



# Annual Report

**2011/2012**

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 2011/2012 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.

The 2011/2012 financial year has been a significant year for Corowa Shire Council.

Council undertook an extensive community engagement process to understand what was important to our communities as we planned for our future. The result has been a Community Strategic Plan and Resourcing Strategy which identifies key priorities and actions that will guide our operations over the next 10 years. This is supported with extensive Asset Management Plans, A Workforce Management Strategy and Long Term Financial Plan.

These documents are available on Councils website [www.corowa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.corowa.nsw.gov.au) or at any Council office/Library.

Our move to the Corowa Shire Civic Centre was a success and feedback on the new facility has been extremely positive. Visitation to the Council facilities at the Civic Centre has increased as patrons have enjoyed the improved services being delivered by Council.

The Shire experienced further flood events in March 2012 with damage assessed to a value of \$4,300,000. This has placed substantial pressure on Council resources as we continue to work urgently towards the repair of our road network.

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;

- All documentation under Integrated Planning and Reporting
- 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
- 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](http://www.corowa.nsw.gov.au)

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



**FT LONGMIRE**  
**MAYOR**



**BJ CORCORAN**  
**GENERALMANAGER**

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GENERAL INFORMATION

**ELECTED MEMBERS – 13 September 2008**  
TO SERVE A FOUR YEAR TERM

**COUNCILLORS**

**MAYOR**

**Cr. Fred Longmire**

"Breadalbane"  
RMB 206  
COROWA NSW 2646  
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**DEPUTY MAYOR**

**Cr. Fiona Schirmer**

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**Cr. Gail Law**

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**Cr. Jan Doyle**

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**Cr. Norm Wales APM**

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COROWA NSW 2646  
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**Cr. Mark Shields**

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HOWLONG NSW 2643  
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**Cr. WB (Bill) Bott AM**

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COREEN NSW 2646  
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Mobile: 0417 201 278  
Email: [bill.bott@corowa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bill.bott@corowa.nsw.gov.au)



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**SENIOR OFFICERS**

General Manager	Bruce J Corcoran
Director Corporate and Community Services	Kristy J Kay
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.

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**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 9.30 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	8.30 am - 5.00 pm
Corowa Library	- Monday	Closed
	- Tuesday to Friday	10.00 am – 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
- Saturday		10.00 am - 4.00 pm
- Sunday		10.00 am - 1.00 pm

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## 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 2011/2012 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

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

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## MOTOR REGISTRY

Council provides agency operations on behalf of the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) NSW.

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

Further information is available by contacting the Roads and Maritime Services on 13 22 13.

Council have established a vastly improved new Motor Registry Agency as part of the Civic Centre at 100 Edward Street Corowa. The Motor Registry is now also open during lunch breaks.

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.

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## GENERAL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

<b>Corowa Office</b>		02 6033 8999
Rates & Administration		02 6033 8970
Engineering, Health and Building		02 6033 8960
	Facsimile	02 6033 3317
<b>Mulwala Office/Library</b>		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
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

**URGENT Council After Hours 24 HOURS 1800 110 088**

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## RATING INFORMATION

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

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

Overdue rates will attract interest at 9% per annum.

### REMINDER NOTICES

Council will issue reminder notices to all ratepayers who are using the instalment plan approximately 30 days prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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, Cheque or Debit Card 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

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 2012/2013 are as follows: -

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

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### 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.

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### CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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

- Management of Council's customer service centres at Corowa, Mulwala and Howlong
- 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.
- RMS Agency services including licensing and motor vehicle registrations.
- Management of Integrated Planning and Reporting outlining future directions of Council.
- Administration of baby capsule/restraint hire scheme.
- Social Community and Cultural Planning.
- Economic and Business Development activities.
- Participation in the Upper Murray Regional Library Service and running Library 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).

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## 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.

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## HUMAN RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

Employees of Council are covered by the Local Government (State) Award 2010.

As in past year substantial staff training was undertaken during the period. The Rural, Construction, Water and Sewer Gangs were all signed to a Cert III. Relevant staff attended mandatory training throughout the year. Plant operator training continued, as did the training and development of Council's Trainees. Management staff attended conferences relating to their areas of expertise in order to maintain up to date knowledge.

The Human Resource Officer and Workplace Health and Safety Officer have completed extensive training with Council's employees in rolling out Council's No Bullying and Harassment Policy and Council's Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy.

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

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## COROWA SHIRE TOURISM

Corowa Shire Tourism is a Section 355 Committee of Corowa Shire Council. The structure consists of an Executive Board with office bearers elected at the Annual General Meeting held in August. Two sub committees currently operate being Tourism Marketing and Australian Billy Cart Championships. Both sub committees operate in accordance with a Charter and report to the Tourism Board.

The association values the professional relationship that has evolved with all businesses and look forward to continuing participation. The number of businesses joining as tourism partners during 2011/12 remained steady at 118 businesses.

Corowa Shire Council has increased its financial cash contribution to tourism over the last 2 years and is now fully funding all expenses relating to tourism staff and the operation of the Corowa Visitor Information Centre. This contribution equates to \$126k annually plus significant in kind support. This is a fantastic result and one that is greatly appreciated by the Tourism board and partners.

What a positive year the tourism association has experienced with some fantastic outcomes.

Four of the key outcomes are as follows:

1. The relocation of the Corowa Visitor Information Centre to the new Corowa Shire Civic Centre. What a fantastic building and wonderful space that the Visitor Information Centre now occupies.
2. The Melbourne Cup Tour visited Corowa during August 2011 which was a once in a lifetime opportunity. Corowa was selected by the prestigious Victoria Racing Club as one of the 30 destinations in Australia and New Zealand to host the tour. A fantastic day consisting of 5 events was organised for the community including the finale dinner with the big surprise of a horse in the RSL Club auditorium. A miniature Melbourne Cup Trophy was presented at the dinner to Corowa Shire Mayor for the community to keep and remember this great event.
3. The successful grant applications by Corowa Shire Council in conjunction with Corowa Shire Tourism towards the Regional Product Development Program. The first successful application was for the Australian Billy Cart Championships. This funding enabled the event to attract V8 Supercar driver and legend, Nathan Pretty to attend the event. Nathan was a massive attraction on the day which resulted in huge crowds attending and enjoying a fabulous day of entertainment. The second application was for the Corowa History Project which will deliver additional signage and bring to life our history and links to Federation for current and future generations to enjoy and reflect upon.
4. The successful bid by Corowa Shire Council in conjunction with Corowa Shire Tourism to host the 2013 Noxious Weeds Conference. This conference will be held at the Corowa RSL Club from Monday 9th September over 4 days. The conference is estimated to attract 250-300 people which will deliver a significant economic benefit to this region.

