Welcome with Mayor Peter Shinton

The Warrumbungle Shire Council held their annual Mayoral election at a special meeting held in Coonabarabran on Thursday, 19 September.

I am delighted to have been re-elected for another twelve month term and I congratulate Cr. Murray Coe on being re-elected as deputy Mayor.

I am honoured with the amount of support I have received and that I have the opportunity to continue to serve the Shire in this way.

The council has had to face many challenges during the past twelve months and it is only by working as a team with fellow councillors and staff members that we have been able to achieve such successful outcomes.

We have a stable council; one that is moving forward and we will continue to work together progressively and proactively.

All Councillors should be congratulated for their vision and decisiveness.

This is my ninth term as Warrumbungle Shire Mayor and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure we continue to deliver for our communities.

Cr Shinton joined core riders for a short stint when the peloton pedalled into Coonabarabran on the first day of the six day challenge.

Council staff members Aaron Parker and Randall Michael, pictured below, joined the bike ride at the shire boundary to pedal over 140km from Hickey’s Falls to the Coonamble Road boundary west of Baradine.

Commonwealth Games dual gold medallist, Megan Dunn, also got behind the fundraiser and joined the ride for the full length of the tour.

The Dubbo Base Hospital accommodation unit known as Macquarie Home Stay is estimated to cost over $1m and the Tour de OROC is a kick-start event to the fundraising campaign.

The bike ride covers 1,125km, which is indicative of the huge area the hospital services. Over 50% of people who use the Dubbo Base Hospital are from outside Dubbo and within the OROC Shires.

Funding auction events for the project are being held in communities over the next few weeks including an auction of donated items in Coonabarabran, including bids on General Manager Steve Loane riding for the cause, and a giant raffle in Baradine. To donate visit www.tourdeoroc.com
Road Safety Award

Warrumbungle Shire Council along with five regional councils were awarded the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) “Highly Commended Trophy” for the 2012 “Free Cuppa for the Driver” fatigue program. In a small ceremony at the July Council meeting a replica trophy was presented to Mayor Peter Shinton as a tribute to the local community for their determination to help reduce fatigue related road trauma.

The Free Cuppa 2012 program was nominated at the State IPWEA Engineering Excellence Awards under the category “Local Government Excellence in Road Safety”.

The program offered a free cup of coffee or tea to a visiting driver travelling the Newell Highway at any of the 52 participating businesses in six local government areas. The visiting drivers were encouraged to take a break, enjoy a “free cuppa with the locals, rest from driving long distances and to Stop. Revive. Survive.

Council Road Safety Officer, Ken Smith, can be seen below presenting a replica IPWEA trophy to Mayor Peter Shinton.

Planning is under way for Free Cuppa 2014 with Councils across the region.

Public Pool Openings

The swimming pool season is nearly here and Warrumbungle Shire Council’s annual pool maintenance program is well underway.

All public pools are undergoing a check and maintenance works.

Public swimming pools provide an important venue for many forms of water sports fitness and other recreational activities, and are enjoyed by significant numbers in all shire communities during the summer months.

The pool season will commence from Saturday 26 October 2013 and run through to Sunday 30 March 2014. Opening hours will be posted on Council’s website and local newspapers.

NSW Swimming Pool Register

Owners of backyard pools and spas are now required by law to register their pools or spas with the NSW Division of Local Government. The requirement follows the State Government’s review of the Swimming Pools Act that identified measures to improve children’s safety under the age of five years around private swimming pools. Statistics show the leading cause of preventable childhood deaths in NSW are by drowning in backyard swimming pools.

Owners must register their pool and/or spa before 29 October 2013. Registration is compulsory and free. Go to www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au to register or you can also register with Council (a $10 fee will apply).

A key point of the new laws include a requirement from 29 April 2014 to obtain a swimming pool compliance certificate from Council before selling or leasing a property with a pool or spa.

Council Starts Spring Planting

Parks and gardens throughout the Warrumbungle Shire are bursting forth in flower.

Warrumbungle Shire Council manages and cares for many parks and street landscapes. Council Urban Services staff have a spring planting program underway in the communities of Baradine, Coolah, Mendooran, Dunedoo, and Coonabarabran.

