From your Mayor

I would like to wish the entire community a safe and happy festive season. I offer a special thanks to my fellow Councillors and the Hilltops staff for their contribution and commitment this year.

December is a great opportunity to reflect on our achievements and look ahead to the new year.

2018 has been a huge year of capital works, the Boorowa playground and showground, cycleways and pathways across the region and the Young sewer main expansion to name a few. In 2019 we are due to deliver a record number of exciting projects including the Murrumburrah Precinct Plan, the Lambing Flat Chinese Tribute Garden upgrade, Harden Pool improvements, Harden water main replacement and Boorowa Showground sewer works.

I hope that everyone takes time to enjoy the festive season with family and friends and to also consider those less fortunate than ourselves. It is up to each of us to make sure that no one in our community is suffering alone at Christmas. To everyone who is travelling, please take care and don’t rush.

I look forward to working with Council to achieve great things for the Hilltops community in 2019.

Brian Ingram
Mayor

Boorowa Projects Officially Open

Last Friday marked a special occasion for the Boorowa community with the official opening of two projects that have recently been completed by Hilltops Council.

The Official Opening of the Boorowa Showground Amenities Building was held at 2.30pm with Hilltops Mayor Brian Ingram and The Hon. Pru Goward, Member for Goulburn cutting the ribbon to declare the facility open. Mayor Ingram thanked those involved in the project and handed over to Boorowa local, Councillor Wendy Tuckerman who spoke about the project from conception to opening. The facility includes canteen, changerooms, storage, function areas and kitchen. It was funded by Club Grants and Bendigo Bank.

Following this, the Boorowa Recreation Park all abilities upgrade was officially opened by Mayor Brian Ingram and the Hon. Pru Goward MP with the help of local children who were keen to share in the excitement.

Mayor Ingram said “This playground is a highly valued and utilised asset to the Boorowa community and we are grateful to the State Government for supporting this upgrade which makes the facility more accessible for children of all abilities, not just in the local community but also those travelling through. I thank Pru Goward for her attendance at the opening and the Hilltops team who delivered the project. This is a great asset to the town and I am sure children will enjoy playing here for many years to come.”
CURRENT WORKS

Boorowa and surrounds
• Maintenance grading- various roads
• Sealed road pothole patching and minor sign replacements
• Weed spraying of road shoulders and spot spraying of noxious weeds
• Roadside shoulder vegetation control (slashing)
• Signage repairs and replacements on local and regional roads
• Pavement repairs on town streets and local roads
• Spot spraying, weeding and pruning Marsden Street
• Mowing and preparation of cricket pitches
• Works on sewer junctions and water meter replacements

Harden and surrounds
• Maintenance grading- various roads
• Programmed reseal on Moppity Road including Roads to Recovery, McMahons Reef Road, Back Wombat Road, Race Creek Road
• Minor pavement defect hand patching on various roads
• Mechanic Institute – capital upgrades to building
• Murrumburrah Landfill fencing
• Chinese Cemetery fencing
• Bent Street (Galong) kerb and gutter works
• Witton Street (Harden) concrete dish drain
• Cricket pitch preparation for matches
• Surf maintenance on sporting ovals
• Linemarking for schools, Touch Football and Athletics Club
• Works on sewer junctions and water meter replacements

Young and surrounds
• Maintenance grading- various roads
• Gravel Resheeting- Taylors Road
• Hand patching and minor patching works on various roads
• Weed spraying of road shoulders
• McHenrys Creek Bridge construction
• Stage 3 of Shared Pathway Linkages from Cranfield Oval to Gus Smith Oval and Thornhill Street to Mackenzie Street.
• Alfred Oval closed for rejuvenation
• Cricket pitch preparation for matches
• Linemarking for schools sports, Little Athletics, Touch Football and cricket boundaries
• Water main renewal on Cowra Road – ongoing
• Templemore Street water main works
• Sewer mains renewal and upsizing in Lighting Lane and Lynch, Nasmyth and Zouch Streets
• Hydrant maintenance throughout town – ongoing

The Lambing Flat Chinese Tribute Garden
The Lambing Flat Chinese Tribute Garden was allocated funding as part of the amalgamation of Hilltops Council, these funds are being used to undertake additional works to progress the gardens towards completion in line with the endorsed design. Hilltops has engaged the services of a landscape architect to further the endorsed design to facilitate the construction of the remaining items at the garden. Once a detailed list of works has been agreed, an update will be shared with the community. Construction works are expected to commence in early to mid 2019 and be finished before the end of 2019. There may be some disruption to accessing some or all of the garden during the construction period, if you have any questions or concerns in relation to this please do not hesitate to contact council.

