Connect Mount Alexander

Together we thrive

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

The Victorian Government has extended the State of Emergency in response to the coronavirus pandemic until 11.59pm on Sunday 19 July 2020. Restrictions have been tightened in some areas of Melbourne. It is important we don't become complacent. Please continue to follow the public health advice, maintain good hygiene and physical distancing, and check in on your family, friends and neighbours. Stay home if you are unwell and get tested if you are experiencing any symptoms of coronavirus. Make an appointment with your local GP or head to a nearby testing centre in Bendigo, Kyneton or Maryborough. For more information call the coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398 or visit www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

Download the COVIDSafe app

Help keep our community safe by downloading the COVIDSafe app as part of a nation-wide effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. The free app helps health workers to quickly notify you if you have been in contact with someone with coronavirus. It also reduces the chances of passing the virus on to others. For more information visit www.health.gov.au.

Council services update

We have reopened the customer service desk at the Civic Centre following a recent closure. Precautions are in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Play spaces are open and we are working with community and sporting groups to safely reopen community halls and sports facilities. Find more service updates at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

Have your say

Council is currently seeking community feedback on a number of matters. We invite you to have a say on:

• Proposed Budget 2020/2021. Closes at 5.00pm on Wednesday 15 July.
• Local law review. Closes at 5.00pm on Friday 31 July.
• Control of cats and dogs survey. Closes at 5.00pm on Friday 17 July.
• Proposed disposal of Council property at 10 Fitzgeralds Close. Closes at 5.00pm on Wednesday 8 July.
• Household emissions, water and energy survey. Closes in December.

For more information visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay. To discuss any of these matters contact our Customer Service Team on 5471 1700 and ask to speak with the project lead.

Volunteering and the Law

If you are a volunteer or work in an organisation that relies on volunteers sign up now to an online workshop about Volunteering and the Law. The session is hosted by Justice Connect and will cover topics such as volunteer relationships and selection processes, an organisation's legal responsibilities, risk management and more. The free session will be held from 9.30am to 12.30pm on Friday 17 July. To book your place visit www.eventbrite.com.au. The session is coordinated by Council and Volunteer Central Vic. It is open to all groups, organisations and volunteers in central Victoria.

Marketing workshop for businesses

Council's next small business workshop will provide you with advice, tips and tools to get your business noticed. The Marketing Your Business workshop will be held via Zoom from 6.00pm to 8.00pm on Monday 27 July. Book your place at this free session via www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/BusinessResources.

Visit the Small Business Bus

Business operators can sign up for a free 45 minute session to access business advice, support and expertise through the Small Business Bus. Sessions are available between 10.00am and 4.00pm on Wednesday 15 July outside the Market Building on Mostyn Street in Castlemaine or 10.00am to 4.00pm on Thursday 16 July outside the Kangaroo Hotel on High Street in Maldon. Book your place via www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/BusinessResources. The mobile bus service is an initiative of the Victorian Government. Measures are in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19.

Election candidate workshops

If you are considering running as a candidate in the October local government election register now for a free candidate information workshop. Every candidate who runs for election must attend one of the sessions. Workshops will cover the roles and responsibilities of councils and councillors, current issues facing local government, candidate information and campaign tips and tools.

• **Session one:** From 6.00pm to 9.00pm on Thursday 13 August at the Civic Centre in Castlemaine.
• **Session two:** From 10.00am to 12.30pm on Saturday 12 September at the Civic Centre in Castlemaine.

To register or to find out more information contact Augustine Sheppard on 5471 1700 or governance@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

Council meetings

The next Council meeting is at 6.30pm on Tuesday 21 July. It will be broadcast live via YouTube. To raise a question at the Council meeting write to the Governance Team, Mount Alexander Shire Council, PO Box 185, Castlemaine 3450 VIC, or send an email to governance@mountalexander.vic.gov.au. Messages must be received by 12 noon on the day of the meeting.