The tourism marketing sub committee which was established during 2010 has been busy working on a number of projects being the development of a jingle and TV Commercial for the region, development of a new official visitor guide and visitor map which includes a new suite of images and copywriting, development of a mobile smart phone app for iphone and adroid devices and the development of a new destination website.

In addition, a number of marketing campaigns have been successfully completed that include a TV campaign into the Bendigo market for 4 weeks during December 2011. The video footage taken as part of this campaign has been developed into a top and tail TV commercial where 9 individual businesses opted in and purchased air time.

Participation with other Murray tourism destinations at Consumer travel shows in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Auckland.

The tourism shopping campaign that has provided visitors with a free booklet of 20 genuine special offer vouchers and seasonal features in the What's On tourism magazine.

The tourism networking events held throughout the year have proved extremely popular with good numbers of businesses represented.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the tourism board members on their efforts which has seen the association positively move forward. During the year, Geoff Mallows tendered his resignation as Vice President, however stayed on the board as a committee member. David Walton accepted the position as Vice President and I thank Geoff and Dave. I also wish to thank the members of both tourism sub committees, Marketing and Australian Billy Cart Championships.

I would also like to thank and recognise the tremendous efforts of Council's tourism staff (Tracey, Manda and Rachel) and all of the wonderful volunteers that assist tourism on a daily basis. It is fantastic to see that the number of volunteers has remained steady at 37 people, which I would suggest is the largest number of volunteers contributing to the community. Well done everyone.

### **President**

Peter Hansen

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## ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Corowa Shire Council is committed to working with the community and business to foster sustainable economic growth, which will improve the well-being of its residents and the liveability of its community.

Renewing and maintaining economic and social assets has been identified as a key to enhancing the Shires capacity to achieve social, cultural and economic development.

Council works closely the Business Corowa Howlong Mulwala Committee (a Section 355 Committee of Council), local businesses and other government agencies and departments to ensure the successful implementation of the Corowa Shire Economic Development Strategy.

This strategy provides a framework for Council activities in economic development by identifying priority actions. The strategy encourages the pursuit of activities that will maximise the Shire's competitive advantages and in doing so, will encourage investment and secure employment opportunities for the future.

To achieve the Economic Vision of the Shire, the strategy focuses on the following key objectives;

1. A strong and resilient economic community.
2. Marketing activities that attract and retain business, residents and visitors.
3. A competitive advantage.

#### 4. Infrastructure and economic resources that improve business productivity.

Actions within the Economic Development Strategy are categorised under the following key headings and are aimed at meeting the above objectives;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnerships that allows innovative professional development and connection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate and provide a comprehensive program of training and assistance, and accurate information that develops and maintains the economic culture of Corowa Shire.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain a broad understanding of the Shire's economic profile and work to recognise and share the successes of the business community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote Corowa Shire, and the distinct individual townships within the Shire, as the choice of destination for relocation, long stay or a visit.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make Corowa Shire the choice for internal and external economic investment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create partnerships and implement projects that seek to attract, retain and develop Corowa Shire's workforce.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corowa Shire's economic viability and sustainability is protected and advanced through responsible land-use and development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced compliance costs and confusion associated with all regulation approvals processes.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water is always available and the business community accesses it and uses it in an effective and efficient manner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Shire's tourism offer is aspirationally positioned through the development of the tourism related product and service offer.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the protection and sustainability of our community's natural assets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor and improve the capacity and sustainability of utility provision to business and industry.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport throughout the Shire is safe, convenient, accessible and easy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corowa Shire's key commercial and activity centres are developed in a proactive and coordinated way so as to provide vibrant, safe and clean environments that reflect the unique character of each precinct.</li> </ul>

The Economic Development Strategy is a five year plan, with actions delivered based on short, medium and long term prioritisation. A number of actions have been identified as ongoing throughout the life of the plan and are undertaken on a daily basis.

To view the Economic Development Strategy, visit [www.corowa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.corowa.nsw.gov.au) or contact the Economic Development Officer on 02 6033 8958.

## 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.

Awareness of services available is paramount to accessibility. To this end, Council maintains a list of community services contacts on its website, and also in hard copy, to ensure that the community is aware of what services are provided and by whom. This list will continue to be maintained, updated and extended to include new service providers.

Services and activities must be financially within the reach of people. Council provides many of its community services free of charge. Free services include parks and gardens, sports fields, community art gallery and library services. Other services are provided at cost recovery and subsidised rates. Hall fees, meeting rooms and community centre charges are provided below cost at nominal fees to encourage use by local community groups and organisations.

Improving access for persons with mobility difficulties is undertaken within Council's pedestrian access and mobility plan (PAMP). During the year a number of significant improvements have been made including construction of ramps to the new Council Offices, library and community art gallery. Additional disabled parking bays have been established in several locations, including outside the new Civic Centre, and modifications have been made to footpaths and pathways to enable improved pedestrian access to facilities and services.

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## SOCIAL/COMMUNITY & CULTURAL

The Social, Community and Cultural Plan committee met regularly to monitor progress and support the achievement of the actions outlined in the Social, Community and Cultural Plan.

The community grants program provided assistance to 21 community groups and organisations to achieve their objectives and those of the Social, Community and Cultural Plan.

The Community Safety Committee combined with Corowa RSL to hold the annual Corowa Safety Expo which attracted more than 5,000 people and featured exhibits, demonstrations and information about personal and community safety. Art Space, community art gallery, was opened in March this year within the new Civic Centre. A community committee will be formed to manage the operations of the gallery with support from the community development officer.

During the year Council acknowledged the contributions of community members and celebrated its diversity by providing free activities and events during National Volunteers Week, Seniors Week, Youth Week, Children's Week and Australia Day. A community engagement policy was developed in consultation with the community and adopted by Council prior to the development of Council's Community Plan.



## 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**

The first half of this reporting year was busy with planning, ordering, weeding and preparing for the move to the new Library. The second half of the year was busy with the big move, many visitors, tours and National Year of Reading (NYR) activities.



### **HIGHLIGHTS**

The Corowa Library has relocated to the refurbished Corowa Shire Civic Centre.

The library has doubled in size, houses a meeting room, as well as a Training/Conference Room. The library has more space, more stock and six new computers with public Internet access. The Public can bring their own laptops and sit at the new work space/study areas and connect to the Wi-Fi network.

The children love their new space and are welcomed by the brightly coloured dragon artwork on the wall.

The Historical/Quiet room caters as a meeting room as well as housing Historical Resources.

Corowa Shire Council received a Library Development Grant from the State Library of NSW of \$200,000 to assist with the construction of the new library. We thank the State Government for supporting such a vital improvement to important community infrastructure.

### **PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

#### **National Year of Reading 2012 Launch – 14 March**

Within a week of opening the new library, National Year of Reading 2012 was launched with local authors Ann and Alexander Sloane.

