

Message from the Mayor	2
Street light changeover	2
Investing in our communities	3-4
Supporting our youth	4
Healthy Active Living Guide	5



Focus on roads for Budget 2015/2016

Maintaining and upgrading roads and footpaths is a significant part of the 2015/2016 Council Budget, which was adopted in June. Council has allocated \$2.58 million towards road and path maintenance with a further \$2.84 million to upgrade and improve the road network as part of its capital works program.

In addition to roads, the budget has a number of other projects planned including \$1.04 million for community buildings, which includes significant investment in the Castlemaine Kindergarten (see page 3 for more details), \$170,000 for the design of netball courts and \$120,000 for an irrigation upgrade at Wesley Hill Recreation Reserve, \$1.02 million on walking and cycling projects around the Shire and \$141,000 to install a district level playspace at Taradale Mineral Springs Reserve.

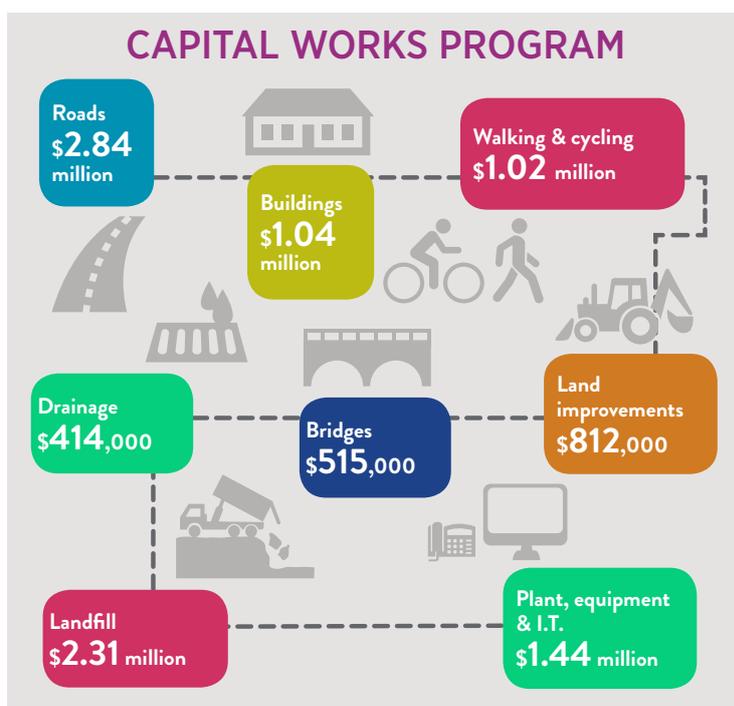
School Road Bridge will be replaced and designs will be undertaken for bridges on Nuggetty Road, Strathlea Road, Vaughan-Tarilta and Melcalfe-Taradale Road.

More than \$2.3 million will be spent to design and commence works to remediate old cells at the Castlemaine Waste Facility.

“This budget aims to deliver a program of maintenance and modest upgrades to our assets in a tight financial environment, while keeping services at current levels,” said Mayor Christine Henderson.

To meet this goal, Council adopted a rate rise of 4.5 per cent, down from 6.5 per cent last financial year. Kerbside bin collection charges have increased by 7 per cent to maintain services at existing levels and continue the capital works identified in the Castlemaine Waste Facility Master Plan.

Other projects planned for 2015/2016 include upgrading streetlights to energy efficient LEDs, progressing recommendations from the 2015 Flood Management Plan, continuing to support and recognise our indigenous community, investigating additional Wi-Fi spaces within the Shire, sponsoring events and reviewing emergency relief centres across the Shire.



Council will invest \$5.42 million in roads over 2015/2016

Message from the Mayor



Cr Christine Henderson

Historically in rural areas the first local governments were Road Districts, administered by Road Boards. Road Districts of Metcalfe, Newstead and Fryers were formed in 1860; Campbells Creek in 1862 and Maldon in 1863.

Today road and footpath maintenance remains Mount Alexander Shire's biggest area of operations. Every year more than 850 kilometres of gravel roads must be graded and, where necessary, resurfaced with new material. A further 550 kilometres of sealed roads are repaired and periodically

resealed. Roads are not cheap. This year a section of the Elphinstone-Bendigo road through Sutton Grange will be resealed at a cost of about \$1.1 million. A reconstruction of one kilometre of Richards Road in Castlemaine will cost \$685,000.

This year we've allocated \$5.42 million to roads and footpaths: 15 per cent of our entire annual budget. While Councillors' views vary on how money should be allocated across the various services that Council delivers, there's rarely any difference of opinion on roads and footpaths.

