



*your say,
your shire*

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE COUNCIL

Your say, your shire

What do you love about Mount Alexander Shire? What are your aspirations and priorities for the shire for the next four years?

With a new Council recently elected, now is the time to get involved and provide your ideas that will continue to make our shire a great place to live.

Online

Share your ideas via the online portal at www.haveyoursay.mountalexander.com.au. Don't have internet? Pop onto the computer at the Civic Centre.

Talk to us

Join Councillors at a listening post, or invite your local Councillor to your next committee meeting.

For listening post locations check Council's weekly column in the Midland Express or online at www.haveyoursay.mountalexander.com.au.

To invite a Councillor to a committee meeting, contact Shannon on 5471 1705.

Host your own conversation

Download the toolkit from the website and have a conversation with friends, colleagues or members of your local group. For a printed copy drop into the Civic Centre or phone Council on 5471 1700.

Have your say to inform the new four year Council Plan. Community feedback period is open until Tuesday 3 January 2017.

Introducing our new Council

Our new Council is getting down to business following the Mount Alexander Shire elections in October.

All councillors have taken an Oath of Office and signed a declaration to abide by the Code of Conduct in the presence of Chief Executive Officer Darren Fuzzard.

Cr Bronwen Machin, Cr Tony Bell and Cr Robin Taylor were elected in the Castlemaine Ward, with Cr Christine Henderson elected in the Coliban Ward. Councillors Tony Cordy and John Nieman were elected unopposed in the Calder and Loddon River wards respectively.

Councillors elected Cr Sharon Telford, from the Tarrengower Ward, as Mayor for the next 12 months.

"It is an honour to be elected to serve as Mayor by my fellow councillors," said Cr Telford.

"The new Council is made up of experienced members, each elected to represent the diverse needs of our shire," she said.

"I look forward to working as a team and listening to our community over the next four years. We'll be getting started on the new Council Plan as a key priority."

Cr Telford acknowledged the contribution of outgoing councillors Chris Cole and Michael Redden, as well as the commitment and leadership of former Mayor Christine Henderson.

For councillor contact details visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Councillors.



(L-R) Back: Cr John Nieman, Cr Tony Cordy, Cr Christine Henderson, Cr Bronwen Machin. Front: Cr Robin Taylor, Mayor Sharon Telford and Cr Tony Bell



Message from the Mayor

Congratulations to my fellow councillors and thank you for electing me to the position of Mayor. I am looking forward to working with councillors and our CEO, and making sure we are efficient and accountable.

One of the first tasks of a new Council is to develop a Council Plan that states our aspirations and needs for the next four years. There will be many opportunities for you to get involved in the next few months and I look forward to hearing your ideas.

With summer now underway it's important to have your property ready for the fire danger period. Grass is long all over the shire and Council workers are busy reducing fuel loads in the lead up to the fire season. Be sure to keep your property maintenance up to date to help protect yourself and others.

On behalf of Council I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to a busy 2017 working with the community and getting on with the job.

Cr Sharon Telford

Shire News going digital

Shire News is going digital to reduce our environmental impact and combat the rising costs of postage.

For many years we've delivered our newsletter directly to households to keep residents abreast with the latest news.

Now anyone can sign up to receive the e-news edition on a quarterly basis. The change will see significant savings in print and postage costs.

Sign up now to receive Shire News by visiting www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/ShireNews.

We want everyone to be able to access Council's newsletter. It will remain available on our website and we will continue to offer

copies at community hubs such as the Civic Centre, library and Visitor Information Centres.

If you would like to continue to receive a print copy contact Council on 5471 1700 or send us an email to info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

We'd love to hear your thoughts on how you like to receive information from us.

Stay informed

- » Sign up to Shire News by email
- » Read our public notice in the Midland Express
- » Browse the latest news on our website
- » Sign up to e-newsletters in arts, events, business, heritage and environment
- » Stay in touch via Facebook



MAKE A SPLASH THIS SUMMER

The pool season has started and it's a great time for communities to swim, get active and have some fun.

Council's outdoor swimming pools in Castlemaine, Harcourt, Maldon and Newstead are open so bring along your sunscreen and togs. Come for a quick dip or spend the day.

Our local pools are staffed by qualified lifeguards and offer many activities including swimming lessons, lap swimming, pool parties and aqua aerobics.

To continue to improve patron safety, Council has purchased defibrillators for each pool and organised for Royal Lifesaving Victoria to undertake safety audits during the season.

Bendigo YMCA manages and operates the pools in Castlemaine, Harcourt and Maldon. Newstead Swimming Pool is managed by the Newstead and District Swimming Pool Inc.

The swimming pool season will continue through until Labour Day, Monday 13 March. Pools will be closed on Christmas Day and on Code Red days.

For more information on opening times and entry fees visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/SwimmingPools.

ENJOY AUSTRALIA DAY 2017

Head to Council's Australia Day celebrations at Victory Park from 10.30am on Thursday 26 January to celebrate our diversity and everything that is great about being Australian.

Bring a picnic basket, chairs or rug and enjoy the family friendly atmosphere. Meet our local Australia Day Award winners and welcome our newest Australian citizens to the community.



Fire tips for summer

What fire district am I in?

Mount Alexander is in the North Central Fire District

When are fire restrictions in place?

Fire restrictions are expected to be in place in December and are likely to be in place until May 2017. Check the **CFA website** for details.

How can I be prepared?

Clear out gutters, move stacks of wood away from your home and regularly mow your lawns. Pack important documents, photos, medication, money and clothes so you can leave easily.