'A slice of local history'- Ann and Alexander talked about their books: 'This Is Indeed a Strange Country', 'Heritage Farming in Australia' and 'To fly like an eagle'.

Ann Nicol, Literacy teacher of 45 years spoke about 'What it is like not to be able to read'

A heart shaped cake was cut by the Mayor, Fred Longmire and CEO of Upper Murray Regional Library, Debbie Paylor. 50 guests enjoyed a light morning tea provided by the Friends of the Library.

### **Corowa Shire Festival of Fun 4 Kids Day**

The Corowa Library participated in this fun free day by setting up a reading area with mats and tubs of books where children could take time out from the many activities. Children were given activity sheets based on the book chosen for this year's National Year of Reading: *Are we there yet* by Alison Lester. Corowa Library bookmarks and Name the Dragon Competition were also handed out.

### **Jean Genies Travelling Pants**

The youth of Corowa were invited to decorate pairs of jeans. Drawing inspiration from the *Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants series of books*, by Ann Brashares, Jean Genies saw nine pairs of jeans travelling throughout Australia with each library adding their own special decorations to a panel on the jeans. The *Deb Fitzpatrick* set of jeans started in Robina on the Gold Coast and moved onto Newcastle before coming to Corowa. From Corowa they travelled to Rutherglen Library. To end their tour they returned to the Gosford Library.

*Jean Genies appear from nowhere, create magic in your library and disappear*

### **Celebrating the New Library, Library and Information Week and National Simultaneous Storytime**

During Library and Information Week, in May 2012, over 500 children from all Schools in Corowa were invited to visit the New Library and to have a tour of the Civic Centre.

Along with the tours the children were captivated by author Michael Wagner. He was funny, inspiring and very entertaining. His books captivate the younger readers and are particularly inspiring to the reluctant reader.

This was a highly successful program as children thoroughly enjoyed his talk. In the weeks that followed many children returned with parents to join, borrow books and begin a lifelong relationship with libraries.

### **National Simultaneous Storytime**

55 Kinder and Year one students from Corowa Public School were entertained by Michael Wagner (visiting childrens author) when he read the National Simultaneous Storytime book *The very cranky bear* by Nick Bland. The children were given The Very Cranky Bear stickers and balloons.

### **Story Writing Group for Corowa Library**

A new story writing group has been formed at Corowa. This group has writers at all levels and writers of mixed styles such as poetry, short story, horror and childrens writing.

Michael Wagner, visiting childrens author, conducted an Adult Writing Workshop over dinner. A small group of budding local authors were entertained and inspired by his insights into techniques of writing and he encouraged writers to follow their dreams.

## **PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

Regular events such as **Preschool Storytime** continue. Groups of mums now come to Storytime and continue on to the Civic Centre Cafe for a cup of coffee.

**Book Club:** we now have 5 full Book Club groups.

**The Corowa Friends of the Library** continue to be a strong support to the library, even when asked to dress up as The Cat in The Hat and reading Dr Seuss stories to the children at the Official Opening of the Library.

Many hours were spent cleaning Childrens books and, covering and preparing new books purchased for the new library.

The Home Delivery Service and the Talking Free Press Newspaper on CD is greatly appreciated by patrons.

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES**

Computer classes for beginners were conducted at the Corowa Library. Basic Internet and emailing classes were the most popular. These were short lessons and are popular with senior citizens and give them the confidence to move on to the next stage.

Wi Fi is now available throughout the Civic Centre which includes the Library. It is great to be able to offer this facility along with a space for users to sit.

Statistics indicate a huge increase in library visits, computer bookings, circulation and new memberships. The feedback has been extremely positive with visitors quick to comment on their love of the new library - (design, collection arrangement and additional programs).

The Corowa Library is a lovely fresh vibrant space to promote our region/shire and has a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

Louise Parr  
Corowa Library  
October 2012

### **MULWALA CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY**

The year began with lots of rain....outside and inside our library at Mulwala. This caused a rethink of the library set out and as such the shelving was adjusted to give a new look. The reading table is central to the library and a lovely sunny spot to enjoy daily newspapers with a lovely view of the courtyard that is maintained by our Friends of the Library group.



**National Year of Reading** has given the library plenty of opportunity to engage the community and increase the membership.

We enjoyed a lovely sunny day for the opening on the 14<sup>th</sup> February. Local author Ruth Richmond was there to help us recognise the need to read, and cut the celebratory cake provided! Friends of the Library, served a lovely morning tea to all present.

Morning tea has been held on occasions since, giving borrowers the opportunity to be introduced to the variety of items available for their use. The first session was spent looking at the 'Power Saving Kit', supplied by the NSW Government's Office of Environment & Heritage. This home power savings program has been set up to help householders become more aware of their energy usage and giving them the opportunity to test various appliances in their homes and remains in the library for use. We look forward to hosting more information / morning tea sessions in the future as the changes to digital resources become available.

Mulwala has hosted two authors during the year. The first being Tish Lees, who shared an evening at the Civic Centre with 30 locals who were delighted and inspired by her stories growing up in W.A. Many purchasing her book, "Lonely for my Land :tales of Karratha Station & the Nor'west".

The second author was local Ian Trevaskis who treated local school children at Mulwala and Savernake to some entertaining activities associated with writing and his story telling skills.

In May, the young members were invited to assist in the Jean Genies program. This involved the stories of author Ann Brashares, 'Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants' and a pair of jeans that needed to be decorated, reflecting Mulwala and Holidays. Our decorators were part of the Kate Gordon group, whose jeans travelled from Merrylands NSW to Devonport TAS to Mulwala and lastly on to Eltham VIC. This project was set up through the Gosford Library NSW. All new initiatives have been well received and appreciated by the Mulwala's Community during this NYR2012. The local Newspapers have been excellent in their support.

### **Summer Reading Club**

Summer Reading Club was held from December through February, with 14 local children involved in the registration of reading logs over the holiday period, receiving; tattoos ,bookmarks and badges along their journey.

### **Mulwala Bookclubs**

Mulwala continues to host 5 bookclubs,( 40+ participants ) who meet each month at different times and in various places in the district. Two of the groups have returned to the Library for their meetings enjoying the new setting and facilities for tea/coffee making .

### **Community Connections.**

The Yarrawonga Mulwala Artists group (represented by Joy Humphries & Marion Munday) have produced art works with children at Mulwala Primary School in relation to the book ' Are We There Yet?' written by Alison Lester. These have had some comment from borrowers who appreciate their efforts.

The Lake Mulwala Quilters Group have displays regularly of their beautiful quilts.

The Australian Museum sent a ' Museum 2 You' box, full of activities and information about ' Sustainability, Biodiversity and Climate Change. Enquiries from local Landcare groups proved helpful.