While on the subject of roads, kangaroos are a major hazard these days. Personally I've taken to keeping to 60km per hour after dark. This strategy has averted several collisions and I can highly recommend it. It adds only a couple of minutes to my 20 kilometre commute. While I cruise home along a smooth bitumen road in my comfortable vehicle I imagine what the journey would have been like on horseback or in a carriage, back in the days of the Road Districts.



Lighting the Regions

Better, brighter and greener: street light changeover set to begin

Council is demonstrating its commitment to leadership in sustainability by replacing almost 900 street lights across the Shire with energy efficient Light Emitting Diodes (LED).

The work forms part of the Lighting the Regions street light project, the largest project of its type ever undertaken in Australia, which is a joint effort between 16 local councils, the Central Victoria Greenhouse Alliance and Wimmera Mallee Sustainability Alliance.

Installation of LED technology commenced this month and will result in energy savings of up to 77 per cent. This will lead to significant reductions in future operations and maintenance costs, and will save Council tens of thousands of dollars each year. The upgrade will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"This public street light installation project demonstrates Council's commitment to cost effective energy efficiency projects and moving towards a more sustainable energy future," said Jason Taylor, Council's Director Sustainable Development.

COMMUNITY GRANTS TO OPEN IN JANUARY 2016

Council's Strengthening Our Community Grants Scheme is currently being reviewed to enable a faster turnaround and less paperwork for community organisations. As part of the review the 2015/2016 funding round will now open in January 2016.

Workshops and information sessions will be held in coming months to introduce groups to other funding programs and to develop skills in grant writing and financial sustainability. For more information contact Council on 5471 1700 or email grants@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.



International award for Castlemaine Botanical Gardens

Castlemaine Botanical Gardens has received a Travellers' Award from the world's largest travel website TripAdvisor. The Certificate of Excellence was based on consistently great feedback from registered users and is a testament to Council's Parks and Gardens team who expertly maintain the 155-year-old gardens.

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Improving our Shire's facilities and halls has been a focus for Council, with works undertaken in Maldon, Baringhup, Taradale and Castlemaine. Some of our projects are profiled below:



Baringhup Hall

Repair works included restumping, floor structure repairs and the renewal of the floor surface. Additional safety measures such as exit signs were also installed. **Total cost: \$76,000**



Wesley Hill Recreation Reserve Pavilion

An accessible toilet will be installed at the pavilion with works planned to start in August. The new toilet will be located adjacent to the existing toilet facilities. **Total cost: \$47,000**



Taradale Hall

The hall received a complete kitchen renovation with the installation of new cabinets, cooker, countertop, gas works and floor coverings in addition to new wall linings, insulation and painting. A new septic tank was also installed. **Total cost: \$89,000**



Maldon Museum

Conservation works on the 156-year-old building are underway to rectify salt damage and drainage and to repair masonry, plaster, mortars, roof copings and flashings. The work is funded by a grant from Victoria's Heritage Restoration Fund. **Total cost: \$60,000**



Castlemaine Kindergarten

A major renovation of the kindergarten is planned for 2015/2016. Works will include an upgrade to the kitchen, foyer, bathroom facilities, office space and meeting rooms and will be primarily funded by a \$242,000 Early Years Infrastructure grant from the Victorian Government. **Total cost: \$277,000**



Castlemaine Market Building

A thermal comfort project is underway to install new internal entrance lobbies in the building to reduce air flow and achieve compliance with building regulations. This is stage one of the three stage project. Council has received a permit from Heritage Victoria for the works. **Total cost: \$110,000**



South Castlemaine Kindergarten

A refurbishment of the kindergarten included a full bathroom upgrade, new floor coverings, art sink and oven. An all-ability accessible playground and ramp pathways were added in addition to a new sandpit, landscaped gardens and lawn. The South Castlemaine Kindergarten Parent Committee contributed \$3,000. **Total cost: \$128,000**



Maldon Pre-School

External wall cladding damaged by termites was replaced along with a small amount of structural timber. The building also received a termite control treatment to prevent future damage. **Total cost: \$10,000**

COMMUNITY PLANS NOW COMPLETE

Council's Local Community Planning Project is now complete with nine communities across the Shire successfully completing their community plans.

The project, funded by the Victorian Government, commenced in February 2011 and has supported the development of plans in Campbells Creek, Castlemaine, Chewton, Elphinstone, Guildford, Harcourt, Newstead, Taradale and Tarrangower.

