



Annual Report

2010/2011

Proudly servicing the Towns and Villages of

Corowa. Mulwala. Howlong. Balldale. Buraja. Coreen. Daysdale. Lowesdale. Rennie. Savernake

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EXECUTIVE REPORT

I am pleased to provide the 2010/2011 Corowa Shire Council Annual Report.

This Annual Report is completed in accordance with the requirements of the New South Wales Department of Local Government and is for the information of residents, ratepayers and other interested persons.

Council has successfully undertaken a number of major projects this financial year, in addition to regular maintenance and operational programs, and while responding to three natural disaster declarations.

It is pleasing to reflect on the achievements for this year which in many cases have been made possible through some strong community partnerships. Some of these have included:

- Completion of the Corowa Lagoon redevelopment project
- Hawkins Street Howlong kerb and widening of the road
- Corowa Saleyards and effluent treatment improvements
- Mulwala Streetscape works and Digger Loughnan Park
- Corowa Rail Trail
- Lowe Square Howlong Master Plan
- Bayly and Lucan Street drainage works and widening of the road
- Corowa Riverfront Master Plan
- Corowa Cemetery Stormwater Drainage and Water Re-Use Project
- Corowa Aerodrome second runway improvements
- Rural Addressing
- Commencement of the National Green Jobs Corps Program
- Youth Programs at Unit Y and Youth Week activities
- The Corowa Shire Festival of Fun for Kids
- 'Wake up to the Signs of Driver Fatigue' Program

A key focus for Council during this time has been to repair the significant damage which occurred to much of our rural roads as a result of flooding. Works totalling \$2.7M were committed to this.

Planning for a number of other important projects commenced during this time such as the Corowa Shire Civic Centre, Corowa Race Course Effluent Re-Use Project and the Corowa Saleyards expansion. Council also committed significant funds to improvement works for seven sporting fields across the Shire in Mulwala, Corowa and Howlong.

We have commenced the preparation of the Corowa Shire Community Strategic Plan which has involved an extensive consultation process. Strong community input towards this plan is vital and we hope to continue to build partnerships with the community, business and State and Federal Governments to ensure the key objectives set by the community can be achieved.

One of the most important aspects of the preparation of the new Community Strategic Plan is that it will recognise the assets to be managed by Council and that the financial requirements and priorities of this are carefully considered. Council currently manages more than 15,000 distinct community assets (from Playgrounds to Sewerage Treatment Plants).

Council is committed to building a strong and prosperous community and continues to strive to deliver an increasing number of services to the community with diminishing resources.

In accordance with the Local Government Act the following documents, plans and policies have been prepared to fulfil Council's public information and accountability requirements;

- Three Year Management Plan providing details of principal activities
- Revenue and Expenditure Statements
- Fees and Charges Policy
- Codes of Conduct for Staff and Councillors
- Meeting Code of Practice
- Provision of Expenses and Facilities to Councillors Policy
- Policy and Delegations Statements
- Equal Opportunity Plans and Policies
- Internal Reporting Policy
- Social Community Plan
- Privacy and Personal Information Protection Management Plan
- Statement of Business Ethics Policy

All of these statements and policies have been publicly exhibited for comment, remain public documents and can be viewed at the Council Chambers at any time or from www.corowa.nsw.gov.au

Councillors and staff are thanked for their efforts over the past year and we thank the many selfless volunteers that have worked so hard to make a positive contribution to this community.



FT LONGMIRE
MAYOR



BJ CORCORAN
GENERALMANAGER

GENERAL INFORMATION

ELECTED MEMBERS – 13 September 2008

TO SERVE A FOUR YEAR TERM

COUNCILLORS

MAYOR

Cr. Fred Longmire

"Breadalbane"

RMB 206

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Cr. WB (Bill) Bott AM

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SENIOR OFFICERS

General Manager	Bruce J Corcoran
Director Corporate and Community Services	Ian D Rich
Director Engineering Services	John J Babbs
Director Environmental Services	Bob Parr

Manex Committee meetings are held on the 4th Monday each month, commencing at 9.30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Ordinary meetings of Council are held in the Council Chambers on a monthly basis, on the third Tuesday of each month, commencing at 9.00 a.m. Committee meetings are held as required. Residents and Ratepayers are cordially invited to attend Council meetings.

Business for Council meetings must be in hand eight days before third Tuesday of the month. Agendas for ordinary meetings will be made available to the public at 4.00 p.m. on the Friday preceding the meeting.

Policy and Resource Committee meetings are held on the 1st Monday bi-monthly, commencing February 5.00 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.

SHIRE FACILITIES – OPENING TIMES

General Office Corowa	- Monday to Friday	8.15 am - 5.15 pm
Corowa Library	- Monday	Closed
	- Tuesday to Friday	10.30 am - 1.00 pm 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm
	- Saturday	9.30 am - 12 noon
Mulwala Office and Library	- Monday & Friday	Closed
	- Tues, Wed, Thursday	10.00 am - 1.00 pm
	- Tues, Wed, Thursday	2.00 pm - 5.00 pm
	- Saturday	10.00 am - 12 noon
Howlong Community Resource Centre	- Sunday & Monday	Closed
	- Tuesday	10am to 1pm
	- Wednesday	10am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pm
	- Thursday	10am to 1pm
	- Friday	10am to 1pm
	- Saturday	9.30am to 12noon
Visitor Information Centre Corowa	- Monday to Friday	10.00 am - 5.00 pm
	- Saturday	10.00 am - 4.00 pm
	- Sunday	10.00 am - 1.00 pm

GARBAGE DISPOSAL

Weekly Collections of domestic and some commercial waste are provided in Corowa, Mulwala, Howlong and Balldale. Some services are provided on route to these towns. Council provides collection points for domestic waste and recycling at central locations in the villages of Rennie, Daysdale, Buraja, Savernake and Coreen. For more information on these services please call Council on 6033 8960.

Free Tipping on presentation of Rates Notice.

During the 2010/2011 Financial Year Council allowed ratepayers limited free waste disposal at either Corowa, Mulwala or Howlong waste facilities upon presentation of their rate notice.

To access this free service Ratepayers must present their Original Rate Notice (**Not Instalment Notice**) when disposing of their waste at either of the facilities. Please refer to your rate notice for further details.

Waste Disposal Facility Operating Hours

MULWALA TRANSFER STATION	COROWA TIP	HOWLONG TIP
Monday 9am to 1pm Tuesday CLOSED Wednesday 9am to 1pm Thursday CLOSED Friday 9am to 1pm	Monday 8am to 1pm Tuesdays 12 noon to 5pm Wednesday 8am to 1pm Thursdays 12 noon to 5pm Friday 8am to 1pm	Monday CLOSED Tuesday 2pm to 5.30pm Wednesday 7.30am to 11.30am Thursday CLOSED Friday 2pm to 5.30pm
Saturday 9am to 1pm Sunday 9am to 1pm	Saturday 8am to 5pm Sunday 8am to 5pm	Saturday 10am to 5.30pm Sunday 10am to 5.30pm
Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day, Good Friday & Easter Sunday.	Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.	Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

In order to prevent littering, loads should be securely tied and covered. If a load arrives at the waste facility and is unsecured an additional charge of \$10.00 will apply. Council has the power to issue infringement notices for littering of up to \$200.00.



Recycling Programs – Kerbside Collections

Council's Contractors, Cleanaway, provide a kerb-side recycling program to the Corowa, Mulwala, Howlong and Balldale Urban Areas. The bins are collected fortnightly – Recycled materials include glass bottles and jars, aluminium and tin/steel cans, PET Containers, bundled and waste paper and cardboard.

MOTOR REGISTRY



Council provides agency operations on behalf of the Roads and Traffic Authority NSW.

Most matters relating to licences and vehicle registrations are carried out at the Council Chambers.

Further information is available by contacting the RTA on 13 22 13.

Council in conjunction with the RTA is currently seeking ways to improve delivery of services to the public. Your patience is appreciated.

Agency hours are 9.30 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday inclusive. Closed for Lunch between 1.30 pm and 2.00 pm some days.

All RTA telephone enquiries should be made on 13 22 13.