The Library has maintained its association with Mulwala and Savernake Public Schools. Children from both schools have been involved in programs including National Simultaneous Storytime ( Reading and activities from 'The Very Cranky Bear' by Nick Bland), Summer Reading Club and Book Week. Author visits for Ian Trevaskis and later this year, Susan Day.

The nurses from Albury Community Health have conducted Women's Health Clinics. These clinics have proved popular amongst the local women and have been increased to bi-monthly to cope with demand. It is wonderful to have them as part of the services here at our Community Centre.

Rod Peters continues to run regular Karate programs on Tuesdays evenings in the Main Hall and has several junior bookclub members joining in after their visit to the library.

The ' Buckles 'n 'Lace' Bootscooters also use the Main Hall on Wednesdays. This is a great time for the bootscooters to return and borrow books and utilise the internet. Our first member to use the New Bolinda Audio Books was Willy Sharp , group leader.

The Mulwala Progress Association meet in the Engineer's room monthly to discuss the needs of the Mulwala and surrounds. They report to the Council on matters of concern

The Internet service is appreciated by members and visitors alike. It is very popular with the tourists who drop in to check up on their e-mail. These visitors really appreciate the free service provided through our library in partnership with the Corowa Shire Council. It is hoped that IT lessons can be provided in the near future, helping the community to know how to make better use of word processing and web services.

### **Professional Development.**

During December a database course was run at Wagga Wagga concerning the library databases that are provided to all UMRL members. Training included the use of 'Points of View' and 'Novelist'. Both contain information to assist our members with enquiries. 'Points of View' as it suggests provides up to date information from Australia and New Zealand on various topics. It would be useful to students who are debating topics or writing discussions. 'Novelist' allows the user to find other books and authors based on genre and style of the writing. It is helpful for the librarian as well, when searching for material for borrowers and ordering.

The Mulwala Library also provides a Council customer service centre for Mulwala and surrounding residents. This includes the ability to submit Development Applications, Water, Animal registration, Rates and other Council services.

### **Children's Book Week**

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

Jenny Orr  
Librarian



### **HOWLONG COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE**

A diverse range of organizations, groups and individuals have utilized the Howlong Community Resource Centre over the last twelve months, which has been encouraging. This year the Centre has focused on building links and relationships with community, and volunteer groups, and have initiated some programs which have contributed towards engaging mature aged, young people and children through activities and information sessions, such as Computer Help Sessions, Children's Story Time and Employability Skills for Young People. We have set in place on-going assistance sessions for computer use and history/genealogy access every Wednesday which has been quite popular. Our annual Tax Assistance program (sponsored by the ATO) has proved to be an outstanding success this year with the residents of Howlong, and the Howlong Men's Shed have contributed to the Resource Centre with projects for the garden and furniture maintenance. It has also been good to have school interaction with the students from Howlong Public School who undertook reading activities at the centre on National Reading Day.

Council services are being utilized consistently, especially for development applications and enquiries. Tourism visitation is showing an increased trend but more geared towards history and genealogy enquiries about family ties and the district. The Upper Murray Regional Library has once again this year provided a solid service to the people of Howlong through their visiting Mobile Library Van and council employee Tina Baker has been the support staff member at the Howlong stop. A small community library has also been initiated at the Resource Centre and this has proved useful for people who are ill, away on extended leave or in hospital – special thanks must go to Louise from Corowa library for assisting with stock. The Centre's History and Archives Volunteer Service is expanding and membership is supported through an enthusiastic group of hard working people. They are opening their history service from the Resource Centre twice a month on a Sunday, and more recently have finished their grant project which related to the development of a Howlong History website. The Centre currently has two core volunteers, Ron Wilkins (History Group and general Resource Centre) and Margaret Clarke (general Resource Centre), along with Keith Duggan who has contributed significantly to visitor promotions and the history activities.

Nyree Terry  
Community Resource Centre 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 and (2pm to 5pm on mobile library days)
- Wednesday 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm
- Thursday 10am to 1pm
- Friday 10am to 1pm and (2pm to 5pm on mobile library days)
- Saturday 9.00am to 11.30am

Upper Murray Regional Library on behalf of Council provides a Mobile Library Service to Balldale, Lowesdale, Daysdale and Howlong.

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

## Library Service Statistical Data

	Loans	Attendance	Reservations
Corowa	40,987	23,318	13,032
Mulwala	9,156	5,428	3,271
Mobiles	13,870	578	3,621

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## 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 has been effected by a series of flood events. Council has been fortunate that the State Government has assisted with grants of almost \$5m 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 Roads and Maritime Services (RMS), the State Road from Corowa to Mulwala is fully funded by RMS but maintained by Council, Regional Roads are funded by RMS 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 the Shires road network.

Construction of the Corowa Saleyard Waste Water Treatment Facility was completed at a cost of \$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.

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## MAJOR CAPITAL WORKS – 2010/2011

### Administration.

#### Office Equipment - Admin

Miscellaneous computer purchases ongoing.

#### Office Equipment – Engineering/Local Government Software

#### Road Plant

#### Works Depot Improvements

Inspection Pit completed.

#### Workshop Plant and Equipment Replacement

#### Civic Centre

### Public Order and Safety

#### Bush Fire Prevention Equipment

### Housing and Community Amenities

#### Howlong Cemetery – Establish Lawn

Mulwala Cemetery – Sprinkler System

Drainage – Corowa (Investigation)

Drainage – Mulwala (Investigation)

Drainage – Howlong (Investigation)

New Garbage Bin Surrounds

### Corowa Water

New Meters and Services

Mains Replacement

Lindsay/Church Streets – Complete.  
Isabel Street – Complete.  
Parade Place – Complete.  
Parliament Street – Abandoned for present time.

Netherby Pump Station – Intake

Treatment Plant – By Pass Clear Water Store

Telemetry Upgrades

### Mulwala Water

New Services and New Meters

Ongoing.

Mains Replacement (Continuing Program)

Treatment Plant – Upgrade Electrical Control

Telemetry Upgrades

### Howlong Water

New Mains (Cemetery)

Mains Replacement – Hammer Street (Russell to Kennedy)

New Services

Telemetry Upgrades

## Corowa Sewerage

### Mains Replacement

Sanger Street roundabout under bore

### Mains Upgrades

Bowling Club M/H replacement  
Bowling Club rising main bypass

### Pump Station Upgrades (Continuing Program)

Ongoing program.

### Treatment Works – Odour Control

Ongoing.

### Treatment Works – Effluent Disposal to Race Club

Abandoned.

### Trunk Sewer Main – Cemetery Road

Complete.

