

NORTHERN AREAS COUNCIL

# Newsletter

Winter 2016

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## A Busy Time Planned for the New Financial Year

With the 2015/16 financial year drawing to a close, Council has been busily working through the budget process for the 2016/17 financial year. Council's focus remains on its long term financial plan, which remains on track at the half way point of the ten year forecast adopted back in 2011. This is despite difficulties which have arisen through the removal of Federal Government funding through loss of Supplementary Local Roads Funding and the paused indexation of Financial Assistance Grants for the third consecutive year.

Infrastructure management remains a key focus for Council for 2016/17, with continued focus on the Road Asset Management Plan. Such plans are set to expand further, with key tasks for the upcoming financial year including the finalisation of additional Asset Management Plans, including Council owned buildings and the Common Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS) at Jamestown, Laura and Gladstone.

It has also proved to be a busy time for capital projects, with work being undertaken on significant infrastructure including the Laura Flood Mitigation Project, Spalding Community Sporting Hub, Jamestown Swimming Pool Change Room Upgrade and the Georgetown Public Toilet Project. Whilst further work to the Laura Streetscape Project has been completed, in addition to an increased level of resealing of Council's sealed road network.

Council has also been fortunate to receive funding to upgrade intersections around the Jamestown Saleyards whilst funding has also been allocated to establish infrastructure at the Bundaleer Reservoir, to complement the recent announcement to permit recreational fishing. Funding has also been allocated from the State Government to establish a canteen at the Jamestown Regional Sports Stadium, with work earmarked to commence in the short term.

Changes are also underway from a management perspective, with the recent retirement of the Manager of Engineering Services Peter Broughill and the appointment of Peter Porch in to the restructured role of Manager of Operational Services, which oversees Engineering and Environmental Services.

The first half of the year has again been a busy period for volunteers, with many projects being undertaken by volunteer groups, with the assistance of Council's community fund, as well as the AGL Hallett Wind Farm Community Fund and the new Neoen Hornsdale Wind Farm Community Fund. Council is very proud of the volunteering efforts of the local community, with volunteering rates within the Council area, twice that of the state average.

## Council Meeting Rotation Calendar

Please note that Council has recently made an alteration to the commencement times of ordinary Council meetings from 1pm to 2pm.

Ordinary Meetings, have remained on the rotational calendar, as adopted back in November 2015. The upcoming meeting rotational schedule is:

|           |                                  |              |                                 |
|-----------|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 21 June   | Yacka Memorial Hall, 2pm         | 19 July      | Jamestown, Council Chamber, 2pm |
| 16 August | Gulnare, Memorial Institute, 2pm | 20 September | Jamestown, Council Chamber, 2pm |

## Northern Areas Council Community Projects Grants

Council recently allocated \$26,262 in Round Two of its Community project Grants.

Funding was allocated to eleven different projects, events or initiatives across the Council area. Successful applicants for the current round of funding are:

- Gladstone Community Development and Tourism Association, \$3,000 toward reinforcing of the former Gladstone High School Building
- Gladstone Hall Committee \$3,000 toward a Solar Panel installation at the Gladstone Memorial Hall
- Jamestown Development Association, \$3,000 toward the installation of an audio post along the Diggers Walk
- Jamestown Swimming Pool Management Committee \$3,000 toward the changing room facility upgrade
- Laura Memorial Civic Centre, \$3,000 toward an air conditioning upgrade
- Northern Highlands Soroptomists, \$1,800 toward stage one of the Ayr Street Restrooms area landscaping project
- Rocky River Historic and Art Society, \$1,600 toward guttering and downpipe upgrade at the heritage listed Art Gallery
- Southern Flinders Discovery Centre, \$927 toward the purchase of point of sale software
- Spalding District, \$3,000 toward a further kitchen upgrade at the Spalding District Hall
- Spalding Sports Association, \$3,000 toward the purchase of floor coverings for the Spalding Community Sporting Complex
- Stone Hut Development Committee, \$935 toward interpretive tourism signage

### Elected Member Contact Details

Elected Member contact details are available on Council's website [www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au](http://www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au)

## Sports Vouchers Program

The Sports Vouchers program is a Government of South Australia initiative administered by the Office for Recreation and Sport.

