Council Matters

Ordinary Meeting of Council Held Tuesday
20 January 2015

Minister for Forests, Leon Bignell MP
Council continues to maintain its focus on requesting that the Wirrabara Forest be replanted.

Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia
Council resolved to continue to support Dump Ezy sites in the district and adopt By-Laws concerning No Camping and No Parking but not to support the ‘CMCA RV Friendly Towns’ scheme for any of the towns within the Council Area.

Mount Horrocks Historical Society
Council approved a request for a storyboard about Horrocks Highway be erected in Wirrabara.

Special Local Roads Program
Council will apply for funding through the Special Local Roads Program for re-sheeting of the Booleroo Road (known as Booleroo to Willowie Road) and investigate sealing a section of the road to Harris Hill.

Rural Road Signage
There are some community concerns that a few emergency services do not have the correct street numbers and addresses for properties. Department Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) has advised the gazetted information was provided to all required government agencies about 18 months ago however the information appears slow filtering down to country stations. Council has also been advised by DPTI that Mapsites such as Google and street directories source their information from other sources than DPTI. Council has no control over their information. You can view Councils gazetted rural and urban road maps at www.sa.gov.au or www.mtr.sa.gov.au.

Bangor Bushfire.

Life is a story: What is yours?
Council invite’s anyone who was involved with or impacted by the Bangor Bushfire to document their experiences and forward them to Council for inclusion in the Bangor Bushfire Community Diary. The information provided can be of any length or any format. Council will assist with editing and is available to provide face to face assistance, if you would like us to record/documented your experience please don’t hesitate to contact Council on 8666 2014.

Do you have a creative flare?
Council is requesting expressions of interest from people who are competent writers and interested in taking people’s stories, collating and writing the diary. Submissions are required by 28 February 2015 addressed to:

Jessie White, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, District Council of Mount Remarkable or Deliver to - 3 Stuart Street Melrose SA 5483 Email - postmaster@mtr.sa.gov.au

“Storytelling is the essential human activity. The harder the situation, the more essential it is.” – Tim O’Brien

For the diary:
★ 17 February - Ordinary Meeting of Council.
★ 26 February - Public Preliminary Information night Wirrabara CWMS.
★ 14 March - Third quarter rates are due.
Mobile Service Centre
The Australian Government Mobile Service Centre travels to rural and regional communities to provide people with information and access to government services.

You can visit the Mobile Service Centre: **Adjacent to the Institute Hall, Hillside Road WIRRABARA**
Thursday, 26 February 2015 12.30pm to 3.30pm
Staff can assist you with Centrelink, Medicare, Australian Hearing and Child Support payment and service options.

For more information, go to humanservices.gov.au and search for Mobile Service Centre or call 132 316.

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**Community Assistance Grants**
2015 Community Assistance Minor Grants are now open. Each year Council offers the grants to support local non-profit community groups and services.

The Minor Grants Program is aimed at providing community groups/organisations with the opportunity to obtain funds for projects which cannot be easily obtained from other sources.

Successful applications in the past have supported, recreational facilities, local community celebrations, minor infrastructure and projects that develop broad community capacity, strength and well-being.

Applications are sought from incorporated, non-profit community organisations with an established management structure.

Application forms and guidelines are available by contacting the Council Office on 8666 2014 or on the website www.mtr.sa.gov.au.

Applications close 5.00 pm Friday, 6 March 2015.

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**What is Legionnaires’ disease**
Legionnaires’ disease is caused by Legionella bacteria, which are widespread in our environment. They are found in natural water bodies such as rivers, lakes, creeks and hot springs. The bacteria are also found in spas, potting mix, warm water systems and artificial systems that use water for cooling, heating or industrial processes, such as cooling towers. A person may catch Legionnaires' disease by breathing in fine droplets of water that contain the bacteria. You cannot catch it from another person or by drinking contaminated water.

