

COMMUNITY News

ADVOCATING FOR BETTER RAIL

Following on from last year's successful Trax to the Future Symposium, Council is continuing to advocate for better rail in Wollondilly. A working group met in January 2018 to discuss strategies to campaign for short term solutions, including more train services and better connections, as well as long term solutions such as the electrification of our rail network.

While all of Sydney's train passengers have felt the effects of recent industrial action,

in the Wollondilly Shire the lack of regular and reliable train services is nothing new. Council is seeking a commitment from Federal and State Government for better public transport, in particular electrified rail, to support our growing community.

We would like to hear what our residents have to say about this issue, so please visit engage.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au to share your story with us.



STATE GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES INDEPENDENT HEARING AND ASSESSMENT PANELS

The NSW Government's new Independent Hearing and Assessment Panels (IHAPs) are set to commence across Greater Sydney and Wollongong in March, with Wollondilly's first IHAP meeting scheduled for 22 March. This decision by the State Government was taken despite strong opposition from Councils.

IHAPs are panels of independent experts that determine development applications (DAs) on behalf of Councils. IHAPs will also have a role in providing independent advice to Councils on planning proposals (rezoning).

The introduction of IHAPs means that Councillors in Greater Sydney and Wollongong will no longer be able to determine DAs. The NSW Minister for Planning has issued directions about which DAs will be dealt with by an IHAP.

Some of the key triggers for IHAP referrals are:

- When there are 10 or more objections (from separate households)
- When the DA is accompanied by a

Voluntary Planning Agreement

- When there is a variation of more than 10% from a development standard e.g. lot sizes or building heights
- Where there is a conflict of interest due to Council, its staff members or a Councillor having an interest in that matter.

There are more details on when a DA needs to be dealt with by an IHAP on the NSW Department of Planning and Environment website planning.nsw.gov.au

Each IHAP will consist of:

- A Chair appointed by the NSW Minister for Planning
- Two expert members chosen by Council from a pool established by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment and approved by the NSW Minister for Planning
- One community member will also sit on the panel. Wollondilly Council carried out a publicly advertised Expression of Interest

process during January for the selection of community members.

It is expected that the new Wollondilly IHAP meetings will be held monthly on a Thursday evening at Council's Administration Building. Although it is understood that members of the public will be given the opportunity to speak at these meetings, it remains unclear as to whether all of the IHAP proceedings will be open to the public. Council of course believes that any IHAP meeting should be conducted with full accountability and transparency.

Even though the IHAPs are being introduced by the State Government, the responsibility for the administrative operation and all costs of the IHAP rest with Council.

For more details on IHAPs, how they are proposed to operate, and why they are being introduced please visit the NSW Department of Planning and Environment website planning.nsw.gov.au

YOUR Feedback...

Thanks for taking the time to read the latest edition of Community News. To help us to continue to improve the newsletter we would love to hear what you think. To tell us your thoughts simply complete our quick feedback survey at wollondilly.nsw.gov.au or email us at community.engagement@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au



What's happening IN WOLLONDILLY

2018 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **17 March**, Saturday
Dilly Doggy Day Out
- **17 & 18 March**, Saturday & Sunday
Day out with Thomas
- **5 April**, Thursday
South West Sydney Academy of Sports Mayoral Reception
- **6 April**, Friday
Seniors Festival 2018
Mad Hatter's Tea Party
- **21 April**, Saturday
Youth Week 2018
Branch Out Youth Week Festival
- **5 May**, Saturday
illuminARTe Festival
- **June**
Together Arts
Reconciliation Week Art Exhibition
- **July**
Mayoral Charity Scavenger Hunt and Dinner
- **8-15 July**, Sunday - Sunday
NAIDOC Week
- **30 July-5 August**, Monday-Sunday
Local Government Week
- **September**
Appin Movie Night
- **October**
Annual Garden Competition
- **October**
Mental Health Month
- **December**
International Day of People with Disability
- **December**
Mayor's Volunteer Christmas Party
- **December**
Annual Christmas Lights Competition
- **26th January 2019**
Australia Day
- **February 2019**
HSC High Achievers Mayoral Reception

For information on any of these events please visit wollondilly.nsw.gov.au and go to the 'What's On' link or call Council on **4677 1100**



BRANCH OUT YOUTH WEEK FESTIVAL

The Wollondilly Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is excited to announce they have organised the 'Branch Out' Youth Week Festival 2018 and is inviting every young person in the Shire to come along and get involved!

