

Australia Day Award winners

Congratulations to Mount Alexander Shire Australia Day Award winners:

- Citizen of the Year – Ian Gallagher
- Senior Citizen of the Year – Lorraine le Plastrier
- Young Citizen of the Year – Jade Bujeya
- Community Event of the Year – The Castlemaine Rotary Truck Show.

The awards were announced at a community event in Victory Park on Australia Day, where we also welcomed our newest Australian citizens. The morning began with a virtual dawn smoking ceremony to acknowledge Survival Day, led by Dja Dja Wurrung Elder Uncle Rick Nelson. Thank you to everyone who was involved in the day. Find information on the award winners, photos and links to the event recordings at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay.

Rates reminder

Property owners will soon receive a rate reminder in the post for the third instalment of the 2020/2021 rates. Payment options are listed on the notice. If you are having difficulty paying your rates please get in touch with our Finance Team on 5471 1700.

Free business workshops

Council is partnering with the Melbourne Innovation Centre to deliver more than ten free workshops for small business operators in February and March. Workshops will focus on social media and digital marketing, building a website, and programs such as Mailchimp and Canva. Book tickets via www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/BusinessResources. Subsidised business mentoring is also available for \$25 per session. Places are limited. For more information contact Eva Parkin, Economic Development Officer, on 5471 1805 or e.parkin@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

Help stop fruit fly

Council is calling for residents to act now to help prevent a widespread outbreak of Queensland fruit fly (QFF), following reports of the pests in Castlemaine, Harcourt and Harcourt North. Please check monitoring traps and gardens for the pest. They are small brown flies with yellow markings. Keep an eye out for grubs or larvae in fruit or vegetables, remove unwanted fruit from trees and pick up fallen fruit off the ground. If you suspect you have QFF contact Council on 5471 1700. See photos to help identification at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/FruitFly.

Volunteer at our VIC

Council is seeking volunteers to join our teams at the Castlemaine and Maldon Visitor Information Centres (VIC). Share your local knowledge and offer a friendly face to visitors who come to our region. Along with good communication and customer service skills, you will need to commit to a minimum of one shift (four hours) each fortnight at the VIC and attend monthly training opportunities with our great team of community members. For more information or to express your interest, please drop in or call Castlemaine VIC on 5471 1795 or Maldon VIC on 5475 2569.

Grants now open

Don't forget our Community Grants and Get Lost Activation Grants are open until Monday 15 February. Events Grants will open on Monday 15 February until Monday 8 March. For more information or to apply for a grant visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/grants.

Employment opportunities

Works Supervisor – Maintenance – full time, ongoing

Road Workers – Labourer, Plant Operator, Line Marking and General Maintenance – full time, ongoing

Applications close at 9.00am on Monday 8 February.

Business Solutions Analyst – full time, ongoing

Project Engineer – full time, fixed term

Applications close at 9.00am on Monday 15 February.

For more information or to apply visit our website.

Council meeting

The next Council Meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 16 February. It will be broadcast live to YouTube.