

How to contact your council

Muswellbrook Shire Council Administration Centre

Campbells Corner
60-82 Bridge St,
Muswellbrook NSW 2333

PO Box 122 Muswellbrook 2333

(02) 6549 3700

council@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au
www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au

Business Hours:
8.30am – 4pm Monday to Friday

Council Facilities Usual Opening Hours

Muswellbrook Waste Management Facility

8am – 4pm
Seven days a week (excluding
public holidays)

Denman Transfer Station

Friday and Saturday: 9am – 4pm

Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre

Monday to Friday: 6am – 7pm
Saturday: 9am – 6pm
Sunday: 10am – 6pm

Muswellbrook Fitness Centre

Monday to Friday: 5.30am – 9pm
Saturday: 8.30am – 6.00pm
Sunday: 9.30am – 6.00pm

Denman Memorial Pool Summer Season

Monday to Friday:
6am– 7am, 11am – 6.30pm
Saturday/ Sunday 11am – 6.30pm

Muswellbrook Library

Monday to Friday: 10am – 5pm
Saturday: 10am – 1pm

Denman Library

Monday to Friday

Muswellbrook Regional Art Centre

Christmas & New Year Closures

Muswellbrook Shire Council Administration Centre and Library

Close: 12 noon Friday, 22 December 2023
Reopen: 8.30am Tuesday, 2 January 2024

Muswellbrook Shire Aquatic & Fitness Centre and Denman Pool

Close: 12 noon Sunday, 24 December 2023
Reopen: 6am Tuesday, 26 December 2023
Close: 12 noon Sunday, 31 December 2023
Reopen: 6am Tuesday, 2 January 2024

Muswellbrook Waste Facilities

Closed: Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day.

Kerbside Collection: Bins will be collected one day later than the usual collection day, e.g., Monday bins will be collected on Tuesday – and so on.

For any Council related emergencies call 6549 3700.

Any resident experiencing difficulties during this period can call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or Beyond Blue on 1800 512 348.

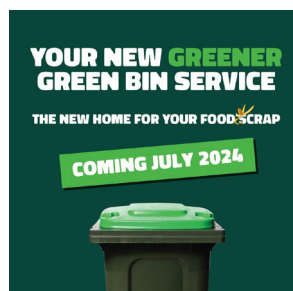
Why is Council introducing a Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) service?

Council is introducing FOGO in July 2024 as part of their commitment to sustainability and reducing waste. FOGO is also part of the *NSW Government's 20-year NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041*. All councils must provide a FOGO service by 2030.

Food and garden waste accounts for almost 40 percent of what goes into the average general waste bin, which takes up limited landfill space and releases harmful greenhouse gases when it breaks down.

By using the green lidded bin for food and garden waste, once the FOGO service commences, food waste will be turned into compost, a valuable resource, instead of going into landfill, which is good for the environment and helps to extend the life of landfill.

In the lead up to FOGO a benchtop kitchen caddy (bin), compostable liners and an information pack on "how to FOGO" will be provided. Once FOGO commences the green waste bin will be collected weekly and the red general waste bin will change from a weekly collection to a fortnightly collection.



December 2023

Community News

Message from the Mayor

Dear Residents,

As the festive season draws near, I find myself reflecting on a year marked by challenges and triumphs in equal measure and am filled with a sense of pride and gratitude for what we have achieved together.

It's been an exciting year of firsts, with the opening of significant community facilities including:

- Muswellbrook Animal Care Facility and Sustainability Hub - providing the best care for animals and the relocation of the well-loved Sustainability Hub
- Tarinpa (Hunter Beach) – natural waterways are among our greatest assets and this project has ensured we are all able to enjoy this great place
- Denman Heritage Village – developed in partnership with the Denman and District Heritage Village Committee housing an extensive historical collection from Jeff Wolfgang
- The Donald Horne Building – this building will drive our economic future with the STEM Innovation Lab to inspire our students and the Advanced Manufacturing Centre to aid business to diversify.

