NEW THEATRE SEASON OFFERS GREAT VARIETY

Hot on the heels of the Castlemaine State Festival, the 2013 Phee Broadway Theatre Season has recently been launched.

There’ll be drama, musicals, comedy, circus skills and dance to explore everything from medicinal cures to earthquakes and from Jacqueline Kennedy’s eccentric cousin to the end of the world as we know it.

Council is working in partnership with The Capital Theatre, Bendigo and its ‘Engine Room’ program to bring another year of great theatre to the Shire.

AFTERSHOCKS
Castlemaine Theatre Company
Friday 24 May – Saturday 8 June
Aftershocks tells the story of what people did on the day of the Newcastle earthquake and explores life’s universal themes. How does healing occur after loss of life?

RED SHOES
Performed by Rebecca Morton
Saturday 5 October
A domestic opera. An enchanted kitchen – where glamour, music and dance become the ingredients for the recipe of a lifetime.

THE MUDCAKES
Songs for Little Monkeys
Wednesday 23 October
The Mudcakes – from Nashville, Tennessee via Melbourne, Australia – perform original songs that celebrate the delicious ups and downs of family life in a range of music styles including bluegrass, rock, reggae, Hawaiian, surf and pop.

DELECTABLE SHELTER
Critical Stages and The Hayloft Project
Wednesday 31 July
A riotous, no-holds-barred portrait of western society, with a backing track of 80s pop, meshed with classical music, opera singers and beautiful design aesthetics.

PORCELAIN PUNCH
Travelling Medicine Show
Saturday 26 October
Step right up ladies and gentlemen... influenced by the infamous ‘Medicine Shows’ that once travelled the countryside offering music, comedy and circus along with a hard sell of assorted elixirs, tonics and the ever unattainable ‘miracle medicinal cure’.

Season tickets or individual show tickets for the 2013 Phee Broadway Theatre Season are on sale now and can be booked by calling the Box Office at Bendigo’s Capital Theatre on 5434 6100. You can also book online or find out more about these shows at www.pheebroadwaytheatre.com.au
ON A LOVELY EVENING ON FRIDAY MARCH 15, I HAD THE HONOUR OF SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL. THERE WERE 1,300 PEOPLE SITTING AT TABLES IN LYTTLETON STREET. HEIDI VICTORIA, OUR NEW VICTORIAN MINISTER FOR THE ARTS OPENED THE FESTIVAL, FOLLOWED BY "CORNUCOPIA", AN IMAGINATIVE CELEBRATION OF SONG AND DANCE, WHICH FLOWED THROUGH THE STREET FOR ABOUT 90 MINUTES. WE THEN HAD TEN DAYS OF FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES, SUPPORTED BY MANY EXHIBITIONS OF ART AND CULTURE THROUGHOUT THE REGION. IT WAS EXHILARATING AND CONGRATULATIONS ARE DUE TO MARTIN PATEN AND HIS SUPPORT TEAM FOR AN EVENT OF GENUINE QUALITY AND CLASS. IT HAD AN INTERNATIONAL FLAVOUR AND WAS CLIMAXED BY CELEBRATIONS IN VICTORY PARK AND SURROUNDS ON SUNDAY MARCH 24. IT WILL LINGER LONG IN MY MEMORY!

COUNCIL IS NOW WELL ADVANCED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR FOUR-YEAR COUNCIL PLAN, A PROCESS WHICH HAS BEEN GREATLY ASSISTED BY OUR COMMUNITY IN MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE.

I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO SEE REFERENCE TO "PROVIDING SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION OF OUR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY". I LOOK FORWARD TO IMPROVED HEALTH AND SOCIAL OUTCOMES FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, AS WELL AS GREATER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. WE WILL DEVELOP AN INDIGENOUS STATEMENT, SHOWING HOW WE WILL WORK WITH THIS COMMUNITY TO RECOGNISE IMPORTANT DATES, CEREMONIES AND ASPECTS OF CULTURE. WE WILL SOON SEE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLAND FLAGS ABOVE OUR SOON-TO-BE OPENED CIVIC CENTRE IN THE SCHOOL OF MINES BUILDING.

COUNCIL WILL PLACE ITS DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2013/2014 ON PUBLIC DISPLAY DURING THE MONTH OF MAY. IT WILL THEN HEAR AND CONSIDER SUBMISSIONS FROM THE PUBLIC TO MAKE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS BEFORE FORMALLY ADOPTING THE BUDGET AT THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL ON 25 JUNE. AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF WORK GOES INTO THE PREPARATION OF SUCH A DOCUMENT, MAINLY BY COUNCIL STAFF, THEN BY COUNCILLORS AS WE SET THE RATES, FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR.

