

International Day of People with Disability

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY
ARTISTS' WORKSHOP



Aaliyah Vangarden, Mayor Jess Jennings, Mark Payne, Paul Toole MP, Simeon Thompson and Director of Culture and Community Services Allan Cattermole.

International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) raises awareness about the challenges faced by people with disabilities and promotes understanding and acceptance within the community.

Around 4.4 million Australians, approximately 1 in 6, are living with a disability with around 7919 residing in the Bathurst region. To celebrate IDPwD, art and photography workshops were organised by Council and Glenray with the participants' creations showcased at the BRAGS Art Fair.

Initiatives such as this promote equality, and builds a more inclusive and diverse community for everyone.



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Is Bathurst justified in claiming the title of *Cultural Capital of the World*? Clearly the answer is “Yes, of course” based on the amazing number of museums and galleries per capita across our Council area.

We have an incredible 14 museums, 3 significant collections, and the Arts Out West *CultureMap* shows another 16 art galleries and studios. Based on our population of around 45,000, that's one cultural entity for every 1,300 residents.

Comparatively, major cities like Sydney, with 6 million people, would need an impossible 4,615 museums and galleries to beat Bathurst's per capita measure. Similarly, the combined populations of New York City, London, and Paris would require over 22,300 cultural entities to outshine Bathurst, which is not plausible.

The foundation of Bathurst's impressive museums offering is Council's four world-class displays at the Fossil and Mineral Museum, Chifley Home and Education Centre, the Bathurst Rail Museum and of course the National Motor Racing Museum. Plus there's a host of public and private offerings as well.

To grow our reputation as a cultural capital we can connect-up all our local museums and galleries through the establishment of a local 'chapter' of the peak body known as the Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMAGA). I hope to have the first Bathurst chapter meeting early this year to ensure we keep our current title as the undisputed Cultural Capital of the World.

On a related note, I'd like to mention the magical re-emergence - more a second coming that defies evolution and the impact of a big meteor 66M years ago - of three plastic dinosaurs on our museum walls.

A new flyer has been created to promote the dinos is available at BVIC and around town. The flyer is based on the theme 'Can you find all three dinos?' with the following clue 'They love visitors, going fast and meeting other dinosaurs'. If you are looking for a fun activity to do with the family, grab a brochure and go on a search for those dinos.

Jess Jennings

Mayor of Bathurst



Josh Dargin-Carr performing at one of the workshops

Marang Connections

Marang Connections was a 12-month program aiming to increase resilience, wellbeing and social connections for young people aged 8-16 years.

The program provided cultural workshops that included cooking, dancing, working with artefacts, art and weaving. Education sessions included health and swim safety lessons.

The program also facilitated events such as 'Footy, yarn and dinner', with Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks fullback Will Kennedy and music video workshops that provided young people with an opportunity to write lyrics and a music video called 'Shine the light'. The program concluded with a cultural camp at Yalmambirra Boogijoon Doolin.

Council received \$65,590 from the NSW Government under the COVID Community Connection and Wellbeing Program funding to deliver Marang (well/good in Wiradjuri) Connections.



Computer Coffee Club success

After a successful inaugural year, Bathurst Library will offer its free Computer Coffee Club again in 2024.

During 2023, we taught more than 200 participants how to email, take photos, use Facebook, download apps and much more at our popular Computer Coffee Club, which includes afternoon tea, and one-on-one tech sessions. If you want to improve your skills using smart phones, tablets and computers in a fun and friendly environment, contact Bathurst Library on 6333 6281 to find out more.

Dates (bookings essential)

- Wednesday 7 February
- Wednesday 6 March
- Wednesday 10 April
- Wednesday 8 May
- Wednesday 5 June

Pathway to Sustainability

In August last year Council made the decision to start a conversation with the community about a proposed special rate variation (SRV) to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the organisation.

At the September 2023 meeting Council voted not to progress the SRV proposal. As a result, Council has now mapped out a pathway to sustainability, taking into account how Council operates, the environment in which Council operates, the needs of our community and our financial position.

Council will report regularly to the community on progress being made on initiatives undertaken to enhance Council's sustainability. The first of these include relocation of stored Council records from Orange to Council's Central Tablelands Collection Facility in Bathurst and progressing plans to recover merchant fees. Longer term, the Pathway to Sustainability will also need to include consideration of an SRV at some point in the future, after considering community feedback.

