



Quick Win Rural Access Grants announced

Fourteen Wimmera community groups have received funding through the Rural Access Quick Win Grants Scheme.

The grants help support the inclusion of people of all abilities throughout the Wimmera community.

Not-for-profit community groups were eligible to apply for projects that had a direct benefit to residents of one of the four municipalities of the Wimmera region: Horsham, Hindmarsh, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack.

Horsham Rural City Council Director Community Services Kevin O'Brien said there was a positive response from the community.

"There are so many great projects that people are working on in the community that unfortunately not all the groups were successful with their application," Mr O'Brien said.

"We encourage groups to apply for other grants in the future especially through the Wimmera Councils grant programs.

"The main aim of the grant was to increase the inclusion of people of all abilities within the community and improves accessibility for everyone," he said.

The projects are expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

Successful community groups:

1. Horsham Table Tennis Association - upgrading of sporting equipment
2. Dimboola Outdoor Mens Shed - improving access to the shed
3. Horsham Riding for Disabled (RDA) - modifying the carriage to improve wheelchair access
4. Horsham Motor Cycle Club - creating a spectator area/hub to support special needs persons
5. Horsham Aquatic Centre YMCA - Access Swimming and Water Therapy Program
6. Woodbine Warracknabeal - fitting electrical side steps and handrails to buses
7. Wimmera Mobility Group - support of Wimmera Mobility Group meetings/activities
8. Wimmera Hearing Society - supporting the hearing screens to the General public project
9. Nhill Bowls Club -improve access to the bowling greens
10. Nhill and District Sporting Club Hockey Division - purchase of hockey goals
11. Natimuk Nursing Home - Natimuk Intergenerational Playgroup
12. Minyip Senior Citizens - Line dancing for beginners group
13. Horsham Urban Landcare group - All accessible disability garden
14. West Wimmera Health Service Cooina Kookaburras - support participation in Tri State Games

IMMUNISATION CLINIC

Thursday 2 August 2018, 8.30am to 10am
Tuesday 14 August 2018, 4pm to 5.30pm
Kalkee Rd Children's & Community Hub
Enquiries: Shirley Brown Ph: 5382 9769



HRCC moves to monthly meetings

Horsham Rural City Council has voted to change from fortnightly meetings to monthly.

Council meetings will now be held on the fourth Monday of each month, with briefing meetings on the first and second Monday.

The change was adopted at Monday's Ordinary Council Meeting.

Chief Executive Officer Sunil Bhalla said there were 31 similar sized Councils in Victoria and only three (including HRCC) had more than one meeting per month.

"By reducing the frequency of meetings, Council can achieve significant cost savings and efficiencies," Mr Bhalla said.

"In today's environment, where it's costing more for Council to service the community, it's important that council continues to find cost savings and ways which it can work more efficiently.

"Fewer Council meetings with a more extensive agenda will mean significant savings and more efficient use of resources.

"It will also improve the work/life balance for Councillors and staff," he said.

Mr Bhalla said it was important that Council continued having two briefing meetings per month so that Councillors were fully informed on topics to be debated.

"Briefing sessions allow Councillors, staff and community stakeholders to hold preliminary discussions on the topics to be discussed in the next meeting's agenda.

"They generally run for longer than the actual Council meetings but they are held in a less formal manner and help make the Ordinary Council Meetings run efficiently.

"We will now have double the agenda items at each meeting. So we will now have two briefing sessions before every ordinary meeting," he said.

Meeting dates for the rest of 2018 will be 27 August, 24 September, 22 October, 26 November and 17 December.

There will also be a Statutory Meeting on 8 November, where meeting dates for 2019 will be set.

Council meetings will continue to be held at the Civic Centre, Roberts Avenue, Horsham. The 5.30pm starting time will also remain unchanged.

Meals on Wheels thankous

We sincerely thank the following businesses, community groups and individuals who delivered Meals on Wheels during June: Red Cross, NAB, Community Options, GMMWater, St Brigid's College, Mal and Belinda Faux, Vince and Gwen Antonucci, Ian Clough, Denise Dolby, Francie Dumesny, Rotary Club of Horsham, Mr & Mrs Joseph Toy, Bob and Maxine Ferguson and Maree Thompson.

Impounded sheep for sale

Council's Community Safety Unit has recently impounded sheep which have been reported wandering roads, posing a threat to public safety.

As the sheep have not been claimed, they will be offered for sale at public auction at Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange on 25 July, 2018.

