



NOMINEES AND AWARD WINNERS RECOGNISED AT

AUSTRALIA DAY IN GULGONG

(L-R), Joanne Taranto, Carol Jones and Mayor Des Kennedy

Australia Day Award recipients were honoured across seven categories at this year's celebrations in Gulgong.

A large crowd gathered for the official ceremony at Anzac Memorial Park, Gulgong. The achievements of local citizens were celebrated and honoured during the presentation, led by Mayor Des Kennedy and Australia Day Ambassador Joanne Taranto in celebration of outstanding residents.

Local charity volunteer Carol Jones was awarded the prestigious title of Citizen of the Year for her dedication to the community as President of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. Carol works tirelessly as an advocate for people experiencing disadvantage within the region. Other recognised categories included Young Citizen of the Year (Grace Pearce), Community Event of the Year (Mudgee Lions Eye Health Programme for Children), Music and Arts (Tyrolin Puxty), Sports Person of the Year (Chelsea Mottershead), Volunteer Services Award (Lorraine Stewart) and the Wall of Reflections (David Bruce Lester).

During the ceremony new citizens also made a pledge of commitment and were presented with citizenship certificates, representing a shared dedication to the values that define the Australian way of life.

The 2026 Australia Day celebrations will be held in Rylstone.



Grace Pearce

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Congratulations to our Australia Day winners and nominees, including our Citizen of the Year, Carol Jones. It's always great to see our community members rewarded for their hard work and dedication.

This month there are plenty of events happening across the region. Show time is always a highlight in February, with Mudgee, Gulgong, Rylstone and Kandos showcasing the best of the season's agricultural produce. Complementing the agricultural theme, Mudgee Arts Precinct is hosting two exhibitions focused on rural life. *The*

Good by Anna Louise Richardson and *Udder Bliss: Life on the Farm*, both exhibitions are open throughout February and March.

Charity Shield returns to Glen Willow Stadium on 22 February, featuring the South Sydney Rabbitohs v St George Illawarra Dragons. Now in its seventh appearance in Mudgee, this event promises to be a fantastic experience for all.

Lastly, Council is seeking input for the new Development Control Plan. I strongly encourage you to share any feedback during the engagement process.

Mayor Des Kennedy

COMMITTED TO INVESTING IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

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.

CULTURAL WORKSHOPS BUILDING

The Cultural Workshops Building is part of the Mudgee Arts Precinct and provides state-of-the-art facilities that support creative and educational pursuits within the community. Located close-by the main gallery and Mudgee Region Tourism, the Mudgee CBD, Sculpture Walk and Cudgegong River, the centre features a range of hireable spaces suitable for various activities. It includes a digital classroom and technical suite equipped with recording and editing facilities, large and small workshop areas, co-working spaces, a kitchenette and high-speed Wi-Fi.



BILLY DUNN OVAL GULGONG

This project involved the construction of new amenities at Gulgong's Billy Dunn Oval. The facility now includes female change rooms, toilets, showers, a referee's bathroom, and storeroom. These features help address the need for dedicated spaces for female players and enhance their experience and participation in local sports. This project was funded by Council and grant funding from the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund.

LED STREET LIGHT UPGRADES

Council has upgraded street lighting across the region, installing more energy efficient LED lights. This initiative helps to reduce Council's carbon footprint while delivering long-term cost savings for the community. Not only do these lights use less energy, they also have a longer lifespan. This means while reducing energy consumption and greenhouse emissions, there is reduced need for frequent replacements and minimised waste.



KANDOS AND RYLSTONE DOG PARKS

Rylstone and Kandos residents and their pets can now take advantage of off-leash dog areas. With its scenic backdrop on the Cudgegong River, the dog park in Rylstone is located at the showground, adjacent to the recently updated children's sensory playground. Meanwhile, the Kandos Dog Park is in Darton Park, with Mount Cumber Melon overlooking a secure, fenced area that provides seating, shelter, and drinking water for dogs.

HAVE A SAY ON FUTURE PLANS

Council is inviting residents to take part in a series of quick online surveys to help shape the Towards 2040 Community Plan. Each survey focuses on key topics, diving deeper into feedback gathered from recent community engagements. Surveys take less than three minutes to complete and can be found on Council's website at midwestern.nsw.gov.au/Your-Say/Towards-2040-Community-Plan-Surveys.

NSW SENIORS FESTIVAL

From 3 to 16 March the region will celebrate our seniors with an exciting program of activities across Mudgee, Gulgong, Rylstone and Kandos. Events include Senior Citizen of the Year Awards, the Seniors Arts Competitions and more. For more information visit midwestern.nsw.gov.au/Community/Events-directory/NSW-Seniors-Festival.

WIRIMBILI COMMUNITY GARDEN GATHERING

Join Wirimbili Indigenous Plants Community Garden and Cultural Centre for a special gathering on the first Friday of each month from 4pm-6pm at Wirimbili, 28 Angus Avenue, Kandos. This is a free event with live music, where all are invited to share their talents such as music, poetry or storytelling in a family friendly environment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

TICKETS ON SALE FOR RABBITOHS V DRAGONS CHARITY SHIELD 2025

It's not too late to get tickets to the Charity Shield on Saturday, 22 February at Glen Willow Stadium. Thousands of fans are expected to make the trip to Mudgee to watch the South Sydney Rabbitohs and St George Illawarra Dragons battle it out.

