Connect Mount Alexander

Together we thrive

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

The Victorian Government has announced the State of Emergency will be extended until 11.59 pm on Sunday 21 June, in response to the coronavirus pandemic, as restrictions gradually ease across the state from Monday 1 June.

The focus is now on staying safe as we transition to a life under a new norm. Please remain cautious and use common sense to help keep our community safe. Continue to practice good hygiene and physical distancing. Stay at home if you are unwell. Get tested if you are experiencing any symptoms of coronavirus, even if they are mild. If you can work from home, you must work from home. For more information call the hotline on 1800 675 398 or visit www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

Council is continuing to deliver a range of services within the directives from Victorian Government and health authorities. We are currently working through how we respond to the changes in restrictions and will gradually announce the return of more services in the coming weeks. For Council service updates visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

COVID-19 support

To help and connect our community at this time we have created a dedicated COVID-19 support number, email and an online virtual emergency relief centre (VERC). For local information or a referral to a community organisation or service, call us on 1800 512 446 between 8.30am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday, email covid19@mountalexander.vic.gov.au or visit www.connectmountalexander.com.au.

The VERC includes information about programs and services to help residents and business deal with the impacts of coronavirus on the road to recovery. There are links to service providers and assistance programs, frequently asked questions such as where to get tested, and an online form to make a request for support.

Castlemaine Library update

Castlemaine Library introduced a Click and Collect Service from Monday 1 June. Simply reserve from the library collection, and pop down to the library for pick up when you receive a notification. To find out more watch the 'how to' video on the library website, give them a call on 5472 1458 or send an email. The library will re-open with a limited number of patrons and visits capped at 30 minutes from Tuesday 9 June. The returns chute is now open. For more information visit www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au.

COVID-19 information pack

We understand that living through the COVID-19 pandemic may be a time of uncertainty, anxiety and isolation, and some people have concerns for their physical health, mental wellbeing and financial security.

While there is a lot of information available online we know not everyone has access to the internet. Local community and health organisations have collaborated to produce a resource pack for people with no or little access to the internet. If you or someone you know would like an information pack ring the local COVID-19 support number on 1800 512 446. An information pack will be posted, or you can pick up a copy at your local post office.

COVIDSafe app

Help keep our community safe by downloading the free COVIDSafe app. It's part of a nation-wide effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. The free app helps find close contacts of COVID-19 cases. This means health workers can quickly notify you if you come into contact with someone who has coronavirus. It also reduces the chances of passing the virus on to family, friends and other people in the community.

Centrelink agency reopens

The Centrelink Agency at Castlemaine Community House (CCH) has resumed, with limited services from Monday 1 June by appointment only. Call 5472 4842 to book an appointment with an agent. Safety procedures will be in place, as well as the need to record customer details for COVID-19 tracing requirements. For more information visit www.cch.org.au.

Neighbourhood Centre opens

The Maldon Neighbourhood Centre reopened on Monday 1 June with strict hygiene measures in place and changes to the space to make it easier to keep your distance. The centre has also welcomed back families to its Occasional Childcare Service. The Maldon Market will reopen on Sunday 14 June. For more information visit www.maldonnc.org.au.

Family violence and staying safe

If you, or someone you know, is at risk of family violence call Safe Steps on 1800 015 188 or visit www.safesteps.org.au. For local safety planning, counselling, support and other services contact the Centre for Non-Violence based in Bendigo on 1800 884 292 or visit www.cnv.org.au. In an emergency call 000.

Grants for sports clubs

If your sporting club has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic you can apply for a $1,000 grant from the Victorian Government. Grants are available for community sporting and active recreation organisations including associations, leagues and clubs. The grant is to be used to maintain operational viability. Applications will be accepted until Monday 15 June, or until the funding allocation is exhausted. Learn more at www.sport.vic.gov.au.

Forest Creek Trail works

Works are underway to upgrade a stretch of the Forest Creek Trail and install an accessible crossing on Hargraves Street. The trail upgrade starts at the southern end of Urquhart Street and runs along the creek behind the Castlemaine Tennis Club Courts to Hargraves Street. The trail will be closed during the works, which are expected to take four weeks.

Middle years plan

We are seeking feedback on our new plan to support the needs of children aged 8 to 12 years and their families. Find the plan at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay. Submissions are due on Wednesday 10 June. Contact the Youth Development Team on 5471 1700 for a printed copy.

Draft budget available soon

We will soon release our 2020/2021 Proposed Budget on Wednesday 17 June, with submissions required by 5.00pm on Wednesday 15 July. The draft budget will be available at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay.

Working for Victoria is here

Council is now recruiting after successfully gaining funding for a number of temporary roles through the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative. The jobs are for six month contracts and include positions like engineers, project support officers and environmental health officers. We want to recruit as many local people that need work as we can. Applicants will need to register with Working for Victoria and sign up to the Sidekicker online platform. For more information and to register, go to www.vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria. Roles will be updated regularly so visit Sidekicker often to see new opportunities. We will also include the positions on our current vacancies webpage.

Employment opportunities

Network and Systems Administrator – full time, fixed term (11 months).
Business Support Officer – Rostering – full time, ongoing.
Close at 9.00am on Monday 8 June.

Road Worker – Plant Operator – full time, ongoing.
Closes at 9.00am on Monday 15 June.

Visit our website for more information.

Council meetings

The next Council meeting is at 6.30pm on Tuesday 16 June. It will be broadcast live via YouTube. To raise a question at the Council meeting write to the Governance Team, Mount Alexander Shire Council, PO Box 185, Castlemaine 3450 VIC, or email governance@mountalexander.vic.gov.au. Messages must be received by 12 noon on the day of the meeting.