National Cherry Festival
The 2018 National Cherry Festival was a huge success with thousands of people attending the event including visitors from interstate and overseas. A jam-packed program ensured there was something for everyone to enjoy. We look forward to the National Cherry Festival 70th Birthday celebration next year!
Hilltops Council last week welcomed six delegates from Lanzhou China. The former Young Shire Council developed a sister city relationship with Lanzhou which the new Hilltops Council would like to continue. The aim of the visit was to explore this relationship and develop a Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties in relation to cultural exchange, trade and tourism.

Young and the Hilltops region have significant Chinese heritage and a strong association with Chinese people. In recognition of this, Hilltops Council undertake to work with Lanzhou and develop an understanding regarding how both parties will work together and help each other for the benefit of the people of Lanzhou and Hilltops.

The visit saw the delegation meet with the Hilltops General Manager Edwina Marks, Mayor Brian Ingram and Councillors Greg Armstrong, Margaret Roles and John Horton for discussions followed by a site visit to the Lambing Flat Chinese Tribute Garden. The delegation then visited Batinich’s Chermyore Orchard where they experienced first hand the process of packing cherries. They then visited Grove Estate Wines where they tasted local wines with owner Brian Mullany and on to Kenny’s Creek Angus Stud where owner Sam Burton-Taylor conducted a tour of the farm and facilities and explained the paddock to plate process. Guests then enjoyed dinner at Clifton House and Gardens hosted by owners David and Rebecca McMillan.

Mayor Brian Ingram was pleased with the outcome of the visit “I enjoyed spending time with delegates from our Sister City, Lanzhou China. They were very impressed with the Hilltops Region. A number of opportunities to work together have been identified and I look forward to developing a Sister City Policy and Memorandum of Understanding early in the new year” he said.

Take 5 on Friday concerts were introduced by the Hilltops Library team to provide a different experience and attract new visitors to the library space at Young branch.

The regions talented entertainers have been very generous in giving their time to the program, an incredible 66 concerts in the series since its inception in July 2017!

Solos, duets, choirs and ensembles presenting classical, pop, jazz and bush poetry provide the community with an opportunity to come together to enjoy entertainment. Featuring vocals, guitar, flute, keyboard, cello, recorder, percussion, piano accordion and more. Take 5 is held at the Hilltops Library Young branch each Friday from 12.30 – 1pm. All are welcome.

It’s been a busy quarter for presentations at the Hilltops Council Library branches. Opportunities to experience forums by a number of high-quality authors have been well attended. Included in these events, the engaging ABC Court Reporter Jamelle Wells, the vivacious Jessica-Grace, resilient Jenny Old and gregarious Julie Ankers, gave audiences an informative and interesting view of very diverse experiences.

We look forward to continuing to present a variety of events for the enjoyment of our community in the new year.
Hilltops Local Environmental Plan

Council has commenced three major studies to inform the Strategic Land Use Planning for Hilltops and the preparation of the Hilltops Local Environmental Plan:

- Hilltops Rural and Residential Lands Study
- Hilltops Economic Growth and Land Use Strategy
- Hilltops Freight and Transport Study

Key stakeholder and government agency consultation to inform the studies has occurred in October and November. It is expected the studies will be available for public comment early in 2019.

Hilltops Economic Growth and Land Use Strategy
This Strategy will assist Council in examining the current economic structure of the Hilltops region and identifying the opportunities for expansion and diversification, which will feed into the preparation of the Hilltops Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) and Local Environmental Plan (LEP). Council have undertaken to develop the LEP by 2020.

Hilltops Rural and Residential Lands Study
This Study will facilitate the synthesisation and unification of the three existing planning frameworks that operate currently in the council area.

Hilltops Freight and Transport Study
The Freight and Transport Study will develop a long-term strategic plan to ensure Council can appropriately respond to the challenges of managing and supporting freight within their transport system. The Study will establish a fine-grained freight network hierarchy and propose a series of short, medium and long term actions. The Study is also intended to inform the development and preparation of a new LEP for the Hilltops Council area.
Youth Forums

Youth forums were held in Boorowa, Harden and Young at the end of October. 12-18-year-old students attended in their local towns, with Murringo Public School also attending the Young forum.