The plans provide Council with a better understanding of local community needs and aspirations and will continue to inform Council's future planning, service provision and advocacy priorities.

Council acknowledges the significant contribution and commitment by each community involved in the Local Community Planning Project and would like to thank everyone for making the project such a success.



Youth Parliament team members (L-R): Jade Bujeya, Ashley Penrose, Nick West, Alex Janka, Cadel Watson and Aidan Fryer.

Council supports YMCA Youth Parliament program

Six students from Mount Alexander Shire recently participated in the 2015 YMCA Victorian Youth Parliament program. The program provides the opportunity for young people to present in the chambers of the Victorian Parliament and debate issues and ideas that are important to them.

With the support of Council's Youth Development Team the students developed and debated a proposed Bill (piece of legislation) arguing for the

introduction of an opt-out Victorian organ donor register.

The Bill was successfully passed and will now be handed by the Youth Governor to the Hon. Jill Hennessy MP, Minister for Health, for consideration.

The YMCA Youth Parliament program provides a great personal and professional development opportunity, and provides the State Government with insight into issues that are important to young Victorians.



From left, Brielle Clasby and Claire Hollis. Photo: Stewart Carter

Art at the skate park

Council's Youth Development Team recently launched the Sk8 Art mural at the Castlemaine Skate Park.

The Sk8 Art project involved the design and installation of a mural for, and by, young people in the Shire. It included eight workshops for participants to develop art and design techniques.

The purpose of the project was to create a sense of ownership over the skate park, attract wider use of the facility

and help prevent vandalism and tagging.

The project also led to the creation of a forum with project partners and young people, including skate park users, to work on a long-term strategy for graffiti prevention.

The Council-managed project was funded by a \$20,885 grant as part of the Victorian Government's Community Crime Prevention Program and was supported by Castlemaine police and local youth organisation XtremeInc.

YOUR POOLS, YOUR FEEDBACK

In between swimming laps and splashing about, visitors to Council's pools last summer were invited to provide ideas about how to improve their swimming experience.



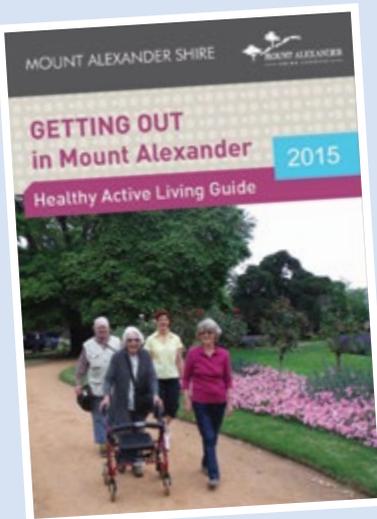
The feedback received has led to a number of improvements to the Shire's pools including:

- New furniture and a replacement shade sail at Castlemaine;
- A new barbecue, furniture, automated pool cover winder and the installation of lane ropes and anchor points at Maldon; and
- The replacement of a shade sail and installation of a new barbecue at Harcourt.

Further works planned include the installation of a saline water purification system for Newstead and Harcourt pools, tree planting for shade at Castlemaine and Maldon pools, repairing the concourse around the learner pool at Harcourt and working with the Bendigo Regional YMCA to provide healthy alternatives in the kiosks.

Thank you to everyone who participated and provided valuable feedback.

HEALTHY ACTIVE LIVING GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE



Pick up your free copy of the 2015/2016 Healthy Active Living Guide and learn about some of the great activities that occur throughout our Shire.

The guide profiles more than 120 local activities including short courses, social activities, exercise programs, community lunches, disability services and more.

Copies are available at Council's Civic Centre and key community venues.

CASTLEMAINE LIGHTS UP THE SMALL SCREEN

Castlemaine was showcased to national audiences recently when it was featured as the backdrop to the six-part television series *Glitch* on ABC TV.

The series was filmed in Castlemaine in late 2014 and Council played an important role in supporting the production.

Filming in the Shire provides direct economic benefits to

the community, supports the arts industry, and is a great way to promote our region.



What's on

Markets

WORDS IN WINTER NEWSTEAD

Saturday 1 – Monday 31 August
Various venues, Newstead and surrounds
A celebration of the love of words. Visit nwiw.blogspot.com for event details.

CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN SILVER AND METALWORK AWARD

Saturday 29 August – Sunday 18 October
Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum
More than 70 award entries into this national biennial exhibition are on display.

BUDA VEGIE CHALLENGE HARVEST DINNER

Friday 4 September
Campbells Creek Community Centre
This delicious three course dinner uses vegetables grown by students from primary schools across the Shire. Tickets are available through your local primary school.