We have celebrated what makes our town special, hosting events that brought joy and unity to our community. From the Rock'n the Brook and the Blue Heeler Film Festival to community led events like the Great Cattle Dog Muster, the spirit of togetherness remained alive, supplying much-needed respite and enjoyment for families and individuals alike.

It has also been a year shadowed by economic uncertainties and the financial strains we are all experiencing. Despite these challenges we have made significant strides as a community and our town continues to show financial stability and growth.

As the Christmas lights twinkle and the festive cheer spreads, let us take a moment to appreciate our collective strength and the beauty of our rural home, which won the 2023 Tidy Towns Award for the rural category. 2024 will see progress on the redevelopment of the Muswellbrook Town Centre, the Youth Centre, Olympic Park Sports Precinct, Karoola and Simpson Park playground upgrades and continued road improvements.

We have much to be grateful for and are fortunate to be part of a welcoming and supportive community. As your mayor, my commitment to our Shire is unwavering. The road ahead may hold its share of challenges, but I am confident that together, we will foster a thriving community.

Here's to a Happy and Safe Christmas and a New Year filled with hope and possibilities.

Steve Reynolds



Celebrating Muswellbrook's "big thing" coin, from left, Derek Finnigan, Councillors Amanda Barry, Brett Woodruff, Louise Dunn, Graeme McNeill, De-Anne Douglas, Steve Reynolds, Rod Scholes, Jennifer Lecky, Darryl Marshall, Rohit Mahajan, Jeff Drayton. (Absent Mark Bowditch).



A "robot arm" took centre stage at the opening of the Donald Horne Building, watched by Member for Hunter, Dan Repacholi, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Member for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell and Mayor, Steve Reynolds.



Respected Elder Uncle Glen Morris and President of the Denman and District Heritage Village committee Jeff Wolfgang were jointly awarded the Citizen of the Year Award at the 2023 Australia Day celebrations.

January

The first official engagement for Council was Australia Day, with awards, a citizenship ceremony and celebrations. Significant and well-respected Elder, Uncle Glen Morris, and founder of Denman and District Heritage Village, Jeff Wolfgang were the Citizens of the Year. The Young Citizen of the Year Award went to 3 Brothers Recycling – Harley, Zane and Khi Dever.



Easter Bunny made his annual appearance at the Family Fun Day at Olympic Park.



Tarinpa (Hunter Beach) was officially opened in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

April

Hunter Beach Opening

Council endorsed the Draft 23-24 Operational Plan and 23-24 Budget, important documents that guide Council's programs every year. Many families flocked to the free Family Fun Day on Easter Saturday at Highbrook Park. Anzac Day drew large crowds to services at the Muswellbrook Cenotaph and Denman Memorial Park. Tarinpa (Hunter Beach) which provides direct access to the Hunter River, was officially opened.



A powerful worked titled Antara 2022 by Tuppy Ngintja Goodwin won the 2023 Muswellbrook Art Prize.

February

Ahead of the NSW State elections an Advocacy Agenda – a comprehensive wish list – was prepared. Lobbying on the community's behalf include seeking commitments for a long-promised bypass, revitalisation of the town centre, improved health services, and water security, among others. The Muswellbrook Art Prize was well attended with the \$10,000 prize going to Tuppy Ngintja Goodwin's Antara.



Derek Finnigan was named as Council's new General Manager.

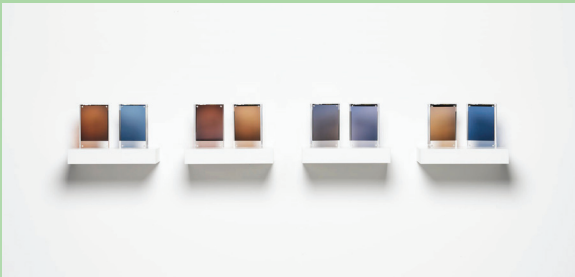


The James' rocked the crowd at the inaugural Rock'n the Brook.

March

Former Deputy General Manager and Council stalwart, Derek Finnigan, was appointed as General Manager. In a first for Council, a free concert, Rock n' the Brook, was held at Olympic Park. Featuring two headline acts – James Reyne and James Bundall – and a wide range of local talent. Plans for the construction of an Organics Recycling Facility at the Waste Facility were endorsed by Council.