Council received 146 survey responses answering what projects the youth would like to see implemented for Youth Week. The student’s input has been collated and will be used to source funding of Youth activities from 2020 and beyond. Students have also opted for meetings with council four times a year (once each term) in each township of Boorowa, Harden and Young to investigate ways to increase knowledge and skills and to address curriculum requirements through shared community projects and leadership development activities.

It is hoped from these meetings that Youth issues will be raised and put on Council’s radar.

It is also hoped that representatives from each centre will be able to meet, at least remotely and drive the formation of a Hilltops Youth Council.

SAVE THE DATE

Sports & Recreation Forum
6 March 2019 from 6-9 pm
This will be an opportunity for the Hilltops Sport and Recreation organisations to discuss current issues and future opportunities. This will be help to continue building collaborative relationships.

Partner Forum 20
March 2019 from 9am-4pm
It is planned to follow on from the successful forum in February 2018 with attendees able to share past years achievements and challenges that support the Community Strategic Plan and build collaborative relationships.

Blackguard Gully
Hilltops Council has allocated funding to unlock the potential of the Blackguard Gully site located on the eastern side of Young. Council has engaged the services of TAIT Network to develop a Masterplan and Plan of Management for the site.

Council staff and TAIT Network held workshop sessions with a range of stakeholders on Tuesday 4th December to discuss the development of the Masterplan and capture feedback from the community. Local representatives were able to provide crucial insights into the space, it’s history and the possibilities Blackguard Gully holds as a site for tourism and local connectivity into the future.
Young Sewer Main Upgrade

Benex Pipelines are continuing sewer main pipeline upsizing and renewal works in Young with works expected to be completed in February 2019. This project will extend the service life of existing local infrastructure and improve the reliability and efficiency of the town’s sewer network.

The work is occurring in a progressive manner from the Woolworths carpark on Boorowa Street through to the Young Tourist Caravan Park on Edwards Street. There may be some intermittent access constraints along the work area. Affected businesses and residents are being consulted with on an ongoing basis to ensure impact and disruption is minimised. Should any concerns remain please contact Council on 6380 1200 or Benex Pipelines on 6299 6527 or email info@benex.net.au

How does pipe bursting work?
Machinery is used to crack and expand the old pipe from within. An enlarged cavity is created through which a new main is pulled. The driving machinery will create some noise and the ground can vibrate as the bursting head works its way along the pipe. An excavation of approximately 3 meters long by 2 meters wide will be required next to various sewer manholes to guide the pipe bursting equipment into the sewer main. Excavations will also be required at the sewer tie (where your sanitary drainage connects to the sewer) and a sewer riser will be installed. The whole operation can take several days however sewer connection will only be disrupted for an hour or two on the nominated day.

Council apologise for any short-term inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding in working on this essential service that will improve the long-term functionality of the sewer network.

Boorowa Community Garden

Boorowa Community Garden (BCG) was provided a site by Hilltops Council at the Boorowa Showground and formed a Section 355 committee under Hilltops Council in early 2018. The Community Garden shares a site and facilities with the Boorowa Men’s Den. Chemical free gardening methods will be used to grow herbs, fruit and vegetables, and edible or beneficial flowers at the site.

The vision of the group is “to build a sense of community by sharing in the growing and harvesting of delicious fresh garden produce, sharing ideas and knowledge, promoting healthy living, engaging in and nurturing creative activities.”

The group promotes gardening as a shared social activity using varied modes of gardening to showcase different techniques. Down the track there are plans to erect some “grow tunnels” for potting etc., a garden shed, an outdoor seating area, a substantial water garden and much more. The group are looking forward to some fun times gardening together and would love others to join in.

The garden is a shared space where members can learn from each other, share and experiment with different gardening techniques, and build a sense of community.

The group are looking forward to welcoming new members and invite anyone who is interested in joining or finding out a bit more about the group to get in touch. Please contact Steve Moss on 0459 920 866 or Ros Gibson on 6227 2141.

