The 2020 Cowra Festival of International Understanding is just around the corner and Cowra is gearing up to welcome Australia’s neighbours from across the ditch – New Zealand! This Festival will see an enormous program of events for Cowra’s residents and visitors to get involved in.

“It is going to be an absolute stand out,” said Mayor of Cowra, Cr Bill West. “The amount of activities available in the week leading up to the festival for our residents, schools, community groups and of course our New Zealand visitors is exceptional and I look forward to welcoming Her Excellency, the New Zealand High Commissioner to Australia, the Hon. Dame Annette King and our New Zealand guests.”

This year will see the return of the Festival Karaoke Competition with heats commencing Thursday 12 March through to Thursday 26 March. Event organisers are also planning to create a piece of history at the Festival this year with an exciting new event, Cowra Sings Out, assembling the biggest choir ever in Cowra to perform two New Zealand songs at the carnival on Saturday 4 April. Music and lyric sheets can be downloaded from Council’s website on the Festival of International Understanding webpage.

You can be a part of the rehearsal session at Pub Sing which is to be held at The Imperial Hotel on Tuesday 31 March at 7pm.

Cowra Civic Centre will play host to classical music ensemble NZTrio who will be performing their concert Origins on Thursday 2 April at 7.30pm. Described as ‘a national treasure’ by the New Zealand Herald, NZTrio represents some of the best talent New Zealand has to offer: Amalia Hall (violin), Ashley Brown (cello) and Somi Kim (piano) provide audiences an insight into their musical and cultural heritages with a colourful program that celebrates the connective powers of music. For bookings, visit cowraciviccentre.mailchimpsites.com/nztrio.

The Opening Dinner hosted by the 2020 Youth Ambassadors will be held on Friday 3 April at the Cowra Services Club with tickets now available for purchase from Council’s customer service desk. The night will feature cultural performances and demonstrations, karaoke semi-finals and much more. Tickets are $50 per person.

The Festival Carnival on Saturday 4 April promises to be a highlight with the return of the annual festival parade, performances by the Tamanako Maori Cultural Group, the Cowra Town Band, Cowra Vocal Ensemble, Cowra Dance Factory and Cowra Ballet, the annual Duck Race, food and market stalls, fireworks and competitions everyone can get involved in including tug-o-war, gumboot throwing, and the great pavlova challenge.

“There’s so much to do, see and get involved in at this year’s festival,” said Festival Coordinator Meredith Burton. “Australia and New Zealand have always had a friendly competitive streak with each other and we look forward to continuing that here in Cowra with our endless array of competitions that children and adults can all be a part of.”

For more information on Cowra’s Festival of International Understanding, visit www.cowracouncil.com.au or follow the Cowra Festival page on Facebook @cowrafestival.
Planning is well underway for a new or refurbished Cowra hospital. As part of the community consultation, Cowra Health Council has commissioned a survey seeking views on the services currently utilised and what is expected of the future hospital.

Surveys can be completed online through the Western NSW Local Health District Facebook page (@wnswlhd) or by visiting the following address:

https://qars.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/Survey. Paper versions of the survey can also be collected from Council’s customer service desk or from Cowra Hospital.

All surveys must be completed and returned before Wednesday 15 April. Paper surveys can be dropped in at Cowra Council or the hospital. Cowra Health Council have stated that there will be further opportunities to have input into the project but the community are encouraged to see this as an early chance to get involved and participate.

From left to right: Mayor of Cowra, Cr Bill West with Member for Cootamundra Steph Cooke MP and Chair of Cowra Health Council Don Read.

 Following the recent Community Engagement Survey, Cowra Civic Centre is having a transformation. We are working hard to make improvements to the centre, its operation and promotion of its activities.
**2020 Youth Week in Cowra**

Speak up. Be involved. Get connected. Have fun!

The Cowra Youth Council is leading preparations for 2020 Youth Week activities in Cowra and is looking forward to celebrating Youth Week in partnership with the Cowra Festival of International Understanding. This year the two events coincide, providing the perfect opportunity for collaboration and an expanded program of youth events.