GENERAL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Corowa Office		02 6033 8999
Rates & Administration		02 6033 8970
Engineering, Health and Building		02 6033 8960
	Facsimile	02 6033 3317
Mulwala Office/Library		03 5744 3439
	Facsimile	03 5743 1450
Works Depot		02 6033 4082
Corowa Library		02 6033 8941
Corowa Swimming Pool		02 6033 1970
Howlong Swimming Pool		02 6026 5844
Saleyards		02 6033 1191
Ball Park Caravan Park		02 6033 1426
Visitor Information Centre		02 6033 8931
Family Day Care:		
Corowa - Albury FDC Scheme		02 6058 5510
Howlong - Hume Billabong FDC Scheme		02 6026 3877
Mulwala - Yarrawonga FDC Scheme		03 5871 9222

Council Related Emergencies 24 HOURS 1800 110 088

RATING INFORMATION

DATES TO REMEMBER

1 st Instalment	due	31 August
2 nd Instalment	due	30 November
3 rd Instalment	due	28 February
4 th Instalment	due	31 May

Overdue rates will attract interest at 10% per annum.

REMINDER NOTICES

Council will issue reminder notices to all ratepayers who are using the instalment plan approximately 30 days prior to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th instalments falling due.

Payment options available to ratepayers include: -

- Over the counter at Council offices in Corowa, Howlong and Mulwala by Cash, Cheque or EFTPOS using Debit Card, Bankcard, Visa or MasterCard
- Cheque or Money Order through the mail
- Hume Building Society: All Branches by Cash or Cheque over the counter
- Bpay: Debit Card or Bankcard, Visa or MasterCard
- Post billpay: in person at any Post Office, by phone or internet
- Direct Debit - Please contact Council's Rate Department for further information.

RATES CONCESSIONS FOR PENSIONERS

Generally, in order to be eligible for a pensioner rate rebate/concession, pensioners must hold a Pensioner Concession Card and own and primarily reside in the residence for which the rebate is sought. A ratepayer may be entitled to a part year rebate if they have become an eligible pensioner during the rating year.

Pensioners who received a rebate last year should have their Pensioner Rebate details shown on this year's rate notice as the Council is now able to verify (in most cases) a

pensioner's eligibility for the rate rebate with the Department of Social Security and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Ratepayers who have recently become eligible pensioners, who have moved to the Shire or the ownership or address details of the rateable property have changed are required to complete a Pensioner Rebate Statutory Declaration form and present their current Pension Card at the office for verification. If you believe that you may be eligible for a pensioner rate rebate, you should contact the Council's Rate Department.

Rebates applicable for 2010/2011 are as follows: -

General Rate	50% to a maximum of \$250.00
Water Rate	50% to a maximum of \$87.50
Sewerage Rate	\$87.50 off total amount

PRIVACY AND PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION ACT 1998 (NSW)

Council has adopted a Privacy Management Plan and Privacy Code of Practice. This plan and code of practice will ensure that public records will be used only for the purpose for which they were collected. Council staff is aware of the implications of privacy protection and all areas of Council operations will be reviewed to ensure compliance. No reviews have been conducted under Part 5 of the Act.

CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Council's Corporate Services Department is responsible for the finance, administration and community services functions of Council. During the period of this report the services provided included the following: -

- Monitoring, control and reporting of financial activities in compliance with legislative requirements including reporting under AAS27 and IFRS.
- Administrative support to Council's Engineering and Environmental Services Departments.
- Preparation and distribution of meeting agendas and minutes as required.
- RTA Agency services including licensing and motor vehicle registrations.
- Administrative support to Corowa Family Day Care Scheme.
- Compilation of Management Plans outlining future directions of Council.
- Administration of baby capsule/restraint hire scheme.
- Social Community and Cultural Planning.
- Participation in the Upper Murray Regional Library Service maintaining branches in Corowa and Mulwala and providing mobile services to Howlong, Balldale, Daysdale and Savernake.
- Tourism Promotion.
- Industrial Land Sales.
- Establishment of alcohol-free zones.
- Animal Registration under the Companion Animals Act.
- GST Compliance.
- Provision of accounting, bookkeeping and banking facilities to Section 355 Committees. (Refer Page 25 for List of Committees).

NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY AND COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY.

The competitive nature of today's society requires local government and other government businesses to compete on an equal footing with non-government competitors. The principle of competitive neutrality is based on the concept of a "level playing field" between persons competing in the market place, particularly between private and public sector competitors.

Underpinning competitive neutrality is the need to have an effective costing system in place for business activities.

The Department of Local Government has developed a guide to competitive neutrality entitled "Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses." The issue is a complex one however allowances are made for business activities, which have a gross operating income of less than \$2 million. These businesses have been termed category 2 businesses. Businesses, which have an operating income greater than \$2 million, are category 1 businesses.

Different rules apply for each category of business with more stringent requirements applying to category 1 business activities.

The following activities were originally identified in accordance with the guidelines as category 2 businesses: -

Corowa, Howlong and Mulwala Water Supply Facilities,
Corowa, Howlong and Mulwala Sewer Treatment Facilities, and
Domestic Waste Management Activities.

Council Water Supply Services and Sewer Services now have combined turnovers of in excess of \$2m and as such have now been assessed as Category 1 Businesses.

The guidelines indicate that in determining the level of "competitive neutrality" it will apply to a business activity under \$2 million Council will need to balance the economic, social and environmental costs.

The benefits of competitive neutrality flow to the Council and the community. The adoption of these practices in government business should result in pricing policies, which are fairer and more cost effective, better allocation of resources and decisions being made with a clearer knowledge of true costs.

HUMAN RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

Employees of Council are now covered by the Local Government (State) Award 2007.

The Consultative Committee continued to meet throughout the year.

As in past years substantial staff training was undertaken during the period particularly relating to the health and safety of employees. Relevant staff attended Confined Spaces, First Aid, Traffic Control and OH&S Awareness Courses. Plant operator training continued, as did the training of Council's Apprentice Mechanic. Management staff attended conferences relating to their areas of expertise in order to maintain up to date knowledge.

Council's Occupational Health and Safety Committee met quarterly over the past 12 months continuing in its role to improve safety within the workforce.

COROWA SHIRE TOURISM

What a positive year tourism has experienced with some tremendous results. Three outcomes that come to the top of my mind are as follows:

- The Corowa Whisky & Chocolate Factory a week ago won the NSW Inland Tourism Award for best new tourism development. Congratulations to the Druce family.
- Fantastic news also for the Corowa Golf Club being selected as one of the top 3 Pro-Am regional courses. The East course was also voted in the top 100 courses in Australia by being ranked in the top 100 Public Access courses, as judged by Golf Australia Magazine. Congratulations to the Corowa Golf Club.
- Can you believe the Melbourne Cup Tour will be racing to Corowa on Saturday! Corowa was selected by the prestigious Victoria Racing Club to be one of 30 destinations in Australia and New Zealand to host the 2011 tour. The organising committee have put together a jam packed celebration event that consists of 5 events all scheduled on Saturday 13th August. The day will conclude with a Gala Dinner, here at the Corowa RSL Club. Spectacular entertainment is planned and everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. More information is included in the report.

The summer season presented some challenges for businesses with the high water levels in the Murray River and locusts. Tourism took a proactive approach to support businesses and assisted to reduce the potential negative impact on tourism. Tourism coordinated positive messages particularly in relation to the perceived Murray River flooding. These messages were distributed to media, partners and the local community and were also available on the Corowa Shire website.

The domestic travel market is flat to declining and the outbound international market is increasing somewhat due to the Australian Dollar. Locally we have been able to maintain a consistent tourism visitation level which is pleasing compared to other destinations experiencing decline. Congratulations must be extended to individual businesses who are doing their best to promote their business and in turn Corowa Shire.

The Tourism Marketing Sub-committee was established during the year. The committee has completed the Corowa Shire Tourism Marketing Plan and Action Plan and approached Corowa Shire Council and tourism stakeholders for support with the implementation of the plan. Some fabulous projects are planned which you will see great results in the Spring. Specific information is included in the report.

The tourism networking events held throughout the year have proved extremely popular with good numbers of businesses represented. I invite you to come along and experience the Corowa Golf Club first hand which is the location of the next tourism networking event. The tourism industry golf day was originally scheduled on Sunday 28th August, however, this has now been changed to Sunday 21st August.

I would also like to acknowledge the Tourism Board on their efforts which has seen us push ahead in leaps and bounds. During the year, Greg Lawrence tendered his resignation as Treasurer and I extend a big thank you to Greg for his years of support of this organisation. Geoff Mallows kindly stepped into the position.

I would also like to thank the tireless efforts of the tourism staff and all of the wonderful volunteers that assist tourism. Fantastic to see that the number of volunteers has grown again this year to 47 people, which I would suggest is the largest number of volunteers contributing to the community. Well done everyone.

