

Council's new vision for the community

After reviewing feedback received from the community during a series of community listening sessions, Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (CGRC) administrator Stephen Sykes has resolved a new draft vision statement, strategic directions and the objectives for the community's future.

"The community's input was instrumental in developing the vision statement and community objectives, and I thank all those who participated in helping us formulate the new vision for our future," Mr Sykes said.

The draft vision statement, strategic directions and objectives will form the basis of the draft Community Strategic Plan, which will be delivered to the newly elected Council after the election.

Following the new Council's deliberations, the endorsed draft plan will be on public exhibition for community comment and feedback prior to endorsing the plan by July 1, 2018.

The draft vision statement is:

A vibrant region attracting people, invest-



Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council administrator Stephen Sykes.

ment and business through innovation, diversity and community spirit.

The draft four strategic directions for the community have been developed as:

A vibrant and supportive community: all members of our community are valued and connected; Our community is inclusive and connected; Public spaces provide for a diversity of activity and strengthen our social connections; Our community members are healthy and safe.

A prosperous and re-

silient economy: we are innovative and 'open for business'; the local economy is strong and diverse; Strategic land-use planning is co-ordinated and needs-based; Tourism opportunities are actively promoted; Our local workforce is skilled.

Sustainable natural and built environments: we connect with the places and spaces around us; The natural environment is valued and protected; Our built environments support and enhance liveability.

Good governance: an actively engaged community and strong leadership team; Decision-making is based on collaborative, transparent and accountable leadership; Active participation and engagement in local decision-making; CGRC is a premier local government Council.

The feedback received from the community during the community listening sessions has been released by Council, and can be found on Council's website: www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au



Footpaths in Gundagai will see renewal and repairs when Council undertakes its footpath renewal and replacement Stronger Communities Fund major project.

Council paves the way for new footpaths

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (CGRC) will allocate half a million dollars to bringing footpaths across the Council area up to acceptable standards, thanks to funds allocated from the Stronger Communities Fund major projects program.

The NSW state government initiated the Stronger Communities Fund which is administered by CGRC.

Overall, the footpaths in Cootamundra and Gundagai are considered to be in poor condition when compared to other councils, according to an independent assessment.

Council has identified about four

kilometres of footpaths in Cootamundra, Gundagai and Nangus that are in urgent need of either replacement or extensive repair.

CGRC administrator Stephen Sykes said the works will ultimately assist with the minimisation of trip and fall incidents, and will help promote a safe and active lifestyle within the community.

"We want the community to enjoy walking along their streets, and we want them to be able to do so safely and with confidence," Mr Sykes said.

"This project will expedite Council's footpath replacement and repair program."

Scouts in line for community group of the year award

They make sure Anzac Grove is always in tip-top shape for the community and visitors and now 1st Gundagai Scout Group has been singled out for their efforts with a nomination for the Awards Australia Community Group of the Year Award in the 2017 NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards.

The Community Group of the Year Award recognises groups that make a significant contribution to their community.

These community groups share a strong sense of team spirit and play a vital role in enhancing the social, economic, commercial and environmental prosperity of their region.

1st Gundagai Scout Group cleans up Anzac Grove every month and/or before any military commemoration, such as Anzac Day and Vietnam Veterans Day.

This involves the youth members removing leaves, cleaning plaques and memorials, setting up the flag pole and general preparation to make the area look nice for the community and visitors.

"The 1st Gundagai Scout Group have been



1st Gundagai scouts Lily Crane, Jayda Field, Gabrielle Butcher and Tyler Roberts hard at work tidying up Anzac Grove in preparation for the recent Vietnam Veterans Day.

doing this project for six years," their nominator said.

"The community benefits by having Anzac Grove kept in a

good condition, and the RSL are benefiting with more helpers to assist

them with community events.

"The youth members

are engaging with veterans and building community spirit and pride

in the achievements and sacrifices of past generations.

"The RSL also denote funds to 1st Gundagai in appreciation of their efforts.

"The RSL sub branch appreciates the practical help from the younger generation in maintaining this special location for both visitors and locals who come to the grove to pay their respects to family and friends.

"As an aside, the youth members learn skills such as painting, raking and cleaning and develop a sense of pride for a job well done."

Finalists will be presented and winners announced at an Awards Gala Presentation Dinner on Friday November 10.

All nominees who are able to attend the Awards Dinner will be presented on stage with a framed certificate in recognition of their achievements.

Six category winners will be presented with \$2,500 from the Commonwealth Bank and a trophy.

The other category winner will receive television exposure on PRIME7 and a trophy.