**MESSAGE FROM THE RECREATION TEAM**

The last financial year has seen Recreation Services complete many capital works projects at the reserves across the Shire. The 2014/2015 year will still have us updating and building new infrastructure but our main aim is to concentrate and support our Special Committees of Management that manage the many reserves across the Shire. It has been acknowledged and heard that committees require assistance with a whole range of issues. On the whole, most of the committees are strong and doing well however there are some who are requesting support to ensure they remain viable and financial. More information on how we plan to assist committees will be released soon. In the meantime, if there are any committee members who wish to discuss how they are operating it is timely to contact us and make a meeting time to catch up.

We all look forward to working together for a great 2014/2015 financial year.

Best wishes
The Recreation Team

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**MALDON PLAYGROUND DESIGN**

Mount Alexander Shire Council, through its annual auditing of playgrounds across the Shire, identified that the Maldon Public Gardens Playground is to be replaced and has allocated approximately $80,000 to this project in the 2013/2014 budget. After detailed consultation with the Maldon community including the students at Maldon Primary, a design has been finalised. The playground includes some new and exciting items that have not been seen in the Shire before. Features include a 5 meter high climbing pyramid, trampoline and the return of an old favourite, a disc spinner. The design has been based on the gold mining past of the area with a small rocker in the style of a mining cart, a climbing tunnel as the entrance to gold mining tunnels and a little steam train. The installation of the new playground will be completed by late July.
RECREATION PROJECTS

Some of the works recently completed...
- Bill Woodfull Recreation Reserve change rooms refurbishment
- Bill Woodfull drainage works completed
- Line marking of the netball courts at Bill Woodfull and Campbells Creek Recreation Reserves

Some of the works on the go...
- Relocation of the cricket nets at Newstead Recreation Reserve
- Newstead Sporting Pavilion construction
- Maldon Public Gardens playground replacement
- Wesley Hill Recreation Reserve project brief
- Wesley Hill Recreation Reserve velodrome resurfacing
- Remedial works at the Castlemaine and Harcourt swimming pool chemical sheds

Some of the strategic moves...
- Walking and Cycling Advisory Committee
- Play space 2014 – 2024 Strategy
- Recreation Minor Reserves Strategy

IN THE SPOTLIGHT....

MELISSA FOWLER, COMMUNITY ACTIVITY & CULTURE SUPPORT OFFICER

What do you enjoy most about winter in Mount Alexander Shire?
Getting the winter woollies on and taking the dogs for a walk on a clear blue sky sunny winter’s day.

What might someone be surprised to know about you?
I used to be a fanatical cricket fan in my teenage years and covered every wall of my bedroom in cricket posters!

What sport and recreation activities are you interested in?
I like gentle non-contact type of sport and recreation – yoga, riding and walking.

If you could participate in the Olympics, what sport would you most like to compete in?
Trampoline! I can’t believe this is an Olympic Sport because it looks like so much fun!

What is the best thing about living and/or working in Mount Alexander Shire?
I love the sense of community in Castlemaine. There is always something interesting on somewhere in the Shire!

RECREATION UPDATES

It is proposed that Mount Alexander Shire Council and the Harcourt and District Leisure Centre Inc. will partner together to enter into a joint agreement to manage the Harcourt Recreation Reserve. Council’s Recreation Unit will administer the Seasonal User Agreements for the sporting groups and the Harcourt District Leisure Centre Inc. will administer bookings for casual hire, community, annual and private hires. For further information on bookings please contact Councils Recreation Unit on 5471 1700.

The Recreation team say farewell to Ben Westcott. Ben has been on a student placement from Victorian University of Technology for 13 weeks as part of his degree in Sports and Recreation Management. Ben’s role included contacting all of the sporting clubs within the Shire to help the Recreation team update their database to give us an understanding of the participation of sport within our community. If you have been unable to send your replies to Ben you can still do so at recreation@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

The Turf Forum was held in early March, where much was learned about all things TURF. Each reserve received a copy of a soil analysis and turf condition report for their reserve. A lot of information was garnered from Mick and Jason of Lawn and Turf Maintenance who conducted a great knowledgeable presentation, question session and a quick stroll out onto Camp Reserve Oval for some ground temperature testing. There was great feedback from all attendees, with eager anticipation of what is to come, and how Council can improve playing surfaces across the Shire.
CASTLEMAINE GOLDFIELDS FOOTBALL CLUB

40 years ago Castlemaine Soccer Club joined the newly formed Bendigo Soccer League. This year we are celebrating 40 years with a range of activities over the weekend of 8, 9, 10 August 2014.

Club members Mick Evans and Robyn Lewis have been researching the history of the club and will be launching a book on Saturday 9 August at the New Northern.

All seniors will be at home on the Sunday with a range of activities planned for juniors. A display of club memorabilia will be held at the Goldfields Room at the Chewton ground.

Come out to Chewton over the weekend if you are interested in soccer, sport or just local history and see our new clubrooms which were renovated and extended in 2010.

Castlemaine Goldfields Football Club – Chewton Soldiers Memorial Park, Fryers Road, Chewton.