Any donations from the community of sand and gravel, cement, pavers, timber posts and timber such as railway sleepers would be gratefully accepted for initial projects. To make compost on site for use in garden beds donations of manure, straw, prunings and grass clippings would also be most welcome.
Planning milestone for Hilltops Joint-Use Library

Progress continues for the new joint-use library and community facility, following the lodgement of a Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) application request to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

The SEARs application includes the proposed delivery of a range of facilities in a new up to three-level building, including reading areas, video conferencing, a multipurpose workshop, computer lab, youth wellbeing hub, a coffee bar and a Wiradjuri learning and cultural centre.

“As the project has a value of more than $20m, it is classed as a State Significant Development. This means the development application will be determined by the NSW Government’s Department of Planning and Environment (DPE),” shared Mayor Ingram.

The SEARs request is the first step in the planning approval process and included a concept design and description of the project. The NSW Department of Planning and Environment will assess the project and advise the project team on the studies that need to be included as part of the main development application.

The Department of Education and Hilltops Council are working in partnership to deliver the Library and Community Facility which is proposed to be located at Young High School on Department of Education land and fully integrated with Carrington Park. The facility will be jointly used by the school and the residents of Young and the wider Hilltops community.

Hilltops Council is contributing $6.5m to the project. This is made up of $3m from the Regional Cultural Fund, $2m from the Stronger Communities Fund and $1.5m from the council’s long-term financial plan. The Department of Education is responsible for funding the remainder.

A Heads of Agreement for the design of the facility between the Hilltops Council and the NSW Government has been signed. This signals the intention of both parties, Hilltops Council and the NSW Government, to continue to work together on the design and development of the joint-use facility.

Member for Cootamundra, Steph Cooke, has commended Hilltops Council for their collaboration with the NSW Government.

“It’s wonderful to see Council working collaboratively with the NSW Government on this project, which is truly a game changer and a phenomenal investment in the lifelong learning of the Hilltops community,” Ms Cooke said.

“Council has worked hard to reach this agreement and it is an important step for our students, young people and the wider community who deserve the best facilities we can provide.”
The Harden Murrumburrah Visitor Information Centre volunteers gathered for a Christmas morning tea on Thursday 13 December for the committee to provide an update on the building progress.

It is hoped that the Centre will be open by March/April 2019.

BOXING DAY
Garbage, Recycling and Greenwaste collections in Young, Boorowa and Harden are unaffected.

NEW YEARS DAY
Garbage and Recycling collections in Young, Boorowa and Harden are unaffected.

Tip Opening hours:

- Boorowa Landfill Closed 25th & 26th December 2018 and 1st January 2019
- Harden Transfer Station Closed 25th & 26th December 2018 and 1st January 2019
- Jugiong & Galong Transfer Stations- Unaffected
- Young Victoria St Closed 25th December
- Open 26 December 2018 & 1st January 2019 8.30am-2.30pm
- Redhill Rd Closed Sundays and Public Holidays

Australia Day
Preparations for Australia Day celebrations in the Hilltops Region are underway, with three ambassadors set to visit the area to help residents and visitors mark the annual event.

Paralympic gold medallist and world champion Lindy Hou has been announced as the Australia Day Ambassador for Young, Australian modern pentathlete Ed Fernon will be celebrating in Harden and Donna Ciccia, co-founder of Endometriosis Australia will share the day with the Boorowa community.

The National Australia Day Council recruits over 300 Australia Day Ambassadors who volunteer their time to attend Australia Day ceremonies across the country to help inspire pride and enhance celebrations in local communities.

Event information for Australia Day celebrations across the Hilltops Region – including Australia Day award ceremonies – will be listed on Hilltops Council’s website and social media pages shortly.

Christmas Holiday
Garbage & Recycling Services
The following changes apply to the kerbside collection:

CHRISTMAS DAY
Services usually collected on 25th December will be collected on the following days:
Young- Garbage & Recycling Monday 24th December
Greenwaste Wednesday 26th December 2018
Harden- Garbage Monday 24th December 2018
(Tuesdays garbage collection will be collected on the Monday, plus the normal Mondays garbage collection)

NEW YEARS DAY
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- Redhill Rd Closed Sundays and Public Holidays

Closure over Christmas and New Year break
From 24th December 2018 at 12 noon all Hilltops Council offices will be closed until the 1st of January 2019. Offices will reopen on Wednesday 2nd of January 2019 at 8.30am.

In case of EMERGENCY please contact your local Hilltops Council Office where you will be directed to the appropriate contact number.