On a negative note, the additional support that the Corowa RSL Club has provided to tourism over a 3 year period being a staff member working at the Corowa Visitor Information Centre, Amanda Stevens concluded in December 2010. I extend a big thank you to the RSL Club and Amanda for their contribution. This reduction in paid staff has further stretched the limited tourism resources to manage an ever growing business that is tourism.

The business of tourism has grown and the Corowa Shire Tourism organisation now has 3 distinct key target areas being customer service delivery at Visitor Information Centres, Industry support and development and tourism marketing and promotion. Corowa Shire Council has increased its financial contribution to tourism over the last 12 months and pleasingly has for the first time allocated \$15K specifically for tourism marketing. In addition, Council has agreed to fully fund tourism staff wages and associated costs which will equate to an approximate additional cash contribution of \$25K annually. This is a fantastic result and one that the Tourism Board has been working with Council on for many years. Thank you is extended to Corowa Shire Council.

It is fantastic to see the new Murray Regional Tourism Board has been established and a Strategic Plan and Marketing Plan developed. We hope in the coming year that this organisation will provide opportunities and support to the tourism industry in Corowa Shire.

The number of businesses joining as tourism partners has increased from 129 to 131 businesses. 18 new partners are included in this figure. These figures represent a 2% growth in partnership compared to the previous year and an amazing 119% growth since 2001.

In conclusion, the annual report in front of you contains an overview of the 2010-2011 financial year. I encourage you to read the contents at your leisure.

Peter Hansen
President - Corowa Shire Tourism

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Council works closely with the community and business to foster the sustainable economic growth of Corowa Shire and have established Business Corowa Howlong Mulwala (BCHM), a section 355 Committee of Council focused on activities that generate economic development outcomes.

The Committee is a Steering Committee for the Economic Development Manager and members have the opportunity to make recommendations directly to Council.

Activities of the Economic Development Manager and BCHM Committee include but are not limited to:

• Infrastructure development	• Investment attraction
• Business/industry support & development	• Strategic planning
• Town improvement & planning	• Labour attraction & retention

• Provision of research & analysis	• Industrial Estate development
• Community development	• Regional promotion
• Grant writing & assistance	• Job creation & retention
• Environmental initiatives	• Tourism development

Committee members are selected to provide representation across a range of Corowa Shire industries and areas.

A monthly work in progress report is provided to Committee members for review, approval and recommendation to Council.

For assistance, or if you are interested in joining the BCHM Committee, please contact the Economic Development Manager on (02) 6033 8954.

For further business and investment information, visit www.corowa.nsw.gov.au/business/businessinvestment or contact the Economic Development Manager on 02 6033 8954.

ACCESS AND EQUITY

Council is aware of the necessity to provide facilities and services that are appropriate for and accessible to everyone in the community.

A major issue identified as a problem is the lack of awareness within the community as to what services are currently available and how to access them. Council needs to undertake a community education campaign to ensure that access to such services is improved simply by making people aware of what services are provided and by whom. Council maintains a list of community contacts. This list will continue to be maintained, updated and extended to include new service providers.

Services must be financially within the reach of most people. Council provides many of its community services free of charge to users. Free services include parks and gardens, sports fields, library services. Other services are provided at cost recovery and subsidised rates. Hall fees and community centre charges are provided below cost at nominal fees to encourage use by community organisations and citizens of the Shire area.

Access problems for persons with mobility difficulties. Many of Council's buildings were built and/or acquired prior to the recognition of access requirements. The buildings contain steps making them difficult for wheelchair access.

Council identified the Council Chambers and Resource Centre as priorities requiring action in regard to access.

A stair lift has now been installed in the Council Office providing disabled access to the upstairs meeting room and Council Chambers.

Road networks need to be maintained in a satisfactory condition including provision of ancillary road facilities such as footpaths, car parking, street lighting and bicycle tracks. These issues attract significant amounts of funding however it is Council's view that more funds are required if improvements are to be achieved. More information on roadwork/transport works can be found in Council's Management Plan.

SOCIAL/COMMUNITY & CULTURAL

During the year, the Social, Community and Cultural Plan implementation committee met regularly to monitor progress and develop programs and tools to support the achievement of the actions outlined in the Social, Community and Cultural Plan.

Regular positive media, strengthened website presence and continued support of local committees and networks has assisted communication, enhanced relationships and strengthened Council image.

The Community Grants Program provided assistance to 15 community groups and organisations to achieve their objectives and those of the Social, Community and Cultural Plan (2006-2011).

The Community Safety Sub-Committee, which is supported by the Community Development Officer, combined with St Mary's Primary to hold its Annual Safety Expo which involved major safety and rescue organisations providing exhibits, demonstrations and information about personal and community safety.

Art and Cultural Services were targeted during the report period resulting in Council partnership with Murray Arts. Major arts and culture projects included the mural painting and mosaic decoration of Unit Y, a workshop with graffiti artist to re-paint the skate park sheds and sponsorship of an aboriginal music/poetry recital and local theatre production.

Encouraging the expansion of children's services and activities within the Shire and input into the production of a community engagement policy will be a focus for the Community Development Officer during the next reporting period.

SISTER CITY EXCHANGES & OVERSEAS VISITS

Council undertakes a bi-annual exchange with Miki City, Japan whereby on alternate years Council either sends or received an exchange visit to or from Miki.

Due to the Global Financial Crisis which has hit Japan extremely hard Miki City has taken a break from the exchange program until further notice.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Corowa Shire Council is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. Council adopted its first Policy on EEO on 24 July 1991 as part of its Corporate Plan and has since amended and expanded this Policy to incorporate the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993.

1995 saw the development and adoption of Council's EEO Management Plan containing strategies identified by Council for implementation.

Strategies included deal with issues of: -

- Communication and Awareness raising
- Consultation
- Recruitment
- Questions at Interview
- Appointment Promotion and Transfer
- Training and Development
- Grievance Resolution
- Evaluation and Review of EEO Management Plan.

LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTRES

COROWA LIBRARY

Children's Book Week

The theme *Across the Story Bridge* was held in August. Over 170 children from St Mary's School visited the Library. We read and discussed some of our favourite shortlisted books for 2010. It is always encouraging to see some of the children return to join the library, encouraging the lifelong joy of reading.



Children's Week

Children's Week is a national program recognizing the talents, skills, achievements and rights of young people. This year we joined in activities by inviting five local Playgroups, including a baby playgroup, to a StoryTime session. A book and a sticker were handed out to each child. Books were from the *Smarty Cat Series* by Jeanette Row. These were purchased through a special program and paid for by the Corowa Friends of the Library.

Fun for Kids Day and Captain Pete

The Corowa Shire held a family fun day at the Racecourse in May. The UMRL Mobile was in attendance and the Corowa library hosted children's author/entertainer Peter Klein (alias Captain Pete). Captain Pete (Peter Klein) returned to celebrate Library and Information Week. Award winning singer, songwriter, author and bush poet, Captain Pete proved extremely popular.

Peter Klein (alias Captain Pete), the author of '*The true adventures of Mudpoo*' presented an entertaining show to the children and their parents. In this light hearted show the children were invited to act out the book characters of Mudpoo, Harry (the dog) and Captain Pete. Peter had the children playing in his amazing percussion band

using homemade instruments. Captain Pete inspired the children to be creative and to write their own stories.

National Simultaneous Story time

Corowa library joined with Libraries across Australia, reading the picture book 'Feathers for Phoebe' by Rod Clement. Year two children from St Mary's Primary School visited the Corowa Library. We read the book which was followed by a game of Pin the Feathers (tail) on Phoebe.

Louise Parr
Librarian Corowa

<http://www.umrl.com.au/lib-corowa.htm>



MULWALA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

Children's Book Week

Interaction with Mulwala Public School has included visits by all grades during Book Week, National Simultaneous Story time with Kinder – Year one, and a visit to the school to publicise the last year's Summer Reading Club – where the theme, 'scare up a good book' was promoted. Several students took up this offer and participated in the program which concluded in early March. An after school party celebrating each participants achievement was a highlight with balloons and fabulous food provided by Mary Dowling from Friends of the Library.

Several of the children have continued to read regularly from our library and we have formed our own book club, with children being acknowledged using materials that were purchased for the Summer Program. A wall display in the children's area has helped initiate new members into the club and reminds others of the great opportunities that Upper Murray Regional Library offers.