While National Youth Week officially runs from 1-9 April, Cowra’s program gets a head-start on 28 March with ‘Daffodils’ screening at the Cowra Civic Centre. This charming New Zealand feature film will see ticket sales available online for the first time. To celebrate Youth Week, the Youth Council is offering a free snack from the candy bar to the first 40 tickets purchased online. Check out the Cowra Youth Council Facebook page or Cowra Civic Centre website for all the details.

The 2020 Cowra Youth Week Program includes:
- 12 March to 4 April - Festival Karaoke with Youth Sections for Best Performance and Most Entertaining Performance
- 27 March - St Raphael’s Debutante Ball
- 28 March - ‘Daffodils’ screening at the Cowra Civic Centre
- 28-29 March - Drone Workshop and Race, Cowra PCYC - Register with PCYC
- 3 April - Cowra Festival Dinner hosted by the Festival Youth Ambassadors - Tickets available from Cowra Council
- 4 April - Cowra Duck Races on the Lachlan, finishing at the Low Level Bridge - Tickets available from Cowra Tourism or Bendigo Bank
- ‘Young Faces of Cowra’ Feature - a social media profile on the youth of Cowra. Follow the Cowra Youth Council Facebook page to see the feature which will be displayed during Youth Week.

For further information on Youth Week events, please visit the Cowra Youth Council Facebook page or contact Council’s Community Projects Office on 6340 2064 or email communityprojects@cowra.nsw.gov.au.

**Water Watch**

Water provided to the residents of Cowra township and other consumers serviced by the Cowra water treatment plant is sourced from the Lachlan River with the river operations regulated by Water NSW. The allocation for the water utilities (towns) on the river currently remains at 100%. Level 1 water restrictions under Cowra Council’s policy are triggered when that allocation drops to 60%.

Cowra Council has an annual allocation of 5,000 megalitres per annum, which the Shire remain well within. This demonstrates that consumers on the network are already accustomed to and practice responsible water conservation on an individual and collective basis. Under those circumstances Council does not consider it necessary or appropriate to impose water restrictions.

Council continues investigative work into finding an alternate groundwater supply for the Cowra Shire in the event that the Lachlan River supply was to run dry. Using funding from the NSW Government, Council is currently well advanced in investigating the establishment of a number of bores in the Billimari area with the intention of piping the water back to the Cowra water treatment plant for treatment and distribution throughout the network.
WHAT’S ON IN THE COWRA COMMUNITY?

1-9 April - Cowra Youth Week
A week-long celebration organised by young people, for young people. Visit www.cowracouncil.com.au for all the event info.

3-5 April Festival of International Understanding
Guest nation for 2020 is New Zealand!

10 - 13 April - Easter
12 April - Gooloogong Recreation Park Markets
At the Gooloogong Recreation Park from 9am.

25 April - ANZAC Day

6 May - Woodstock Field Days
Held at the Woodstock showground.

13 May - 6 June - Cowra Eisteddfod

ROAD WORKS DIARY
What road works are happening around the shire?

March
• Rivers Road widening.
• Redfern Street resealing - completed by contractors on behalf of Council.

April
• Pridham Street water main extension.

May
• RMS culvert safety works on Canowindra Road.

Sydney Road
Routine heavy patching was completed on Sydney Road by Council on behalf of RMS late last year. This work was done in preparation for resealing which is expected to be completed by the end of March.

Belubula Way
The current pavement has been recycled and strengthened on Belubula Way to stabilise and widen the road.

Belmore Street Sewer
A new sewer main was installed between Redfern Street and Mulyan Street. The new pipe is 300mm in diameter alleviating the pressure from smaller nearby sewer pipes.

Twigg Oval Basketball Courts
The Twigg Oval Basketball courts are currently being refurbished through funding from the the NSW Government Stronger Country Communities Fund and Cowra Council. Cracks have been sealed in preparation for resurfacing of the existing courts. The works is expected to be completed by the end of April.

If you have any enquiries regarding Council projects please contact Council’s Infrastructure & Operations Department on (02) 6340 2070.

Contact Us
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Opening Hours:
Monday to Friday
8.30am to 4.30pm