CASTLEMAINE CYCLING CLUB

Members of the Castlemaine Cycling Club were proud to display the new club colours at the recent Criteriums. The new kit was launched in front of the greater cycling community at Harcourt on March 30th. The club continues to support Cycling Victoria to bring top level cycling to Central Victoria by using beautiful Harcourt and surrounds for competition. The Criteriums were followed up by Country and Metro Road Race Championships on 17th and 18th May. Racing will continue 21st June with the Maldon and District Community Bank Time Trials to the south of Harcourt on Harmony Way.

Later in the year will also see the Ken Maddern Snr Memorial Road Handicap on 6th September and in late Nov, the inaugural open Tour de Bress Criteriums. This Criterium will be held in conjunction with a “Save the Children” charity ride, and should bring many top cyclists from far and wide to compete.

VICHEALTH 2013/2014 ACTIVE CLUB GRANTS

VicHealth have announced that 55 clubs from across Victoria have shared in $1.8m of funding recently awarded through their Active Club grants round. These grants aim to tackle two major barriers that prevent people from taking part in sport and active recreation – cost and injury.

Congratulations to the following successful Mount Alexander Shire clubs!

- Castlemaine Bowling Club Inc.
- Castlemaine Football and Netball Club Inc.
- Muckleford Cricket Club
- Newstead & District Youth Club

Funding and Grants

DTPLI Emergency Grant: Sporting and Recreation Equipment www.dpcd.vic.gov.au
To provide assistance to local sport and active recreation clubs and organisations to replace essential sports equipment that has been lost or destroyed as a consequence of fire, flood, significant storm event, theft or criminal damage.
Max per grant $2000.
Closing date: On-going.

DTPLI Elite Travel Grants www.dpcd.vic.gov.au
To provide assistance to elite Victorian athletes to travel to compete at national championships or international events.
Max per grant: $2000
Closing date: 3 Rounds
5 Aug 2014, 2 Dec 2014 and 1 April 2015

Local Sporting Champions www.ausport.gov.au
Designed to provide financial assistance for young people aged 12-18 towards the cost of travel, accommodation, uniforms or equipment when competing, coaching or officiating at official sporting competitions.
Max per grant: $500
Open date: 1 July 2014
Closing date: 31 Oct 2014

Sport Incentive Program www.asf.org.au
This program aims to increase opportunities for Australians to participate in sport and / or excel in sports performance.
On-going

Mount Alexander Shire Council Strengthening the Community Grants www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au
Support to a range of local community based projects and initiatives.
Up to $5000
Open: 22 Aug 2014
Close: 26 September 2014

Please also refer to Useful Links section on Page 4 for additional information.
Upcoming Events

**Orienteering in Castlemaine**
- **28 June**
- Kalimna Park.

**Sports Focus**
- **Responsible Serving of Alcohol training in Bendigo**
- **23 June 2014**

**Castlemaine District Netball Association, Annual Tournament**
- **22 June 2014**


For more information click here

For a full listing of events in the Shire please visit Council’s Tourism website [www.maldoncastlemaine.com.au](http://www.maldoncastlemaine.com.au)

If you would like your event to feature in our Spring issue of Arena, please send information to recreation@mountalexander.vic.gov.au or click to download Councils Event Kit.

Community Activity & Culture

Congratulations to the 2014 Youth Award Winners

At the recent Mount Alexander Youth Awards Night, young people from the local community were celebrated for their achievements. The free-all ages event was held in the Historic Market Building in conjunction with a Youth Arts Exhibition.

The winners for the Youth Awards were:

- Rose Byrne – Young Visual Artist Award
- Rhys Ford – Young Business Person Award
- Robert Brassington – Young Performing Artist Award
- XtremeInc Youth Projects Volunteers – Young Group Volunteer Award
- Ashleigh Power – Young Volunteer Award
- Bonnie Wills – Sustainability Champion Award
- Kailen O’Grady – Young Sports Person Award

The prize for the Young Sports Person Award was kindly donated by the Castlemaine Football Netball Club and Recreation Services at Mount Alexander Shire Council.

Did You Know?

Australian Rules football was originally designed to give cricketers something to play during the off season.

Contact Us

recreation@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

Sue Jones – Manager Community Activity and Culture, 5471 1711
Ros Young – Recreation Services Team Leader, 5471 1787
Tamara Payne – Recreation Officer, 5471 1741
Brian Anderson – Recreation Development Officer, 5471 1844
Melissa Fowler – Community Activity and Culture Support Officer, 5471 1786

A reminder will be sent out regarding content for the next newsletter. Contributions can be sent at any time by email to: recreation@mountalexander.vic.gov.au. Please ensure your contact details are included.

Disclaimer

Council has made all efforts to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the above information but does not endorse any of the above mentioned businesses or events and will not be held liable for any loss resulting from involvement in advertised events or services.

Useful Links


Loddon Campaspe Sport Assembly Focus: [www.loddoncampaspe.sportslink.org.au](http://www.loddoncampaspe.sportslink.org.au)


Aquatics and Recreation Victoria: [www.aquaticsandrecreation.org.au](http://www.aquaticsandrecreation.org.au)


Sports Focus: [www.loddoncampaspe.sportslink.org.au](http://www.loddoncampaspe.sportslink.org.au)


Please also search the national or state organising body of your specific sport or activity for further information such as funding opportunities, development ideas and event details.