2023 Highlights



The \$25,000 Mullins Conceptual Photography Prize attracted a record number of entries. The winner was Sun Kissed #1-4 by Chris Bowes.



Water main breaks kept works crews busy.

May

Several water breaks saw extensive works under Council's policy to replace aging infrastructure get underway. Applications to Resources for Regions, Round 7 for road works in Hill Street Muswellbrook, and Round 9, for the rehabilitation of road and upgrade to stormwater and drainage in Merton St Denman, were successful. A record number of entries were received for the Mullins Conceptual Photography Prize a national \$25,000 acquisitive prize that seeks to find Australia's best conceptual photographic works. June Council endorsed the concept plan for CBD Stage 7 streetscape improvements in Bridge St, along with construction of a "Pocket Park". CBD Stage 7 is a staged project which includes the demolition of unused buildings. As part of the public space network in the town centre, which includes Simpson Park and riparian areas along Muscle Creek and the Hunter River, it will offer a landscaped setting along the route between the larger open spaces.



The Prime Minister participating in the Smoking Ceremony



The Donald Horne Building, part of the Hunter Innovation Precinct, has created a lot of interest in the town centre.

July

Seven years in the making and the cornerstone of the Hunter Innovation Precinct, the Donald Horne Building was open by the Prime Minister of Australia the Hon. Anthony Albanese on 18 July. The extraordinary building houses an industrial prototyping facility and STEM Innovation Lab – a purpose-built space that provides students with the tools and mentorship to develop STEM skills.



The new Sustainability Hub. All smiles at the opening of the Muswellbrook Animal Care and Sustainability Hub.

October

The Muswellbrook Animal Care and Sustainability Hub was opened by Member for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell. Council endorsed the development of a tailored model for the region to collectively grow and promote the visitor economy. Denman Memorial Hall rolled out the red carpet and upped the glamour for the awards night and celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Blue Heeler Film Festival.



FOGO – a food and garden organics collection service – commencing mid-2024.



August

The NSW Government has mandated that all councils must supply a FOGO collection service by 2030. Muswellbrook Shire Council announced it will transition its existing Garden Organics service to a Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) service on 1 July 2024 as part of the commitment to sustainability and reducing waste. Once the service is running residents will be able to dispose of food waste materials in addition to garden waste using the existing green-lid bin. FOGO allows food to be added to the green lid garden waste bin for weekly collection so as it can be recycled into top quality compost.



The long-awaited Denman and District Heritage Village was opened by Denman collecting legend Jeff Wolfgang.

November

After many years in the planning, the Denman and District Heritage Village was opened to great fanfare by Jeff Wolfgang, who donated the extraordinary collection gathered over a lifetime. Congratulations must go to the diligent committee and Cr Brett Woodruff for their determination in bringing the project to fruition. Cr Brett Woodruff Councillor was presented with an Outstanding Service Award for 25 years of continuous service to Local Government at the Local Government NSW 2023 Conference Award Ceremony.



Blue Heeler cattle dogs – both real and imagined – ruled during the Great Cattle Dog Muster and the Blue Heeler Film Festival.



September

September brought plenty of blue heelers to town for the Great Cattle Dog Muster which was supported with special events at the art gallery and library and a great team of Pup Art! Dogs. Muswellbrook's beloved Big Blue Heeler took its place among nine other Aussie 'big things', to grace a new \$1 collectable coin, as part of the Big Things collection. The coin is based on Muswellbrook's Blue Heeler statue and incorporates an image of Campbells Corner adding an additional layer of local significance.



The "giving tree" at the Marketplace receives lots of generous visitors.



"Race to Space" with the summer reading challenge at the library.

December

In anticipation of the holiday season, the library launched "Race Across Space" as part of its Summer Reading Challenge, in collaboration with the shire's aquatic centres. Until 22 January 2024, junior library members, up to 12 years, are encouraged to get reading, log their books and earn free passes to local pools. As another busy and productive year at Council drew to a close the annual Christmas trees were installed, and the town festooned with festive decorations.