

Making our Shire accessible	2
Australia Day Awards 2016	3
Heritage awards open	4
Call for FReeZA members	4
What's on	5



Shire-wide approach to aged care

Council's Community Wellbeing Team is working with Castlemaine Health Aged Care Homes, Castlemaine District Community Health, Maldon Hospital and the Central Victorian Primary Care Partnership to take a shire-wide approach to enriching the lives of frail older people and people living with dementia.

The Mount Alexander Healthy Ageing Collaborative is focusing on creating an engaging and meaningful environment for clients and residents by incorporating Montessori principles into its approach to care.

"The Montessori approach provides a framework for supporting independence, high self-esteem and dignity for people as they age, helping them to enjoy meaningful roles and activities," said Philippa

Calwell, Council's Healthy Ageing Officer.

"The approach focuses on supporting the person and adapting the environment to encourage confidence and compensate for memory loss," said Ms Calwell.

"Simple things like introducing large-print name badges for staff, clients or residents can make a huge difference to how people feel about themselves and how they interact with others," she said.

Around 100 staff and volunteers have been trained in the Montessori approach as part of the program, which includes an eight-month consultancy with Alzheimer's Australia.

"There is much enthusiasm for this innovative approach which is a huge culture change in aged care. It's exciting to see the energy and commitment from all

aged care services working together to improve the social inclusion of vulnerable, older people.

"Each organisation has reported back with incredibly positive stories, and we continue to share ideas on ways to further embed the Montessori principles," she said.

Mentoring and training across the collaborative will continue throughout 2016 and identify more ways our community can become dementia and frail-aged friendly, and better support these people and their carers.

Visit www.fightdementia.org.au to find out more about the Montessori approach.

Support for carers

The number of people living with dementia in the Shire has grown to 360. Help is now at hand for people caring for someone with dementia with the formation of a new support group. To find out more please call Julie Flynn, Access and Support Officer, on 5471 1880.





Cr Christine Henderson

Message from the Mayor

In a busy start to 2016, Council has congratulated our Australia Day award winners, opened applications for community grants and called for nominations for the heritage awards. These initiatives acknowledge and celebrate the positive contribution that individuals and groups make to shape our wonderful and diverse community.

This is also the final year in the current term of Council. Local government elections will be held on Saturday 22 October with a new Council ready to start in November. Councillors are already deliberating the 2016/2017 Budget with an emphasis on completing actions in the Council Plan. We have achieved much already and this year brings

a new challenge with the Victorian Government's cap on rate increases placing tight constraint on our budget plans.

As always we'll be striving to ensure programs and services meet community needs to provide value for ratepayer dollars. We encourage individuals and groups with ideas on priorities for the budget to let your Councillors know. Our contact details are available on the website, along with times and dates for regular listening posts around the Shire.

Last year we found listening posts were useful for hearing community feedback and responding to questions. In many cases we were able to respond to specific concerns using Council's online service

request system. Anyone with internet access can submit a request via the 'Lodge a service request' task button on Council's homepage of the website. Once your contact details and request are entered, you receive a confirmation email and reference number. Another email will follow once the job is complete.

I recently received a note from a resident thanking Council for the prompt action and good job done by outdoor staff in response to an online request for street works. It's a simple and efficient way to relay requests to the appropriate team, and the Customer Service team are always available via phone or in person at the Civic Centre for those without internet.

Making our Shire accessible

Work is continuing to make streets and paths more accessible for all residents. Last year we upgraded ramps and installed tactile indicators at two intersections along Urquhart Street in Castlemaine. Works are underway to upgrade the pedestrian crossing at Kennedy and Templeton Streets near Castlemaine Station.

In 2015, Council launched four access maps to support local residents and visitors with limited mobility. The maps for Harcourt, Newstead, Maldon and Castlemaine include features such as accessible parking, toilets, parks and points of interest. They are designed to enhance community inclusion and participation for people with a disability.

The free maps are available throughout the Shire and can be downloaded from the Disability, Access and Inclusion section of our website.