The following sheep are available for purchase.

One full mouth Merino ewe impounded in O'Callaghans Parade on 11 June 2018.

Four second cross two tooth weaners - one wether and three ewes impounded in Old Hamilton Road on June 29, 2018.



COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

Cr Pam Clarke

Councillor role more than meetings

As a Councillor, I am privileged to be in a position to attend Council Meetings and help make decisions on behalf of the community.

The Council Chamber is a stage where you are accountable to the public, all of your resolutions are recorded in history and anybody can attend and question your decisions.

Attending Council meetings is a very important responsibility and one that most people in the community are familiar with.

However there is much more to a Councillor's role than attending the required ordinary meetings, whether they occur fortnightly or monthly.

Our Council this week resolved to move from two meetings per month to one.

You can be assured that this reduction in formal meetings will not make our Councillor's diaries any less busy.

As far as direct contact with the community, there is ample opportunity for people to engage with Council.

Whether it be at Community Consultation Sessions, such as the one at Clear Lake on Monday or a one-on-one meeting or committees we attend on behalf of council, events, or a phone call - we are always very keen to hear what the public has to say.

Our door is always open and we feel it's important to talk with as many people as possible, so that the community's views can be conveyed not only to Ordinary Council Meetings but also the briefing sessions.

Away from day-to-day operations, there is much to be done to make the Wimmera a better place to live and work.

Some of the projects that I am involved with include advocating for more doctors in Horsham.

Attracting medical staff to the Wimmera is not a new challenge, but it is well worth the effort because every small win has a major impact.

We are also fighting for the Federal Government to recognise the importance of Resilience Funding in their flood recovery program, which will make our roads and infrastructure more resistant to flooding, so we are not paying for repair works whenever there is a wet year.

Decentralisation and diversification of our economy are also my focus and we are continuing to push for Wimmera passenger rail services through the Western Rail Lobby Group. Rest assured, we are making progress.

These are only a few of the many issues we advocate for. Others include, more mental health services and the need for changes to the NDIS better meet their needs, better funding for regional cities, recognising the significance of providing services for the greater region, long term security of roads funding and the 15 hours of kindergarten funding.

These advocacy projects are vital issues. They impact on our ability to grow and prosper as a community.

They each have local focus group meetings which we attend. We need to read the reports and understand the issues.

We need to communicate with our community on our progress and travel long distances as we battle to make things happen.

Council to visit Clear Lake community

Horsham Rural City Council, including staff and Councillors will meet with the Clear Lake community at a consultation session on Monday 23 July 2018.

Residents are asked to submit any matters that might require research prior to the meeting to Fiona Kelly on 5382 9725 or fiona.kelly@hrcc.vic.gov.au.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm at the former Clear Lake Primary School.

Weekly Works Update

A full list of works that are underway by Council staff and contractors in public areas this week are available online at www.hrcc.vic.gov.au/Residents/Roadsand-Transport/RoadMaintenance or follow the Weekly Works Update link.

MINERALS EXPLORATION IN WESTERN VICTORIA

We recently announced a tender that could see new exploration for copper, gold and other metals in the Stavelly Arc, western Victoria.

Informal pop-in sessions will be held for the local community and landholders to find out more about:

- the ground release (including maps)
- minerals exploration and how it is regulated
- the geology of the region

No need to book - just pop in between 4pm-7pm.

Sessions will include opportunities to ask questions and share experiences. There will be short presentations on the hour.

Township	Venue	4pm-7pm
Mortlake	Mortlake Golf Club, Hopetoun Street	Monday 16 July
Dunkeld	Sterling Place, Dunkeld Community Centre, 14 Sterling Street	Tuesday 17 July
Willaura	Willaura Memorial Hall, 96 Main Street	Wednesday 18 July
Cavendish	Soldiers Memorial Hall, 32 Barker Street	Thursday 19 July
Laharum	Laharum Community Hall, 1574 Northern Grampians Road	Wednesday 25 July
Balmoral	Mechanics Institute Hall, Glendinning Street	Thursday 26 July
Ararat	Ararat Bowling Club, High Street	Monday 30 July
Nhill	Nhill Bowling Club, 5-7 Davis Avenue	Tuesday 31 July
Horsham	Sunnyside Bowling Club, Charles Street	Thursday 2 August

For further information contact : mdv@ecodev.vic.gov.au or call 0418 293 419

Community Engagement Sessions

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday 27 August 2018 - 5.30pm

Civic Centre, Roberts Ave

All welcome