



COUNCIL CONNECTIONS

OCTOBER 2008

COUNCIL CONNECTIONS

For further information on any item in *Connections* please do not hesitate to contact Council at PO Box 19, Lithgow or phone (02) **6354 9999**

Fax (02) 6351 4259
E-mail: council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au
Lithgow Visitor's Centre email is: tourism@lithgow.com
Lithgow Library's email is: library@lithgow.com

OFFICIAL WEBSITE for Lithgow District: www.lithgow.com

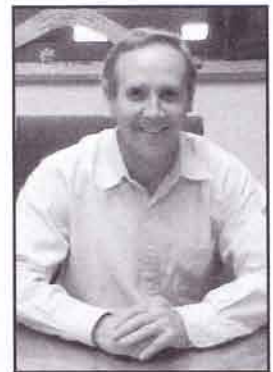
MAYORAL MESSAGE

When people receive this edition of Council Connections, the Council elections will be over and a new Council elected. I hope that the new Council works together for the betterment for the whole of the Lithgow area, so that the area can continue to grow, develop and prosper. I wish all those Councillors who have been elected to that job, the best of luck in their decision making and also pay tribute to those Councillors who are no longer serving our community. I would like to pay tribute to their dedication and the amount of work that those Councillors put in over a number of years.

At a recent meeting held by the LBA a report and discussion was made by Joost Heymeyer, the main person responsible for the Emirates Resort in the Wolgan Valley. This exciting development, which will bring more than 100 full time jobs once established, is well and truly on track after nearly 12 months in construction. It is planned for the development to be complete by mid way through next year and opening to take place at the end of 2009. The Emirates believe that there will be many jobs at the new Resort that will be hopefully taken up by locals, which will be good to see this class of resort and service required being able to be provided by people from our area.

Council has decided to look to have a new Skate Park in Lithgow. Following a petition and discussions with some young people in the area Council has voted to pursue designs and costing for a new park. The Lithgow Lions Club has also put its weight behind this project in making it their major fund raising project for the upcoming year. They are also looking to raise enough money to have additional skate parks added to Portland and Wallerawang.

As people have recently received their first rates bill for this year, people should be aware that there have been in some cases, a significant change from last year. Unfortunately the major drive behind this has been the new valuations people would have received from the Valuer Generals Department. These valuations are outside of councils control and if the valuations have increased or decreased significantly then rates will have also changed in a response to that as by law Council must have more than 50% of the rates we charge as part of the land value on peoples properties.



ORDINARY MEETING DATES FOR 2008

- Tuesday 21st October 2008
- Tuesday 18th November 2008
- Tuesday 16th December 2008

The Ordinary Council Meeting will commence at 6pm.

COMMITTEE DATES FOR 2008

- Tuesday 7th October 2008
- Tuesday 4th November 2008
- Tuesday 2nd December 2008

The Policy and Strategy Committee Meetings will commence at 6pm and the Finance and Services Committee Meetings will commence at 6.30pm.

2008/09 RATES & CHARGES

The 2008/09 Rate notice will be issued by 31 July 2008 and following dates and payment options will apply.

1st Instalment: 31 August 2008

Payments received up until Monday 1 September 2008

2nd Instalment: 30 November 2008

Payments received up until Monday 1 December 2008

3rd Instalment: 28 February 2009

Payments received up until Monday 1 March 2009

4th Instalment: 31 May 2009

Payments received up until Monday 1 June 2009

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- AUSTRALIA POST** All outlets
Phone Payment 13 18 16
Internet Payment www.postbillpay.com.au
- BPAY** Contact your own bank and quote your personal Reference No. on your rate notice
- MAIL/PHONE** Mail Credit Card details, Cheques or Money Orders to:
Lithgow City Council
PO Box 19
LITHGOW NSW 2790
Phone: 02 6354 9999 with Credit Card details
- IN PERSON** 180 Mort Street, Lithgow
Cash Hours: 8.30am to 4.00pm
- DIRECT DEBIT** Contact 02 6354 9999 for an application form. Instalments will be automatically deducted from your nominated account on the instalment date.

For payments and further information please contact Council's Customer Service Officers on 02 6354 9999.

GREENWASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

Council will provide a Greenwaste Service to residents on the following dates:

13th October 2008

8th December 2008

9th February 2009

6th April 2009

COUNCIL ANNUAL CLEAN-UP

Council will provide an Annual Clean-up on the following date:

9th March 2009

These services are **by request** and if you require a service, please phone Council on **6354 9999**, the week prior to the Collection date.

NEW COMPUTERS for Lithgow Library Learning Centre

Visitors to the Technology Centre in the Library are making the most of the 12 new computers recently installed by Council's IT team. The new computers feature large wide screen monitors and the latest software, and will benefit both residents and visitors to the area alike. Visitors to the library have commented that the computers are "fast and efficient" and "excellent – a major step forward". The rollout of computers to the Technology Centre is the first phase in a program that will see the public access computers at Wallerawang and Portland also being replaced. The Technology Centre has over 6 000 visitors every year, and is open during normal library hours, 9 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday and 9 am to 12 pm on Saturdays.



Pictured: Council's IT Manager, Ally Shelton with Noelene Wakefield, Technology Centre Co-Ordinator.



