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Time to plan for the fire danger period

Spring is the ideal time to consider and plan for the approaching fire danger period. Our Shire is regarded as an area at risk of bushfire, and current long-term weather predictions suggest that we are facing a long dry summer which brings the possibility of damaging fires.

While Council works closely with the Country Fire Authority (CFA), government agencies and other organisations to manage the risk of fires and the clearing of hazards, members of the community play a vital role in staying safe throughout the warmer months.

There are many things you can do in the lead up to summer:

- » Mow or slash grass below 75mm on your residential property
- » Create at least ten metre wide fire breaks on rural properties by cutting or slashing grass and weeds below 75mm
- » Remove leaves from gutters and stacks of wood from near your home, along with any other flammable materials
- » Develop fire plans for your family or business and discuss the plans with your neighbours
- » Decide in advance when you will leave high risk areas on days of severe, extreme or code red fire danger days – leaving early is the safest option
- » Know and understand the triggers for leaving before fire threatens, and plan where to go – don't wait for an official warning as it may be too late
- » Consider attending a local fire safety community meeting or join a local CFA Community Fireguard group (information available on the CFA website)
- » Download the FireReady app onto your phone for access to timely, relevant and tailored warnings and information for your area

To learn more about preparing for bushfires or fire restrictions visit the CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on **1800 240 667**.



Clear away fire hazards

In readiness for the declared fire danger period, Council carries out vegetation management such as removal of weeds and slashing of strategic firebreaks along some roadways and public land. From October, Council officers will undertake property inspections and issue notices to some residents to clear fire hazards to mitigate the risk of bushfires.

Message from the Mayor



Cr Christine Henderson

I receive frequent invitations to events in the Shire and it's always a pleasure and an honour to represent Council at community gatherings and celebrations.

I recently attended a significant cultural event called 'Now and Then' in the Castlemaine Town Hall. The performance by Campbells Creek and Guildford primary schools told the history of the two towns in drama, dance and song.

From the stirring sounds of two didgeridoos played on stage by father and son, with Bunjil the Eagle and

Aboriginal protector spirit dancing behind them, to colourful scenes of Campbells Creek and local animals, the play wound its way through the arrival of station owner William Campbell, the miners, conflict between European and Chinese people, to the founding of the school in a tent, soldiers off to war and on to the present day, including the mighty Truck Show.

The performance and its many costumes, masks, props and painted banners showed the huge amount of effort and input from students, staff and parents. It was a delightful

evening of entertainment and a great contribution to the cultural life of our community. This performance is one of many that take place with young people, their teachers and families each year contributing to our Shire's rich cultural life.

One of the three goals in Council's recently adopted Arts Strategy Action Plan is to value the contribution of the arts and cultural sector in our Shire. School performances deliver on this goal in abundance.

Fast facts on arts action plan

WHAT IS IT? The recently adopted Arts Strategy Action Plan 2015-2017 focuses on understanding and valuing the contribution of the vibrant arts and cultural sector in Mount Alexander Shire. The plan recognises the importance of nurturing the sustained growth of arts and cultural industries, and celebrating and promoting local cultural activities.

HOW WAS THE PLAN DEVELOPED? More than 70 representatives from the arts and cultural community provided input to the plan.

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES? More art in public places, shared marketing and promotional opportunities, professional development opportunities, partnership opportunities and more arts spaces.

WHAT IS COUNCIL'S ROLE? To facilitate the actions outlined in the plan.

WHY ARE THE ARTS IMPORTANT TO THE SHIRE?

A thriving arts and cultural life brings economic benefits to the Shire through tourism and investment. It also contributes social benefits through improving quality of life and building the character of our community.



NEWSTEAD RAILWAY ARTS HUB

Congratulations to the Newstead community, whose vision of bringing the old railway station back to life was celebrated in August, with the opening of the Newstead Railway Arts Hub.

The project was the number one priority in the Newstead Community Plan, and Council was pleased to support the project by leasing the building as head tenant from VicTrack.