The program provides an opportunity for primary school aged children from Reception to Year 7 to receive up to a \$50 discount on sports membership/registration fees.

The purpose is to increase the number of children playing organised sport by reducing cost as a barrier to participate in sport.

For further information, please go to the website [www.sportsvouchers.sa.gov.au](http://www.sportsvouchers.sa.gov.au) or contact:

**Marie-Therese Smith**  
Mid North Starclub Field Officer  
0488 101 783  
[mtsmith@pirie.sa.gov.au](mailto:mtsmith@pirie.sa.gov.au)

## Farewell to Peter Broughill

Council has recently bid farewell to its Manager of Engineering Services Peter Broughill and wished him the very best for his retirement.

Peter was a member of the Northern Areas Council Team for just over four years, having served in Local Government for around three decades.

Council's staff and elected members farewelled Peter with a small morning tea and wished him and his wife Susan all the very best.

## Welcome to Peter Porch

Following the retirement of Peter Broughill, Council undertook a staffing restructure, to form the revised department of Operational Services. This Department now oversees the former Engineering Services and Environmental Services Departments.

Following the restructure, Council has welcomed Peter Porch as its the new Manager of Operational Services.

Peter comes to the Northern Areas Council from Burnie in Tasmania where he has served as the Works Manager for the Burnie City Council, having also served at the Devonport City Council.

We wish Peter all the very best in the new role

# Project Updates

## Spalding Community Sporting Complex

The project is now 70% completed and progressing on schedule. The majority of the external work has been completed with the internal fit-out underway. The Spalding Sports Association Canteen Committee has funded the equipment and appliances in the Canteen.

## Jamestown Swimming Pool Change Room Upgrade

Benton General Builders have commenced the internal change-room upgrade. The scope of work is a complete upgrade of the male, female and disabled change-rooms with new toilet and shower facilities provided in each change-room. The completed project will provide compliant change-room facilities.

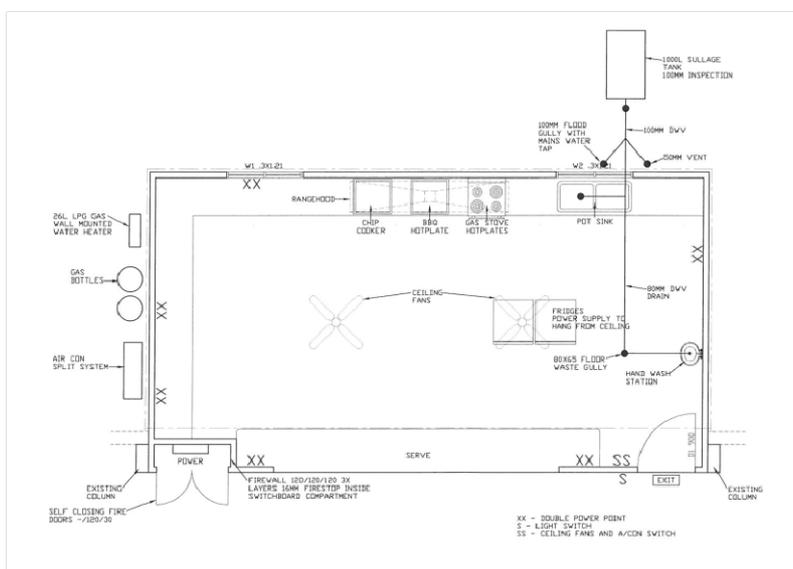
The original building was constructed in 1965 with a floor area of approximately 1880 square feet (175 square metres). The cost of construction was £5600 (approximately \$11,000). This project is funded by an Office of Recreation & Sport Grant with a loan taken out by the Jamestown Swimming Pool Management Committee.