During Children's Week, author Peter Klein thrilled and entertained both Mulwala and Savernake Primary students with his quirky performances of music and writing. His book, "The True Adventures of Mudpoo" , along with accompanying DVD were purchased by the library. Peter spent time with the 2/3 class at Mulwala Public School talking of his writing craft, and encouraging these children with his knowledge of story writing and publishing.

Mulwala Branch Librarian
Jenny Orr.

<http://www.umrl.com.au/lib-mulwala.htm>

HOWLONG COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE



This past year has seen a number of community, welfare and professional groups utilize the centre. Volunteer programs have continued on from the previous year, and the Tax Assistance Program in particular has been a successful and rewarding program to implement for the community. Council services have been utilized and accessed more on a consistent level with the number of development applications and enquiries increasing considerably. Tourism visitations has decreased this past year, however the

Centre is positive about the expansion of tourism assistance through an official volunteer assistance program in the future. The Upper Murray Regional Library has once again this year provided an exceptional service to the people of Howlong through their visiting Mobile Library Van. The Centre's History and Archives Volunteer Service is expanding and the Centre has recently sought external funding for the provision of a computerized family search program to enhance this area's capability.

Nyree Terry
Manager

Library hours.

Corowa Library

- Monday	Closed
- Tuesday to Friday	10.30am to 1.00pm
- Tuesday to Friday	2.00pm to 5.00pm
- Saturday	9.30am to 12.00noon

Mulwala Office and Library

- Monday & Friday	Closed
- Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	10.00 am - 1.00 pm
- Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	2.00 pm - 5.00 pm
- Saturday	10.00 am - 12 noon

Howlong Community Resource Centre

- Sunday & Monday	Closed
- Tuesday	10am to 1pm
- Wednesday	10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm
- Thursday	10am to 1pm
- Friday	10am to 1pm
- Saturday	9.30am to 12noon

Upper Murray Regional Library on behalf of Council provides a Mobile Library Service to Balldale, Lowesdale, Daysdale and Howlong. This service is paramount to the provision of library services to our more remote citizens.

<http://www.umrl.com.au/lib-mobile.htm>

Library Service Statistical Data

	Loans	Members	Internet Hours	Attendance
Corowa	40,987	2502	3395	25,871
Mulwala	9,156	968	883	5,428
Mobiles	9,959	578	N/A	3,077

ENGINEERING MATTERS

Council is responsible for the care, control, maintenance and improvement to public works within the Corowa Shire area. This includes roads, footpaths, cycleways, public buildings, water supplies, sewerage, storm water drainage, parks and gardens, saleyards, cemeteries, public swimming pools and aerodrome.

The road network continues to consume the greatest proportion of Council funds. Council continues to expend large sums of money on the road network but this is never enough to meet the increasing demands of more vehicles and larger and heavier trucks using the network.

The northern reaches of the Council area were affected by flooding events in October, December and again in February. Council has been fortunate that the State Government has assisted with grants of almost \$3m to rehabilitate the roads affected. This unexpected work has placed considerable strain on Council's resources.

The State Highway within Corowa Shire is maintained by the RTA, the State Road from Corowa to Mulwala is fully funded by RTA but maintained by Council, Regional Roads are funded by RTA and all other roads and streets within the Corowa Shire are maintained totally by Corowa Shire Council, with funding from rates, grants and general income.

The Federal Government's Road to Recovery Program continues to provide valuable funds for roads, with expenditure on Melbourne Road, Mulwala, Freyer's Road and preliminary design works on the Bullicourt Road Town by pass.

Construction of the Corowa Saleyard Waste Water Treatment Facility was nearing completion at a cost of just over the estimated/budgeted of \$1.7 million. Final Cost \$1,735,375

Water Supplies

Water supplies in Corowa, Mulwala and Howlong continued through 2010/2011.

Sewerage

Sewer Services were maintained in the towns of Corowa, Mulwala and Howlong.

Investigations continued with the view of options for replacing/relocating the Corowa Plant.

The Howlong Plant may require augmentation in the next few years as population increases and licensing conditions become more stringent.

MAJOR CAPITAL WORKS – 2010/2011

Administration

Office Equipment - Admin

Miscellaneous computer purchases completed.

Office Equipment – Engineering/Asset Management/Depot

Completed

Road Plant

Completed

Works Depot Improvements and Truck Pit

Construction near complete. Light to be installed

Civic Centre

In progress.

Public Order and Safety

Bush Fire Prevention Equipment

Completed

Emergency Services - Generator, Whiteboard

No Action

Health

Domestic Waste Management

Corowa Landfill Rehabilitation

Ongoing.

Housing and Community Amenities

Drainage – Corowa (Aitken Street)

Construction complete.

Drainage – Corowa (West Trunk)

Construction complete.

New Garbage Bin Surrounds

Ordered.

Corowa Water

New Meters and Services

Ongoing.

Mains Replacement

Guy Street (Evelyn to Tower) – completed.
Gray and Parliament Streets – completed.
Birdwood Street to Guy Street West – completed.

Netherby Pump Station – Intake

Deferred.

Victoria Pump Station – Intake

Complete.

Treatment Plant – Replace Header Pipe

Not done.

Treatment Plant – Pump Gallery Flood Prevention

Complete.

Treatment Plant – By Pass Clear Water Store

Awaiting quotations.

Plant – Vehicle and Vacuum

Vacuum unit purchased.

Mulwala Water

New Services and New Meters

Ongoing.

Mains Replacement

Bayly Street / Lucan Street Inter – completed.
Hume Street – completed.
Coobah Road – completed.

Pump Station – Pontoon at Raw Water Intake

Installed.

Water Treatment Plant - Clarifier

Not done.

Treatment Plant – Upgrade Electrical Control

Scope of works under revision.

Plant - Vehicle and Vacuum

Vacuum unit purchased.

Howlong Water

Mains Replacements

Hawkins Street (Pearce to Sturt) – completed.
Hawkins Street (Hovell to Hume) – completed.

New Services

Ongoing.

Plant – Vehicle and Vacuum

Vacuum unit purchased.

Corowa Sewerage

Mains Replacement

O'Brien Court – not commenced.
Sanger Street roundabout under bore – not commenced.
Birdwood Street – not commenced.

Mains Upgrades

Bowling Club M/H replacement – not commenced.
Bowling Club rising main bypass – Incomplete.

Pump Station Upgrades

Albury Road – Not commenced.
Sanger Street – in design.

Treatment Works – Odour Control

Ongoing.

Treatment Works – Measuring Flume

Completed.

Trunk Sewer Main – Cemetery Road

Near complete, presently operational.

Floodwater/Infiltration Works

50% complete.

Plant – Vehicle and Vacuum

Complete.

Plant - Camera

Purchased.

Mulwala Sewerage

Treatment Plant – Chemical Storage

Design by Dept of Commerce awaited.

Treatment Plant – Pond Rehabilitation

Design by Dept of Commerce awaited.

Treatment Plant – Effluent Drainage Line

Completed.

Pump Station Upgrades

TunzaFun – completed.

Corowa Road – completed.

Plant – Vehicle and Vacuum

Complete.

Plant - Camera

Purchased.

Howlong Sewerage

Pump Station – Lowe Street Platform

Completed.

Pump Station Upgrade Vents

Deferred.

Pump Station Upgrades Continuing Program

Ongoing.

Treatment Plant – Groundwater Monitoring Bores

Installed.

Treatment Plant – Flow Meters

Not done.

Plant – Vehicle and Vacuum

Complete.

Plant - Camera

Not purchased.

Recreation and Culture

Howlong Swimming Pool

Completed.

Corowa Swimming Pool

Completed.

Bangerang Park Garden Rehabilitation

Deferred to 2011/12

Corowa Parks – Tables and Chairs

Deferred to 2011/12.

Ball Park Boat Ramp

Complete.

Corowa Riverfront Improvements

Master Plan adopted.

Transport and Communication

Roads to Recovery – Freyers Road

Done.

Roads to Recovery – Melbourne Street

Stage 1 Complete.

Urban Roads Corowa – Hermitage Drive

Construction Complete awaiting Registration of Subdivision.

Urban Roads Corowa – Martin Street

Completed.

Urban Roads Mulwala – Savernake/North Street Intersection

Design complete.

Paved Footpath – Corowa High School

Completed.

Kerb & Gutter - Federation Avenue

Design completed.

Cycleway Construction

Completed.

Aerodrome – Resealing

\$84,000 of works complete.

