



COMMUNITY NEWS



DECEMBER, 2024



FESTIVE SHOPPING

Residents are encouraged to shop local to boost the local economy.

As the holiday season approaches, residents are encouraged to embrace the spirit of Christmas by supporting local businesses while enjoying the festive atmosphere throughout the region.

Shopping locally goes beyond finding gifts – it's a chance to contribute to the local economy. Spending within the region directly supports the local businesses, helping sustain jobs, schools, and community groups. The impact extends across the community, creating a ripple effect that benefits us all.

In December 2023, local data revealed that \$76.9 million was

spent within the region, of that \$22.6 million was visitor spend underscoring the importance of shopping local.

This year, festive holiday decorations including Christmas trees, wreaths and garlands will be installed in Mudgee, Gulgong, Rylstone, and Kandos providing a joyful feel throughout the region.

In 2023 Council contributed \$200,000 towards festive decorations in response to community requests.

76.9m total spend in December 2023

22.6 m visitor spend in December 2023

200K contribution by Council towards festive decorations



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

It's been a productive and rewarding year at Council, with many achievements to celebrate. Over the past 12 months we've made significant improvements to our local roads, enhancing safety and ease of travel for the entire community and for visitors alike. Road upgrades and sealing projects have brought greater comfort and accessibility to the areas we all share.

This holiday season, I encourage everyone to support our local businesses by shopping locally. Your purchases help sustain our regional economy and safeguard jobs for our residents.

As a reminder, a by-election will take place on Saturday, 7 December. Residents can visit the NSW Electoral Commission website at elections.nsw.gov.au to find their nearest polling station.

Residents are also encouraged to participate in the Community Strategic Plan Survey delivered with this edition of Community News, your input is vital in shaping the regions future.

On behalf of Council, I wish everyone a joyful holiday season with loved ones. For those travelling long distances, please take care on the roads.

Mayor Des Kennedy

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY-CELEBRATING COUNCIL ACHIEVEMENTS

Mid-Western Regional Council is pleased to present highlights from the State of Our Region Report, capturing key achievements from the previous term of Council.

ENHANCING PUBLIC SPACES AND ACCESSIBILITY

Council's commitment to accessible, enjoyable public spaces has delivered substantial upgrades across the region. The new Mudgee River Walk, extending along the Cudgong River from Lawson Park to Putta Bucca, is a scenic trail designed for residents of all ages and abilities.

An all-new inclusive play space was built at the Rylstone Showground. The playground features an inclusive carousel, swings, a climbing tower with slides, flying fox, sensory play stations, nature play stations, shaded seating, and a picnic area, offering a fun and accessible environment for all children.



PUTTA BUCCA WETLANDS

Putta Bucca Wetlands has been upgraded to enhance its appeal for residents, visitors, and school groups. New additions include a 68 metre boardwalk, picnic shelters, expanded parking, a sheltered barbecue area, and a native bee garden. These improvements not only provide greater opportunities for outdoor activity but also integrate the Wetlands into local school curriculums as an important educational resource, promoting environmental awareness and engagement with nature.



SMART WATER METERS

Between 2019 and 2022, Council installed smart water meters in 9,000 connections across the region as part of a multi-year project aimed at reducing water wastage. Before these meters were introduced, up to 140 million litres of water were lost annually due to leaks. The new meters provide real-time data to the YourWater portal, enabling both Council and residents to monitor water usage more effectively.



FOOTPATHS IN THE REGION

Significant upgrades have been made to pedestrian pathways across the Mid-Western Region. Key improvements were made on Cudgong Street in Rylstone, Rogers Street extending south toward Dabee Road in Kandos, Tallawang Street to Medley Street in Gulgong, Ulan Road Mudgee and Lions Drive Mudgee. These enhancements have substantially improved pedestrian access and safety in these areas.