## Jamestown Regional Sports Stadium (Big Shed) Canteen

Council called Tenders which closed on 4<sup>th</sup> April for the construction of a Canteen facility at the Upper North Regional Sports Stadium (the Big Shed).

The canteen will be attached to the eastern side of the building with a servery into the main floor area.

The canteen will be equipped with cooking appliances to provide light snacks during functions in the Big Shed.



## Laura Memorial Civic Centre Air Conditioning

Council has called for quotations for the installation of reverse cycle air-conditioning at the Laura Civic Centre. The installation of the new reverse cycle air-conditioning will be funded by the Laura Civic Centre Management committee and Council and will replace the existing roof-mounted evaporative conditioners. The existing air-conditioners are 40 years old and are no longer operating effectively.

## Georgetown Public Toilet Facility

The new public toilet facility at Georgetown has recently been completed. The project was funded by the Georgetown Community Development Association.

Council's contribution to the project was the demolition and removal of the existing buildings and the supply and installation of the sub-base.

The new facility has improved the amenities at the Playground, whilst offering improved facilities for people travelling through Georgetown on their way to the Flinders Ranges.



# Fire Prevention

## PREPARE.ACT.SURVIVE

### ARE YOU PREPARED?

#### *Fires too close to home this season.*

With the unfortunate spate of serious fires in recent times, many people have started to look more closely towards fire safety. This has reinforced that the protection of your home, family, pets and assets are your own responsibility.

Every home and every person's situation is different, that is why every household needs to develop their own Bushfire Emergency Plan.

The advantage of having a plan and writing it down is that you have thought through what is required to defend your home and there will be no need to panic on the day. The heartache of loss of pets can be avoided if, when developing a bushfire action plan, pets and livestock are included.

There are a number of things to consider when developing your plan, like deciding whether you should stay or go, and it is important that when making a plan you consider things such as, topography, vegetation, access, escape route, etc.

The CFS have developed a step-by-step guide to assist you in developing a Bushfire Action Plan. This will help you be prepared for the next Fire Danger Season and help you, your family and your property survive the impact of a bushfire.

## Winter Preparation Checklist for townships

- Remove dead vegetation from around the home and prune lower limbs of trees.
- Dispose of the material via mulching or at a Council tip.
- Ember-proof your home, e.g. check roof space for loose tiles and gaps and repair as necessary.
- Check Smoke Alarm operation
- Clear around trees
- Check reserve water supplies.
- Rehearse your Bushfire Action Plan with your family.

#### Keep informed:

- CFS website [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)
- CFS Bushfire Information Hotline: 1300 362 361 (TTY 133 677)
- On local ABC radio, FIVEaa, or one of the Emergency Broadcast Partner radio stations

## Other NEWS

### Recreational Fishing Approved for the Bundaleer Reservoir

In the later part of 2016, the Bundaleer Reservoir is earmarked to be available for recreational fishing. Council has been successful in securing funding of \$72,600 from the State Government's Reservoir Fishing Access Project Fund and an additional \$20,000 from the Federal Government's Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure Programme.

The infrastructure improvements will include the establishment of a car park, tables, park benches, signage and fencing improvements. Whilst the Reservoir will be stocked with fish, including Murray Cod, Golden and Silver Perch.

South Australian Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Ian Hunter said "It's fantastic to see the first offline reservoir opened up to recreational fishing in years – a key part of this Government's \$3.25 million package for recreational fishing. Approximately 277,000 South Australians enjoy wetting a line, and it's a great contributor to regional tourism in our State."

Council's CEO Colin Byles said "it's exciting for the region to be able to establish the Bundaleer Reservoir as an area for recreational fishing, attract more visitors to the area and also encourage others to stay a little longer, providing a boost to local tourism and the economy in general.

It will complement existing fresh water fishing established at the nearby Broughton River and a spot of fishing could add a nice stop over for those making a trip to the Flinders Ranges."



