

New radio executive

The new executive team for the Coonamble Community Radio has been chosen and they aim to give the community more shows, more laughs, and even better sound quality.

At the annual general meeting on 1 October, Martin Bennett stepped into his role as president after only eight months on the radio. Mr Bennett will also function as a technical advisor simultaneously to being president.

Bill Carroll continues to be the station manager and Amanda Daniels assumed two roles as both vice president and treasurer.

Robyn Hull is the new secretary and Terry Anne ‘Tap’ Plain the public officer.

Mr Bennett, the new president following Keith Ryan, got his first citizen band radio at thirteen and has been hooked ever since.

Fifteen years ago, he got his license as an amateur radio user.

“The next step for me was broadcast and I love it.

“Radio is my thing. I talk to people every day of the week from all around the world.”

Mr Bennett said he also spent four years as president of the Mid South Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Mr Bennett said the community radio is in a better position than it was earlier this year.

Nonetheless, the new president said the more presenters they can get, the merrier.

“It would be great if more people would take on the position of announcers and then we can fill in some of the gaps.”

The radio station currently has around seven presenters who fill eight shows throughout the week.

Becoming a presenter, is open to everyone said Mr Bennett.

All you have to do is keep chatting and take a one-hour online course on media law.

“Maybe Triple J can get away with the F word but we definitely cannot.



*** ABOVE: Jennifer Bennett, Martin Bennett, Bill Carroll, Amanda Daneils, Terry-Anne Plain**

“We’re looking at improving some of the technical aspects of the station, such as upping the power on the transmitter.

“We’ve got a great area, now we just need to bring the equipment up to standard.”

The radio station is looking to apply for grants to bring their equipment up to date.

Mr Bennett said he is also hoping to bring back vinyl records to the radio to remind him of his days as a DJ.

“I’ve got all the gear at home so I can play records instead of digital.

Music sounds a lot different.”

Win for local jobs

Thirteen people have started work at Coonamble Shire since council took a new approach to filling gaps in its workforce from October last year.

Of 47 people who have taken part in the first seven rounds of the Nguumambiny Indigenous Corporation's Wake Up, Shake Up pre-employment program, six began working full-time within the organisation while 14 found employment outside the council.

"When people come in to the course, there's often a preconception that they are past it, or that they can't get a job, or that 'I've been out of work so long that no one's going to hire me anyway,'" says program manager Lynn Field.

"What the course is actually doing is empowering people to do things that they may not have even looked at."

Ms Field said the program has assisted two people to set up their own businesses through the Self-Employment Assistance program, one in home maintenance, the other as a glazier.

Council reports that successful participants have filled vacancies in its waste management, construction and parks and gardens teams.

The one or two week workshops host up to 15 people at the Verto office in Castlereagh Street and take place every six weeks.

Course provider Nguumambiny, a Dubbo-based charity, has finished delivering its eighth round, the next due to start in mid-October.

"This is a major local success story for Coonamble because our focus has been to 'develop our own' workers and be as self-sufficient as possible. It also plays a key role in boosting local employment and opportunities," Coonamble Shire General Manager Paul Gallagher said.

"I hope we can expand these initiatives even further in the future with a proposed heavy plant training school at the Coonamble transfer station."

Workforce Australia finances the program through the Employment Pathways Fund based



*** ABOVE: Council Shire General Manager Paul Gallagher speaks to Wake Up Shake Up participants.**

on attendance numbers.

Ms Lynn said Nguumambiny has extended a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Coonamble Shire to continue the program to December 2026.

She also says the program has evolved to set "smarter" goals for participants.

"You ask them for a goal and it might be to get a job. And that's a good start, but it doesn't give you enough to actually make you keep that goal because there's nothing specific about it. You don't know if you've reached the goal," she said.

"You might get a job mowing someone's lawn next week, but that's not a full time job."

COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL

LOCATION & HOURS

Council's administration office at 80 Castlereagh Street, Coonamble, is open from 8.30am to 5pm.

Cashier enquiries welcome from 9.30am to 4pm.

ph: (02) 6827 1900 or fax: (02) 6822 1626

CONTACT COUNCIL

Direct all correspondence to:

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EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Water & Sewer: 0428 217 420

Regulatory Officer: 0427 255 881

Other: 0458 271 881

WEEKLY CONNECT

A Vision Splendid unfolds for future long weekends

MARK THE DATE

The vision for the October long weekend is truly splendid, judging by the response to the range of activities this year.

The Coonamble Greyhound Carnival attracted visitors from Interstate to start off the weekend on Friday night, while theatre-goers were drawn to the revitalised Plaza Theatre for a performance of *Tinderella*.

On Saturday, some headed for Carinda for the *Lets Dance Carinda* music event, while others headed over to the Siding Spring Observatory Open Day before returning to Coonamble for the *Vision Splendid Country Music Concert*.

Estimates place the crowd gathered for the concert at more than 2000 people – a significant achievement for a town of 2,400. Numbers were swelled by people travelling from around the State, particularly from the Greater Sydney Metropolitan Area, where targeted Facebook posts tripled 'click-throughs' to Council's 'Visit Coonamble' webpages in the lead-up to the weekend.

Coonamble Bowling Club carpark was filled to capacity on Sunday morning for the Greyhound Carnival's Calcutta.

Later on Sunday, more than 200 people ventured to the fields of Gilgooma for the *Harvest Lunch*. Trestle tables extended under the shade of the treeline, with guests treated to a roast lamb luncheon. During the relaxed afternoon, three local grain growers gave insights into what the harvest means to them and what they would like others to appreciate about the risks and work that goes into producing food for the nation.



Country Music legend, Lee Kernaghan, thanks Council's Tourism and Events Officer, Maddi Ward, for organising the Vision Splendid Country Music Concert.



More than 200 people gathered under the trees in a field of ripening grain to celebrate Harvest Lunch 2024. The event attracted locals, their friends from around the State, visitors from Interstate and even some from overseas.

Services impacted by shorter week

Coonamble Shire Council services will be impacted later this week by the Local Government staff Union Picnic Day on Friday, 11 October.

The closure affects all Council offices and services, except the Coonamble and Gulargambone Pools.

For some Service NSW requirements, please call the hotline on 13 77 88.

Use the contact numbers (at left) for any relevant emergencies.

- 11 October** – Council offices and services closed for Union Picnic Day.
- 12 October** – Coonamble Carp Buster event at Warrena Creek Reserve, Coonamble.
- 13 October** – Coonamble Jockey Club's Gold Cup Racing Carnival.

How to get comments heard by Council

To be sure your comments, ideas and perspectives on issues affecting you and others in Coonamble Shire are heard by your Council, all residents and ratepayers are encouraged to use the forms available on Council's website or provided as survey links.

While Facebook provides a convenient and fast way for Council to advise residents of current issues and news, it is not monitored for feedback.

If using your phone to access the homepage of Council's website, the second link is 'Have your say', which provides an online form for you to complete.

This feedback is formally registered and directed to the appropriate department to ensure you receive a response to your concern.

Meetings open to public

The next Ordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council will be held on Wednesday, 9 October, 2024, from 3pm at the Council Chambers in Castlereagh Street, Coonamble.

Members of the public can attend Ordinary Meetings of Coonamble Shire Council as observers, and may formally address an item on the agenda by written request.