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Big month ahead for seniors

Seniors can look forward to a fantastic range of activities and fun in October as part of the Victorian Seniors Festival. The festival is a great way to get active, try something new and enjoy the company of others in the community.

One of the most successful and popular female artists of the 1970s, Colleen Hewett, will perform a free concert on Friday 14 October at the Castlemaine Town Hall.

Other festival highlights include the Newstead Old Time Dance and the Jane Austen inspired play *My Emma*. As usual there will be a range of workshops and group events including walking, lawn

tennis, table tennis, circle dancing and cricket.

Thank you to the passionate Working Committee and all the local interest groups, organisations and volunteers who make the festival such a success.

Pick up your festival guide from the Civic Centre, Visitor Information Centres, Castlemaine Library, general stores and other locations around the shire from September. For more information call Kris Harrison on 5471 1797 or email k.harrison@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.



CREATING BETTER ACCESS

People who face problems hearing what's been said at public events or have trouble accessing buildings will soon have a simple solution at hand.

From October Council will offer short-term loans of lightweight portable ramps and portable hearing loop systems.

The ramps are easily carried to a venue to help people in

wheelchairs, on scooters, or with mobility problems. The ramps allow access over one large or two small steps.

The portable hearing loops can make a world of difference to those who struggle to follow a speaker at a public event. Neckloops or headphones will allow up to six people with a hearing aid or cochlear implant to follow a speaker.

Equipment is free to borrow. Items may be booked and collected through the Castlemaine and Maldon Visitor Information Centres from October.

For more information contact Michael Uniacke, Access and Inclusion Officer, on m.uniacke@mountalexander.vic.gov.au or 5471 1829.

While staff and councillors have switched their focus on delivering a \$34.46 million budget in the year ahead, the new financial year is a good time to look at achievements from last year's annual plan.

Read more on page 3.

Message from the Mayor



Cr Christine Henderson

Firstly I would like to welcome our new CEO, Darren Fuzzard. Darren joins us from the City of Greater Bendigo Council and has worked tirelessly in these first few months to get out and meet locals and visit the far reaches of our shire. He has made a very positive start in the role and we feel confident of his ability to help achieve Council's goals and objectives.

Council has a lot of work planned for 2016/2017. We have allocated nearly \$34.5 million to service delivery and improving our roads, community buildings and bridges. Over the coming year we'll be collaborating with

nearby local councils, industry and the community as part of the Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership, an exciting opportunity which aims to give regional communities a greater say about what is important to them. Matters will be taken straight to the Victorian Government through the new Rural and Regional Ministerial Committee to help inform and influence government decision making.

As Councillors, we are nearing the end of our four-year term. It's really pleasing to see the amount of work achieved over this time. We developed a Council Plan in 2013 and

have delivered on many of the goals. A personal highlight was the recent adoption of the Diamond Gully Structure Plan which was the culmination of many years work. This future residential development will help address the growing demand for housing options within our shire, an issue that has been raised many times by the community.

Having the right to elect government representatives is an important part of our democracy and with Council elections just around the corner I urge each of you to post a vote and make your voice heard.

Introducing our new CEO

Darren Fuzzard joined Council as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in July. His first few months have been busy learning more about the shire, meeting the community and getting up to speed with Council priorities.

Mr Fuzzard said he is impressed by the commitment and energy of everyone he has met – from Councillors and staff to community members.

"There's a strong sense of optimism within the community and I've met so many people who are passionate about the shire's strong future," said Mr Fuzzard.

"It's been great to hear about the activities of different community groups and

how they work together to solve challenges and make the most of opportunities," he said.

"I'm looking forward to gaining a better understanding of community needs, continuing to get the community involved in decision-making and working closely with local groups to draw on their ideas.

"We'll also be looking at new ways to deliver our plans and strategies, and keep the community updated on what Council is doing and why."

Mr Fuzzard has previously worked for the City of Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shire. He comes to the shire with a strong background in leadership and major project management.

CEO Darren Fuzzard exploring heritage sites with Councillors and staff

Get out and about this spring

Head outdoors this spring and enjoy some of the shire's magnificent parks and gardens.