### Floodwater/Infiltration Works

### Telemetry Upgrades

## Mulwala Sewerage

Treatment Plant – Chemical Storage

Treatment Plant – Pond Rehabilitation

Treatment Plant – Effluent Drainage Line

Pump Station Upgrades

Telemetry Upgrades

## Howlong Sewerage

Pump Station Upgrade Vents

Pump Station Upgrades Continuing Program

Telemetry Upgrades

## Recreation and Culture

Howlong Swimming Pool

Bangerang Park Garden Rehabilitation

Work in progress.

Parks – Watering Systems

Low Square Master Plan

Fishing Platform

Landscaping Lights - Artworks

Ovals – Water Saving

Corowa Riverfront Improvements

#### Transport and Communication

Roads to Recovery – Church and Lindsay (DA)

Roads to Recovery – Melbourne Street

Urban Roads Corowa – Hermitage Drive

Urban Roads Corowa – Martin Street

Urban Roads Corowa – Guy Street (north end)

Urban Roads Mulwala – Savernake/North Street Intersection

Paved Footpath – Corowa High School

Kerb & Gutter - Federation Avenue

Paved Footpaths (PAMP)

Cycleway Construction

Paved Footpath – Mulwala Retirement Village

Kerb & Gutter – Gallipoli Street (Dawe to Hogg)

Aerodrome – Resealing

#### Economic Affairs

Industrial Land – Promotion, Landscaping & Legal Cost

Ball Park Caravan Park –Improvements

Balldale Reservoir - Investigation

#### HOWLONG TOWN IMPROVEMENT WORKS

Drainage (Future Works)

Pearce Street – Pell to Jude

Sturt Street K & G East Side – St Bridget to Pell

## Hovell Street – Hawkins to Russell

Abandoned and replaced by Hawkins Street, Hovell Street to Hume Street, completed to primer seal.

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## 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 has 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.

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## 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.

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## **BUILDING STATISTICS – 2011/2012**

A total of 189 Construction/Complying Certificates were recorded in the 2011/2012 financial year with a monetary value of \$19,466,311.

The approvals consisted of the following:

- 65 new dwellings – 12 in Mulwala, 29 in Corowa, 12 in Howlong and nil within the rural area of the Shire. The average cost of these dwellings was \$218,960 with a total value of \$14,232,409.
- 24 alterations and additions were approved with a range in valuation totalling \$1,367,798.
- 60 outbuildings totalling \$1,121,150.
- 15 commercial buildings with a range of values totalling \$923,734.
- 10 industrial buildings with a range of values totalling \$1,399,537.
- 15 other construction certificates such as retaining walls, fences etc \$421,683.
- 12 subdivisions. These certificates will result in the creation of an additional 21 allotments with development costs of \$96,000.

To compare the 2010/2011 year with 2011/2012 the following observations are offered:

- An increase in the number of new dwellings from 58 to 65 (includes unit development).
- An increase in the value of new dwellings from \$12.4 million to \$14.2 million.
- The average cost of a new dwelling decreased from \$229,705 to \$218,960.
- A decrease in the number of alterations and additions from 48 to 24.
- The value of alterations and additions decreased from \$1.5 million to \$1.4 million.
- A decrease in the number of outbuildings from 71 to 60.
- An increase in the value of outbuildings from \$0.9 million to \$1.1 million.
- A decrease in the number of subdivision allotments from 37 to 21.
- A decrease in the value of subdivision development from \$1.2 million to \$0.1 million.
- The number of construction certificates issued decreased from 206 to 189.
- An increase in the value of the construction certificates issued from \$17.5 million to \$19.5 million.



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## 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 one application under GIPAA during the 2011/12 Financial Year. A disclosure log is maintained on Councils website.

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## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

### Rate Recovery

Council has worked diligently to recover a large amount of outstanding debt.

This has included legal proceedings with Summons and judgements issued to ratepayers incurring legal fees of \$27,383.

The total rates and charges outstanding at year end stood at 8.45% down on the 2010/2011 figure of 9.13%.

This indicator for the percentage of rates and annual charges outstanding is considered to be too high and is attributed to the continuing challenging economic times and the Shires low socio economic status, with the bench mark considered to be about 5% to 6.00%.

### LGFS Failed Rembrandt Investment

Council is currently party to a class action against LGFS with respect to the failed CPDO which saw Council 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.

At the time of writing this report Council has received a successful judgment but further hearings remain.

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## FEES, EXPENSES AND FACILITIES PROVIDED TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

The following fees were expended during the period.

		2009/10	2010/11	2010/11
(i)	Mayoral Fees	\$17,425	\$17,948	\$18,702
(ii)	Councillor Fees	\$78,413	\$80,766	\$84,593
(iii)	Travelling / Misc Expenses / Mayoral Car	\$19,102	\$23,273	\$23,697
	Sustenance / Meals	\$7,740	\$6,030	\$8,487
	Conference Expenses – Accommodation/Travel/Registrations	\$23,881	\$24,589	\$10,479
	TOTAL	\$146,560	\$152,606	\$145,958

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.

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## 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](http://www.riverinaweeds.org.au)

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## RURAL FIRE SERVICES

### **SOUTHERN BORDER TEAM**

#### **2011/12 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.

### **EXECUTIVE SERVICES**

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 10 and 11 October 2012 with representative from RFS Region along with Local Government in attendance. A total of 101 volunteers representing 36 brigades attended these forums. The outstanding service of retiring Group Officers Kevin Kilsby (6 years) and Mark MacCullagh (2 years) was recognised at the forums. Brad Carlon (Finley) and Mal Cook (Howlong) were elected to replace the retiring Group Officers.

Group Officers conducted their annual group meetings in March 2011, all of which were well attended by volunteers, along with a staff member.

During the year Sally Smith joined the Team as an Administration Officer at the Corowa Office

### **INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

Replacement tankers were received for Billabong West (Cat 1), Thurgoona (Cat 1) and Walbundrie

(Cat 2). A replacement Cat 1 for Howlong is on order and should be received before the 2012/13 fire season.

Funding was provided for the replacement of the Central Fire Station due to the Hume Highway bypass of Holbrook and is due for completion by October 2012. Preliminary work for the construction of stations at Buraja, Cookardinia and Hopefield was commenced.

## **MEMBERSHIP SERVICES**

There are currently 56 Brigades, 2391 registered volunteers and 7 full time staff. During 2011/12, 99 new members were approved and 106 members resigned.

Staff attended all 56 Brigade Annual General Meetings during July/August 2011.

Long Service medals were presented to 276 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 Fire Fighter
- Crew Leader Grassland
- Rural Fire Driving
- Chain Saw (Cross cutting- TFT)
- Senior First Aid
- Safe Working on Roofs
- Community Fire Fighting Unit
- Communication Assistant
- Breathing Apparatus Operator

A total of 215 volunteers attended these courses involving 2150 hours.