The creative hub aligns with many of Council's goals such as growing economic development, building healthy and vibrant communities and promoting participation in the arts. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Battle of the Bands

Congratulations to Eve Morden, winner of the local heat of Battle of the Bands. Eve, from Campbells Creek, took out first place against 13 young bands and solo artists in August.

The event was organised by the Castlemaine FReeZa Committee, supported by Council's Youth Development team. FReeZA is a Victorian Government funded program that supports music and cultural events run by and for young people aged 12-25 years.



Eve Morden, local winner of Battle of the Bands

Join the fight against European wasps



European wasp
Photo: Patrick Honan, Melbourne Museum

Residents are urged to support a community-wide approach to reducing European wasp numbers this summer by installing traps now.

Staff have recently installed traps on Council-owned land to target queen wasps as they come out of hibernation, after already eradicating 50 wasp nests earlier this year.

“By taking a community-wide approach we hope to reduce the population of these pests over the warmer months,” said Tracey Watson, Council’s Senior Environmental Health Officer.

“Unlike bees, European wasps can sting repeatedly. As we saw last summer, the presence of wasps can really impact how we spend our time outdoors,” said Ms Watson.

The best way to eradicate wasps is by targeting their nests. The easiest way to confirm a European wasp nest is to see a stream of yellow and black wasps flying in and out of the same site. Nests can be concealed in retaining walls, around the base of trees or in a hole in the ground. Sometimes they will be concealed in sheltered parts of buildings.

“The nests are light grey in colour and are about the size of a football. If you find a nest please make sure you engage a qualified pest controller to treat and remove the nest as stings from these pests are very painful.”

Traps are available from local hardware stores. Please contact Council if you suspect you have found a nest on Council property.

Solar on heritage buildings

With so many significant heritage buildings, it’s interesting to note that Mount Alexander Shire also has one of the state’s highest rates of household solar systems.

Residents, businesses and Council have all embraced solar technologies to help save money and the environment. With the help of community solar bulk-buy initiatives such as MASH-2 the number of solar system installations is growing each year.

Owners of heritage buildings can also enjoy the benefits of solar. To assist, Council has developed a factsheet to guide permit requirements when considering the installation of photovoltaics or solar hot water.

Download the fact sheet — *Solar Panels in Heritage Areas* — from the planning and permits section of our website.

Civic Centre goes solar



Solar panels on the rear of the Civic Centre, with panels on the Castlemaine Town Hall visible to the right

The Castlemaine Civic Centre is the latest Council building to use solar power, with the recent installation of a 14.5kW solar photovoltaic energy system. The 58 solar panels and micro-inverters will produce about 20,000kWh of electricity each year to provide at least one quarter of the building’s total electricity needs.

“The Civic Centre is Council’s primary office building and this is another way that we are moving towards a more sustainable energy future,” said Jason Taylor, Director Sustainable Development.

The Civic Centre solar project was identified by the Green Team, Council’s internal sustainability and environment group, and funded by a Victorian Government climate change grant.

The 30kW solar system installed on the Castlemaine Town Hall in January has already saved ratepayers more than \$5,000 in electricity costs for the year.

Monitor the amount of solar energy produced by Council by visiting enlighten.enphaseenergy.com/public_systems and zoom in on the map to Castlemaine.

Read our new Environment Strategy

In July Council adopted the Environment Strategy 2015-2025, which outlines our strategic approach to environmental stewardship and long-term environmental goals.

The strategy identifies eight priority areas for action, which fall under the overarching themes of partnerships, positions and programs.

“The eight priority areas will guide our focus on environment and sustainability over the next 10 years,” said Jason Taylor, Director Sustainable Development.

“Community members will have opportunities to guide our work by helping to

develop action plans that sit under the strategy, such as the Climate Change Action Plan,” he said.

Read the strategy or sign up to receive our quarterly Sustainability and Environment News on our website.



Preserving our shop fronts

Council has produced an online brochure to help shop owners, traders and tenants conserve the heritage values of shop fronts within the Castlemaine central business district (CBD).

Most of the Castlemaine CBD falls under a heritage overlay that seeks to maintain, conserve and enhance the historic character and fabric of the buildings.

