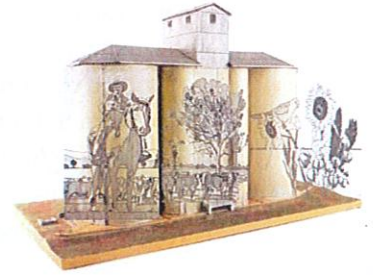




"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

ROTARY CLUB OF QUIRINDI INC.



MEMBER CLUB No. 17942 OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL – DISTRICT 9650

PO BOX 33
QUIRINDI
NSW 2343

Dear Councillor Hawkins

On behalf of the Quirindi Silo Arts Committee, I wish to thank you for your personal support and the support of Liverpool Plains Shire Council in providing \$3,000.00 from the Community Funding Program Grants for a Structural Engineers Report on the Silos. The Inspection is taking place next week and we will keep you informed of the outcome.

In accordance with Council's wishes we are also in the process of developing our Business Plan and we acknowledge Council's advice in compiling this document.

Recent local experience, together with reports from rural communities throughout Australia, who have Silo Art work, has demonstrated the value that these projects can be to a community. In particular:

- The recent Sunflower Crop, planted by a local farmer and encouraged by LPSC, attracted over 4,500 visitors. According to "Destination NSW" predictive figures, on value to a community, each day visitor benefits a community by \$151, while overnight visitors benefit the community by \$153. "Destination NSW" indicates that 25% of visitors stay overnight. The two weeks of Sunflowers, would therefore have benefitted Quirindi by \$681,750.00. Bob's Shed reported its busiest fortnight in over 20 years, Quirindi Heritage Village reported its greatest ever fortnightly takings (apart from their Annual Swap Meet) and local cafes had to hire additional staff.
- There is huge community support for this project as demonstrated by the petition that we have been running On Line and within Shire businesses and organisations, to accompany our Grant Application to State and National Government Agencies, it has already gained **4,320** signatures, supporting Art Work on the Quirindi Silos.
- Other Rural communities, throughout Australia, have reported a revitalisation of their communities through increased tourism, increased caravan park, hotel and motel accommodation nightly percentages, increased business and commerce throughout their community and a resulting increase in employment and positive community atmosphere.
- Support that we have gained from State-wide and local media outlets, including newspaper articles, radio interviews, TV interviews and Facebook posts have focused enormous widespread positive attention on our community.

- Yarriamback Shire, in rural Victoria, has realised the potential to generate, tourism, business, vitality and commerce into the Shire, through seeking to trademark the term "Silo Art Trail", in a court battle with Graincorp. (through our entrepreneurialism our committee was able to turn this into a positive for our Shire, see <https://www.facebook.com/Prime7NewsNorthWest/videos/1367382173597917>) Barraba, Gunnedah and Moree also gained great publicity through this story as a consequence of their Silo Art works).

Our committee, of 10 representatives, drawn from all sectors of the community, has already written to Council seeking a waiving of the Annual Rates on the Silo site and we understand that Council will consider this in the very near future. This support, from yourself and from Council, in light of the enormous benefit that the project would bring to the community, is a central tenet of our Business Plan. In fact, without it the project cannot proceed as we cannot commit the Rotary Club (as a community service club) to such an ongoing cost.

As this support does not involve Council in any financial outlay and would be seen to be supporting a project which the community overwhelmingly supports, in generating development and income, the project would be promoted and viewed as very positive and prudent.

We therefore, seek your personal support and the support of Council in voting to waive the rates so that this visionary project may proceed and contribute to Council's Vision, as stated in the Liverpool Plains Council Community Strategic Plan 2017 to 2027:

The Vision of the Liverpool Plains Shire Council - 2017/2027

"In 2027 the Liverpool Plains Shire Council aspires to have a great rural lifestyle with access to quality services, strong community, council and business leadership, whilst encouraging a thriving economy and a sustainable environment to carry us on to the future".

Yours sincerely,

Ian Carter
Chairperson, Quirindi Silo Arts Committee
12 February 2021