TARADALE

Be sure to check out the new playground at Taradale Mineral Springs Reserve. The playground features a flying fox, cube climbing net and natural play elements. It was designed with the help of ideas from the Taradale community. The playground upgrade was funded by the Victorian Government through its Community Facility Funding Program.

CASTLEMAINE

The Castlemaine Botanical Gardens is always spectacular at this time of year. Be sure to take a stroll around the newly replanted rose garden and enjoy the new garden beds around the lake. A pop-up nature play area will be a feature of the gardens during the September school holidays, which is a great way to introduce youngsters to the world of plants and botanicals.



HARCOURT

Council recently planted more than 130 trees and 700 smaller plants in and around Harcourt as part of a streetscape improvement project. Keep an eye out for the white flowering Natchez Crepe Myrtles, deciduous Turkey Oaks, Chinese pistachios, Smooth-barked Apples and Deodar Cedar trees.



COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Mount Alexander Shire Council general election will be held on Saturday 22 October.

The election will be held by post, so all those on the voters roll will receive their ballot papers in the mail in early October. Ballot papers must be postmarked by 6.00pm on 21 October and received by the Electoral Office by 12noon on Friday 28 October to be included in the count.

Compulsory voting provisions apply. This means you may be fined by the Victorian Electoral Commission if you don't vote. To find out more and check your enrolment phone 1300 805 478 or visit www.vec.vic.gov.au.

RATE PAYMENTS

Your rates go towards services like maternal and child health, meals on wheels, the library as well as maintenance and improvements of local roads, footpaths, sports facilities, playgrounds, community halls and more.

Rates in Mount Alexander Shire are payable by four instalments. The first instalment is due on 30 September 2016

Council issues reminder notices at least 14 days before each instalment and offers a number of convenient methods for payment. You can also register with BPAY View to receive your rates electronically.

For more information visit www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/rates.

2015/2016 highlights

Looking at the completed actions in the 2015/2016 Annual Plan is a good way for residents and ratepayers to see their rates at work and monitor progress against the goals and priorities in the Council Plan 2013-2017. Highlights include:

A vibrant and healthy community

Cultural heritage	Adoption of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan for Reconciliation.
Community	More than \$153,000 in grants awarded to community groups to support local projects and events.
Heritage	The Mount Alexander Shire Heritage Awards recognise individuals and groups in preserving and maintaining our heritage.

Better community facilities

Pools	Completed a strategy for developing an indoor leisure centre with a 25 metre pool at the Castlemaine Swimming Pool site.
Kindergartens	Major renovations at Castlemaine Kindergarten have transformed learning and development at the facility.
Netball	Designed new netball courts at Wesley Hill Recreation Reserve as part of the sports hub masterplan. New lights at Newstead Recreation Reserve support year-round netball and tennis.
Football	Installed new lights and completed safety works to enable night games to be played at Camp Reserve.
Bridges	Built a replacement bridge in Barfold, and finalised designs for bridges in Maldon, Strathlea, Taradale and Vaughan.
Roads	Rehabilitated 2.2 km along Bendigo Sutton Grange Road, resealed 14 km of roads, re-sheeted 29 km of unsealed roads.
Safety works	Constructed pedestrian crossings near Castlemaine Railway Station, and improved the Reef Street intersection in Maldon.

A thriving local economy

Tourism	Worked with Bendigo Regional Tourism and partners to launch a regional destination management plan and host the Great Victorian Bike Ride.
Growth	Completed the structure planning process for the Diamond Gully growth area in Castlemaine.

Building sustainable communities

Sustainability	Upgraded the shire's street lights with brighter energy efficient LEDs as part of the Lighting the Regions partnership.
Land management	Finalised the Environmental Management Plan for Honeycomb Reserve, and are working with Landcare groups to protect and preserve its values.
Waste	Developed a Waste Futures strategy with a focus on innovative waste management solutions.

Read the 2016/2017 Annual Plan on Council's website.

The renovated Castlemaine Kinder



ANZAC Day clash action under the new lights at Camp Reserve



Bendigo-Sutton Grange Road



Council installed almost 900 LED street lights



Time to reduce fire risk

Mount Alexander Shire is regarded as an area at risk of bushfire. Council staff work closely with the Country Fire Authority (CFA), government agencies and other organisations to manage the risk of fires and clear hazards.

