



## CONTACTS

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### General Manager

Mr Peter Vlatko

### Director of Corporate and Community Services

Mr Kym Miller

### Director of Planning and Environmental Services

Mr Garry Ryman

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Mr Stephen Taylor

## COUNCILLORS

### Mayor

Clr Lilliane Brady OAM  
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### Deputy Mayor

Clr Peter Abbott  
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### Clr Harley Toomey

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### Clr Peter Yench

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### Clr Greg Martin

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### Clr Tracey Kings

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### Clr Jarrod Marsden

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### Clr John Harrison

6836 2684

### Clr Bob Sinclair

6995 3918

### Clr Peter Maxwell

6896 2289

### Clr Ray Wilson

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## General Manager's Report

After a 30 year absence I have returned to Cobar as Council's new General Manager, and along with my wife Anna, we've settled in well and are enjoying the community. I have been busy since I started, meeting with staff and community members to get an understanding of the issues affecting the organisation and the Shire. I'm looking forward to the challenges ahead and fully believe Cobar has a great future and together we can help shape, contribute and make a difference. I firmly believe in the famous quote – "Don't ask what Council can do for you, but rather ask, what you can do for the Council."

I want to concentrate on ensuring the best possible infrastructure and services are provided by Council, within our budget constraints. I encourage anyone with ideas, thoughts and suggestions to contact Council and to be part of the decision making process. I look forward to meeting more new faces in the future.



Peter Vlatko

There will be Council elections in Cobar Shire on 10 September 2016. I encourage anyone who is considering standing as a candidate to come and have a chat. We have information on the roles and responsibilities and we can talk through the process with you. Alternatively, there is information available online at <http://www.vote.nsw.gov.au/>. This includes a candidates information handbook and nomination forms. I encourage anyone who wants to make a difference to stand for Council.

Council continues to be involved in the Far West Initiative and the government is planning community consultation in coming months. I encourage you to understand what the proposed changes could mean for your community.

## Water Charges 2016/2017

A CPI increase has been applied to the cost of water for rate payers.

1-450KL - \$2.15  
451-550KI - \$3.20  
550 + KI - \$4.10

## Rates

The NSW Government set the rate peg at 1.8%. The first rates instalment is due 31 August 2016.

Interest is charged on overdue amounts and debt recovery will commence on all amounts overdue for 4 weeks unless written arrangements are entered into.

Payment options are noted on Rate and Water accounts. For more information, contact Council on 02 6836 5888.



# Cobar Shire Council

# NEWSLETTER

## Improvements to the Waste Depot

A Waste Facility Infrastructure grant has been used to install a new perimeter fence around the tip, create an oil drop off area and install new signage. Another grant will allow Council to consolidate the area waste is currently stored. In addition, Council has purchased a new electronic gate and installed CCTV. These measures all aim to improve the facility and reduce the risk of fires. There is no charge to leave rubbish and the gates are open between 7am and 8pm.

Council is currently participating in a project to reduce illegal dumping. Staff are undertaking patrols twice a week looking for new illegal dumping and old sites are slowly being cleaned up. The public is encouraged to report illegal dumping at [www.ridonline.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ridonline.epa.nsw.gov.au). Once reported, Council staff are sent to investigate.



## Cameras Installed at Cemetery

During June, eight CCTV cameras and associated equipment were installed at Cobar cemetery. Council staff will monitor the system with the aim of avoiding a repeat of the senseless vandalism that took place in 2012, when 75 graves were damaged. Funds were raised by the community and a grant from the State Government was also received to repair the damage. Installation of the CCTV cameras is the final stage of the restoration project.

## What's Happening at the Youthie?

Earlier this year around \$40,000 was spent on upgrading the floor at the Cobar Youth and Fitness Centre. The stadium floor and the floors in the squash courts were sanded and resealed and relined marked. Council would love to undertake much bigger upgrades of the facility and have been busy trying to access grant funding to do so.

New sports competitions are about to commence in July across a wide range of sports, including indoor soccer, netball and squalleyball. Weekly playgroups are held at the Centre, Friday night games nights are very popular and social table tennis and walking groups are held each week. The gym is open 70 hours a week, as is the café. So make the most of your Centre. Drop in and have a game, coffee or socialise.