## **OPERATIONAL SERVICES**

The above average rainfall resulted in below average number of incidents being attended by Brigades. A total of 187 incidents were attended by Brigades, of which 118 were grass/scrub/bush/rubbish (54 hectares), 4 structural fires, 58 Motor Vehicle accident and/or fires, 105 False Alarms/Good Intent Calls, 41 to assist another agencies (CFA, Police, NSWFB and SES) and 29 Other Calls.

During the bush fire danger period 72 permits to burn were issued.

Brigades and staff were involved in community education activities attending 57 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.

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. State Mitigation Support Services carried out hazard reduction work on public lands to increase the safety of townships and communities across the Team area. In the autumn hazard reduction burns were carried out on Ferndale Rd in the Woomargama area and Nail Can Hill in Albury.

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  
5 August 2012

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#### 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.

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

Income to the total of \$19,980 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 45% for overheads
Stores and Materials	Actual cost plus 20% for overheads

#### SENIOR STAFF EMPLOYED BY COUNCIL

During the 12 months 2011/12 Council's General Manager was the only Senior Staff appointment employed under a remuneration package of \$171,341 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)
Prominent Australia	Fluoride – supply and install equipment	\$97,900
Downer EDI Works	Bitumen resealing	\$417,410.46
TF Management	Cleaning of Shire facilities	\$253,180
Lima South Quarry	Crushing and Balldale and Daveys Hill	\$896,736
Hastie Services	Mechanical Services – Civic Centre	\$451,322

GRANTS UNDER SECTION 356

During the 12 month period 2011/2012 Council made the following grants to local community groups & individuals

Beneficiary	Amount	Purpose
Corowa Lawn Tennis Club	\$2,990	Provide first aid equipment (defibrillator) to support trained first aid officers with the tennis and football clubs
Coreen Daysdale Hopefield Buraja United Football Netball Club	\$2,500	Lighting Upgrade. For 4 netball/tennis courts within the Coreen Football Ground. To enable safe netball training sessions after dark and play twilight tennis matches
Corowa Historical Society	\$2,575	Purchase of storage system to conserve collection of historic clothing in Corowa/s Federation Museum
Corowa Cricket Club	\$2,738	Widening and Resurfacing cricket pitches at Morris Park and Corowa High School.
Corowa Rowing Club	\$2,521	Purchase four pair of Croker 653 sculling blades which will allow the increase of school rowing program at high school
Corowa Federation Arts Committee	\$2,500	Corowa Shire Council contribution toward art show – covers cost of hall hire
Mulwala old time dance group	\$ 500	Assistance to run social interaction and exercise activities/monthly dance for older residents
Howlong History Interest Group	\$1,200	Set up Website to promote historical collection and increase community access to information
Corowa Skate Park Committee	\$ 744	Construct concrete access path to skate park
Corowa Pastoral Agricultural & Horticultural Society	\$1,000	Build and install new cake display cabinet for annual show
Corowa Presbyterian Church (Ringwood/Rennie)	\$1,607	Production of Centenary Book for centennial event to be held at Ringwood Church
Corowa Rutherglen Football Club Inc	\$2,715	Provide wheelchair access into the clubrooms and toilets

Cool Heads Road Safety Program	\$2,000	Road Safety program to be undertaken working with local police and high school
Howlong Bush Bash	\$ 580	Provide children's activity at Howlong Bush Bash
Corowa Sing Australia	\$1,200*	Hire of Oddfellows Hall for Sing Australia practice sessions
Festival of Dance	\$1,000*	Hire of Memorial Hall for period of festival
Lake Mulwala Quilters	\$1,000*	Hire of Mulwala Community Hall for meetings
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$29,370</b>	

**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.

<b>Name of Committee</b>	<b>Function</b>
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 \$668.37 were abandoned during the 2011/12 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	2010/2011	2011/2012
Average rate value per residential assessment	Highlights the relative level of Council's residential rates for comparative purposes	\$393.87	\$400.83
Average interest rate paid	Allows assessment of the relative cost of Council's borrowings	6.80%	6.80%
Staff per 1,000 capita population	Highlights the ratio of Council staff to area population for comparative purposes	9.00	10.00
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	All complete (not on time)
Expenditure remains within budget	Financial Control	Yes	Yes
Works carried out in accordance with approved programs	Control and Maintenance of standard procedures	No	Yes

2. PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY.

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2010/2011	2011/2012
No. Bushfire events	To minimise losses	21	37 ha
No. Of hectares burnt		150	30 ha



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	N/A	N/A
The number of companion animal registrations. (Dogs and Cats)	Indicative and comparative	135	151
The number of Dog Act infringements	Indicative and comparative	15	11

### 3. HEALTH.

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2010/2011	2011/2012
Number of complaints regarding food premises	Indicates level of dissatisfaction within community	4	4
Number of food premises inspected	Comparative figures on level of enforcement	44	4

### 4. COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EDUCATION.

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2010/2011	2011/2012
Number of capsules hired	Comparative	9	5
% of annual training plans completed	Indicates level of adherence to adopted plan	N/A	N/A

## 5. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AMENITIES.

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2010/2011	2011/2012
Planning and Regulatory Costs per Capita	Measures the relative cost of town planning and land use control per head of population	\$20.47	\$20.57
Development Applications received and determined (1.75 EFT in Planning Dept)	Measures the relative processing efficiency of the relevant operational group	348	299
Kilograms of recyclables collected per capita	Indicates effectiveness of Council's recycling service	101.33 kg	107.19 kg
Average charge for Domestic Waste Management (DWM) Services	Highlights the relative level of Council's household garbage charge for comparative purposes	\$235	\$270
Collection and disposal cost per service of DWM	Indicates relative efficiency of Council's household garbage service on a per service basis	\$235	\$270
Number of water pollution discharge complaints received	Indicates level of water pollution problems	1	0

## 6. RECREATION AND CULTURE.

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2010/2011	2011/2012
Recreation and leisure costs per capita	Measures net recreation and leisure costs for each resident for comparative purposes	\$114.00	\$104.25
Community services costs per capita	Highlights the relative cost of community services per head of population	\$24.04	\$23.95
Library services costs per capita	Demonstrates the relative cost of providing library services per head of population	\$28.45	\$23.78

## 7. MINING, MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION.

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2010/2011	2011/2012
Ensure supply of road making materials is on time and meets Council deadlines	Measures reliability of supply of materials essential to road making	No	Yes

## 8. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION.

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2010/2011	2011/2012
Sealed Road maintenance costs per kilometre (Source; National Local Road Data System Exp Return)	Demonstrates relative cost of maintaining sealed roads	\$3,568	\$3,394
Unsealed Road maintenance costs per kilometre (Source; National Local Road Data System Exp Return)	Demonstrates relative cost of maintaining unsealed roads	\$1,704	\$1,1855
Percentage of sealed road pavement rated in good condition or better	Indicates the effectiveness of Council's roadwork's programmes	43.5%	40%
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	2010/2011	2011/2012
Number of sales per annum	Indicates level of utilisation	5	2
Number of stock yarded	Indicative of market trends	484,427	545,000