In readiness for the upcoming declared fire danger period, our works team removes weeds and slashes strategic firebreaks along some roadways and public land.

Council officers also undertake property inspections and issue notices to some residents to clear fire hazards to reduce the risk of bushfires. Council will again send out reminder letters as a courtesy to people who have previously received a fire prevention notice.

Act now and plan ahead

Residents also play a vital role in fire prevention and spring is the ideal time to begin preparations for the upcoming fire danger period. In the lead up to summer make sure you:

- » Mow or slash grass below 75mm on your residential property.
- » Create at least ten metre wide fire breaks on rural properties by cutting or slashing grass and weeds below 75mm.
- » Remove leaves from gutters and stacks of wood from near your home, along with any other flammable materials.
- » Develop fire plans for your family or business and discuss the plans with your neighbours.
- » Decide in advance when you will leave high risk areas on days of severe, extreme or code red fire danger – leaving early is the safest option.
- » Know and understand the triggers for leaving before fire threatens, and plan where to go – don't wait for an official warning as it may be too late.
- » Attend a local fire safety community meeting or join a local CFA Community Fireguard group (see CFA website).
- » Download the FireReady app onto your phone for access to timely and relevant warnings for your area.

The CFA website has many resources on preparing for bushfires and fire restrictions. For more information visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.



This wood pile caught alight in the 2015 Lancefield bushfire. Photo: Chris Fleming

Tidy up of pine plantation

Works are underway to tidy up Newstead Pine Plantation to reduce the potential for fire in the town and improve the safety and amenity of the 4.5 acre public space.

Council is in the process of removing fallen trees and branches, long dry grass and noxious weeds from the plantation to reduce the risk of fire.

Past flooding at Mia Mia Creek has weakened the root structure of many trees. A number of these trees were removed to protect public safety.

The plantation is located next to Newstead Rotunda Park and several residential properties.

Council has worked with the community on a landscape management plan for the Newstead Rotunda Park to make the best use of the important public space.

Make the most of green waste

If you're spending time in the garden think about how you can best make use of your green waste. Lawn clippings and garden cuttings are ideal for composting or adding to a worm farm. If you don't already have one you can pick up a compost bin or worm farm for \$20 from the Castlemaine Waste Facility. For tips on using green waste visit the worm farm and composting page on Council's website.



Created by Winters Flat Primary School Community Leaders

Reduce, reuse, recycle

Keep an eye out for these bright and engaging posters created by students at Winters Flat Primary School. The students worked with Council to create four posters to remind residents how to best manage waste and recycling. Posters will be displayed at the Castlemaine Waste Facility and around the shire. Thanks to all the students and staff involved in this great project.

Winters Flat Primary School is a ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic five star Accredited School and winner of four 2015 ResourceSmart awards.

NEW VISITOR GUIDE

The wonderful new Castlemaine, Maldon and Surrounds Official Visitor Guide is out now. It provides a great snapshot of things to see and do in the shire. Pick up your copy to find out more about the attractions that draw more than 540,000 visitors to the shire each year.

Thanks to the 80 local partners who advertised in this edition. The guide is distributed to Visitor Information Centres around Victoria and beyond.

Castlemaine, Maldon & Surrounds
VISITOR GUIDE



SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL EVENTS

Are you looking for something to do or do you have family or friends visiting? Come along to the Event Exhibition and learn about some of the exciting events planned in Mount Alexander Shire over the next 12 months. The exhibition will be from Monday 5 September to Sunday 16 October at the Castlemaine Visitor Information Centre. If you can't make it simply pick up a copy of the Castlemaine, Maldon and surrounds 2016 Calendar of Events at the Visitor Information Centres in Castlemaine or Maldon. Check out the full calendar of events online at www.maldoncastlemaine.com.au.

What's on

THE HEDGE GARDEN FESTIVAL

Sunday 4 – Sunday 25
September
10.00am – 5.00pm
Visit open gardens every
Sunday in September.
www.thehedge.net

A WALK IN THE URBAN BUSH

Saturday 10 September
10.30am – 12.30pm
Free workshop as part of
Council's Sustainable Living
series. To book contact
d.giles@mountalexander.vic.gov.au
or 5471 1768.