MONEY IS ALLOCATED TO INFRASTRUCTURE (ROADS, BRIDGES, BUILDINGS, FOOTPATHS, WALKING AND CYCLING TRAILS, RECREATION RESERVES, PARKS AND GARDENS, ETC), COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAMS, PLUS A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY COUNCIL. COST INCREASES FOR COUNCILS RUN AT ABOUT 4% PER YEAR (AS COMPARED TO A CPI INCREASE OF AROUND 2%). ADDITIONALLY, AN EXAMINATION OF THE COUNCIL PLAN WILL SHOW THAT WE PLAN TO DEVELOP NEW INITIATIVES IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING, WALKING TRAILS, WASTE MANAGEMENT, STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY, AS WELL AS PROJECTS IN MANY OTHER AREAS. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL KEEP THIS IN MIND WHEN READING THE DRAFT BUDGET IN MAY!

TWO NEW COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICES have started in Newstead and Baringhup to assist people to get out and about. Both services are generously supported by Maldon and District Community Bank in partnership with Council.

The Newstead & District Community Bus Service is an initiative of the Newstead Rural Transaction Centre (RTC). The RTC purchased a 12-seater bus and use volunteer drivers to provide weekly trips on Mondays and Thursdays to Castlemaine and on Wednesdays to Maryborough. This regular service is for residents of Newstead, Guildford, Welshman’s Reef, Strangways and Yapeen. All trips must be booked in advance by calling the Newstead RTC on 5476 2360. The cost of a return trip is $5, and it is $3 to go one way.

The Baringhup-Maldon Community Bus service was also launched recently and provides a regular Thursday service to Maryborough for residents of Baringhup and Maldon. Trips must be booked in advance by calling 0428 329 299.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BOTH SERVICES CONTACT STEPHEN HILEY, COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PROJECT OFFICER, ON 5471 1829 OR EMAIL S.HILEY@MOUTALEXANDER.VIC.GOV.AU
A successful State Festival

The 2013 Castlemaine State Festival closed on 24 March, widely acclaimed as a resounding success. A vibrant Sunday afternoon of community song, Spanish contemporary dance, Raildomino rides, artists market, food stalls and the Monster Meeting Band brought everyone out to celebrate the close of the Festival’s colourful and dynamic 10 days.

Beginning with an extravaganza of song for the opening night Cornucopia! on 15 March, the Festival rolled out an explosive program of music, visual arts, literature, dance, theatre and free events.

672 artists were involved in the 2013 Castlemaine State Festival, which included 469 artists directly from the region.

Most performances were near capacity or sold out with 86% of all Festival tickets sold.

Free and community events brought large numbers of punters up from Melbourne and from the surrounding region, all flocking to community projects such as The Grove, Generating Y, the artists and farmers markets. The schools program allowed over 1600 primary and secondary school young people from the region to experience the various creative streams presented at the festival including local and international poetry, song and puppetry performances.

Festival highlights included a contemporary and thought provoking Visual Arts Biennial exhibition Periscope across three sites, an insightful and entertaining literature program at the Castlemaine Market Building, outstanding music at the Castlemaine Town Hall featuring The Black Diamonds, Tuba Skinny from the USA, Caroline Nin’s French cabaret evening, the Raah Project and Flap. There was a stunningly beautiful series of classical music in the iconic churches in Castlemaine and other venues across the broader Goldfields region including Maldon and Newstead.

A diverse theatre program included a sold out 7 show opening season of The Republic of Trees - the promenade piece set amidst the trees of Vaughan Springs and the eerie and beautiful Chants des Catacombes at the Castlemaine Old Gaol, to John Stanton’s And When He Falls and hilarious indigenous Tiwi Island work Wulamanyuwi.

On the closing day Festival Director Martin Paten said,

“This is an exceptional festival because of the professionalism and generosity of this region’s artists, its volunteers, local businesses and the Festival team – who together make all of this possible. Looking at the celebratory spirit in the town today, it is genuinely a festival embraced by many in this community.”

LIFE! Taking Action on Diabetes

You can significantly reduce your risk of developing diabetes, heart disease and stroke by adopting a healthier, more active lifestyle.

In partnership with Diabetes Australia, we are planning to run a free, local program to help you to make the necessary lifestyle changes to reduce your risk and get more out of life. The program includes six sessions over four months.

We are looking for expressions of interest from anyone who is interested in being part of a LIFE! program. Let us know if you prefer a day or evening time so we can confirm the dates and venue.

For more information contact Fiona Williams at Diabetes Australia on 0408 509 945.
Join the Compost Revolution!