Check before you use a shipping container

Home renovation programs have promoted shipping containers as a versatile and cheap way to extend living and storage space. However, restrictions exist on how shipping containers may be used or repurposed on private land.

You may need a building or planning permit depending on:

- » How you intend to use the shipping container
- » The zoning of the land it is on
- » The overlays that apply to the land.

Determining the need for a permit can be complex so please check with Council to clarify if you need one.



Australia Day Awards 2016

As part of Australia Day celebrations in January, four residents were recognised for their significant contribution to our local community.

Young Citizen of the Year – Ashley Penrose

Ashley is a very active volunteer in our community and a member of Council's Youth Advisory Group and the Youth Parliament Program. She made a fantastic contribution to her school, and to her netball club by playing, umpiring and coaching.

Citizen of the Year – Julie McHale

Julie is a tireless advocate for the Aboriginal community and has written curriculum to incorporate the Aboriginal perspective for schools. She is an adopted elder of the Dja Dja Wurrung community and was integral in the establishment of the 'The Meeting Place', a cultural school for young Koorie children.

Senior Citizen of the Year – Marilyn Bennet

Marilyn co-established WMA FM (now 94.9 MAIN fm) and has volunteered on community radio for 30 years. Among other things, she played a key role in establishing the Lioness Club of Bendigo, Harcourt Applefest, the Harcourt Valley Heritage and Tourist Centre and the Castlemaine Sports and Community Club Inc.

Community Event of the Year – Maldon Shopping Spree

More than 25 local traders opened their doors during the Maldon Shopping Spree, offering discounts, specials and a raffle prize to raise funds for Maldon Primary School. The event attracted up to 200 shoppers from as far afield as Melbourne, Ballarat and Bendigo.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to make a nomination or join the celebration.

Congratulations and welcome to our community members from Sudan, Philippines and Scotland who became Australian Citizens at the Citizenship Ceremony on Australia Day.

Botanical gardens footbridge

A footbridge at Castlemaine Botanical Gardens has been repaired, providing safer pedestrian access to and from the nearby Big4 Castlemaine Gardens Holiday Park.

The new footbridge deck is non-slip and will allow people to enjoy safe access to the gardens at all times of year.



Community grants closing soon

Don't forget to submit your application for Council's Community Grants Program by Friday 19 February. The grants offer financial support of up to \$3,000 to local community-based projects and initiatives.

The guidelines and application form are available on our website under Services. For more information contact Council on 5471 1744 or email grants@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

Summer grading program

Due to extremely dry conditions and lack of access to water, Council is operating an amended road grading program this summer.

Basic maintenance is undertaken to ensure roads are safe. Council is unable to rip roads, undertake heavy grading or complete long term road re-sheeting while water supplies are limited.

Large volumes of water are required for unsealed road grading. During a dry hot summer, water allocations are limited and prioritised for activities such as fire-fighting purposes.

Council vehicles have already played an important role in emergency response, making fire breaks or removing fire affected trees.

Street cleaning and drainage works have also ramped up ahead of the wetter months.

Seeking spectacular? Come to the Phee

You are invited to attend the launch of the 2016 Phee Broadway Theatre program.

The 2016 season includes a diverse range of offerings, from dramatic theatre works, deeply profound stories, thrilling and exciting children's shows and emotive intergenerational works.

The program has something for everyone and it's all being kept under wraps until the launch.

Be the first to be in the know and join us at the theatre on Friday 19 February from 6.00pm to 7.30pm. Pick up the 2016 program and book your tickets.

If you'd like to attend please RSVP to Mel Fowler at m.fowler@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.



Sean Murphy brings laughs in Kids' Party Confidential

Heritage awards open

Nominations are now open for the Mount Alexander Heritage Awards 2016, which celebrates the achievements of heritage businesses, owners, community groups and champions.

“The awards are a great way to recognise the excellent work that occurs in our Shire, so if you or someone you know has undertaken a heritage project or activity worth celebrating then get your nominations in,” said David Leathem, Council’s Manager Local Economy.