METCALFE VINTAGE TRACTOR PULL AND WOODCHOP

Sunday 18 September
9.00am – 4.00pm
Vintage tractor pull and
woodchop.
Metcalf Recreation Reserve

STEAM TRAIN FOR KIDS

Saturday 24 – Sunday 25
September
10.00am – 4.00pm
First class family railway fun.
Maldon Railway Station
www.vgr.com.au

THEATRE: MY LIFE IN BOXES

Friday 7 October
Doors open from 7.00pm
A theatrical circus show about
life, loss, memory and love.
Phee Broadway Theatre,
Mechanics Lane, Castlemaine
www.pheebroadwaytheatre.com.au

ANNUAL JOSINE MCEWAN MEMORIAL DINNER AND LECTURE

Saturday 8 October
6.30pm – 10.00pm
Kevin Walsh, award winning
horticulturist and author,
on his work in Melbourne's
Memorial Parks.
Buda Historic Home and
Garden, Castlemaine
www.budacastlemaine.org

RUN THE MAINE

Sunday 9 October
7.00am – 12noon
Run the Maine Fun Run.
Mostyn St, Castlemaine
www.runthemaine.org

MT TARRENGOWER HISTORIC HILL CLIMB

Saturday 15 – Sunday 16
October
9.00am – 4.00pm on Sunday
Historic car hill climb.
Mt Tarrengower, Maldon

DESIGNING GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE

Saturday 22 October
10.30am – 12.30pm
Free workshop as part
of Council's Sustainable
Living Workshop Series.
To book contact d.giles@mountalexander.vic.gov.au
or 5471 1768.

MUCKLEFEST

Sunday 23 October
10.00am – 4.00pm
Vintage cars, music,
antique machinery, working
Clydesdales and more.
Muckleford Railway Station

161st CASTLEMAINE SHOW

Friday 28 – Saturday 29
October
Friday night is carnival time.
Camp Reserve, Castlemaine
www.castlemaineshow.com.au

MALDON FOLK FESTIVAL

Friday 28 – Monday 31 October
Annual folk festival.
www.maldonfolkfestival.com

MALDON PRIMARY SCHOOL MARKET AND FAIR

Saturday 29 October
8.00am – 3.00pm
Art, craft stalls and children's
activities.
Maldon Primary School

CASTLEMAINE AND DISTRICT FESTIVAL OF GARDENS

Saturday 29 October –
Sunday 6 November
Various venues around
Castlemaine and the district.
www.festivalofgardens.org

SUNDAY ARTS AND HIGH TEA

Sunday 30 October
2.00pm – 4.00pm
Performance by a cappella
duo Something in the Air.
Bookings essential.
Buda Historic Home and
Garden
www.budacastlemaine.org

CASTLEMAINE STEINER SCHOOL SPRING FAIR

Saturday 5 November
10.00am – 3.00pm
Corner Rilens Road and
Pyrenees Highway, Muckleford
www.cssk.vic.edu.au

RACE THE TRAIN

Sunday 13 November
11.45am
Race or ride against the train.
Starts at Old Castlemaine Gaol
www.racethetrain.com.au

CASTLEMAINE ROTARY TRUCK AND MUSIC SHOW

Saturday 19 – Sunday 20
November
Two day show and shine
spectacular.
Campbells Creek Recreation
Reserve
www.castlemainetruckshow.com

Markets

CASTLEMAINE FARMERS' MARKET

First Sunday of every
month except January
9.00am – 1.00pm
Fresh, local and seasonal
produce.
Carpark and ground adjacent
to the historic Market Building,
Mostyn Street

CASTLEMAINE ARTISTS' MARKET

First Sunday of every month
except January
9.00am – 2.00pm
Wonderful goods from local
artists and craftspeople.
Western Reserve

MALDON MARKET

Second Sunday of the month
9.00am – 2.00pm
Maldon farmers and makers
market. Hand made, home
grown.
Fountain Street, Maldon

WESLEY HILL MARKET

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

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 13 September
Civic Centre

Tuesday 27 September
Civic Centre

Tuesday 11 October
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. 8.00am – 4.00pm seven days per week.

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. Contact Council to request a new waste collection service or to replace a lost or stolen 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. Staff offer childhood immunisation and check-ups. Baby change and feed facilities are available at the centre.

SHIRE NEWS



POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

To the Residents