The CBD has many great examples of historic shop fronts, with three main architectural styles of Victorian (1850-1900), Edwardian/Federation (1890-1915) and Interwar/Early Post War (1915-1940). Many of the shop fronts feature historic tiles, glazing frames, leadlight glass and pressed metal.

To read more on the town's shop fronts or to learn about the process for restoring or changing a shop front, look for the Castlemaine Historic Shop Fronts brochure on the heritage section of our website under planning and permits.



FREE VACCINATIONS FOR YOUR CHILDREN

Parents are reminded to take advantage of Council's free immunisation service for children aged 0-16 years. Vaccinating your child will protect more than their health. Immunisation will also reduce the chance of your child passing an infectious disease on to another person – especially young babies who are not fully immunised.

The Maternal and Child Health Centre provides vaccinations for children aged 0-5 years and is located at 15 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine. Call 5472 1364 to make an appointment. Council also coordinates secondary school immunisations through the annual school immunisation program. For more information contact Council's Healthy Environment team on 5471 1700.

Read more about immunisation at immunehero.health.vic.gov.au and www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation.

Baby Harry at the Maternal and Child Health Centre



Calling for volunteers

WANTED: VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE VOLUNTEERS

We need people to join our great team of volunteers at the Maldon and Castlemaine Visitor Information Centres. We're looking for people who are passionate about the local area, have outstanding customer service skills and enjoy meeting and talking to visitors.

If this sounds like you, and you have some time on your hands, please call into one of our centres or call Council on 5471 1794 and ask to speak to one of our team leaders. Four hour shifts are available and on-the-job training is provided.



Drop in and say hello to Steve Pentreath, one of our friendly volunteers

WANTED: YOUNG PEOPLE TO ADVISE COUNCIL

Council is seeking new members for the 2016 Youth Advisory Group (YAG). The team provides input into Council decisions and strategies, helps to identify issues and solutions on matters relevant to young people, and helps develop local youth-focused initiatives.

If you're aged between 12 and 25 years and would like to join the 2016 YAG team pick up an application form from our website, drop into the Civic Centre, email Shannon at youth@mountalexander.vic.gov.au or call 5471 1826.

Meetings will be held fortnightly during the school term. Applications due by Friday 4 December 2015.

Beat the heat

In the lead up to summer, here are three key things you can do to prepare for and cope throughout a heatwave:

- » Keep yourself cool to manage your health;
- » Better manage your living space to keep it cooler for longer; and
- » Make simple home improvements to keep it cool and save money on cooling.

Council is running a Heatwave Help campaign over the next few months to help reduce the risk of heatwave related illness. Clients receiving services as part of our Home and Community Care program will also receive a heatwave action plan. Keep an eye out for more information in local news and on our website or visit www.heatwavehelp.com.au.

VICTORIAN SENIORS FESTIVAL

Various locations throughout October
Events and activities that celebrate the diversity of our senior residents and promote healthy ageing. Programs available throughout the Shire.

CHOPPED

Friday 2 October 9.00am – Sunday 4 October 5.00pm
Newstead Racecourse
Three days of dirt drag racing, 25+ live bands, hot rods, customs, choppers, bobbers, vintage speedway and more.
www.chopped.com.au

STEAM TRAIN FOR KIDS

Saturday 3 October – Sunday 4 October
Maldon Railway Station
A great family day with steam and diesel train rides plus family friendly activities such as fair ground rides, animal farm and more.
www.vgr.com.au

RUN THE MAINE

Sunday 11 October
9.00am – 12 noon
Mostyn Street, Castlemaine
A fun run of 10km, 5km and 2km. Fundraising for Castlemaine Health and Cystic Fibrosis Victoria.
www.runthemaine.org

LOCAL LIVES GLOBAL MATTERS CONFERENCE

Friday 16 October – Sunday 18 October
Variety of locations
A conference exploring ways to create sustainable relationships between humanity and nature. www.localivesglobalmatters.org

MT TARRENGOWER HISTORIC HILL CLIMB

Saturday 17 October – Sunday 18 October
Mt Tarrengower, Maldon
Race against the clock for vintage cars up to 1972 on the access road to the top of Maldon's Mount Tarrengower.