## School Drop Off Zone Complete in Gladstone

After an incredible amount of negotiation, the School Drop Off Zone for the Gladstone High School has now been completed.

Concerns had originally been raised with the Department of Education and Child Development some time ago, regarding the close proximity to trucks exiting the Viterra Grain Handling site adjacent to the Gladstone High School.

School Buses and trucks were sharing the road, which became particularly difficult during school drop off and collection times.

Following much discussion with various stakeholders, Council was able to work in conjunction with the member for Frome Geoff Brock, who was then able to negotiate with the South Australian Government to both fund and undertake the project.

The new project has seen the school buses dropping student off to the Southern end of the school, by entering and exiting the grounds of Ewart Oval, whilst grain trucks continue to utilise the road to the School's North.



## Jamestown Saleyard Access Upgrade

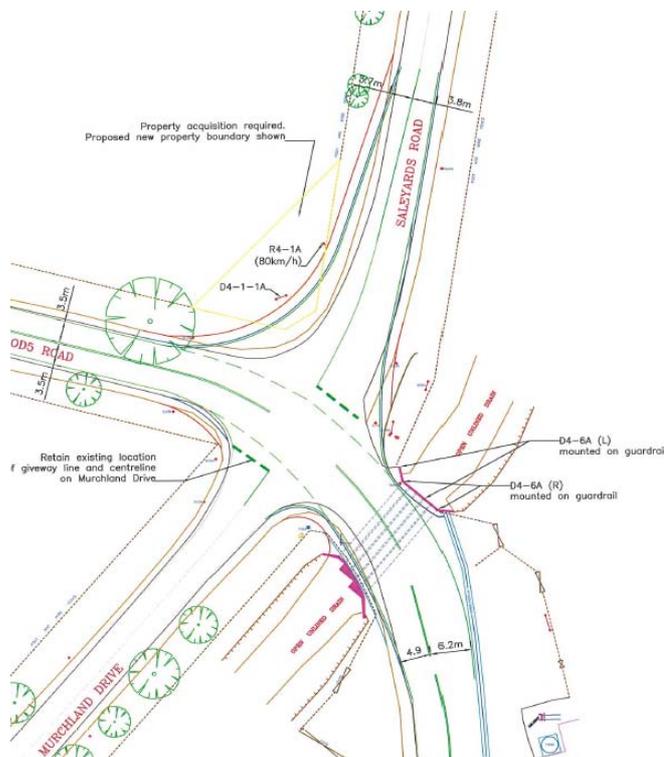
Council's has been fortunate enough to secure funding from the South Australian Government, through the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure to upgrade access to the Jamestown Saleyards.

The project includes the widening of sections of OD 5 Road in addition to alterations to the corners of Cockburn Road and RM Williams Way. This will ensure that Road Trains are able to access the facility.

Concerns over access for larger trucks to the area was identified in the report "Modern Transport System for Agriculture" which was released by the State Government during Mid North Country Cabinet in March 2015.

The project is anticipated to be completed and ready operational by 30 June 2016.

*Picture right a portion of the plan, showing the upgrade to the main entrance to the Saleyards from the OD 5 Road.*



## War Memorial Mural Unveiled at Gladstone ANZAC Day Service

Having undertaken the opening of the upgrade to the Gladstone War Memorial as part of the 2015 ANZAC Day Services, the Gladstone Ex Service Personnel Group, recently unveiled their latest addition to the memorial, being a remembrance mural.

The Mural was both designed and painted by students Brooke Cousins, Hayley Jackson, Taryn Kelly and Jack Gambling from the Gladstone High School under the watchful eye of teacher Mr John Fairburn.

Around one hundred people attended the unveiling, before enjoying a gun-fire breakfast at the Gladstone Bowling Club.



## Laura Flood Mitigation Project

Council's Operational Services staff have been busily constructing the early stages of the Laura Flood Mitigation Project.

