

Blooming good careers in local government



SKILLED: Recently qualified horticulturalists Lauren Player and Montana Petering are pictured at the newly-opened Nature Play Park. The parks and gardens crew is a multi-skilled team tasked with the beautification of the municipality's parks, reserves and urban streetscapes. HRCC also employs trainees and apprentices in the fields of carpentry, diesel mechanics, information technology and business administration.

Two of Horsham Rural City Council's parks and gardens team members have finished three-year apprenticeships and are now looking forward to long careers in horticulture. Lauren Player and Montana Petering have officially completed Certificate III in Parks and Gardens Horticulture. Both are now working as fully qualified members of the HRCC parks and gardens team.

LAUREN PLAYER

What started your interest in gardening?

I grew up in Queensland and have always enjoyed being outdoors. I particularly like the practical side of my job. Planting out trees and flowerbeds and creating great displays which all the community can enjoy is very rewarding.

What's it like to work in the parks and gardens team?

Council has provided me with the opportunity to progress, and has supported me to develop my skills. They provide a safe and supportive work environment, and I really enjoy working with my team. They bring experience and knowledge from different backgrounds and so there is a lot that we can learn from each other.

What equipment have you learned to use?

Dingo Mini Digger, skid steer loader, mini street sweeper, gang mower, front deck mower, Husky mower, cricket pitch roller, chainsaw, pole saw, tree chipper and smaller tools such as a whipper snipper, hedge trimmer, backpack blower, handheld blower and an edger.

MONTANA PETERING

What do you like about your job?

As a gardener at the Council there is a wide variety of jobs and tasks to do such as hedge trimming, planting annuals, street sweeping footpaths and planting out new gardens beds.

This variety of tasks means there is always something different happening at work. I like the flexible work arrangements at the Council working an eight-day fortnight. I also enjoy working with my colleagues as they share the same interests of gardening and make work more enjoyable.

What skills have you developed?

I've learnt how to maintain public gardens and reserves, weed control, chemical use and handling, tree maintenance, plant and turf nutrition and mowing and irrigation maintenance.

Would you recommend a career in Local Government?

I definitely recommend a career at the Council for school leavers that like hands-on work and enjoy working outside every day. You will learn lots of new skills and gain great knowledge in the job you're working as well as enjoying working outside in the fresh air. The environment at the Council is very friendly and co-workers will help teach you so you can do your job to the best of your ability.

What do you enjoy about living and working in the Wimmera?

I can go for a walk along the Wimmera River and greet others with a smile. I also enjoy how friendly the community is and the opportunities there are such as playing for a local football and netball club, going to see a performance at the Town Hall, eating out for tea, or catching up with friends at a park or nice spot.

NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OPEN

Horsham's new pedestrian bridge across the Wimmera River is now open.

The Hamilton Street Bridge connects 2000 people living in newly developed residential areas on the southeast side of the river with Horsham's central business district, several schools and Wimmera Base Hospital.

The 74-metre cable-stay bridge's construction was funded thanks to matching \$1.225 million contributions from both the Victorian and Commonwealth governments.

The bridge includes lighting, so it is safe to use at night and an additional ramp to connect Menadue Street is still to be constructed.

"I am proud that our council has been able to attract this substantial amount of money for a project in our regional city," Mayor Robyn Gulline said.

"The entire project has been funded at no cost to our ratepayers which is a terrific outcome for the many community members who have called for this bridge to be constructed for years," she said.

Planning for a second road bridge across the river remains a priority for Council.

HRCC is currently working with Regional Roads Victoria to develop a feasibility study for an alternative truck route through Horsham.

This will include another vehicle bridge across the river at an appropriate location away from the centre of the city.



TENDERS AND RFQ

Q54/2023

QUANTONG OVAL DRAINAGE WORKS

Supply and installation of box culverts at Quantong Recreation Reserve.
Closes 12noon, Thursday 22 June

23-041

PROVISION OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, HORSHAM AQUATIC CENTRE HYDROTHERAPY FACILITIES

Construction-ready plans and documents suitable for tender.
Closes 12noon, Thursday 29 June

Q55/2023

LANDSCAPING - THE STATION YOUTH CENTRE

Landscaping at the front section of the Council facility at 14-16 Pynsent St Horsham.
Closes 12noon, Monday 3 July

All tender, EOJ and RFQ details at hrcc.vic.gov.au



Next Council Meeting: Monday 26 June 2023 - 5.30pm

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