When: Saturday 21 April

Where: Picton Botanic Gardens

Time: 10am - 5pm

The festival is jam packed with activities including a splash of colour fun run, music festival, live art mural, photography competition display, food and information stalls. Details can be found on The Dilly YAC [Facebook](#) page and [Council's website](#).

Cost of the run is \$15 per person with two age categories 8-12years and 12+. Registrations will open in February and details can be found on our Facebook page. Register early to receive a t shirt, extra colour packet and voucher for a sausage sandwich and drink after the race. All other aspects of the festival are free of charge.

For futher information contact Sharon Hartnett on **4677 9613** or via email youth@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au.

Information can also be found on Council's website wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

DILLY DOGGY DAY OUT

The inaugural Dilly Doggy Day Out will be a Fun day out with your furry family members. Come and see what local businesses have on offer.

Date: Saturday March 17

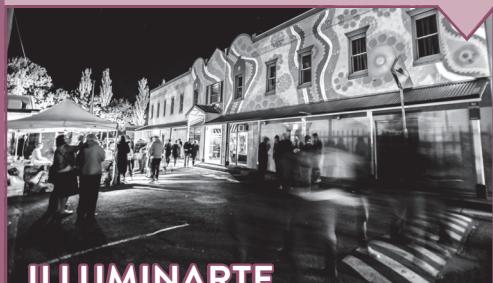
Where: Picton Off Leash Park, Picton Sportsground 15 Fairleys Rd, Picton

Time: 9:30am - 2:30pm

Activities and Stalls will include:

- Obedience Training and Puppy Schools
- Pet Product and Treat Stalls
- Dog Groomers
- Veterinarian Services
- Agility and Fly Ball demonstrations and competitions
- Doggy Fashion Parade and "Look Alike" Competitions
- Micro chipping

For more information visit Council's website wollondilly.nsw.gov.au or contact the Community Projects & Events Team on **4677 9656** or events@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au



ILLUMINARTE WOLLONDILLY 2018

Attracting over 25,000 people in 2017, illuminARTE Wollondilly is the largest event on Wollondilly's calendar. With something for all ages, spectators can expect a remarkable cultural experience combined with breathtaking and creative lighting displays and projections, local live music, market stalls and food vendors.

New to the festival in 2018 is the illuminARTE Kids Carnival in Picton RSL Memorial park, with kids rides, sideshow alley and carnival food!

A range of market stalls and local artisan traders will open from 12 noon and as night falls, the free family event encourages visitors, locals, friends and families to stroll through the picturesque town of Picton. Following the lantern parade the fireworks spectacular will be a fitting finale, capping off a night of colour, light and creativity.

When: Saturday 5 May

Where: Menangle St, Picton

Time: 12 noon - 9pm

For more information visit Council's website or contact the Community Projects and Events Team on **4677 9656** or events@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au





PILOT PROGRAM BRINGS SCIENCE TO LIFE

Wollondilly Shire residents are the first in Australia to try a new 'augmented reality' education game, as the Picton Botanic Gardens are transformed into a science park to spark children's curiosity in science.

Wollondilly Shire Council is partnering with SciGround - a social enterprise aiming to transform the outdoors into a 'fascinating science playground' to help trial the mobile phone application from 22 February to 22 April.

After installing the free app, visitors to the Botanic Gardens can use their phone to see 'virtual' animals appear around them in the physical world and play a game to learn more.

Because SciGround encourages people to learn and be active outdoors, parents and children are reminded to remain aware of their surroundings and supervise children while playing. To use SciGround during the trial, visitors will need an Apple device which supports augmented

reality (iPhone 6S or newer, iPad 2017 or iPad Pro). SciGround plans to expand the range of compatible devices following the trial.

SciGround's Founder and CEO, Andy Barley, says that his previous experience travelling across Australia with Questacon, Australia's National Science and Technology Centre, inspired the development of the app.

"We want to make engaging science experiences accessible to everyone, especially those outside of major city centres. Science will play a big role in our future, and expanding children's natural curiosity for the world around them is a great way to help them succeed," said Andy.