Weddings AT ESKBANK



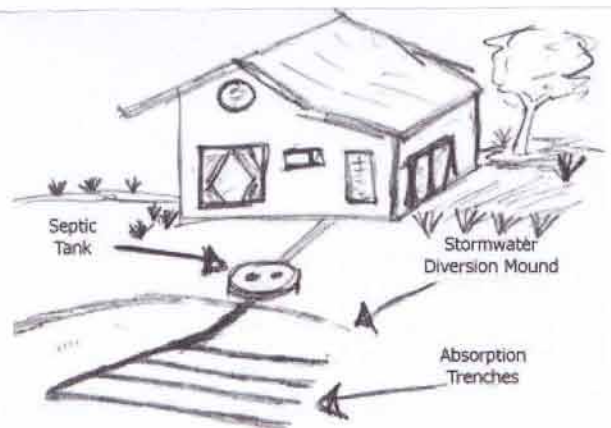
Looking for a romantic and intimate setting for your special day? Why not have your wedding ceremony or wedding photos taken in the grounds at Eskbank House & Museum. With the romance of roses and grandeur of yesteryear Eskbank House is the perfect place to celebrate your marriage.

**Eskbank House & Museum is open 10am to 4pm Wednesday to Sunday for enquiries & inspection.
For information contact Deborah McGrath, Cultural Development Officer on 02 6354 9999.**

On-site Wastewater Management System Inspection Program

Council's inspection program involving all On-site Wastewater Management Systems within the Lithgow Local Government Area has commenced.

The inspection program is part of Council's responsibility to ensure the long-term protection of public health and the environment and is in response to State Government legislation. Property owners will receive an information package prior to inspection.



If you require further information please visit Council's website
www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au or call Council.

PRIVACY & PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION NOTICE

By forwarding your email address you may be providing Council with personal information. Council will collect the information only for a lawful purpose directly related to the function of Council. We will take reasonable care not to disclose personal information. Exempt documents may come under Section 12 of the Local Government Act.

Cultural PLAN

Lithgow City Council is in the process of exhibiting and finalising the Draft Cultural Plan 2008-2011. Anyone wishing to make comments on this document should contact the Cultural Development Officer and register their interest.

COUNCIL'S Roadworks Programme

Council's 2008/09 works programme is well underway with the stage 2 of the reconstruction of Wolgan Rd at Angus Place due for completion in October. At the same time, Council is completing a Roads for Recovery Project on the Wolgan Rd at Lidsdale. Both these projects involve the removal of the existing failed bitumen, widening the formation, improving the drainage, resheeting with road base and resealing. These projects will provide a significant road safety improvement to motorists using Wolgan Rd.

As part of Council's asset management program, a risk management approach has been implemented as a tool for determining future roads programs. Council has worked closely with the Roads and Traffic Authority to secure additional funding for road safety projects. As a result, Council has recently received advice of a \$500000 grant from the Black Spot Programme for the Browns Gap Rd. The work will involve shoulder widening, pavement resealing and the installation of additional guardrail. In addition to this funding, Council has allocated Roads to Recovery funds to commence a pavement reconstruction program in 2008/09.

The Lithgow Council has also secured funding from the Roads and Traffic Authority a sum of \$220000 from the 2008/09 REPAIR Programme for pavement reconstruction on MR531. The sections to be completed in this programme include a section of Barton Ave at Wallerawang and two sections of the Portland to Cullen Bullen Rd, at Cullen Bullen.

Other significant projects on the 2008/09 programme include reconstruction of sections of Saville St and Cox St in Portland, rehabilitation works on Magpie Hollow Rd, Sodwalls – Tarana Rd and Rydal – Hampton Rd. The completion of the construction of the Dark Corner Rd is also scheduled this summer.

For the first time in a number of years Council has allocated a significant sum of money to implement a gravel sheeting programme. For 2008/09 the largest component of funding has been allocated to the gravel road network in the Glen Alice/Glen Davis area. Other gravel sheeting works will be undertaken on a need basis, as was the case after rain and snow on the Curly Dick Rd recently. It is hoped that this programme will continue in future years.

STRATEGIC LAND USE PLANNING UNDERWAY

A project partnered and jointly funded by the Planning Reform Fund Program (PRFP) of the Department of Planning.

It is advised that Council at its Ordinary Meeting of 19th August, 2008 resolved to engage planning consultants Insite Planning to undertake the preparation of a Land Use Issues Paper, Land Use Strategy and Local Environmental Plan for the Lithgow Local Government Area (LGA). The Project is scheduled for completion in late 2009.

This work will enable the implementation of the strategies in Council's corporate Strategic Plan adopted in June 2007 that relate to land use planning. It will also build upon work previously undertaken in the development of the corporate Strategic Plan, including the Local Profile which provided a "snapshot" of the LGA and the Draft Revised Issues/Discussion Paper which identified issues from the community and government as they related to the vision themes of Community, Transport, Employment, Heritage, Education, Health, Environment, Arts and Culture, Youth and Growth.

Council and Insite Planning are looking forward to working closely with the community to deliver a robust Land Use Strategy and Principal Local Environmental Plan to guide sustainable land use within the LGA over the next decade.

The Project will involve extensive community and government agency consultation. The Resident Feedback Register will be used in each of the consultation stages planned.

Council will keep the community well informed of the progress of this Project through a dedicated web page within Council's web site at www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au, and media releases. Notice of formal community engagement will be given in local newspapers and radio stations.

Council urges all members of the community to become involved in this important process and keep watch for further news as it becomes available.

Further information on this Project can be obtained from Council's Strategic Planner Mrs Sherilyn Hanrahan on (02) 6354 9999 or on line at council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au.