RESERVED SEATING ONLY

8.00pm, Friday 11 September
Phee Broadway Theatre, Mechanics Lane, Castlemaine
This critically acclaimed comedy unites an unlikely pair in the reserved section of a major football stadium. David Ross Paterson and Cecelia Specht star as a hilariously mismatched couple. Book online at www.pheebroadwaytheatre.com.au.

METCALFE VINTAGE TRACTOR PULL AND WOODCHOP

10.00am–4.00pm, Sunday 20 September
Metcalf Recreation Reserve
A fun family day in the country including rides, jumping castle, Holden museum, vintage car displays, swap meet and of course the tractor pull and wood chop events.

CASTLEMAINE FARMERS' MARKET

First Sunday of the month (except January and June)
9.00am–1.00pm
Fresh locally grown produce.

CASTLEMAINE ARTISTS' MARKET

First Sunday of every month except January
9.00am–2.00pm
More than 50 stalls.

MALDON MARKET

Hand made, Home grown
Second Sunday of the month
9.00am–2.00pm
Fountain Street, Maldon
Farmers and makers market.

WESLEY HILL MARKET

Held every Saturday
7.30am–1.00pm
Located along Pyrenees Highway, Wesley Hill



Maldon Market

For a full Calendar of Events, collect a free brochure from the Castlemaine and Maldon Visitor Information Centres or online at www.maldon.castlemaine.com.au



Civic Centre

Corner Lyttleton
and Lloyd Streets
Castlemaine 3450

Office Hours:
8.30am–5.00pm
Monday to Friday

Telephone:
5471 1700

Facsimile:
5471 1749

Email:
**info@mountalexander.
vic.gov.au**

Website:
**www.mountalexander.
vic.gov.au**

Your Councillors

CALDER WARD

Cr Tony Cordy
T 0466 004 629

CASTLEMAINE WARD

Cr Tony Bell
T 0408 017 655

Cr Chris Cole
T 0400 779 892

Cr Bronwen Machin
T 0407 345 744

COLIBAN WARD

Cr Christine Henderson (Mayor)
T 0466 004 628

LODDON WARD

Cr Michael Redden
T 0466 004 630

TARRENGOWER WARD

Cr Sharon Telford
T 0407 991 403

Forthcoming Council Meetings

Tuesday 11 August

Civic Centre

Tuesday 25 August

Civic Centre

Tuesday 8 September

Newstead Community Centre

Tuesday 22 September

Civic Centre

Council Meetings commence at 7.30pm. Residents are invited to join the Mayor and Councillors for tea and coffee at 7.15pm prior to the start of the meeting.

Council Services Information

THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES UNIT includes Council's Planning, Building and Local Laws and is located at the Civic Centre in Lyttleton Street. The planning counter is open from 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Ring or call in for information about planning and building permit requirements. Appointments are recommended for detailed discussions before any permit application is made. Building permits can be issued by any registered Building Surveyor in the state. Contact 5471 1700 to make an appointment.

COUNCIL'S LOCAL LAWS UNIT offers a 24 hour after-hours emergency service. This service provides attendance for urgent matters such as wandering livestock, dog attack or injured animals. To report an urgent matter, please call 5471 1700 and press '3' to be forwarded through to the after-hours local laws service. To report lost or found dogs after-hours please contact the RSPCA shelter on 5472 5277.

CASTLEMAINE LANDFILL Tel: 5470 5348
Sluicers Road, Castlemaine. Monday to Friday, 10.00am–4.00pm. Saturday and Sunday, 10.00am–5.00pm.

MALDON TRANSFER STATION Tel: 5471 1700
Morris Street, Maldon. Wednesday and Friday, 9.30am–1.00pm. Saturday and Sunday, 9.00am–1.00pm.

WHEELIE WASTE Tel: 1800 999 690
Contact Wheelie Waste if your garbage is not collected or you have a damaged bin. Contact Council when requesting a new waste collection service or replacement of a stolen or lost bin.

COMMUNITY SERVICES Tel: 5471 1766
Home based services are provided to frail older persons, eligible Veterans and people with a disability and their carer. These services help our clients to be active and independent in their own home.

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRE Tel: 5472 1364
15 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine. Open Monday to Friday 9.00am–4.30pm. Drop-in session on Mondays between 1.00pm–4.00pm with no appointment necessary. The centre provides baby change and feed facilities.

SHIRE NEWS



POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

To the Residents