Economic Affairs

Industrial Land – Promotion, Landscaping & Legal Cost

Ongoing.

Ball Park Caravan Park –Improvements

Ongoing.

Saleyards

Treatment Plant near complete.

Howlong Town Improvement Works

Walking / Cycle / Horse Trails

Completed.

Drainage

Hume Street Kerb & Gutter – Hawkins to Pell

Completed.

Townsend Street

Completed.

Hawkins St Kerb & Gutter – High to Larmer

Completed.

Kerb and Gutter

Hammer Street Seal

Design complete.

Hawdon Court Seal

Completed.

Jude Street Seal

Completed.

Hoddle Street Seal – East to Orchard

To be done in sealing program.

Jude Street Drainage – River Discharge

Deferred 2011/12.

Hawkins Street

Completed.

Hawkins Street Streetscape

Completed.

Holbeach Street Drainage

Not commenced. Funds to be transferred to overall drainage investigation.

Lowe Square – Master Plan

Completed. Works scheduled for subsequent years.

Lowe Square – BMX Track Upgrade

Deferred 2011/12.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

State of the Environment Report

Ecological sustainable development (ESD) is the chief objective of environment protection in New South Wales.

The important role of Local Government in the implementation of ESD principles has been formally recognised by incorporating the principles of Ecological Sustainable Development in the Local Government Act and by requiring Councils to manage their regulatory and service functions in an ecological sustainable manner. State of the Environment Reporting is a key mechanism for assessing progress towards sustainability.

Council recently produced State of the Environment Report incorporated the ESD principles by utilising the pressure - state - response model, a model designed to show the effect of human activities on the environment. The pressure - state - response model uses three main types of indicators; indicators of the positive or negative effects of human activities on a given environment; indicators of the changes in the environment, reflecting the impact of the pressures and/or the effectiveness of the responses; and, indicators of the actions taken in response to perceived or potential environmental problems and issues.

Since 2002 Council has joined with other Local Government Authorities within the Murray Regional Organisation of Councils to develop a regional SoE.

SoE's are updated on an annual basis.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

All domestic waste collected from the kerb-side collection service provided in Mulwala, Corowa, Howlong and Balldale is being conveyed by Cleanaway to the Albury landfill for disposal. Solid and inert waste is able to be disposed of at the Corowa landfill while putrescible, solid and inert waste may be disposed of at the Howlong landfill.

Council's existing Waste Management Facility and has been so since 1909. The site is presently licensed by the Environment Protection Authority and is used for the disposal of non-domestic solid and inert waste by landfill. A recycling operation is also carried out on site.

The establishment of the Transfer Station is only one component of Council's solid waste management strategy. Disposal of inert waste by landfill will continue as part of Council's long term plans to rehabilitate the site in accordance with an EPA approved post closure plan.

Hard waste generated at Mulwala is now transported direct to Albury for disposal.

Kerbside recycling is provided to all residential areas of the Shire with a fortnightly 240 litre MGB service. The service is rendered on the same day as domestic garbage is collected and involves the collection of glass, PET plastic, aluminium, paper and cardboard. Other recyclable materials such as steel, vegetation, batteries, white goods and chemical drums are able to be recycled at Councils transfer stations and garbage tips.

BUILDING STATISTICS – 2010/2011

A total of 206 Construction Certificates were recorded in the 2010/2011 financial year with a monetary value of \$17,536,187.00.

The approvals consisted of the following:

- 58 new dwellings – 22 in Mulwala, 15 in Corowa, 18 in Howlong and 3 within the rural area of the Shire. The average cost of these dwellings was \$229,704.00 with a total value of \$12,403,990.00
- 48 alterations and additions were approved with a range in valuation totalling \$1,508,947.00
- 71 outbuildings totalling \$933,113.00
- 19 commercial buildings with a range of values totalling \$1,058,855.00
- 14 industrial buildings with a range of values totalling \$1,458,637.00
- 9 other construction certificates such as retaining walls, fences, etc \$172,645.00
- 16 subdivisions. These certificates will result in the creation of an additional 37 allotments with development costs of \$1,231,550.00

To compare the 2009/2010 year with 2010/2011 the following observations are offered:

- An increase in the number of new dwellings from 54 to 58 (includes unit development).
- An increase in the value of new dwellings from \$11.2 million to \$12.4 million.
- The average cost of a new dwelling increased from \$207,350.00 to \$229,705.00.
- An increase in the number of alterations and additions from 36 to 48.
- The value of alterations and additions increased from \$0.9 million to \$1.5 million.
- A decrease in the number of outbuildings from 98 to 71.
- A decrease in the value of outbuildings from \$1.7 million to \$0.9 million.
- An increase in the number of subdivision allotments from 25 to 37.
- A decrease in the value of subdivision development from \$2.9 million to \$1.2 million.
- The number of construction certificates issued remained constant at 206.
- A decrease in the value of the construction certificates issued from \$20.0 million to \$17.5 million.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION STATISTICS

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION PUBLIC ACCESS

Sweeping reforms to New South Wales' right to information system took effect on 1 July 2010 with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA Act) replacing the *Freedom of Information Act 1989 (NSW)*.

Council received no applications for information under GIPAA during the 2010/11 Financial Year.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Rate Recovery

Council's rate recovery actions during the past financial year have clearly been ineffective due to the long lead time required to effect substantial reductions in outstanding debt. This said summons and judgements issued to ratepayers incurring legal fees of \$30,369. All these fees are recoverable from the delinquent ratepayers.

The total rates and charges outstanding at year end stood at 9.13% up on the 2009/2010 figure of 8.45%.

This indicator for the percentage of rates and annual charges outstanding is considered to be too high and is attributed to the continuing tough economic times, with the bench

mark considered to be about 5% to 6.00%.

At the time of writing this report it is known that several larger payments have been received and circumstances are that Council expects to receive significant reductions in the outstanding rates by the end of 2011/12.

LGFS Failed Rembrandt Investment

Council is currently party to a class action against LGFS with respect to the failed CPDO which saw Council lose almost \$1m. The case continues with Council's having now appointed IMF to fund the case. Council's costs in this case are incidental and limited to minimal staff time in answering questions and attending court.

FEES, EXPENSES AND FACILITIES PROVIDED TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

The following fees were expended during the period.

		2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
(i)	Mayoral Fees	\$17,000	\$17,425	\$17,948
(ii)	Councillor Fees	\$77,916	\$78,413	\$80,766
(iii)	Travelling / Misc Expenses / Mayoral Car	\$20,943	\$19,102	\$23,273
	Sustenance / Meals	\$10,873	\$7,740	\$6,030
	Conference Expenses – Accommodation/Travel/Registrations	\$19,003	\$23,881	\$24,589
	TOTAL	\$145,735	\$146,560	\$152,606

The above fees and expenses were incurred in accordance with Council's "Payment of Expense & Provision of Facilities to the Mayor and Councillors Policy".

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that there is accountability and transparency in the reimbursement of expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Mayor and Councillors. The policy also ensures that the facilities are provided to assist the Mayor and Councillors to carry out their civic duties are reasonable.

A copy of the policy is available on Council's website.

<http://www.corowa.nsw.gov.au/council/yourcouncil/policies/images/Councillors%20Expenses%20Policy%202009.pdf>

- Council provides Laptop PCs to Councillors to enable electronic receipt of business papers and other correspondence.
- Council has provided no child care reimbursements nor provided any child care services to Councillors.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Council in consultation with the Department of Primary Industries is actively involved in the control of noxious weeds. There are many means of control, the most popular being through use of herbicides. Other means include natural biological control; manipulated biological control; pulling or grubbing; slashing or poisoning.

Every homeowner, landowner, occupier or person(s) leasing or renting property must be aware of their obligations and responsibilities to control noxious plants. The person or persons, who has the care, control and use of the land is the occupier. Each occupier who fails without reasonable excuse to take reasonable and effective measures to control noxious plants from their property shall be liable to a penalty fine not exceeding \$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Dollars).

For the best advice pertaining to which control is needed you should either ring your local agronomist or Noxious Weeds Inspector. Corowa Shire's local Noxious Weeds Inspector is Patrick Minogue - Mobile 0427 929 597.

More information can be obtained from the [Weeds Australia Website](#) Or by visiting www.riverinaweeds.org.au

RURAL FIRE SERVICES

SOUTHERN BORDER TEAM

2010/11 Annual Rural Fire Service Report

The Southern Border Team manages the Rural Fire Districts of Albury City, Berrigan, Corowa and Greater Hume Shire Councils by a Rural Fire Service Agreement.