The refurbishment of the Baradine Lions Park is about to get underway and new pathway work has been completed. The garden beds have been replanted in the Mendooran Park, as well as the garden beds around the trees in the main street.

Garden beds in Dunedoo Park have been mulched and flowers planted. Coonabarabran residents will already have noticed the refurbishment of the gardens in the centre of John Street.

The new plantings require a lot less maintenance and mass plantings of stocks are almost ready to flower with further plantings of a different species planned.

The Urban Services team have been carrying out maintenance work on sports grounds. In March the ovals in Coonabarabran and Coolah were sown with...
a frost resistant ryegrass. This is the third year that ryegrass has been sown on the Coonabarabran oval with great success and good feedback from users. Rye grass has been sown at the Coolah oval for the past two years and these two ovals are believed to be among the best in the north-west.

With thirty-six new trees planted around the Baradine oval and grandstand renovation work in the pipeline, plumbing works underway at Binnaway oval and an irrigation system ready for installation at Dunedoo oval, the Warrumbungle Shire Council ovals enhancement program is well on track to realization.

**Coonabarabran Health & Community Services Expo**

Come along to meet the many and varied services available on Wednesday 13 November 2013 at the Coonabarabran Town Hall, John St, Coonabarabran commencing 9.30am to 2pm. To RSVP please contact Dee Britton on 6849 2200, or email deanne.britton@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au by Monday 4 November.

**Left Field Success**

Gamilaroi artist, Paris Norton is a successful applicant in the Orana Arts Left Field Project (LFP). The young Coonabarabran resident will work alongside a contemporary artist over the next six months to produce an artwork for exhibition at the Dubbo Fire Station Art Centre and a possible tour of the Orana Arts region in 2014.

Warrumbungle Shire, along with Dubbo, Narromine, Gilgandra and Mid-western Councils contribute funds to Orana Arts. Representatives from each council and communities across the region serve on the steering committee.

Orana Arts mission is to enrich our region by linking and connecting through the arts to create sustainable and vibrant communities. This is achieved through artistic programming and facilitating the cultural needs of its communities.

Paris Norton won the 2012 indigenous art prize at the Art Unlimited exhibition in Dunedoo with her photograph titled ‘Uncle Bud’. Paris will be working with r e a, an artist, whose work blends across a number of art forms and flows into a new-media inter-disciplinary hybrid arts practice.

r e a will be returning to her home town of Coonabarabran to work with Paris during the LFP. A descendent from the Morris/Leslie family, r e a is a traditional member of the Gamilaraay nation. Her work examines history, memory, body, politics and language, as well as relationship to country in an Indigenous context and the colonial construction of Indigenous [Australian] identity.

**Keeping Town Water Safe**

Have you ever wondered what makes the water coming from your taps in your home safe and reliable for your family to drink? Next time you turn the tap on, take a moment to consider the story behind tap water for those residents living in our communities connected to a town water scheme.

Drinking water starts out from either an underground water source, a river or from surface water collection in to a dam. This raw state of water needs to be treated to ensure the water is safe to use, and is then referred to as potable water.

Council’s Manager Warrumbungle Water, Dr Cornelia Wiebels, leads the Warrumbungle Water team to ensure all town water supplies across the Shire are safe to drink, and describes the story for us.

**How does water go from raw to potable?**

There are several steps involved in turning raw water into potable water.

Firstly, the water needs to be pumped from its source to the water treatment plant. The source can be a bore (Baradine, Coolah and Dunedoo), a river (Binnaway and Mendooran) or a dam (Coonabarabran). Some raw water sources have a ‘dirty’ appearance to the water, which is usually from little particles that make the water look opaque or coloured.

There are four Water Treatment Plants across the Shire to clean raw water. Chemicals are added to build small flocks, or aggregates, with the dirt particles. These flocks are separated from the clear water through sedimentation (gravity) and are also filtered. This occurs in all town water supplies across the Shire except for Coolah and Dunedoo.

To the clear water chlorine is added for disinfection, which sanitises the water and kills harmful microorganisms such as bacteria.