Gates open from 12.30pm with the curtain raiser at 12.40pm, setting the stage for the main game at 3pm.

Attendees are encouraged to utilise the complimentary shuttle service available in Mudgee. Buses will make regular rounds, picking up and dropping off passengers in the

CBD and West Mudgee starting at 12.15pm and concluding at 2.45pm. The bus service will recommence after the conclusion of the game from approximately 5.30pm. Buses will be operating from Gulgong, Rylstone, and Kandos. This service can be added when booking tickets.

General admission tickets start at \$28 for adults, \$18 for concession card holders, \$18 for juniors (5 - 15 years old) and \$80 for a family of four.

Visit 123tix.com.au for your tickets.



DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN HAVE YOUR SAY

Council is in the early stages of producing a new Development Control Plan (DCP) for the Mid-Western Regional local government area.

A Development Control Plan is a valuable planning tool that helps guide the assessment of Development Applications. It provides detailed planning and design guidelines for new developments, supporting the goals and objectives of the Mid-Western Regional Local Environmental Plan 2012.

As part of the early engagement process, we invite the community to participate and share insights through online surveys and attending dedicated information and consultation sessions. For more details visit Council's website.

COUNCIL RECEIVES A CLEAN AUDIT OUTCOME

Council's Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 have been audited with positive results. The Financial Statements provide information regarding Council's financial performance and position. They are audited by the NSW Audit Office and are then sent to the NSW Office of Local Government.

The results of the audit were presented at the November meeting of Council by the NSW Audit Office and showed that Council performed well

against the relevant benchmarks for several key performance indicators. These include operating income, capacity to service loan borrowings, and the capacity to operate for more than three months from available funds.

Financial Statements can be found on the Council's website: midwestern.nsw.gov.au/Council/Policies-plans-and-reporting/Financial-statements-and-reports.



COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Council meetings are held at 5.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month at Council Chambers (86 Market Street Mudgee). Council meetings will be on the following dates in the first half of 2025: 19 February, 19 March, 16 April, 21 May, 28 May, 18 June. All meetings are live streamed and recordings available on Council's website.

SAFE BATTERY DISPOSAL

Did you know lithium-ion batteries are the fastest growing fire risk in New South Wales? To prevent hazards and keep the community safe, be sure to dispose of batteries correctly at the Mudgee Community Recycling Centre (CRC), CRC cabinets at Kandos and Gulgong Waste Transfer Station or at any B-cycle drop off locations. For further details, please refer to the waste guide on Council's website.

MONDAY HISTORY TALKS

Discover local and family history through engaging guest speakers, interactive discussions, and opportunities to network with fellow history enthusiasts. Held on the first Monday of the month at 10-11.30am from February to November at Mudgee Library. Bookings are essential, visit mwrclibrary.eventbrite.com.

TECH CLUB MUDGEE LIBRARY

Mudgee Library is trialling a new after school program for children in school years 3 to 6 this term. The free program will run on Mondays and introduce children to the innovative world of coding, and other technological activities, to make basic games, animations and more. Bookings are essential, visit mwrclibrary.eventbrite.com.



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



CR ROD PRYOR
0476 462 293

EVENTS CALENDAR



7
FEB - 23 MAR

MAP Exhibitions

Mudgee Arts Precinct

The Good by Anna Louise Richardson and *Udder Bliss: Life on the Farm* are both open until 23 March and free to attend.



14-15
FEB

Gulgong Show

Gulgong Showground

Head along to this traditional country show to experience a rodeo, exhibitions, and entertainment.



19
FEB

Mid-Western Regional Council Meeting

Council Chambers,
Market Street, Mudgee.
From 5.30pm



22
FEB

Rylstone-Kandos Show

Rylstone Showground

Located on the banks of the Cudgong River and a highlight on the New South Wales agricultural show calendar.



22
FEB

Charity Shield

Glen Willow Stadium

Watch South Sydney Rabbitohs v St George Illawarra Dragons in the pre-season game at Glen Willow Stadium. Tickets at 123tix.com.au.



28
FEB - 1 MAR

Mudgee Show

Mudgee Showground

This event features a Rodeo, livestock, exhibits, side show alley, stalls, show jumping and much more.

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.

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.

Residents in Gulgong, Kandos and Rylstone can access the weekly bus service to Mudgee for a four-hour visit. The Mudgee/Gulgong Connect bus operates Thursdays from 9am at the Gulgong Coach Stop on Herbert Street (Memorial Hall) or a nominated address within town limits. The Kandos/Rylstone/Mudgee bus runs Wednesdays from Clandulla at 8.30am, followed by Charbon, Kandos, Rylstone and Lue. Tickets, contact details and the full timetable can be found on the website eastendbusservice.com.au/mudgee-connect-bus/.

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.

The Service NSW Business Bureau provides personalised business support to local businesses via its Business Concierge team. Access a Business Connect advisor for complimentary, tailored independent advice in one-on-one sessions. A link to the bureau can be found on Council's Business Support Hub at midwestern.nsw.gov.au/business/business-support.

Visit.

Mudgee Arts Precinct is featuring two new exhibitions centred around rural life. *The Good* is a solo exhibition by Western Australian artist Anna Louise Richardson. *Udder Bliss: Life on the Farm* features artists who have explored their own farming life, including one of Australia's foremost landscape artists, William Robinson Both exhibitions run from 7 February to 23 March. Mudgee Arts Precinct is open 9am-5pm, seven days. Entry is free.