## 10. COROWA, HOWLONG AND MULWALA WATER.

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2010/2011	2011/2012
Average water account ( \$/connection)	To highlight the relative level of Council water accounts for comparative purposes	\$482	\$572
Operating Costs (\$/connection) excludes dep'n	To assess the cost of providing the services	\$368	\$437

## 11. COROWA, HOWLONG AND MULWALA SEWER

Key Performance Indicator	Purpose	2010/2011	2011/2012
Average account (\$/connection)	To highlight the relative level of Council sewerage accounts for comparative purposes	\$574	\$587
Operating costs (\$/connection) excludes dep'n	To assess the cost of providing the services	\$435	\$527

### 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/11\\_Financial\\_Statements\\_Final.pdf](http://www.corowa.nsw.gov.au/council/yourcouncil/policies/images/11_Financial_Statements_Final.pdf)

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

[www.whk.com.au](http://www.whk.com.au)

**Report on the financial statements**

WHK Audit and Risk Assessment  
16 673 023 918

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Corowa Shire Council ('the Council'), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2012 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.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "WHK".

WHK Audit & Risk Assessment

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Bradley D Bohun".

Bradley D Bohun  
*Partner*

Albury

16 October 2012



## Corowa Shire Council

### General Purpose Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2012

### 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.

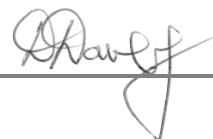
**We are not aware of any matter that would render the Reports false or misleading in any way.**

**Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 16 October 2012.**



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Cr Fred Longmire  
MAYOR



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Cr Daryl Davey  
COUNCILLOR



---

Bruce Corcoran  
GENERAL MANAGER



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Shane Norman  
RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER



## Corowa Shire Council

## Income Statement

for the financial year ended 30 June 2012

Budget <sup>(1)</sup>				Actual	Actual
2012	\$ '000		Notes	2012	2011
<b>Income from Continuing Operations</b>					
<b>Revenue:</b>					
8,325	Rates & Annual Charges		3a	8,274	8,032
4,949	User Charges & Fees		3b	5,387	5,302
565	Interest & Investment Revenue		3c	1,060	907
2,137	Other Revenues		3d	3,053	2,638
5,510	Grants & Contributions provided for Operating Purposes		3e,f	7,199	5,764
1,902	Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes		3e,f	2,966	2,991
<b>Other Income:</b>					
-	Net gains from the disposal of assets		5	-	4
-	Net Share of interests in Joint Ventures & Associated Entities using the equity method		19	-	-
<b>23,388</b>	<b>Total Income from Continuing Operations</b>			<b>27,939</b>	<b>25,638</b>
<b>Expenses from Continuing Operations</b>					
6,890	Employee Benefits & On-Costs		4a	7,204	6,735
410	Borrowing Costs		4b	374	299
7,990	Materials & Contracts		4c	8,393	7,563
6,587	Depreciation & Amortisation		4d	7,552	7,215
-	Impairment		4d	62	185
2,243	Other Expenses		4e	2,940	2,498
-	Interest & Investment Losses		3c	-	-
-	Net Losses from the Disposal of Assets		5	838	-
-	Net Share of interests in Joint Ventures & Associated Entities using the equity method		19	-	-
<b>24,120</b>	<b>Total Expenses from Continuing Operations</b>			<b>27,363</b>	<b>24,495</b>
<b>(732)</b>	<b>Operating Result from Continuing Operations</b>			<b>576</b>	<b>1,143</b>
<b>Discontinued Operations</b>					
-	Net Profit/(Loss) from Discontinued Operations		24	-	-
<b>(732)</b>	<b>Net Operating Result for the Year</b>			<b>576</b>	<b>1,143</b>
(732)	Net Operating Result attributable to Council			576	1,143
-	Net Operating Result attributable to Minority Interests			-	-
<b>(2,634)</b>	<b>Net Operating Result for the year before Grants and Contributions provided for Capital Purposes</b>			<b>(2,390)</b>	<b>(1,848)</b>

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

## Corowa Shire Council

## Balance Sheet

as at 30 June 2012

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2012	Actual 2011
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	6a	10,305	10,861
Investments	6b	7,495	4,174
Receivables	7	2,948	3,126
Inventories	8	1,288	1,127
Other	8	155	152
Non-current assets classified as "held for sale"	22	953	1,458
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>23,144</b>	<b>20,898</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Investments	6b	425	1,657
Receivables	7	-	-
Inventories	8	73	73
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	9	299,174	304,612
Investments accounted for using the equity method	19	-	-
Non-current assets classified as "held for sale"	22	-	-
Other	8	-	-
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>299,672</b>	<b>306,342</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>322,816</b>	<b>327,240</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	10	1,591	1,367
Borrowings	10	205	165
Provisions	10	2,816	2,777
Liabilities associated with assets classified as "held for sale"	22	-	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>4,612</b>	<b>4,309</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	10	-	-
Borrowings	10	6,392	4,996
Provisions	10	258	258
Investments accounted for using the equity method	19	-	-
Liabilities associated with assets classified as "held for sale"	22	-	-
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>6,650</b>	<b>5,254</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>11,262</b>	<b>9,563</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>311,554</b>	<b>317,677</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained Earnings	20	123,349	122,773
Revaluation Reserves	20	188,205	194,904
Council Equity Interest		311,554	317,677
Minority Equity Interest		-	-
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>311,554</b>	<b>317,677</b>

## Corowa Shire Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2012

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

\$ '000	Amounts 2012	Indicator 2012	Prior Periods 2011      2010	
<b>Local Government Industry Indicators</b>				
<b>1. Unrestricted Current Ratio</b>				
Current Assets less all External Restrictions <sup>(1)</sup>	<u>13,187</u>	4.49 : 1	5.41	4.77
Current Liabilities less Specific Purpose Liabilities <sup>(2,3)</sup>	<u>2,936</u>			
<b>2. Debt Service Ratio</b>				
Debt Service Cost	<u>539</u>	2.33%	2.04%	5.85%
Income from Continuing Operations excluding Capital Items & Specific Purpose Grants/Contributions	<u>23,157</u>			
<b>3. Rates &amp; Annual Charges Coverage Ratio</b>				
Rates & Annual Charges	<u>8,274</u>	29.61%	31.33%	26.17%
Income from Continuing Operations	<u>27,939</u>			
<b>4. Rates, Annual Charges, Interest &amp; Extra Charges Outstanding Percentage</b>				
Rates, Annual & Extra Charges Outstanding	<u>747</u>	8.14%	9.13%	8.45%
Rates, Annual & Extra Charges Collectible	<u>9,177</u>			
<b>5. Building &amp; Infrastructure Renewals Ratio</b>				
Asset Renewals <sup>(4)</sup>	<u>2,114</u>	30.73%	50.71%	80.28%
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	<u>6,879</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(a)(ii) - 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/performance as opposed to the acquisition of new assets (or the refurbishment of old assets) that increases capacity/performance.