For more information visit [YourSay Bathurst](#).



Jasmyrn Nankervis

FROM THE YOUTH MAYOR

As the first half of the Youth Council's term has drawn to an end, we have enjoyed being part of many community events and our own events, including visiting Whiddon nursing home monthly, Halloween night at the Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum, packing hampers for Christmas with Hope Church, and our very own Youth Council segment on the radio.

The Youth Council's focus for this term is connecting young people of Bathurst to all areas of the Council and older generations. To do this, we are talking to different people who hold roles within Council and giving them our feedback and ideas from a young person's perspective. We have also talked to numerous organisations that focus on helping young people. To keep up to date with the Youth Council's events and initiatives, visit our Instagram page.

Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail

The Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail returns on the weekend of 16-17 March. This award-winning event has become the largest annual celebration of heritage in Bathurst, and this year will be even bigger with all new artisans demonstrating their rare trades at the Bathurst Showground.

Blacksmiths, bow makers, bodgers, Wiradjuri traditional tool and weapon making and so many more plus the Cobb & Co coach, great local food, brewing, distilling and wine making. Ticket holders can then explore the heritage trail and get amazing discounts over the whole weekend at Bathurst's museums and top historic houses.

Online early-bird tickets are only \$20 for entry on both days, and accompanied school age children are free. Visit bathurstregion.com.au for all the information and online ticket sales.



One of the stalls at last year's event.
Photo by David Roma.

Bat Night in Kings Parade

Explore the secrets of flying-fox ecology and find out how these creatures play a big role in our environment. Hear about the efforts of Council in saving this threatened species and find out how you can get involved.

The 2.5 hour event includes an educational talk by flying-fox expert Peggy Eby from the University of New South Wales Centre for Ecosystem Science.

This event is free, welcoming to all, and perfect for families. No need to book – just come and join us for an evening of flying-fox fun.

The Wambuul Macquarie River Bathurst Flying-fox Camp Habitat Restoration Project is part of the Flying-fox Habitat Restoration Program assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust in association with Local Government NSW, and Council.

To get involved in community tree planting days visit www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au for information on dates and times.

Where: Kings Parade

When: Friday, March 15 from 5.30pm to 8.00pm.



Photo by DJM Photography Australia

Biogas Project

A new biogas collection system is being installed at the Waste Management Centre which will substantially facilitate Council meeting its emissions reduction targets, as more than 80 per cent of Council's current operational greenhouse gas emissions come from landfill.

The project involves drilling 38 gas wells and connecting associated pipework to a flare unit at the base of the landfill, where it is burned to convert the methane to less harmful gases. The new system will allow better collection of the biogas and is an important step towards meeting Council's adopted emissions reduction targets of 25 per cent by 2025 and 60 per cent by 2035. Council has successfully registered the gas project with the Clean Energy Regulator and confirmed it will comply with the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative- Landfill Gas) methodology. Once the new gas infrastructure is in place the project will deliver Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) thereby generating income and creating the potential for future power generation.



WHAT'S ON

Home

16 December – 11 February

Home connects schools to local Aboriginal arts, community, language and culture.

Amanda Bromfield – The women of Hill End

16 December – 11 February

The women of Hill End is an exhibition paying homage to the past and present women of this historic town.

Lino Alvarez Carrasco: Hill End Impressions

6 December – 11 February

Hill End Impressions is a culmination Alvarez Carrasco's work over nearly a decade.

Conflated

16 December – 11 February

Conflated brings disparate artists together to explore bodies, environments, and cultures through contemporary art.

For more information on these events visit
bathurstart.com.au

Bathurst Superfest

Bathurst 12 Hour

16 – 18 February

Australia's international endurance race is back from 16-18 February.

Bathurst 500

23 – 25 February

The hallowed ground of Mount Panorama becomes the first battleground of the Supercars season.

Hi-Tech Oils Bathurst 6 Hour

29 – 31 March

Experience motorsport racing on the iconic Mount Panorama in all its glory when the Hi-Tech Oils Bathurst 6 Hour takes place.

For more information on these events
visit www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au

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