Are you interested in reducing your environmental footprint in a fun and easy way? Then be part of the Compost Revolution!

Learn how worm farming and composting can return rich nutrients to your veggie garden, whilst also reducing the volume of food scraps destined for landfill where they produce harmful greenhouse gases.

All you need to do is log on to the Compost Revolution website, and take an online tutorial and quiz. After less than 15 minutes, you’ll be a compost expert. And don’t worry, if worm farming is more your thing, you can try that too! You’ve got until the end of June 2013 to take advantage of this great program. For further information and to view the conditions to claim your discounted worm farm or compost bin, go to www.compostrevolution.com.au/mountalexander

Also, don’t forget to take part in the fun events during International Compost Awareness Week from Monday 6 – Saturday 11 May. Visit Council’s website for more details.

Environment & Sustainability News

Council is beginning an initiative to send interested residents an email-based Environment and Sustainability News which will include information on local environment and sustainability events and how you can reduce your environmental footprint. To sign up to receive the quarterly newsletter go to www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/environment

WHAT’S ON

STEINER SCHOOL OPEN DAY
Thursday 9 May
Held at the school in Muckleford offering tours and education information.

VICTORIAN COUNTRY AND METRO ROAD CHAMPIONSHIPS
Saturday 18 – Sunday 19 May
Cyclists hit challenging road circuits around Harcourt.

RSPCA MILLION PAWS WALK
Sunday 19 May
Castlemaine Botanical Gardens
Major fundraiser for the RSPCA.

BEANIE AFFAIR
Friday 24 May – Sunday 26 May
Market Building, Castlemaine
Handmade beanies and handspun yarn.

OXFAM BUSHDANCE
Saturday 1 June
Castlemaine Town Hall
Fundraiser for Oxfam.

ROTARY ART SHOW
Queens Birthday weekend
Friday 7 June – Monday 10 June
Castlemaine Town Hall
One of the region’s most loved art shows.

CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN SILVER AND METALWORK AWARD
Saturday 29 June – Sunday 28 July
Buda Historic Home and Garden
Commemorate the works of Ernest Leviny and Stanley Ellis.

BLACKPOWDER OPEN
Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 June
Castlemaine Pistol Club
Attracting participants from across Victoria.

MALDON IN WINTER
Saturday 29 June – Sunday 14 July
A festival of events to celebrate Maldon’s highlights.

MALDON ART SHOW
Friday 5 July – Sunday 14 July
Maldon Community Centre
Over 250 artworks from Central Victorian artists.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY STREET MARKET
Saturday 13 July
Maldon Business District
Wonderful street market and fireworks.

STEAM TRAINS FOR KIDS
Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 July
Maldon Railway Station
Railway fun plus lots of other fun activities.

CASTLEMAINE FARMERS MARKET
Held on the first Sunday of each month from 9am – 1pm, near the Market Building in Mostyn Street, Castlemaine.

CASTLEMAINE ARTISTS MARKET
Also on the first Sunday of each month adjacent to the Theatre Royal, Castlemaine. June market in on the Queen’s Birthday weekend.

NEWSTEAD MARKET
Held on the third Saturday of March and November in Rotunda Park, Newstead.

WESLEY HILL MARKET
Every Saturday from 7.30am – 1pm, located along the Pyrenees Highway in Wesley Hill.

FOR A FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS, COLLECT A FREE BROCHURE FROM THE CASTLEMAINE AND MALDON VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES OR ONLINE AT www.maldoncastlemaine.com.au
Council Plan 2013-2017

Each council is required to prepare and adopt a Council Plan by 30 June in the year following a general election. The Council Plan outlines what Council is planning to achieve in the next four years and how this meets the priorities and aspirations of the community. The Plan includes key objectives or goals of the Council, strategies for achieving these goals and performance measures to monitor achievement against the Plan.

Developing the four year Council Plan began with a two day workshop for Councillors and senior staff. The outcomes from this workshop formed the basis of a draft Council Plan including Vision, Principles and Goals. These were taken to the community for feedback and input.

There were two community forums at Maldon and Castlemaine, as well as five daily information sessions at the Castlemaine Library and at the Farmers Market in Castlemaine. A forum with Advisory Committee members was held and there were workshops with Primary School students in Chewton, Elphinstone and Guildford. An online survey was prepared to allow for input from those residents unable to attend a community forum or information session. Submissions were also received from Mount Alexander Sustainability Group Inc. (MASG) and Maldon Inc. These activities resulted in feedback from more than 450 community members and their responses and comments have helped to shape the Council Plan.

Workshops held with primary school children highlighted that playgrounds and parks, pools and recreation facilities were very important to them and they would like to see more community events and activities to bring people together. They would also like to see fewer cars, less litter, and more gardens, bush and trees.