MALDON AND BARINGHUP AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Sunday 18 October
9.30am – 4.00pm
Racecourse Reserve, Maldon
A traditional country show with animals, arts, crafts, produce and cooking. Free rides and activities for children.

CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE SPRING BALL 2015

Saturday 24 October, 8.00pm
Castlemaine Town Hall, Castlemaine
Funk revolution is the theme of this year's ball, now in its 21st year. Food, fun, dancing and prizes. www.cch.org.au

CHILDREN'S WEEK

Saturday 24 – Saturday 31 October
Various locations
Public story telling for children, parents and carers across the Shire.
www.maccn.org.au

160TH ANNIVERSARY CASTLEMAINE SHOW

Friday 30 October from 6.30pm, Saturday 31 October from 9.30am
Camp Reserve, Castlemaine
Friday night street parade at 6.30pm with wood chop, historic displays, side shows, show bags, art and craft, cookery and exhibits. Fireworks at 9.45pm. See horse events, sheep, animal nursery, pavilions and more on Saturday.
www.castlemaineshow.com.au

MALDON PRIMARY SCHOOL MARKET AND FAIR

Saturday 31 October
8.00am – 3.00pm
Maldon Primary School, High Street, Maldon
A fun day out with 100 quality art and craft stalls, a jumping castle, face painting, children's activities, wonderful food, coffee and all day musical entertainment.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES

Wednesday 11 November
Maldon Cenotaph 10.45am
Castlemaine RSL Hall 10.40am

THE GOLDFIELDS STEAM TRAIN CHALLENGE

Sunday 15 November 11.45am
Starts at Old Castlemaine Gaol
Race competitively or ride socially alongside the historic steam train from Castlemaine to Maldon.
www.racethetrain.com.au

RACV GREAT VICTORIAN BIKE RIDE

Saturday 28 November – Sunday 6 December
Across the Goldfields
Participants will ride from Ballarat to Bendigo, with an overnight stay in Castlemaine on Saturday 5 December.

Markets

CASTLEMAINE FARMERS' MARKET

First Sunday of every month except January
9.00am – 1.00pm
Carpark and grounds adjacent to the Market Building, Mostyn Street, Castlemaine
Fresh locally grown produce

CASTLEMAINE ARTISTS' MARKET

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

MALDON MARKET

Held on the second Sunday of the month 9.00am – 2.00pm
Fountain Street, Maldon
Farmers and makers market
Hand made, home grown

WESLEY HILL MARKET

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

Spring has sprung

The warmer months have filled gardens with colour so it's the perfect time to get outside and explore.

The Castlemaine Botanical Gardens are awash with a sea of orange and yellow and will be replaced in November with the blues and pastels of salvia and petunias. Also see the crab apple tree in flower at the south end of the gardens.

Be inspired by the Mica Grange Sculpture Exhibition and open garden at Sutton Grange. The gardens are open 10.00am – 4.00pm each weekend from Saturday 17 October until Sunday 22 November. More than 60 sculptures are displayed. Entry \$5 per adult. www.micagrangec.com.au

Explore the private gardens of members of the HEDGE, a horticultural group located in and around Castlemaine. Workshops, bee keeping sessions, advice on weed foraging and more will be offered from October 31 until November 8. Entry \$5 per adult. www.thehedge.net

The art and sculpture garden, Antares Iron Art Garden, in Newstead is open from Saturday 31 October until Tuesday 3 November. Located on the corner of Brandt Street and Punt Road, the garden artfully displays found objects. Entry \$5 per adult. www.newstead.vic.au/business



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 13 October
Civic Centre

Tuesday 27 October
Barfold Hall

Tuesday 10 November
Civic Centre

Tuesday 24 October
Elphinstone Hall

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 domestic animals (not wildlife). To report an urgent matter, please call 5471 1700 and press '2' 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 WASTE FACILITY 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
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To the Residents