SciGround is designed for children aged 5+ to play with their friends and families. Families are encouraged to share their experiences and feedback about the SciGround app at sciground.com/wollondilly

NORTH WARD COMMUNITY INFORMATION DROP-IN

Council is hosting a community information drop-in session on 27 March 2018 at Warragamba Town Hall. Drop in anytime between 5:30pm - 8:30pm to find out more about the many projects and activities happening in your local community. Information will be available on current planning proposals and infrastructure projects such as the Warragamba Inclusive Play Space. We hope to also have Water NSW, the Greater Sydney Commission and the Western Sydney Airport Corporation in attendance.

If there are any topics you would like to know about on the night please email us at community.engagement@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au or call Council's Engagement Team on **4677 1100**. We hope to see you there!

KOALA PROJECT

Council's Environment and Communications staff have been working on a short video about the Wollondilly Koala Conservation Project, which has now been published on our website wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

The video shows how the project began in response to community reports of koala sightings in Appin prior to 2015. This led to Council entering into a partnership with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) to study the movements and food sources of the koalas.

The success of this initial study led to a grant from the Saving Our Species Fund to expand the survey work.

The video highlights the importance of protecting our local koala population from threats such as road strike and habitat fragmentation. It follows the OEH and volunteers as they track some of the project's collared koalas in their native bushland.

CEMETERY SERVICES

Aside from our operational cemeteries at Bargo, Picton and Thirlmere, Council also manages the now closed cemetery in the historic silver town of Yerranderie.

Until the collapse of the silver mining industry in 1927, Yerranderie was a bustling community of over 2000 residents. There are 70 burials known in the Cemetery and headstone inscriptions depict the causes of death such as influenza and tuberculosis, providing insight into the hardships faced by residents at the time.

Yerranderie Management Committee (with the assistance of Council) have installed a large granite memorial to commemorate these early pioneers.

Council currently operates cemeteries in Picton, Thirlmere and Bargo and offers the opportunity to 'pre-need purchase' burial plots.

It is worth taking some time to think about the advantages of the pre-purchase option:

- You get to choose your final resting place, whether this be under a tree or next to loved ones
- The cost savings of pre-purchase can be considerable
- It removes some of the potential cost impact on your family once you have passed.

Why not give Council's Cemetery Officer a call to discuss available options on **4677 1165** or email via cemeteries@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

TOURISM UPDATE

Council is developing a Tourism Destination Management Plan for Wollondilly and have appointed 'Stafford Strategy' as the successful consultant to develop the plan.

Stafford will undertake a range of engagement strategies with tourism stakeholders, local business and the community. The destination management plan process is due to take four months with an anticipated public exhibition period in June 2018. Watch this space for updates on this exciting project or contact Council's Tourism and Business Investment Team on **4677 9790**.

AUSTRALIA DAY 2018 REVIEW

Following the success of the 2018 Wollondilly Australia Day celebrations Council is encouraging residents to join the Australia Day Awards Committee.

As a committee member you will act as an ambassador for Australia Day, encouraging individuals and community groups to nominate worthy individuals and community groups for the Wollondilly Australia Day Awards.

The Australia Day Award Committee also provides input to the planning of the Celebrations for Australia Day. For more information or to request an Expression of Interest (EOI) pack please call Rob Moran on **4677 9611** or events@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au



E-BILLING

Enjoy the convenience of receiving future rates and charges and instalment notices via email or BPAY View. To register to receive notices via email go to Council's website wollondilly.nsw.gov.au, then click on Resident Services/e-rates registration form. To receive notices via BPAY View register through your internet banking.

YOUR COUNCILLORS

NORTH WARD

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EAST WARD

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FIND OUT MORE, PARTICIPATE AND GET IN TOUCH...

Council Forums and Meetings

Each month Council hosts a Community Forum one week prior to the Council meeting. You can apply to speak at the community forum, find out how on the [Council website](#).

Community Forums and Council Meetings take place on the second and third Monday respectively of each month (except when public holidays occur) in the foyer of Council's Administration Building at 6:30pm.

Agendas are available from Council's Foyer or on Council's website seven (7) days prior to the Community Forum.

Upcoming Community Forum Dates:

- 12 March 2018
- 09 April 2018
- 14 May 2018

Upcoming Council Meeting Dates:

- 19 March 2018
- 16 April 2018
- 21 May 2018

Council Meeting Live Streaming:

- Now available as a popular link on the [Council website](#) homepage.

Council Contacts

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In Person: Frank McKay Building,
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Opening Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am to 5pm