Work is well underway to both widen and extend the floodway, to enable significant floodwater to be diverted from the Laura township in to the Rocky River.

Piping has recently been installed to allow water to flow from the upgraded floodway in to the Rocky River, with the concrete headwall also now complete. The project is earmarked for completion during 2017.



*The concrete headwall where the floodwater enters the Rocky River is now complete*



*The floodway behind Sawley Close which feeds in to underground piping to meet the Rocky River*

## Responsible Dog Ownership

Dog owners are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure their dogs are registered from 3 months of age.

If a dog is brought into the Council area the registration must be transferred from another Council if it is current or a new registration must be taken out with Northern Areas Council. Dog registration fees for 2016-17 will remain the same as in 2015-16.

Any community members who have concerns with dogs barking, harassing people or other animals are encouraged to contact Council's Dog Management Officer, Garry Harris on 0419 858 375.

## Shipping Containers

Shipping containers constitute development in terms of planning legislation and do require development approval from Council.

Although in most cases they are acceptable in out of town areas subject to exterior surfaces being painted or re-clad to suit the location. Council is concerned about their appearance and placement on land in residential areas without approval.

If a property owner is considering locating a shipping container for storage on their property please contact Council prior to purchase as each application must be assessed individually on merit.

## Roadside Overhanging Trees

Following concerns about overhanging tree branches causing difficulties on unsealed roads across the Council area, Council is seeking to undertake an assessment.

If residents have an area of concern please contact Council's Operational Services Department, who are in the process of accumulating the information.

## Public Question Time

Public Question Time is where a member of the community can appear at the Council meeting and ask a question to Council.

Questions can be in writing prior to the meeting so a researched answer can be provided. Alternatively a it can be asked from the public gallery on the meeting day.

Guidelines for can be found on Council's website [www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au](http://www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au)

## OPAL Lunch Box Challenge

Spalding and Gladstone Primary Schools recently participated in the OPAL Healthy Lunch Box Challenge promoted throughout our region.

It was fantastic to see and hear the positive response inspired by this challenge, and take a look at the many 'pick and mix' lunch boxes displayed by the proud students!!

Marie Brooks from Gladstone Primary School also advised "I've been inspired by our local OPAL team to think about creating new ideas for healthy lunchbox foods. We commenced creating our own healthy lunchbox delights this week in the cooking group, Terrific Tuesdays



Emma Young, OPAL Program Manager—0488 090 303  
Email: [Emma.Young@NACouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:Emma.Young@NACouncil.sa.gov.au)

## Council Contacts

### Dog Control Officer:

Garry Harris 0419 858 375

### After Hours Emergency Only

Chief Executive Officer 0417 844 813  
Manager Environmental Services 0409 286 542  
Manager Technical Services 0488 999 808  
Engineering Team Leader 0429 676 700  
Manager Corporate Services 0429 640 361

## Calendar of Council Meetings

Ordinary meetings of Council are held at venues across the Council area, on the third Tuesday of each month commencing at 2pm.

The general public are always welcome to attend

|                 |                  |     |
|-----------------|------------------|-----|
| Tue 21st June   | <b>Yacka</b>     | 2pm |
| Tue 19th July   | <b>Jamestown</b> | 2pm |
| Tue 16th August | <b>Gulnare</b>   | 2pm |

Upcoming meeting dates and venues are:

**For further meeting dates please visit**

[www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au](http://www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au)



**Principal Office—Jamestown**  
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm  
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Monday to Friday 9am-5pm  
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GLADSTONE SA 5473  
Ph: (08) 8662 2018 Fx: (08) 8662 2394  
Email: [ceo@nacouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:ceo@nacouncil.sa.gov.au)

**Spalding Office**  
Tuesday 10am-2pm  
Thursday 9am-5pm  
Town Hall, Main Street, SPALDING SA 5454  
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Email: [ceo@nacouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:ceo@nacouncil.sa.gov.au)