It is important to carry out proper preventive maintenance and anti-microbial treatment of water and cooling systems. Ongoing maintenance significantly reduces the risk of the Legionella bacteria growing.

For more information contact Councils Environmental Health Officer on 86662014.

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**Booleroo Centre CWA Rooms**
Booleroo Centre Civic Centre Committee have advised Council it is not viable to continue to fund the CWA Rooms at Booleroo Centre. Council is seeking expressions of interest from businesses, community groups interested in utilising the CWA Rooms at Booleroo Centre. Council is seeking community input/ideas how to best utilise the building and retain this part of the history of Booleroo Centre into the future.

Please forward expressions of interest/ideas/suggestions to Jessie White, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 94, Melrose SA 5483 or email: postmaster@mtr.sa.gov.au.

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**COMMUNITY NOTICE**
Council has excess office furniture available for members of the community or community groups/organisations to purchase for a minimal charge. Items include:

- Book shelves (1800 x 900) - $100 each
- Four drawer Filing cabinets - $30 - $50 (with key)
- Leather office chairs - $100

All furniture is in excellent order. Contact the Council Office on 8666 2014 to register for furniture items.

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**Wirrabara CWMS**
**A Public Preliminary Information Night** regarding a proposed Community Wastewater Management Scheme will be held for Wirrabara ratepayers and residents on:
Thursday, 26 February 2015, 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm
Wirrabara Institute, 35 High Street, Wirrabara

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**Child Safe Officer Training** - Monday, 23 February 2015, Solomontown Football Club Rooms, Port Pirie. For further information or to register contact MT Smith, STARCLUB Field Officer on 8633 8725.
Community members would have noticed improvements to three of our major town centres over the past twelve months. Utilising funding from a successful Local Government Stimulus grants Council has been able to redevelop the Port Germein Foreshore, refurbish Wilmington public toilets and revamp the main street, renovate the Booleroo Centre Memorial Pool and install new playground equipment at Booleroo Centre. The grants of $50,000 for each town required matching funding from Council. The grants have enabled Council with community input to enhance existing facilities and improve the overall aesthetics of our communities. These beautification projects provide the respective communities with facilities, infrastructure and open spaces for community use and add to the towns’ appeal encouraging visitors/travellers to stop in our region.

As part of the road works program Council is currently re-sheeting 7.4kms of Survey Road, Melrose. Council completed 9.2kms of re-sheeting on the Pine Creek Road and in December 2014 the apron into the Booleroo Centre Airstrip was sealed.

Road damage from heavy local rains in January has required Council graders and staff to be working on unscheduled works. These unpredicted events put pressure on finances, road gangs and delay ongoing works programs.
Each year the District Council of Mount Remarkable recognises those people who make a difference to our communities with awards for Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year.

Within the Council region Australia Day Celebrations are held in many of our towns with a breakfast or dinner function and presentation of local awards. It is fantastic to see so many communities recognising this important day in Australian history and the support the day receives from within its communities.

Mayor Sandra Wauchope attended Australia Day Celebrations at Wirrabara and presented Samantha Stevens of Wirrabara with the District Council of Mount Remarkable Young Citizen of the Year Award.

Samantha is a great role model for our youth and regularly dedicates many hours volunteering within the local community.

Deputy Chairperson Colin Nottle attended Australia Day Celebrations with a dinner at the Wilmington Bowling Club and presented Mrs Pauline Battersby of Wilmington with the Citizen of the Year Award.

Pauline was nominated by Lorraine Potts and awarded the award in recognition of the outstanding work, dedication and commitment she has given to various organisation over a long time.

Mayor Wauchope presented the Wirrabara Progress Association with the District Council of Mount Remarkable Community Event of the Year Award for the Bangor Bushfire Relief Concert. This Community organised event was a remarkable chance for people to gather, share experiences and build social well-being after the impact of the Bangor bushfire.

Council congratulates all award winners and acknowledges the important role all volunteers and community members play in keeping the facilities and communities they work, live and play the vibrant communities they are.