The Southern Border Team occupies an area of 10,449 square kilometres covering the City of Albury and the Shires of Berrigan, Corowa and Greater Hume. Its southern boundary is marked by the foreshore of Lake Hume and the Murray River and extends 70km north of the Murray River. The eastern boundary is the village of Jingellic and the western boundary is 10km west of the town of Tocumwal.

The terrain ranges from hilly in the east, through gently undulating plains to irrigation areas in the west. Approximately 85% of the district's population lives in one city and 13 main towns and villages. The largest is the City of Albury. The 13 main towns have over 1000 people. There are numerous smaller villages and hamlets scattered over the Team area ranging in size from 1000 people to just a few. The remaining 15% of the population live in rural areas, with many occupying smaller allotments close to Albury, Corowa and along the Murray River and main roads.

In the eastern part of the Team there are large areas of State Forests and National Parks. The Carabost State Forest located on the eastern side of the Team covers 20,000 hectares. The Benambra and Woomargama National Parks are located in the central and southern areas and cover 32,500 hectares. There are several smaller State Forest reserves scattered mainly along the Murray River.

The main Melbourne to Sydney railway line traverses the Southern Border Team area. The team has a National Highway and four State Highways that also cross it. The Hume

Highway traverses the area heading from Albury into the north-eastern part of the team area. The Riverina Highway, Olympic Highway and Newell Highway are the other State highways. There are several other major roads in the Team area.

MANAGEMENT

The Senior Management Team comprises the Group Captains within the Team and has met 4 times during the year. Brigade members are encouraged to discuss any issue they have with their Group Officers who will bring it to the attention of the Senior Management Team for consideration.

The Senior Management Team develops the 4 year Business Plan for the Team. The plan includes the proposed budgets for the next four years, Brigade Station construction for the next 10 years, Tanker replacement for the next 10 years and the proposed Program and Action for the next 12 months.

The Annual Volunteer Forums were held on 11 and 12 October 2010 with representative from RFS Head Office and Region along with Local Government in attendance. A total of 101 volunteers representing 36 brigades attended these forums. The outstanding service of Leo Corrigan (23 years), Max Webb (15 years) and Ian Dunn (5 years) as Group Officers was recognised at the forums. Murray Cook (Central), Alan Thomas (Walbundrie) and Matthew Hicks (Culcairn South) were elected to replace the retiring Group Officers. Also Peter Webb (Cookardinia) was elected as a Group Officer for Group 7.

Group Officers conducted their annual group meetings in March 2010, all of which were well attended by volunteers, along with a staff member.

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Replacement tankers were ordered for Barooga (Cat 9), Finley (Cat 1), Goombargana (Cat 1), Lavington (Cat 1), Paragon (Cat 2), Table Top (Cat 9), Thurgoona (Cat 7), Walbundrie (Cat 1) and Walla Walla (Cat 7) Brigades. It is anticipated that all of these tankers will be in service prior to the 2011/12 fire season.

A replacement storage facility was constructed at the Corowa office and the construction of a replacement Splitters Creek station was completed. Preliminary work for the construction of stations at Buraja, Central, Garryowen and Hopefield was commenced. It is anticipated that these stations will be constructed in 2011/12.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

There are currently 56 Brigades, 2399 registered volunteers and 7 full time staff. During 2010/11, 143 new members were approved and 51 members resigned.

Staff attended all 56 Brigade Annual General meetings during July/August 2010.

Long Service medals were presented to 285 volunteers during the year in recognition of their years of service to the community they live in and the Rural Fire Service. All recipients should be commended on their dedication and service.

Training courses provided during the year included:

- Bushfire Awareness
- Bush Firefighter
- Bushfire Support
- Asbestos Awareness Workshop

- Advanced Fire Fighter
- Crew Leader Grassland
- Crew Leader Wildfire
- Group Leader (in conjunction with Region South)
- Chain Saw (Cross cutting- TFT)
- Senior First Aid
- Vehicle & Structure Grasslands
- Village Fire Fighter

A total of 300 volunteers attended these courses involving 2677 hours.

OPERATIONAL SERVICES

The above average rainfall resulted in below average number of incidents being attended by Brigades. A total of 338 incidents were attended by Brigades, of which 124 were grass/scrub/bush/rubbish, 15 structural fires, 85 Motor Vehicle accident and/or fires, 56 False Alarms/Good Intent Calls, 27 to assist another agencies (CFA, Police, NSWFB and SES) and 31 Other Calls.

During the bush fire danger period 120 permits to burn were issued.

It was disappointing that following the revocation of the bushfire danger period on 28 February 2011, Brigades had to attend 26 incidents of fire escaping from private properties. These escape burns were caused by the rural community carrying out grass/stubble burns with inadequate firebreaks (or no firebreaks in some cases) and lack of attention by the owner. In some cases, there was no one in attendance at the burn.

These burns resulted in an area of 57 hectares being burnt and 176 volunteer hours.

Brigades and staff were involved in community education activities attending 49 events across the Team including School visits (local High, Primary and Pre-Schools), local shows, and talks to community groups on Fire Safety.

During the year a number of communities at higher risk in the event of fire activity were identified. To assist in engaging these residents, pre-season interactive Street Meetings were arranged prior to the fire season. The aim was to interact directly with residents at their properties, and have firefighters provide residents with feedback in relation to their property (ie. concerns with access, water supply etc). During these Street meetings the Team also talked to residents about their properties' preparedness and hazard identification, Bush Fire Survival Plan, and answer any questions. This information would also be valuable to Brigades as part of pre-incident planning. At this stage the following high risk areas have been highlighted to conduct Street Meetings: Gerogery West, Jindera West, Mulwala SW, Tocumwal South, Balldale NW.

Funding was provided for hazard reduction works across the Team. This funding was provided to Local Government, Forest NSW and National Parks and Wildlife Service to assist in carrying out hazard reduction works such as grazing, slashing, burning and spraying roadsides.

The Bushfire Danger Period commences on 1 November each year unless the Senior Management Team, after consulting with Captains, considers the conditions appropriate to vary this date.

George Alexander
 Manager
 Southern Border Team
 19 July 2011

PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN DURING 2010/2011 TO PROMOTE SERVICES AND ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DIVERSE CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC BACKGROUNDS (Multicultural Services)

Corowa Shire is a medium to small rural Council with limited funds available for social programs of this nature. The need for such programs is minimal because of the limited number of persons from migrant, non-English speaking and Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander backgrounds. The ABS regional profile for the Corowa Shire Area supports this indicating that 95% of the population are from English speaking backgrounds, only .7% of persons are Aboriginal /Torres Strait Islander peoples and only 1.1% of persons do not speak English at home.

Council encourages new Australians to participate within the community by involving themselves in local churches, sporting organisations and other social and service clubs operating within the area. In addition Council welcomes enquiries from persons wishing to take out Australian Citizenship whilst recognising their needs to maintain ties to their cultural origins.

Persons seeking to involve themselves in multicultural activities are referred to the larger regional centres of Albury and Wagga Wagga where such programs may be available. Council has not undertaken any programs of this nature.

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING WORK CARRIED OUT ON PRIVATE LAND, AND ANY SUBSIDIES RELATED TO THIS WORK

Income to the total of \$77,309 was received for works on undertaken by Council on private land in the 12-month period 2010/2011. No subsidies were provided. Council's policy with regard to charging for these private rates is as follows:

Plant Hire Rates	Reviewed each year based on a commercial rate of return on (including operator) capital invested
Additional Labour	Actual costs plus 46.9% for overheads
Stores and Materials	Actual cost plus 20% for overheads

SENIOR STAFF EMPLOYED BY COUNCIL

During the 12 months 2010/11 Council's General Manager was the only Senior Staff appointment employed under a remuneration package of \$163,392 consisting of salary, fringe benefits and on costs (including motor vehicle expenses and superannuation).