## School Holiday Activities

Looking for something fun these school holidays? Council has your needs covered at three different locations.

Pete Rogers drawing workshops are always very popular and the kids produce some truly amazing art works. Pete will be holding his workshops on 11 and 12 July at the library, classes are \$10. Workshops are suitable for those 6 years and over. Holiday craft sessions will be held at the library on 13-15 July. All children over 5 years are welcome to attend. All sessions are \$5.50 each. Bookings are essential at the library - 02 6836 2744.

There are activities planned for both weeks at the Youthie, with Barnardos circus skills workshops for those over 9 years, as well as crafts, games and competitions for all ages. During the second week of the holidays, StormCo will again be visiting Cobar with the kids from Avondale College eager to host activities and of course the annual pancake breakfast. This year there will be a State of Origin night on Wednesday 13 July with lots of footy action. For those less keen on the footy, a movie will be held in the stadium. See Narelle at the Youthie for more information.

COOSH will again be hosting a very full vacation care program during the holidays from the hall at Cobar High School. Activities include excursions to places such as the museum or park, activities, movie and dress up days, Chinese luncheons, crazy hair day, spa day, bbqs and more. To enrol, call Karen on 02 6836 1156.





# Cobar Shire Council NEWSLETTER

## What's New at The Great Cobar Heritage Centre

The Great Cobar Heritage Centre recently received several donations from Doug Bellchambers, an old resident of Cobar. Among the donated objects are two woollen rugby league football blazers, together with copies of photographs and Doug's reminiscences about playing rugby league in Cobar. This is a very timely donation as John Collins is currently researching and writing a book on Cobar's rugby league history. It is hoped that the blazers will be on display for the launch of the book, along with other football memorabilia.

When he lived in Cobar, Doug was a prominent member of the Town Band. They played on many important occasions, but he particularly recalled playing for the annual Anzac March, always a big event. His instrument was the cornet, which he has donated to the museum, together with his Bandmaster's Cap.

Doug, a keen cyclist, bought his first bike in Cobar from Bob Cutler's shop in Marshall Street in May 1948. It was a Malvern Star, and he loved it so much, he kept it on the spare bed in his room and went to sleep looking at it. He raced it at the old cycle track, which was on the site of the current caravan park, and later at the new track behind the Shire Depot. All the racers paid a fee to enter, which was shared between the winners. Doug and his mates spent their winnings on sodas at Burgess' Café. The beautiful red bike was donated to the museum, where it will soon be on display, together with Doug's cycling stories.



## Upcoming Business Skills Workshops

On 18-19 July, Kim Goldsmith of Ochre Communications will be in Cobar to run a social media workshop. There will be a workshop during the evening where an overview of the social media landscape will be presented, along with the fundamentals of best practice for social media, time management when using it, analytics and moderation as well as some case studies of how people have used it well. Kim will then be available the following day for one on one workshops with business people to develop individual ideas.

On 9-10 August, Carol Bargaric from AusVim will be conducting visual merchandising sessions. Again, there will be an evening workshop looking at what visual merchandising and window displays are and what they involve, why its important and how to create a WOW window display, using simple tricks and tips. The following day Carol will be available for one on one sessions with businesses.

Grant funding has been secured for these workshops, so they are available free to the community. If you are interested in participating, contact Angela Shepherd on 6836 5888 or keep an eye out on Council's facebook page for more information.

## Ward Oval Pump Station Refurbishment

The project to refurbish the sewerage pump station at Ward Oval will commence in July. The contractor will take around 10 weeks to complete the project. During this time, the track around Ward Oval will remain open. Diversion systems will be put in place whilst works are undertaken as all the town's sewerage passes through this pump station on the way to the sewerage treatment works.



## Clean Up Australia Day

In May, Council held a community clean up day at the Old Res as part of the Clean Up Australia Campaign. Despite the low numbers of community members, participants were able to pick up over 300kg of rubbish, most of which were cans and bottles and a small amount of asbestos. It made a big difference to the area and was considered very worthwhile. We will hold another one next year.



## Cobar Youth Council

The Family Fun Day, which was held in Drummond Park on 2 April attracted over 1000 people and was a great success. It included inflated amusement slides, BMX unchained with skills workshops and exhibitions, face painting, music, tattoos and food stalls. The event was organised by the youth council and funded through a budget allocation, and the Heart Foundation Awards.