Asset Renewals include building and infrastructure assets only.

Corowa Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the financial year ended 30 June 2012

Note 13a(ii). Statement of Performance Measurement - Graphs (Consolidated)

<p><b>1. Unrestricted Current Ratio</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Ratio : 1</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>3.56</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>4.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>5.41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>4.49</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Ratio : 1	2009	3.56	2010	4.77	2011	5.41	2012	4.49	<p><b>Purpose of Unrestricted Current Ratio</b></p> <p>To assess the adequacy of working capital and its ability to satisfy obligations in the short term for the unrestricted activities of Council.</p>	<p><b>Commentary on 2011/12 Result</b></p> <p><b>2011/12 Ratio 4.49 : 1</b></p> <p>This indicates a satisfactory level of working capital available in the short term. It is accepted that the measure should be above 1.5</p>
Year	Ratio : 1											
2009	3.56											
2010	4.77											
2011	5.41											
2012	4.49											
<p><b>2. Debt Service Ratio</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Ratio %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>2.56%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>5.85%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>2.04%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>2.33%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Ratio %	2009	2.56%	2010	5.85%	2011	2.04%	2012	2.33%	<p><b>Purpose of Debt Service Ratio</b></p> <p>To assess the impact of loan principal &amp; interest repayments on the discretionary revenue of council.</p>	<p><b>Commentary on 2011/12 Result</b></p> <p><b>2011/12 Ratio 2.33%</b></p> <p>A ratio of 2.33% is a conservative result, however this measure will increase due to \$1.6M loan taken out for the Corowa Shire Civic Centre at the end of 2012 FY. This is projected to continue to rise in Council's Long Term Financial Plan.</p>
Year	Ratio %											
2009	2.56%											
2010	5.85%											
2011	2.04%											
2012	2.33%											
<p><b>3. Rates &amp; Annual Charges Coverage Ratio</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Ratio %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>27.38%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>26.17%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>31.33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>29.61%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Ratio %	2009	27.38%	2010	26.17%	2011	31.33%	2012	29.61%	<p><b>Purpose of Rates &amp; Annual Charges Coverage Ratio</b></p> <p>To assess the degree of Council's dependence upon revenue from rates and annual charges and to assess the security of Council's income.</p>	<p><b>Commentary on 2011/12 Result</b></p> <p><b>2011/12 Ratio 29.61%</b></p> <p>Council has a relatively low level of income derived from Rates and Annual Charges at approximately 30%. This indicated a strong degree of dependence on grants and contributions.</p>
Year	Ratio %											
2009	27.38%											
2010	26.17%											
2011	31.33%											
2012	29.61%											
<p><b>4. Rates, Annual Charges, Interest &amp; Extra Charges Outstanding Percentage</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Ratio %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>8.52%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>8.45%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>9.13%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>8.14%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Ratio %	2009	8.52%	2010	8.45%	2011	9.13%	2012	8.14%	<p><b>Purpose of Rates &amp; Annual Charges Outstanding Ratio</b></p> <p>To assess the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts.</p>	<p><b>Commentary on 2011/12 Result</b></p> <p><b>2011/12 Ratio 8.14%</b></p> <p>There has been a strong focus on the recovery of outstanding debt this FY which has achieved a 1% reduction. Council will continue to secure outstanding debt but this remains a great challenge.</p>
Year	Ratio %											
2009	8.52%											
2010	8.45%											
2011	9.13%											
2012	8.14%											
<p><b>5. Building &amp; Infrastructure Renewals Ratio</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Ratio %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>104.29%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>80.28%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>50.71%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>30.73%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Ratio %	2009	104.29%	2010	80.28%	2011	50.71%	2012	30.73%	<p><b>Purpose of Asset Renewals Ratio</b></p> <p>To assess the rate at which these assets are being renewed relative to the rate at which they are depreciating.</p>	<p><b>Commentary on Result</b></p> <p><b>2011/12 Ratio 30.73%</b></p> <p>The drop between 2011 - 2012 is as a result of a major new infrastructure project and less funds available for capital renewal. Council should aim to achieve a rate of 100%, however assets are depreciating at a greater rate than their renewal which is not sustainable in the long term.</p>
Year	Ratio %											
2009	104.29%											
2010	80.28%											
2011	50.71%											
2012	30.73%											

## Corowa Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the financial year ended 30 June 2012

## Note 13b. Statement of Performance Measurement - Indicators (by Fund)

\$ '000	Water 2012	Sewer 2012	General <sup>1</sup> 2012
<b>Local Government Industry Indicators</b>			
<b>1. Unrestricted Current Ratio</b>			
<u>Current Assets less all External Restrictions <sup>(1)</sup></u>	<b>248.38 : 1</b>	<b>64.04 : 1</b>	<b>1.51 : 1</b>
Current Liabilities less Specific Purpose Liabilities <sup>(2,3)</sup>			
prior period:	144.58:1	48.87:1	3.48:1
<b>2. Debt Service Ratio</b>			
<u>Debt Service Cost</u>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>5.78%</b>	<b>2.06%</b>
Income from Continuing Operations excluding Capital Items & Specific Purpose Grants/Contributions			
prior period:	0.00%	6.43%	1.41%
<b>3. Rates &amp; Annual Charges Coverage Ratio</b>			
<u>Rates &amp; Annual Charges</u>	<b>31.41%</b>	<b>75.72%</b>	<b>20.36%</b>
Income from Continuing Operations			
prior period:	35.82%	79.93%	21.32%
<b>4. Rates, Annual Charges, Interest &amp; Extra Charges Outstanding Percentage</b>			
<u>Rates, Annual &amp; Extra Charges Outstanding</u>	<b>6.39%</b>	<b>7.68%</b>	<b>8.95%</b>
Rates, Annual & Extra Charges Collectible			
prior period:	7.03%	8.30%	10.13%
<b>5. Building &amp; Infrastructure Renewals Ratio</b>			
<u>Asset Renewals (Building &amp; Infrastructure assets)</u>	<b>42.60%</b>	<b>9.27%</b>	<b>31.87%</b>
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment			
prior period:	57.56%	40.64%	51.47%

## Notes

<sup>(1)</sup> General Fund refers to all of Council's activities except for its Water & Sewer activities which are listed separately.