CONTRACTS IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 AWARDED BY COUNCIL DURING 2010/2011

Name of Contractor	Description of Goods and Services	Value of Contract (Ex GST)
B &K Robinson Family Trust Parnalls	Cemetery Road, Trunk Sewer Construction management ., carpets and vinyl and demolitions - Civic Centre as per tenders and specification.	\$499,180.67 \$527,751.50
Torney and Allan	Electrical services for Civic Centre.	\$418,260.00
Accent Office Interiors	Partitions , workstations, walls and ceilings for the Civic Centre.	\$357,730.00

GRANTS UNDER SECTION 356

During the 12-month period 2010/11 Council made the following grants to local community groups & individuals:

Beneficiary	Amount	Purpose
Lions Club of Albury	\$200	Magic Show for Disadvantaged Children
Australian Hydroplane Grand Prix	\$3,000	Lake Mulwala Grand Prix Boat Races
Border Trust	\$1,000	Foundation Contribution
TAFE NSW	\$150	Corowa Campus Award
Rotary Club of Albury	\$200	Circus for Disadvantaged Children
Southern Sports Academy	\$300	Financial Support Simon Hanrahan Netball
Baden Lodge (Guides and Scouts)	\$720	Donation - Water and Sewer Charges
Mulwala Old Time Dance	\$1,550	Assistance with costs of Old Time Dance
Apex Club Corowa	\$2,000	Skate Park Calendar
Blue Light Disco Mulwala	\$2,535	Sound and Lighting Equipment
Howlong Toy Library	\$3,000	Contribution to Shed
CDHBU Football Netball Club	\$875	Water Pipe
Corowa Country Women's Association	\$1,140	Car Park
Corowa Rutherglen Netball Club	\$1,395	Shade Area and Root Barriers
Rotary Club of Corowa	\$1,917	Men's Health Event Sponsorship
Corowa District Historical Society	\$2,159	Digital Record Keeping
Balldale Recreational Reserve Trust	\$2,910	100 Chairs
St Mary's Playgroup	\$768	Indoor Play Equipment
Sing Australia	\$1,200	Hall Hire
Corowa Community Cancer Network	\$519	Brochure Printing
Corowa Festival of Dance	\$1,000	Hall Hire

\$28,538

PARTNERSHIPS, CO-OPERATIVES OR OTHER JOINT VENTURES TO WHICH THE COUNCIL WAS A PARTY DURING 2009/2010

Council participates in the provision of Library Services to the residents of the Shire through the Upper Murray Regional Library. The vision of the UMRL is to develop and operate the best public library service for all the residents of the Upper Murray Region, providing a library collection and services, which fully serve the needs of these communities.

Council is a member of the Murray Regional Organisation of Councils a resource sharing arrangement formed with the aim of providing economies of scale to the member Councils along with economic development opportunities.

EXTERNAL BODIES EXERCISING FUNCTIONS DELEGATED BY COUNCIL DURING 2009/10

Fifteen (15) external bodies were delegated functions by Council under Section 355.

Name of Committee	Function
Corowa Shire And Rutherglen District Health Social And Community Support Committee	Forum for Health Issues affecting the wider Community
Daysdale Water Trust	Daysdale Water Supply
Corowa Friends of the Library	Ancillary Library Functions
Mulwala Friends of the Library	Ancillary Library Functions
Corowa Shire Tourism	Tourism Promotion
Corowa District Landcare	Landcare Operations
Corowa National Federation Festival	Corowa National Federation Festival Organisation
Morris Park Committee of Management	Morris Park Management
Lonsdale Reserve Committee of Management	Lonsdale Reserve Management
Business Corowa Mulwala Howlong (BCMH)	Business and economic development
Low Square Management Committee	Low Square Recreation Ground Management
Festival of Dance	Dance Festival within Corowa
Federation Arts	Annual Arts and Photographic Exhibition

AMOUNT OF RATES AND CHARGES WRITTEN OFF DURING THE YEAR

(Local Government (Rates and Charges) Regulation 1993)

Rates & Charges of \$3,106.88 were abandoned during the 2010/11 rating year as a result of changes of property to non-rateable status and the rounding down of "Odd Cent balances" at the end of the financial period.

COMPANIES IN WHICH COUNCIL HELD A CONTROLLING INTEREST DURING THE 12 MONTH PERIOD 2010/2011

Council holds an interest in the following corporation.

Name	Purpose
Upper Murray Regional Library Corporation	Provision of Regional Library Services

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

1. ADMINISTRATION.

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2009/2010	2010/2011
Average rate value per residential assessment	Highlights the relative level of Council's residential rates for comparative purposes	\$384.53	\$393.87
Average interest rate paid	Allows assessment of the relative cost of Council's borrowings	6.50%	6.80%
Staff per 1,000 capita population	Highlights the ratio of Council staff to area population for comparative purposes	9.60	9.00
That all statutory requirements are completed on time	Compliance with Legislative requirements	Yes	Yes
That all staff appraisals are completed by 31 August	To ensure a regular review of staff performance	No	No
Expenditure remains within budget	Financial Control	Yes	Yes
Works carried out in accordance with approved programs	Control and Maintenance of standard procedures	Yes	No

2. PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY.

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2009/2010	2010/2011
That all controllable fires are suppressed without loss of life or property	To minimise losses	Minimal Loss	Yes
That equipment checks indicate that all vehicles and equipment are in a state of readiness	Safety, efficiency and effectiveness	Yes	Yes
The number of complaints regarding straying stock and animals	Indicative to problem	181	N/A
The number of companion animal registrations. (Dogs and Cats)	Indicative and comparative	4,234	4,300
The number of Dog Act infringements and impounding	Indicative and comparative	106	95

3. HEALTH.

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2009/2010	2010/2011
Number of complaints regarding food premises	Indicates level of dissatisfaction within community	2	4
Number of food premises inspected	Comparative figures on level of enforcement	42	44

4. COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EDUCATION.

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2009/2010	2010/2011
Number of capsules hired	Comparative	18	9
% of annual training plans completed	Indicates level of adherence to adopted plan	85%	N/A

5. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AMENITIES.

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2009/2010	2010/2011
Planning and Regulatory Costs per Capita	Measures the relative cost of town planning and land use control per head of population	\$19.34	\$20.47
Development Applications received and determined (1.75 EFT in Planning Dept)	Measures the relative processing efficiency of the relevant operational group	313	348
Kilograms of recyclables collected per capita	Indicates effectiveness of Council's recycling service	99.66 kg	101.33 kg
Average charge for Domestic Waste Management (DWM) Services	Highlights the relative level of Council's household garbage charge for comparative purposes	\$220	\$235
Collection and disposal cost per service of DWM	Indicates relative efficiency of Council's household garbage service on a per service basis	\$220	\$235
Number of water pollution discharge complaints received	Indicates level of water pollution problems	2	1

6. RECREATION AND CULTURE.

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2009/2010	2010/2011
Recreation and leisure costs per capita	Measures net recreation and leisure costs for each resident for comparative purposes	\$115.90	\$114.00
Community services costs per capita	Highlights the relative cost of community services per head of population	\$28.47	\$24.04
Library services costs per capita	Demonstrates the relative cost of providing library services per head of population	\$27.10	\$28.45

7. MINING, MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION.

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2009/2010	2010/2011
Ensure supply of road making materials is on time and meets Council deadlines	Measures reliability of supply of materials essential to road making	No	No

8. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION.

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2009/2010	2010/2011
Sealed Road maintenance costs per kilometre (Source; National Local Road Data System Exp Return)	Demonstrates relative cost of maintaining sealed roads	\$5,160	\$3,568
Unsealed Road maintenance costs per kilometre (Source; National Local Road Data System Exp Return)	Demonstrates relative cost of maintaining unsealed roads	\$846	\$1,704
Percentage of sealed road pavement rated in good condition or better	Indicates the effectiveness of Council's roadwork's programmes	43.2%	43.5%
Length of unsealed road shoulders upgraded	Indicates the level of the shoulder maintenance reduction programme	0.00	0.00

9. ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2009/2010	2010/2011
Number of sales per annum	Indicates level of utilisation	52	52
Number of stock yarded	Indicative of market trends	476,523	484,427

10. COROWA, HOWLONG AND MULWALA WATER.

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2009/2010	2010/2011
Number of Complaints	To gauge customer satisfaction	188	130
Average water account (\$/connection)	To highlight the relative level of Council water accounts for comparative purposes	\$482	\$482
Operating Costs (\$/connection) excludes dep'n	To assess the cost of providing the services	\$357	\$368

11. COROWA, HOWLONG AND MULWALA SEWER

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2009/2010	2010/2011
Number of complaints	To gauge customer satisfaction	203	119
Average account (\$/connection)	To highlight the relative level of Council sewerage accounts for comparative purposes	\$519	\$574
Operating costs (\$/connection) excludes dep'n	To assess the cost of providing the services	\$404	\$435

CONDITION OF PUBLIC WORKS & FINANCIAL REPORTING

The documents listed below relating to Council's financial activities for the year ended 30 June 2011 have been provided on the following pages.