The Youth Forum held in October 2012 with students from the Castlemaine Secondary College raised a number of issues including:

- Strong need for an indoor sports complex, better pool and gym facilities
- Need for upgrading and expanding netball facilities
- Better communication and advertising of sports and events
- Need to celebrate diversity
- More youth specific events including planting days and clean up days
- Importance of school and Council using renewable energy
- Lack of public transport options outside business hours
- Better advertising of transport timetables
- More information about business opportunities

The Draft Council Plan 2013-2017 will be available for further community feedback until Wednesday 29 May 2013 and will be available on Council’s website and at Council offices. Submissions close 4.30pm on that day and Council will hear any person who would like to speak to their submission at a Special Meeting of Council on Tuesday 4 June 2013 at 7.30pm at the Castlemaine Senior Citizens Centre.

In addition, a summary of the Draft Council Plan 2013-2017 will be provided in the Midland Express newspaper on Tuesday 7 May 2013.

**THE KEY COMMUNITY FEEDBACK UNDER EACH OF THE GOALS IS SHOWN BELOW:**

**GOAL 1: A VIBRANT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY**
- More community engagement on key Council decisions
- Advocacy for better health services for the Shire
- More footpaths, tracks and trails to help people on bikes, foot and in wheel chairs and scooters to get around safely
- More activities in town centres for young people
- Larger library to meet growth and demand, including extended opening hours
- More opportunities for our local history and stories to be told and celebrated

**GOAL 2: BETTER COMMUNITY FACILITIES**
- Advocacy for improved public transport
- More community transport options
- Resolution on pools, need for a year round indoor pool
- More and improved footpaths, tracks and trails that link to town centres
- More community spaces with equitable access for community groups

**GOAL 3: A THRIVING LOCAL ECONOMY**
- Promote and support local businesses and produce
- Advocate for more training and opportunities for young people
- Encourage investment in new local industries
- Build on liveability, cultural heritage to attract tourists

**GOAL 4: BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES (previously Working Towards Sustainability)**
- Support for renewable energy projects
- Improvements to waste management
- Support for community gardens and local food production
- Actively encourage sustainable energy use and building design by the community and Council
- Encourage more flexible and affordable housing
- Provide more education programs on waste

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YOUR COUNCILLORS

CALDER WARD
Cr Tim Barber  T: 0466 004 629

CASTLEMAINE WARD
Cr Tony Bell  T: 0408 017 655
Cr Chris Cole  T: 0400 779 982
Cr Jessica Howard  T: 0407 345 744

COLIBAN WARD
Cr Christine Henderson  T: 0466 004 628

LODDON WARD
Cr Michael Redden (Mayor)  T: 0466 004 630

TARRENGOWER WARD
Cr Sharon Telford  T: 0407 991 403

FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS

TUESDAY 14 MAY
Castlemaine Senior Citizens Centre

TUESDAY 28 MAY
Castlemaine Senior Citizens Centre

TUESDAY 4 JUNE (Special Meeting)
Castlemaine Senior Citizens Centre

TUESDAY 11 JUNE
Castlemaine Senior Citizens Centre

TUESDAY 25 JUNE
Castlemaine Senior Citizens Centre

TUESDAY 9 JULY
Castlemaine Senior Citizens Centre

TUESDAY 23 JULY
Newstead Community Centre

Council Meetings commence at 7.30pm

COUNCIL SERVICES INFORMATION

The Sustainable Development Unit includes Council’s Planning, Building and Local Laws and is located at the Castlemaine Enterprise Centre in Halford Street. Business hours are 9.00am to 4.45pm, 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. 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 animals. To report an urgent matter please call 5471 1700 and press ‘3’ 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 Landfill  Tel: 5470 5348  Sluiceres Road, Castlemaine
Monday to Friday, 10.00am to 4.00pm, Saturday and Sunday, 10.00am to 5.00pm

Maldon Transfer Station  Tel: 5471 1700  Morris Street, Maldon
Wednesday and Friday, 9.00am to 12.30pm, Saturday and Sunday, 9.00am to 1.00pm

Wheelie Waste  Tel: 1800 999 690  Contact Wheelie Waste if your garbage is not collected. Contact Council for other matters, such as when requesting a new 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.

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRES

CASTLEMAINE TOWN HALL 25 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine, 3450
CASTLEMAINE ENTERPRISE CENTRE Halford Street, Castlemaine, 3450
TEL: 5471 1700  FAX: 5471 1749  OFFICE HOURS: 9.00am to 4.45pm, weekdays
EMAIL: info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au  WEB: www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au

TO THE RESIDENTS

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED ON RECycled PAPER