A colour run is being organised for the Miners Ghost Festival and aims to attract even more than the 400 participants who ran last year. This has been made possible due to the generous support of Peak Gold Mines.



# Cobar Shire Council

# NEWSLETTER

## The Year Ahead – Rates, Roads, Rubbish and More

Council will again be investing in our parks, gardens and playgrounds. Stage 2 of the Drummond Park playground upgrade has been allocated \$100,000, and \$50,000 has been allocated for other playgrounds, as well as \$50,000 to continue to extend the raw water network to reduce the high cost of watering our parks and gardens.

There is \$20,000 to undertake works at the Newey, \$390,000 for upgrades to hydrants, valves and water mains and \$230,000 for sewer upgrades.

Council has been awarded \$114,000 to enclose the library arcade and make it into a public meeting space and to provide secure storage for our local history collection. There is \$70,000 in the budget to upgrade the kitchen at the Youthie, funds to do digital displays at the museum, security installation at the airport and IT upgrades in Council facilities.

## Council's Financial Position

Council has around \$11m in the bank and although much of this is earmarked for projects, it does show how far we have come over the last four years due to the efforts of Councillors and staff to improve financial management of the organisation. In addition, we have paid out around \$1m of loans over the last three years.

Things will continue to be tight. Due to rate pegging, the pool of rates will increase 1.8% this year. However, wages (around 35% of costs) will increase 2.7% and other costs at 2% and the Federal Government has frozen the amount of financial assistance grants that are distributed to Councils for four years. Despite this, Council has adopted a balanced budget that will see no fall in service provision.

This year there is \$32.8m of revenue in the general fund and \$30.4m of expenditure. Of this, just \$3.76m is rates revenue. Council relies heavily on government grants to undertake our works program. Council will spend \$8.73m in capital works, the majority of which will be on the road network. Council will receive significantly more grant funding for road works this year from both the state and federal governments. This will allow us to undertake priority projects across the Shire.

## Fees and Charges

Fees and charges remain relatively stable across the Shire this year. Council has retained casual pool entry fees at \$4 per adult and \$2 per child to encourage use of the pool. This was particularly effective over the school holidays to encourage those visiting friends and relatives in Cobar to use the pool.

Remember, there are no tip fees, so no excuses to dump rubbish.

## Future of the Lilliane Brady Village

Council and the NSW Government have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the future of the LBV which will allow the creation of the new Multipurpose Health Service (MPS) to gather pace. The agreement allows the NSW Government to promote the LBV to service providers who may be interested in running the LBV in the future – there has already been good interest shown.

Following community consultation, the State Government is aiming to build 10 new aged care beds onto the existing LBV site, convert the two 4 bed rooms and build a new 10 bed hospital adjacent to the LBV. Architectural designs are now being developed for the community to discuss and comment on in coming months.

Under the MOU, all existing staff will be transferred to the new provider, there are safeguards in place to ensure the aged care beds remain in Cobar and the building will be greatly improved through an integrated facility. Consultations so far have been well attended and Council encourages the community to continue to have their say to ensure this is a facility of which the community can be proud.

## Road Projects

The widening of the Kidman Way south is set to start this month. The design has been completed and construction will commence with the first 9km section starting near the Peak Gold Mine turnoff, heading south. The road will be widened in sections and the complete project covers 25km of shoulder widening and is due to be completed by Christmas. The total cost of the project is \$4.25m.

The \$800,000 project to realign the corner and reseal the floodway at Kangaroo Springs on Whitbarrow Way (linking Hermidale and Nymagee) has been completed. The project aimed to improve the safety of the bend and was funded under the NSW Government's Fixing Country Roads program. Staff also undertook three intersection upgrades in the area in conjunction with Hera Mine.

Council undertook a town street resealing program last financial year, with about 5.5km of town streets resealed. A number of rural roads were also resealed. There has been extensive gravel resheeting on a number of rural roads, including the Grain Road, Wool Track, Mount Gap Road and 78 Mile Road.

## Balcony Restoration Works – Museum

Council is currently spending \$80,000 on restoration works at the Great Cobar Heritage Centre. Works will occur on the balustrading, floor, posts and roof of the front balcony area and should be completed by the end of July. Being a heritage building these works are needed to improve the longevity of the building.