From the Water Treatment Plant the clear and treated water is pumped to the town reservoirs from where it gets reticulated through the water mains. There are twenty reservoirs across the Shire.

The cleaned and treated water finally reaches your house through a smaller service pipe that comes off the town water main. There is 126km of water mains across all six towns which are maintained by Warrumbungle Water staff, and are assisted by Urban Services staff across the Shire.
How do we ensure town water is safe to drink?

When the clear and treated water enters the town water reticulation system the chlorine content is measured to make sure it is at an appropriate level. Chlorine levels need to be monitored to ensure they are high enough to provide protection against harmful bacteria but not too high as to create an uncomfortable taste. Additionally, weekly water samples at designated sites are taken in each town by one of Council’s Regulatory Officers. These samples are sent away for a comprehensive analysis to a NSW Health laboratory. NSW Health will notify Council if the sample results are non-compliant with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines so corrective action can be taken by staff.

In the past, there has been the occasional Boil Water Alert for some towns across the Shire. NSW Health issues a Boil Water Alert if a weekly test result indicates chlorine levels need to be checked, or a possible contamination of the water. A Boil Water Alert recommends residents to boil all water for drinking and cooking purposes until otherwise notified and should not be ignored. Council staff will respond quickly to any incident that may lead to a Boil Water Alert.

What do we do to further improve drinking water quality?

Your drinking water quality may be impacted by deposits originating from old cast iron pipes or dead ends in the water reticulation system. This may mean the colour, taste or odour of the water is different to what you normally see when you turn on the tap. To remediate such drinking water concerns, Council has allocated a total of $190,000 for water mains replacements and a total of $260,000 for mains extensions (removal of dead ends in water pipelines) for the current financial year.

Should you have any further queries, suggestions or concerns regarding your water supply please feel welcome to contact Warrumbungle Water.

How are costs recovered for Warrumbungle Water?

Due to the wide geographic spread of six towns across Warrumbungle Shire, town water supply operations incur additional costs as systems are replicated in each town. In the 2012/2013 financial year, $115,000 was expended on chemicals and $153,000 on electricity. Warrumbungle Water is required to cover costs from town water users, and as such the 2012/13 fees were increased to $1.70 per kilolitre and $355 annually per water connection, except for Mendooran which remains at $816.

Kids Holiday Fun

The Warrumbungle Shire Council’s school holiday program is popular with kids shire-wide. Youngsters in most communities had the chance to take part in some energetic Hogwarts games, monster crafts and making lots of gooey ‘flubber’ thanks to the ingenuity of Youth Development Officer, Mike Myers.

Designed to cater for primary and teens, another program of activity fun will be rolled out during the summer holiday period. Make sure you don’t miss out on all the fun next holidays!

November Community Consultation Meetings

Have an issue you wish to discuss with Council? Please email info@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au your suggestions and attend one of the following:

- Baradine RTC Mon 18 Nov
- Coonabarabran Chambers Tues 19 Nov
- Coolah Chambers Wed 20 Nov
- Mendooran Hall Mon 25 Nov
- Binnaway Hall Tues 26 Nov
- Dunedoo MPS Wed 27 Nov

All meetings commence at 5.30pm.

Your Local Councillors

Councillors are available to hear the issues, ideas and suggestions your community may have. They may be contacted as per below:

- Mayor – Cr. Peter Shinton - 0428 255 420
  Peter.Shinton@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au
- Deputy Mayor - Cr. Murray Coe -02 6375 0265
  Murray.Coe@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au

Councillors:

- Cr Gary Andrews 02 6844 1893
  Gary.Andrews@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au
- Cr Anne-Louise Capel 02 6377 4620
  Anne-Louise.Capel@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au
- Cr Fred Clancy 0429 030 400
  Fred.Clancy@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au
- Cr Victor Schmidt 02 6842 1500
  Victor.Schmidt@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au
- Cr Chris Sullivan 02 6375 1461
  Chris.Sullivan@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au
- Cr Ron Sullivan 02 6842 8226
  Ron.Sullivan@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au
- Cr Denis Todd 02 6843 1831
  Denis.Todd@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au