The six categories are:

- » Creative reuse and contemporary design in a heritage place
- » Incorporation of sustainability principles in heritage restoration/adaptation
- » Specialist heritage trade skills
- » Heritage advocacy
- » Adaptation and conservation of historic commercial spaces
- » Restoration of a heritage place

Thanks to Maldon and District Community Bank and Pyrenees Quarries for their support as sponsors.

Nominations close at 5.00pm, Friday 4 March. For more information or a nomination form visit www.mountalexanderheritageawards.com.au.



2014 winner of the specialist heritage trade skills award, Period Building Conservation.

Sign up for more news

Council produces a number of newsletters to inform the community about our activities in different interest areas.

You can read all about our approach to environmental sustainability, what’s on in the arts, business networking opportunities, and projects and initiatives to protect and maintain our heritage.

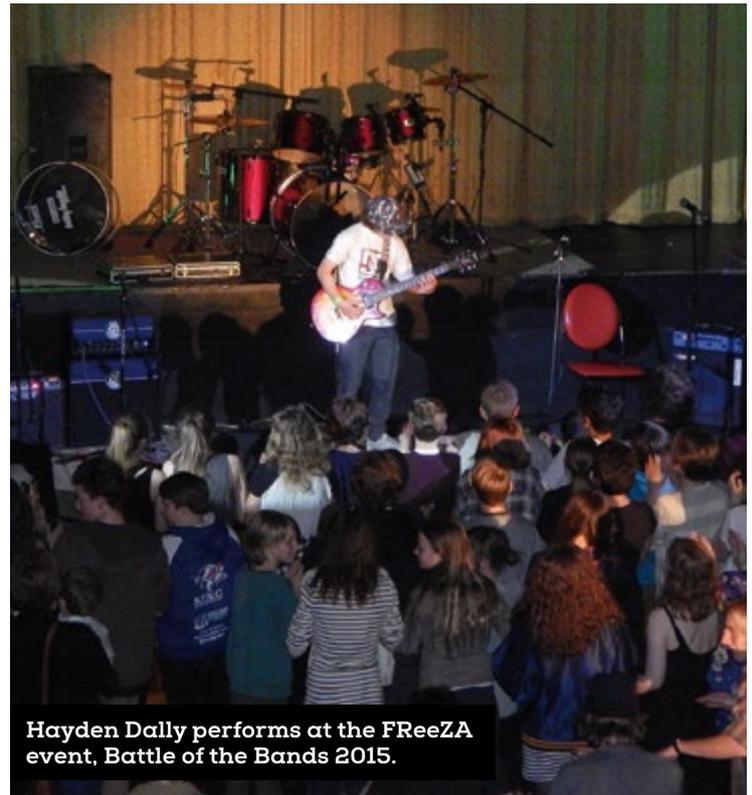
Simply sign up to the e-newsletter of your choice by visiting the news and publications section of our website.

Call for FReeZA members

Council is seeking volunteers aged between 12 and 25 to join our FreeZA Committee. Committee members gain valuable hands-on music industry experience and learn about planning, developing and managing events.

FReeZA events are drug, smoke and alcohol free, and provide performance opportunities for local musicians, artists and performers.

To learn more please visit the Young people section of our website or contact Jodie Hearn, Youth Activities Officer, on 5471 1743 or youth@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.



Hayden Dally performs at the FReeZA event, Battle of the Bands 2015.

Have your say on our local pools

The Labour Day long weekend marks the end of the pool season. Doors will close at the Castlemaine, Harcourt, Maldon and Newstead pools at 6.00pm on Monday 14 March.

We’d love to hear feedback about your experience at our pools and any ideas you have to make next pool season even better. You can pick up a survey at pool offices.

Don’t miss the opportunity to take a last dip this pool season!