Why do I need a fire plan?

A fire plan will help you remember what needs to be done during a crisis. Visit the CFA website or **emergency.vic.gov.au** for a template. Discuss your plans with your family, friends or neighbours about where you'll go and when you'll leave in the case of fire.

When should I leave?

Fire Danger Ratings tell you how dangerous a fire would be if one started. Leaving early is the safest option.

When will I receive a warning?

Warnings are issued when an emergency is likely to impact you. They provide information on what is happening and advice on what to do to protect yourself and family.

Warning levels:



Advice

An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions. Also used for **All Clear**, when there is no longer a threat.



Watch and Act / Warning

An emergency is heading towards you. Conditions are changing and you need to take action now to protect yourself and your family.



Emergency Warning

You are in imminent danger and need to take action now. You will be impacted.

SURVIVE THE HEAT

Keep cool this summer

Did you know heatwaves in Australia are becoming more frequent?

During extreme heat it is easy to become dehydrated or for your body to overheat, leading to heat cramps, heat exhaustion or even heatstroke.

Heatwaves kill more Australians than any other natural disaster so look after yourself and others this summer.

- » **Drink water** – even if you don't feel thirsty, regularly drink water.
- » **Hot cars kill** – never leave kids, adults or pets in hot cars. The temperature inside a parked car can double within minutes.
- » **Keep cool** – seek out air-conditioned buildings, draw your blinds, use a fan, take cool showers and dress in light and loose clothing made from natural fabrics.
- » **Plan ahead** – schedule activities in the coolest part of the day and avoid exercising in the heat. If you must go out, wear a hat and sunscreen and take a water bottle with you.
- » **Help others** – look after those most at risk in the heat – your neighbour living alone, the elderly, the young, people with a medical condition and your pets.

If you or anyone you know feels unwell on a hot day call NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24, or call 000 in an emergency.

For more information visit **betterhealth.vic.gov.au/heat**.

HOW CAN I HEAR THE LATEST WARNINGS?

Online:

www.emergency.vic.gov.au

Media:

ABC 91.1 FM, local radio stations or SKY NEWS Television

Phone:

VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226 or if you have a hearing or speech impairment phone 1800 555 677.

Download:

VicEmergency app (replaces Fire Ready)

COMMUNITY GRANTS OPEN

Activities and events add to the richness of community life and help to make our shire a great place to live. Grants of up to \$3,000 are available to support community-based projects as part of our Community Grants Program.

Applications for the 2017 grants program open on Monday 16 January and close at 4.00pm on Friday 17 February. To read the program guidelines or apply visit **www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/CommunityGrants**.

Applications can be made online once the round opens. Conditions apply.

Improving roads and bridges

With responsibility for 1,432km of roads and 230 bridges in the shire, maintaining and improving infrastructure is a key focus for Council.

Recent completed projects:

- » Building a gabion retaining wall to support a section of Harcourt – Sutton Grange Road
- » Improving drainage in Maclise Street in Castlemaine

Projects underway:

- » Replacing bridges on Maldon–Shelbourne Road and Strathlea Road
- » Reconstructing sections of road along Watchbox Road in Barfold and Diss Road in Langley.
- » Replacing the bridge deck at White Quartz Road in Fryerstown

In the next six months Council will focus on:

- » Completing the sealed road renewal program
- » Completing the gravel road re-sheeting program
- » Reconstructing Langslow Street in Castlemaine
- » Designing drainage improvements along Moscript Street in Castlemaine
- » Completing the design and a risk assessment of the Newstead flood levee
- » Designing the bike trail connection between the existing Campbells Creek trail and Princess Street



The gabion wall at Harcourt



Work underway on the bridge at Maldon

COUNCIL SERVICES IN HOLIDAY SEASON

Council offices

Close at 3.00pm on Friday 23 December 2016 and reopen at 8.30am on Tuesday 3 January 2017.

Kerbside recycling and waste

Collection as usual Boxing Day and News Years Day public holidays.

Visitor Information Centres

Open every day from 9.00am – 5.00pm except for Christmas Day.

Emergencies

For emergency matters regarding roads and drains, maternal and child services or stock and animal control (excluding wildlife) call 5471 1700 and follow the prompts.



2016 YAG members with Council's Shannon Lacy

BE A VOICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

We are looking for people aged between 12 and 25 to join our Youth Advisory Group (YAG) to be an active voice for young people in the shire.

Along with having a lot of fun, members provide input into Council decisions and strategies, and help to develop local youth initiatives and events.

Download the application form from our website. For more information contact Melissa via youth@mountalexander.vic.gov.au or 5471 1826. Applications close on Friday 10 February.

SPOTLIGHT ON NEWSTEAD LIVE!

The popular music festival attracts more than 50 world class performers, and over the last 16 years has grown bigger and better than ever. Take your pick of six large stages or opt for smaller intimate venues as you enjoy four days of music. The festival brings hundreds of people to the shire and runs from Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 January. Learn more and buy tickets at www.newsteadlive.com.

There is much to see and do in the region. Check the full calendar of events at www.maldoncastlemaine.com.au.

To list your event email c.baker@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

Council meetings

- » 7.30pm, Tuesday 13 December
 - » 6.30pm, Tuesday 21 February
- Meetings are held at the Civic Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Civic Centre: Corner of Lyttleton and Lloyd Streets, Castlemaine
PO Box 185, Castlemaine VIC 3450
Office hours: 8.30am - 5.00pm, Monday to Friday
t: (03) 5471 1700 f: (03) 5471 1749
e: info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au w: www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au