- Auditor's Report [s.417(2)]
- Statement by Councillors and Management [s.413 (2)(c)]
- General Purpose Financial Reports
 - Income Statement
 - Balance Sheet
 - Statement of Performance Measurement – Note 13
- Special Schedule 7 – Condition of Public Works

Full sets of financial statements are available in adobe PDF format on Council's website http://www.corowa.nsw.gov.au/council/yourcouncil/policies/images/Full_Statements.pdf

Independent auditor's report to Corowa Shire Council (Section 417(2) – report on the general purpose financial statements)

WHK Audit & Risk Assessment
ABN 16 673 023 918

Report on the financial statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Corowa Shire Council ('the Council'), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2011 and the income statement, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes 1 to 27 and the Statement by Councillors and Management of the Council. The financial statements and Council's statement are in the approved form as required by Section 413(2)(c) of the Local Government Act, 1993. Our audit responsibilities do not extend to the Original Budget figures disclosed in the income statement, cash flow statement, Notes 2(a) and 16 to the financial statements nor the attached Special Schedules.

Council's responsibility for the financial statements

The Councillors and management of the Council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting, Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) and the Regulations made there under and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by Council, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

better advice for a better life

We performed the procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial statements presents fairly, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) and the Regulations made there under and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting and Australian Accounting Standards, a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Council's financial position and of its performance.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements.

Auditor's opinion

In our opinion:

- a) the Council's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2;
- b) the Council's financial statements:
 - have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of this Division;
 - are consistent with the Council's accounting records;
 - present fairly the Council's financial position and result of its operations; and
 - are in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards.
- c) all information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained; and
- d) there are no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial statements that have come to light during the course of the audit.

Significant Uncertainty Regarding Investment in Structured Securities

Without qualification to the opinion expressed above, we draw attention to Note 3(c), 6 and 15 to the financial statements. The global financial crisis continues to impact the value, recoverability, liquidity, cash flows and rates of return on many financial assets including Collateralised Debt Obligations (CDOs).

At 30 June 2011, Corowa Shire Council's cash assets and investment portfolio totalled \$16.7 million (2010: \$11.8 million) and included securities totalling \$1.66 million (2010:\$2.02 million) that have been significantly impacted by this market volatility. The impact on individual securities varies depending on their degree of exposure to affected markets.

Many of these securities do not have market values that are independently quoted and they are not widely traded. Independent market valuations are not readily available and in many cases, values are assessed based on estimates from issuers and/or evaluation models for which there is limited market evidence available to verify their reasonableness.

The ultimate outcome of the fair value and recoverability of these securities cannot presently be determined, and no provision for any further potential impairment that may result have been made in the financial statements.

WHK

WHK Audit & Risk Assessment

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Bohun".

Bradley D Bohun
Partner
Albury

20 September 2011

Corowa Shire Council

General Purpose Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2011

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to Section 413(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended)

The attached General Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- The Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) and the Regulations made thereunder,
- The Australian Accounting Standards and professional pronouncements, and
- The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these Financial Statements:

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year, and
- accords with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render the Reports false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 20 September 2011.



Cr Fred Longmire
MAYOR



Cr Fiona Schirmer
COUNCILLOR



Bruce Corcoran
GENERAL MANAGER



Shane Norman
RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

Corowa Shire Council

Income Statement

for the financial year ended 30 June 2011

Budget ⁽¹⁾				Actual	Actual
2011	\$ '000		Notes	2011	2010
Income from Continuing Operations					
Revenue:					
8,027	Rates & Annual Charges		3a	8,032	7,515
4,302	User Charges & Fees		3b	5,302	5,772
440	Interest & Investment Revenue		3c	907	1,370
2,117	Other Revenues		3d	2,638	2,620
5,175	Grants & Contributions provided for Operating Purposes		3e,f	5,764	5,341
1,017	Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes		3e,f	2,991	6,096
Other Income:					
-	Net gains from the disposal of assets		5	4	-
21,078	Total Income from Continuing Operations			25,638	28,714
Expenses from Continuing Operations					
6,532	Employee Benefits & On-Costs		4a	6,735	6,505
541	Borrowing Costs		4b	299	353
7,549	Materials & Contracts		4c	7,563	7,947
4,382	Depreciation & Amortisation		4d	7,215	5,480
-	Impairment		4d	185	-
2,178	Other Expenses		4e	2,498	2,333
-	Net Losses from the Disposal of Assets		5	-	164
21,182	Total Expenses from Continuing Operations			24,495	22,782
(104)	Operating Result from Continuing Operations			1,143	5,932
Discontinued Operations					
-	Net Profit/(Loss) from Discontinued Operations		24	-	-
(104)	Net Operating Result for the Year			1,143	5,932
(104)	Net Operating Result attributable to Council			1,143	5,932
-	Net Operating Result attributable to Minority Interests			-	-
(1,121)	Net Operating Result for the year before Grants and Contributions provided for Capital Purposes			(1,848)	(164)

(1) Original Budget as approved by Council - refer Note 16

Corowa Shire Council

Balance Sheet

as at 30 June 2011

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2011	Actual 2010
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	6a	10,861	5,221
Investments	6b	4,174	5,032
Receivables	7	3,126	3,841
Inventories	8	1,127	1,617
Other	8	152	161
Non-current assets classified as "held for sale"	22	1,458	1,018
Total Current Assets		20,898	16,890
Non-Current Assets			
Investments	6b	1,657	1,573
Receivables	7	-	-
Inventories	8	73	73
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	9	304,612	307,164
Investments accounted for using the equity method	19	-	-
Investment Property	14	-	-
Non-current assets classified as "held for sale"	22	-	-
Other	8	-	-
Total Non-Current Assets		306,342	308,810
TOTAL ASSETS		327,240	325,700
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	10	1,367	1,447
Borrowings	10	165	132
Provisions	10	2,777	2,744
Liabilities associated with assets classified as "held for sale"	22	-	-
Total Current Liabilities		4,309	4,323
Non-Current Liabilities			
Payables	10	-	-
Borrowings	10	4,996	3,981
Provisions	10	258	258
Liabilities associated with assets classified as "held for sale"	22	-	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities		5,254	4,239
TOTAL LIABILITIES		9,563	8,562
Net Assets		317,677	317,138
EQUITY			
Retained Earnings	20	122,773	121,630
Revaluation Reserves	20	194,904	195,508
Council Equity Interest		317,677	317,138
Total Equity		317,677	317,138

Corowa Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2011

Note 13a(i). Statement of Performance Measurement - Indicators (Consolidated)

\$ '000	Amounts 2011	Indicator 2011	Prior Periods 2010 2009	
Local Government Industry Indicators				
1. Unrestricted Current Ratio				
Current Assets less all External Restrictions ⁽¹⁾	<u>14,260</u>	5.41 : 1	4.77	3.56
Current Liabilities less Specific Purpose Liabilities ^(2,3)	<u>2,636</u>			
2. Debt Service Ratio				
Debt Service Cost	<u>431</u>	2.04%	5.85%	2.56%
Income from Continuing Operations excluding Capital Items & Specific Purpose Grants/Contributions	<u>21,148</u>			
3. Rates & Annual Charges Coverage Ratio				
Rates & Annual Charges	<u>8,032</u>	31.33%	26.17%	27.38%
Income from Continuing Operations	<u>25,638</u>			
4. Rates, Annual Charges, Interest & Extra Charges Outstanding Percentage				
Rates, Annual & Extra Charges Outstanding	<u>806</u>	9.13%	8.45%	8.52%
Rates, Annual & Extra Charges Collectible	<u>8,832</u>			
5. Building & Infrastructure Renewals Ratio				
Asset Renewals ⁽⁴⁾ [Buildings & Infrastructure]	<u>3,323</u>	50.71%	80.28%	104.29%
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment (Building & Infrastructure Assets)	<u>6,553</u>			

Notes

(1) Refer Notes 6-8 inclusive.

Also excludes any Real Estate & Land for resale not expected to be sold in the next 12 months

(2) Refer to Note 10(a).

(3) Refer to Note 10(c) - excludes all payables & provisions not expected to be paid in the next 12 months (incl. ELE).

(4) Asset Renewals represent the replacement &/or refurbishment of existing assets to an equivalent capacity or performance as opposed to the acquisition of new assets (or the refurbishment of old assets) that increases capacity/performance.