NEWS IN BRIEF

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

These school holidays we are inviting children to join us on a journey to Neverland by participating in our magical Summer Reading Program over December and January. Register at your local Library branch and join in the fun for your chance to win great prizes. Keep track of your reading, and complete bonus activities to earn extra tickets in the prize draw. Follow the Library Facebook page for more details.

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN B?

During this summer festive season, let's keep in mind the importance of planning for a safe journey home after a night out. If you've consumed alcohol, please refrain from driving and instead have a backup plan ready. In December and January let's all work together to enhance road safety by designating a sober driver. Your responsible choices can help make our roads safer for everyone.

AUSTRALIA DAY

Celebrate the outstanding contributions of local community members at the 2025 Australia Day awards. Join us for the Australia Day ceremony at ANZAC Memorial Park, Gulgong, on Sunday, 26 January 2025. The event will kick off with a free barbecue breakfast at 8am, followed by the official ceremony and award presentations at 9am. For more information, please visit Council's website.

SUBMIT A BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR COUNCIL PROJECTS

Mid-Western Regional Council has initiated the budget planning process for the next financial year and is encouraging residents to participate by submitting proposals. Residents have the opportunity to present 'Community Plan Proposals' (CPPs) for consideration in the 2025/26 Operational Plan. Proposals can encompass new infrastructure, projects, activities, and region-wide improvements. The Operational Plan outlines Council's commitments for the upcoming financial year.

Additionally, it will provide information about measures and time lines to accomplish these projects. The plan will include critical elements such as the Council's Revenue Policy (including the Rating Model), proposed Fees and Charges for 2025/26, the Capital Works Program, Annual Budget, and Delivery Program. Proposals can be made on Council's website from 27 November 2024 until 10 January 2025. Visit Council's website for more information.



BY-ELECTION VOTING 7 DECEMBER

Residents in the Mid-Western Regional Council Area will head to the polls on Saturday, 7 December, for a local government by-election. This election was called at Council's first meeting following the resignation of a sitting Councillor.

If your enrolled address is within the Mid-Western Regional Council Area, voting in this by-election is compulsory. Voting options include pre-poll (early voting) at designated venues, in-person voting at polling places on election day, postal voting, and telephone-assisted voting for electors who are blind or have low vision.

For more information, visit Council's website at midwestern.nsw.gov.au.



COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN SURVEY

Residents will have received a Community Survey from Council along with this edition of Community News. The survey is part of a vital engagement process supporting the ongoing review and development of the Community Strategic Plan. Insights gathered through this engagement will help the newly elected Council shape key strategies and actions for the short and long term. To connect directly with residents, Council held roadshows in Mudgee, Gulgong,

Rylstone, and Kandos throughout November, offering an opportunity to discuss community concerns and aspirations for the region's future. Residents are encouraged to participate in the survey to ensure that their voices are heard. Council is committed to meeting community needs and has engaged with key stakeholders, community groups, schools, and residents of all ages.



RECYCLE YOUR WRAPPING

Ensure a green Christmas by recycling your wrapping paper and cardboard boxes in your blue bin or at the local waste facility. To minimise waste and environmental impact, think about green gift options like plants, seeds, experience certificates or choosing second hand items. Recycling mindfully this Christmas is the best gift you can give to the environment.

COOL OFF AT THE POOL

Community pools in Mudgee, Kandos and Gulgong are supervised by qualified staff with a range of facilities for families, swimmers and groups. For regular users, season passes are available on Council's website. Family concession passes start at \$188 for two adults and three children. Full price family passes start at \$266. For more information and opening hours visit midwestern.nsw.gov.au.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Christmas carols for Kandos and Rylstone will be held on Saturday 7 December, 6pm – 8.30pm at the Kandos Community Hall. Celebrations will feature the Wollemi Singers, Mudgee Concert Band and the Kandos Primary School Choir. Meet Santa Clause, bring a picnic and join in for a singalong. Food and drinks will be available for purchase at the event. For more information visit Council's website.

