



“Gerogery”, Wiradjuri word for Magpie



Gerogery Fire Truck

Mayor Tony Quinn

In the lead up to Greater Hume Shire elections on 17 September, I invited Mayor Tony Quinn to comment on his almost 40 years as Gerogery’s representative for our Ward and why he’s considering standing again. Tony was first elected to Council in 1983 and has been a Councillor ever since except for a four-year period from 2008 – 2012.

Tony’s motivation is “to help his fellow man. Anybody who knows me knows I’m approachable on a one-to-one basis.” Tony explained that once you’re elected, you represent the whole Shire. There have been some hard-won battles over the years that Tony fought strongly for against fellow Councillors and planners. Tony said “He could see problems and they were basically wrong”. This took a personal toll but he knew he was right and he had a job to do.

Tony said his Mayoral role has been demanding but was necessitated because he wanted to take Council in a different direction. Tony says he’s “obsessed with roadworks and planning” so this is his priority. This year, Council is scheduled to do a Shire Structure Plan and update the LEP (Local Environment Plan). Council is also improving their customer services. Tony meets with Council General Manager, Evelyn Arnold weekly to discuss Council business. Tony says these meetings are forthright and productive.

If you would like to discuss anything with Tony, please call him on: 0429 674933.



Gerogery Fire Brigade

In September 2022 the Australian Fire Danger Rating System was updated to better reflect fire risk following the catastrophic 2019/2020 fires. The new Fire Danger Ratings are as follows. Please take the time to read them and understand them. A Fire Danger Rating sign is on the Olympic Highway near the fire shed. This sign will be getting updated in the near future.

In the next newsletter we will look at reducing the risk to your home being impacted by fire, in the event of a wildfire.

In other news, we have 2 new recruits who have commenced their Bush Fire Fighters course. We look forward to taking them through their training to become qualified volunteer Fire Fighters. If you would like to join, now is the time. We have literally only just begun. So jump on board and join us. Call Cathy on 0403082552

MODERATE	HIGH	EXTREME	CATASTROPHIC
<p>Plan and prepare.</p> <p>Most fires can be controlled.</p>	<p>Be ready to act.</p> <p>Fires can be dangerous.</p>	<p>Take action now to protect your life and property.</p> <p>Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous.</p>	<p>For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas</p> <p>If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost.</p>
<p>Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire</p>	<p>There’s a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area.</p> <p>Decide what you will do if a fire starts.</p> <p>If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bushfire risk areas.</p>	<p>These are dangerous fire conditions.</p> <p>Check your bushfire plan and ensure that your property is fire ready.</p> <p>If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts.</p> <p>Reconsider travel through bushfire risk areas.</p>	<p>These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire.</p> <p>Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire.</p> <p>Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before.</p> <p>Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions. You may not be able to leave, and help may not be available.</p>

Morven Solar Farm

On the 4th July, representatives of the solar developer, Elgin & the engagement company Urbis met with the local community. It was a very casual occasion where we had the opportunity to ask questions and understand what they were doing. Their plans are to build biodiversity to graze sheep between panels. They are also committed to keeping locals informed at every stage of the project and have engaged Urbis to collect our feedback.

Gerogery is well located between Albury and the solar farm site for the shop and pub to provide necessary services such as mail from the shop and good food at the pub and be a great way to meet and engage with our local community. They asked for contacts and further details which I've supplied. Prior to the meeting, I'd emailed some excellent papers on biodiversity on solar farms from a solar farm biodiversity expert, Eric Nordberg. They knew and respected Eric's work so hopefully they can implement his suggestions. They agreed agriculture and solar farms have great potential to be complementary if they're planned well.

The representatives we met were interested in our suggestions, informative and very keen to know about any concerns anybody might have. Our State MP Justin Clancy, was able to help people with any concerns too. Urbis have kindly offered to sponsor our Gerogery community newsletter for 12 months for which we are very grateful. As the project progresses, the solar farm is developing a community benefits framework that will also guide future community contributions.

If you would like to know more, you can phone: 1800244863 or email:

engagement@urbis.com.au or check out their website at: www.morvensolarfarm.com.au

CWA NEWS

The Gerogery Country Women's Association (CWA) meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the Gerogery Hall at 11am. Next meeting is 7th August. All interested people are welcome and a cup of tea or coffee is provided on arrival.

