kerbside collections for bulky and organic waste, e-waste drop-off days, and Council's Waste Management Facility. Visit council's website for information on these services.

Residents are encouraged to report illegal dumping on **6549 3700**.

Free annual domestic bulky waste clean-up service for Muswellbrook, Denman and Sandy Hollow. from 9th - 13th May 2011
go to muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au/waste or call **6549 3840** for details.



Animal Shelter Co-ordinator, Charlotte Kennedy with a much loved dog that's somehow ended up at the pound.

Looking for your lost pet?

Muswellbrook Animal Shelter would like to remind pet owners that, if you lose your companion animal, the pound should be one of the first places to check. Many animals re-housed by the shelter look as though they have come from a loving home, but their owners never thought to look for them at the pound.

When you call the shelter looking for an animal, be sure to provide as much information as possible including breed, colour, gender, age, size, microchip number, colour of their collar and their name.

Phone 6543 4124 or visit the animal shelter at Skellatar Stock Route, Muswellbrook between 11.00am - 1.00pm weekdays.

The good news is that there has been an increase in the number of abandoned and lost pets being rehomed thanks to positive relationships with local animal rescue organisations such as HAR and Dog Rescue Newcastle. The recent launch of the 'Muswellbrook Animal Shelter' Facebook page has also seen positive results.

2011 Australia Day Award Recipients

On the 26th of January, Australia Day was celebrated at the Muswellbrook Indoor Sport Centre with a barbecue, performances and awards for local achievements in sport, citizenship and the arts. Here are the latest awardees to be included in the Australia Day Awards Honour Roll for Muswellbrook Shire:

- Citizen of the Year:**Gordon McBrien
- Young Citizen of the Year:**Stephen Langley
- Young Citizen School Achiever:** .Sam Hume
- Young Citizen School Achiever:** .Samuel Green
- Junior Sportsperson:**Jake Parker
- Contributor Culture Youth:**Jordan Wallace
- Contributor Culture:**Rachel-Ann Wilcher
- Services to Sport:**Barbara Simpson
- Sportsperson:**Trent Hayden
- Team Sports:**Muswellbrook Public School
Open Rugby League Team



Above: the Muswellbrook Public Open's Rugby League State Champion side. Below: 2011 Ambassador Lyndey Milan with award recipients Samuel Green and Sam Hume displaying their awards with Muswellbrook Shire Council Mayor, Martin Rush ▶



2011's Citizen of the Year, Gordon McBrien, passed away shortly after Australia Day. A well known community and media personality, Mr McBrien won seven Australian Radio Awards for best news presenter and was known to lend his voice to local radio even twelve years after his retirement.

Mr McBrien was known for his work in serving the community, from 1955 onward when he came to help the town during the floods and stayed on as a resident. He was one of the driving forces behind the local communications industry and spent a great deal of time using his expertise and 'golden voice' to service and operate broadcasting equipment, call raffles, promote local services and raise money for badly needed dialysis equipment at Muswellbrook Hospital.

Upon receiving the award this year, Mr McBrien said he didn't think he had done anything special. Council wishes to acknowledge 2011's Citizen of the Year for his contributions to the wellbeing of the Shire and its residents.

◀ Gordon McBrien. Photo courtesy of the Muswellbrook Shire Hall of Fame website, www.muswellbrook.org.au/halloffame.

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 6pm 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 6.00pm, \$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. 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 during the autumn school holidays. Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre. Wilkinson Ave. Phone 6541 2999 for details or go to muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au/pools

Muswellbrook Bridge Club Mondays at 7pm, 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 Alex on 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 11am 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 6pm Denman RSL Club. Zumbatomic® (for kids) call Christine on 6547 5011 for details.

-
- | | | | |
|-----------|---|----------------|---|
| 11 Mar | International Women's Day Breakfast at Muswellbrook Library. 7:00am to 8:30pm. Contact Rosemary on 6543 1913 by 7th March. Cost \$15pp. | 12, 19, 26 Apr | The Giant Inflatable at Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre. \$3 per session. 11.00am - 12:00pm then 1:00pm - 2.00pm. |
| 14 Mar | Official opening of the new Muswellbrook Library | 25 Apr | Anzac Day Services at Muswellbrook and Denman |
| 18 Mar | Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre exhibition launch 6.00pm. 'There's a War on Objects & Memorabilia Anzac Day Museums & Galleries', 'Robert Sheperd Drawing', 'Selections From MW C' and '50+ The Art of Wit and Irony'. Exhibiting from 19th March - 22nd May. | 06 May | Bush Poet Evening 6.00pm at the Memorial Hall Denman. An evening of bush poetry and music, fun and frivolity. Call Kaye Martin on 0427 472 290 for details. |
| 22 Mar | Larger than life: Local personalities from the files of NSW State Records Presentation of colourful local personalities recorded in the NSW State Records by Christine Yates to celebrate Seniors Week 2011. Muswellbrook Library at 6pm. Wine and cheese will be available. • Denman Library at 2pm. Afternoon tea will be available. RSVP by 18 March on 65431913. | 07 May | Bush Poets Breakfast 8:30am at the Memorial Hall Denman. Call Kaye Martin on 0427 472 290 for details |
| 8 Apr | Upper Hunter Conservatorium Brass Quintet Performing music from 17th century madrigals to modern jazz. Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre at 7:30pm. Adult: \$15, Concession: \$10. Call 6541 4888 for details. | 07 May | Upper Hunter Wine & Food Affair showcasing the leading wine and food producers of the district, with entertainment for the whole family. 11:00am to 4:00pm, Ogilvie Street Denman. Go to www.denmanwineandfood.com for details. |
| 08/09 Apr | Upper Hunter Show Side Show Alley, rides, Bursting with Energy Expo, Showbags, Animal Nursery, Sheep Shearing, Vintage Display, Wood Chop Competition, Showgirl, Demolition Derby. Muswellbrook Showground. Go to www.upperhuntershow.com.au for details. | 28 May | Newcastle Festival Opera Amelia Farrugia - soprano, Artists of Newcastle Festival Opera, Newcastle Festival Opera Chapel conducted by Ian Cook. Adult: \$30, Concession: \$20 at Singleton Sacred Spaces Chapel at 7:30pm. Call 6541 4888 for details. |
| | | 28 May | Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre exhibition launch 6.00pm. 'Open Art Prize', 'Naidoc Week', '50+ Selection of Former Winners' Exhibiting from 29th May - 10th July. |

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.