Patrons cool off at Maldon Swimming Pool

What's on

BEN QUILTY: AFTER AFGHANISTAN

Until Friday 15 April
Castlemaine Art Gallery
Open daily except Tuesdays,
closed Easter Friday.
www.castlemainegallery.com

OCEANIA CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Friday 4 – Saturday 5 March
Sutton Grange
Riders will compete in
and around Bendigo for
qualification in the Union
Cycliste Internationale (UCI)
World Championships.
www.vic.cycling.org.au/News

MALDON ANTIQUE AND COLLECTABLES FAIR

Saturday 20 – Sunday 21
February
8.00am – 5.00pm
Maldon Football Ground,
Maldon
More than 120 stalls of
antiques and collectables.

ANNUAL MALDON AND DISTRICT CAMPDRAFT

Saturday 27 – Sunday 28
February
6.30am – 5.30pm
Maldon Racecourse Reserve,
Maldon
Longest running campdraft
in Victoria.

WILD FERMENT 2016

Sunday 6 March
From 9.00am
Historic Market Building,
Castlemaine
Celebrating all things wild
fermented for Melbourne
Food and Wine Festival.
www.melbournefoodandwine.com.au

HARCOURT APPLEFEST

Saturday 12 March
9.00am – 4.00pm
Various locations
Includes festival, market,
carnival, parade, Kids' Karnival
and art show.
www.harcourtapplefest.org.au

ARTS OPEN: VISUAL ARTS FESTIVAL – MEET THE MAKERS

Saturday 12 – Monday 14 and
Saturday 19 – Sunday 20
March
Visual artists throughout the
Shire open their studios.
www.artsopen.com.au

MALDON PORTRAIT PRIZE 2016

Saturday 12 – Monday 21
March
Maldon Community Centre,
Maldon
www.artsopen.com.au/manet

TARADALE MINERAL SPRINGS FESTIVAL

Sunday 13 March
10.00am – 4.00pm
Taradale Mineral Springs
Reserve, Taradale
Family festival of food, wine
and entertainment.

FEATHERED FIVE FESTIVAL

Saturday 19 – Sunday 20 March
Various venues
Connecting Country –
celebration of woodland birds.
www.connectingcountry.org.au

MALDON EASTER FAIR

Thursday 24 – Monday
28 March
Various venues
Includes the Great Aussie
Scone Bake, torchlight
procession, dancing in the
street, the Maldon Billy Cart
Derby, 5th Easter Machinery
Rally and the Grand
Procession.

GOOD FRIDAY FOOD, WINE AND CHEESE TRAIN

Friday 25 March
www.vgr.com.au

HARCOURT'S GIANT EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday 27 March
10.00am – 1.00pm
Harcourt Oak Forest
Aged-based easter egg hunt
and entertainment.
www.trybooking.com/JVBM

Ben Quilty: After Afghanistan in Castlemaine

Works by Archibald Prize
winning artist Ben Quilty
are on display at the
Castlemaine Art Gallery
until Friday 15 April.

*Ben Quilty: After
Afghanistan* is an
extraordinary Australian
War Memorial Touring
Exhibition and was the
result of the artist's
three-week tour across
Afghanistan in October 2011.

As Official War Artist, Mr
Quilty's purpose was to
record and interpret the
experiences of Australians
deployed in locations within
Kandahar, Afghanistan and
the United Arab Emirates.

More than 70,000 people
viewed the works when the
exhibition was on display
recently in Darwin. The
exhibition is an exciting
and significant coup for the
Castlemaine Art Gallery.



Ben Quilty, Trooper Luke Korman, after Afghanistan (detail), 2012, aerosol and oil on linen, 190cm x 140cm

Markets

CASTLEMAINE FARMERS' MARKET

First Sunday of every month
except January
9.00am – 1.00pm
Carpark and ground 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
Western Reserve
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

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

There is so much to see
and do in the region. The
Castlemaine, Maldon and
Surrounds 2016 Calendar
of Events is now available.
Pick up your copy from
the Visitor Information
Centre in Castlemaine or
Maldon. Check the full
calendar of events at www.maldoncastlemaine.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
(Deputy Mayor)
T 0407 991 403

Forthcoming Council Meetings

Tuesday 9 February

Civic Centre

Tuesday 23 February

Civic Centre

Tuesday 8 March

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 domestic animals (excluding 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
PAID
AUSTRALIA

To the Residents