At the July meeting, we learned that profits from the June 15 Bunnings BBQ were over \$1800.00. Our country of study for 2024 is France and on 21st August, the Albury CWA Group will host a French day.

The Gerogery CWA is a multicultural branch with several members born in various European countries and one hailing from South Africa. Our current members range in age from their 40's to their 90's but junior members are encouraged!

Tennis and Cricket

Some community members are interested in getting tennis and cricket happening at Gerogery. We have some excellent facilities that need a little bit of tidying up that we'll ask Council to help us with. Norm is keen to form a Gerogery cricket team and we can look at what options there are for tennis. A good thing about a small country town is that families and all ages can join in.

We'll plan a meeting soon to discuss things further so if you'd like to be part of the discussion, please give Jill Coghlan a call on 0488661585. It'd be nice to see these facilities being used.



Two of Gerogery's Great Treasures

The Shop and School are two of Gerogery's great treasures. However, they need our strong support because they're almost entirely dependent on the local community.

Nola and Kim run the **Gerogery shop** and offer a fantastic service including postal, newspapers, coffee and takeaway, groceries and fresh local eggs. They're open 6 days a week including till 7pm for Friday's takeaway. The best way you can support the shop is to have a mailing address and buying essential groceries. Mail is safe and means you have extended time for collection as they're happy to help whenever the shop is open. Buying your milk, eggs, papers and takeaway on Friday nights is no more expensive than in town but a great help to the shop. Grab an ice-cream or two as well. The shop is the hub of Gerogery in daylight hours (the G-Rodge is the hub after hours) so an important place to see other locals and catch up on their news as well as receive fantastic service. The Shop has a very important place in our community.

Like the shop, the **Gerogery school** is very dependent on our local support. Principal Julie Twitt, along with Maddie & Cathy do a great job educating the 12 students currently attending. I sometimes call in to discuss an idea or opportunity and am always impressed with how happy the children are. They are definitely thriving. The school is currently taking enrolments for 2025 and invite parents and students to visit the school on Wednesday 7th August at 1pm to meet them and see their great learning environment. Our children attended the school during the 1980's and received a great education. It was good for them to mix with different ages and I think a small school made them more responsible and considerate. Back then, there were over 30 students so it would be great to build up those numbers once more.



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REROC Energy & Innovation Conference

At the end of August, I've been invited to attend the REROC Energy & Innovation conference in Wagga as a community member of Greater Hume Shire. Potentially, energy innovation can reduce everyone's power costs, reduce emissions and improve resilience. The agenda for this conference is community based so very relevant for us all and I'll look forward to giving a report in our September newsletter. Importantly, if anyone is interested in this project, I'd love to hear from you.



THE TALKIN TOUGH ROADSHOW IS PROUDLY PRESENTED BY MIKE ROLLS & BEN PETTINGILL FROM LOCAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Legless and Blind

LADIES NIGHT
Tuesday 27th August 2024
Holbrook Hotel
Arrival: 6.30 pm, Presentation 7:00pm
Light Refreshments provided

Registration for both evenings required for catering purposes

For further information: Contact: Holbrook Local Health Advisory Committee Mandy Locke: 0438362082
Holbrook Landcare Network Rachael Daniel: 0428992667

BLOKES NIGHT
Wednesday 28th August 2024
Holbrook Sporting Complex
Arrival 6:30 pm, presentation 7:00 pm
Refreshments provided



Real Life RESILIENCE

Mike Rolls and Ben Pettingill, affectionately known as 'Legless & Blind', are dedicated to addressing the challenges attached to mental health through their real and relatable approach. Harnessing their lived experiences of facing adversity they deliver entertaining, practical and powerful sessions that cut through to audiences like no other.

In 2001, Mike contracted the deadly disease, Meningococcal Septicaemia resulting in the loss of his legs below his knees, amongst other injuries. At age 16, Ben had a headache one day and woke up the next day having lost 98% of his eyesight overnight due to a rare genetic syndrome. Both of these circumstances changed what their lives would entail forever.

In their work with communities around Australia, they strive to reduce the stigma about and have a positive impact on the mental health of people right around the country.

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