GULGONG CHRISTMAS

Gulgong is holding their Christmas celebration's at Anzac Park on 14 December, 5pm- 8pm. This family-friendly event boasts a variety of activities for children, such as games, face painting, water slide, and a jumping castle. Santa Clause is set to make a special appearance, and a gold coin donation BBQ will be on-site serving up ample food and beverages.



CR DES KENNEDY
MAYOR
6378 2850



CR ALEX KARAVAS
DEPUTY MAYOR
0428 670 905



CR MARCUS CORNISH
0437 549 237



CR KATIE DICKER
0407 234 849



CR ELWYN LANG
0458 595 380



CR ROBBIE PALMER
0407 246 381



CR PETER SHELLEY
0403 156 405



CR PERCY THOMPSON
0428 740 226
6374 0226

EVENTS CALENDAR



6,7,8
DEC

Town Hall Cinema

Mudgee Town Hall

Generally held on the first weekend of each month. Adults \$15, Children/concession \$10 and children under 5 free. Bookings and screenings on Council's website.



6
DEC

Mudgee Cup

Mudgee Racecourse

The Mudgee Cup will make its return this year. A fun day out with a seven race program and fashions on the field.

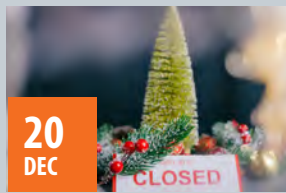


11
DEC

Mid-Western Regional Council Meeting

Council Chambers, Market Street, Mudgee from 5.30pm

Meeting live-stream available on Council's website.



20
DEC

Council Christmas period closure

Customer Service Centres, Works Depots and Libraries close from 12 noon on Friday 20 December, and re-open 2 January 2025.



21
DEC

Mudgee Showground Carols

Hosted by Rotary Club of Mudgee, enjoy local entertainment, food, and Christmas carols. FREE entry, gates open at 4pm.



25
DEC

Christmas Day

Council pools will be closed on Christmas Day, open Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

All information correct at the time of publication. Events may be subject to change. Please contact event organisers for further details.



Stay up to date with Council news as it happens...

like or follow 'Mid-Western Regional Council' on Facebook and LinkedIn.

Follow '@choosemudgeeregion' on Instagram, follow 'mwrCouncil' on TikTok.

The **Bluett** AWARD
2022 WINNER

Mid-Western Regional Council

86 Market Street | PO Box 156 MUDGEE 2850
T 02 6378 2850 or 1300 765002 | F 02 6378 2815
E council@midwestern.nsw.gov.au
midwestern.nsw.gov.au

Live.

The region is set for a festive atmosphere with Christmas decorations adorning Mudgee, Gulgong, Rylstone and Kandos. Christmas trees will be on display throughout the region at the Town Hall Mudgee, Coronation Park Gulgong, the Rylstone Administration Centre, and Kandos Community Hall. Christmas wreaths and garlands will also be displayed on prominent buildings throughout the region. Council allocated \$200,000 towards this project in 2023 in response to the communities' request for more Christmas decorations.

Work.

Mid-Western Regional Council is an award-winning organisation offering a range of career opportunities in areas such as admin, planning and development, water supply, parks and gardens, libraries, operations and community services. Council is an equal opportunity employer and values diversity in its people. For current positions vacant, go to 'Careers' on Council's website.

Invest.

Do you have friends or family considering a move to the Mudgee Region? Check out the Choose Mudgee Region website for essential comprehensive information on employment, housing options, and the local economy. The site also offers up-to-date data and support information for business looking to invest. Visit choosemudgeeregion.com.au.

Visit.

This holiday season, visit the Mudgee Arts Precinct to experience the MAP Portrait Prize and Next Gen Portrait Prize exhibitions, on display until 2 February 2025. Featuring captivating works by talented finalists from within the Mid-Western Region and across Australia, the exhibition showcases a diverse range of art forms, including painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, ceramics, and video. Alongside these impressive pieces, the Next Gen Portrait Prize highlights the creativity of local students.