

Mount Alexander

SHIRE NEWS

April - May 2016

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Come and see what's on at the Phee

The Phee Broadway Theatre 2016 season is well and truly underway offering an exciting collection of shows. There's something for everyone from avid theatre goers to the youngest members of our community.

The program is rich with stories and performances that take audiences on a journey through music, poetry, storytelling, circus, life, love, death and other surprises.

"We have a fabulous line-up planned for the Phee this year. Many shows have already received fantastic reviews in Australia and overseas," said Vicky Mason, Director Sustainable Communities.

"We've also worked hard to keep ticket prices down. Tickets to some shows start from \$10, which is exceptional value and considerably less than what theatre goers pay in larger cities or towns," said Ms Mason.

Local artworks will also be on display throughout the year as part of the Phee Broadway Theatre exhibition program. The program showcases the work of local talented artists, with exhibitions changing monthly.

Programming the theatre with performances and exhibitions that interest and challenge the public is one of many roles that Council plays within the dynamic arts sector.

Council supports the arts and cultural sector through many activities including an annual forum, exhibition programming and planning, supporting key arts organisations, and helping artists to source funding and develop creative projects for the community.

"The creative sector enriches the fabric of the community and is a key drawcard for tourism and visitors to the shire," said Ms Mason.

Tickets to all Phee Broadway Theatre performances are available from the Castlemaine Visitor Information Centre in the historic Market Building from 9.00am - 5.00pm each day, or purchase at the theatre 30 minutes prior to performance starting time.

A play about survival and instinct, *They Saw a Thylacine*, is on Saturday 9 April, followed by exciting and inventive rock-comedian, Ryan Coffey, performing on Friday 13 May.



Main image: Tarah Carey and Tim Ruddy in *My Life in Boxes* on Friday 7 October.

Inset: Justine Campbell and Sarah Hamilton in *They Saw a Thylacine* on Saturday 9 April.

SUBSCRIBER ALERT

Become a subscriber to secure the best seats in the house. Subscriptions cost \$105 per single ticket or \$200 per double ticket. Available for purchase until the end of May from Castlemaine Visitor Information Centre and the Civic Centre. To find out more visit www.pheebroadwaytheatre.com.au or email arts@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.



Cr Christine Henderson

Message from the Mayor

As we approach the end of the financial year it makes sense to reflect on Council's achievements for 2015/2016.

As you can see in this edition of Shire News we've recently completed a lot of improvements to Council-owned buildings and facilities, work on roads and bridges, and introduced new projects to increase support for young people in the shire.

We are always interested in hearing feedback from the community and encourage everyone to have a say on Council activities. One way to do this is to come along to a Council Meeting on the

second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. Meetings are held at various locations throughout the shire so it's best to check the website for venue information.

A Council meeting is a formal affair, with Councillors and senior Council staff in attendance. The business of each meeting is set out in reports prepared by Council officers on matters that require a decision from Council, made up of the shire's seven elected Councillors.

All meetings are open to the public. The first half hour is devoted to public question time. Anyone may ask a

question of Council or make a statement on a topic that concerns them, with the expectation they will receive a response.

When an agenda item is of interest to someone, such as a decision on a planning permit application or adoption of a strategy, people will come to speak in support of their cause.

Council meetings offer the community a window into the business of Council and an opportunity to have your say. I encourage everyone to attend a meeting. You might be surprised how interesting you find it.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Council regularly seeks input from the community on a range of topics. Recent consultations include Council's draft Climate Change Action Plan, Newstead Rotunda Park Master Plan, the Urban Growth Strategy and the 2015/2016 pool season.

We're interested in your views so be sure to regularly check the Have your say section of our website for current consultations or stay in touch by reading the latest news on the homepage.

Live greener

Council's Sustainable Living Workshop Series is now in its third year, with almost 400 people participating in program since it started in 2014.

Council developed the series to assist residents and farmers to live and work more sustainably, and foster the development of environmentally responsible and liveable communities across the shire.

Visit our website to view the full program of interesting workshops on offer this year. Come along and get inspired to build a sustainable future.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Salvage art

Saturday 16 April
10.30am - 12.30pm

Chloe Gunn is back again by popular demand to inspire you to get crafty and turn recyclable goods into useful things.

Bicycle maintenance and electric bikes and trikes

Saturday 28 May
10.30am - 12.30pm

Join Peter Grant from The Bike Vault as he teaches you valuable tips about maintaining your bike as well as the latest on e-bike technology for those looking for easy and speedy sustainable transport.

Mending and darning

Saturday 25 June
10.30am - 12.30pm

This interactive workshop is led by the Castlemaine Women's Association to help you learn how to mend and darn your favourite woollen clothes.

Grow great fruit

Saturday 23 July
10.00am - 12.00pm

Join award-winning orchardist Katie Finlay, owner of Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens, as she shows you how to grow great fruit trees and improve your soil.

Bookings are required. To reserve your place contact our Healthy Environments team on (03) 5471 1768 or email d.giles@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.



Correction:

Apologies to Ashley Penrose, 2016 Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year, whose name was listed incorrectly in the last edition of Shire News.

Renovations complete at Castlemaine Kindergarten

A major renovation and refurbishment of Castlemaine Kindergarten in Berkeley Street has transformed the look and feel of the centre, bringing many benefits for children, parents and teachers.

Kindergarten Educational Leader Lyn Kuckhahn said the changes have made the kindergarten a much more welcoming space with clever designs to maximise useability.

"The entrance is now a beautiful area for people walking into the building and each room has been painted, which makes the kindergarten much brighter and fresher," said Ms Kuckhahn.

"We have a new kitchen with a fabulous layout to allow the children to be more involved with cooking, and a lovely family room provides a quiet place for parents and children," she said.

"The changes were really well thought out and have made a huge difference for staff and children.

We are thrilled with the improvements."

The works included a bathroom upgrade, improved office space and new accessible toilets, accessible ramp, lockers, storage, doors and flooring. The project also included exterior painting, improvements to the outdoor area and more.

Environmentally friendly design features such as skylights and LED lights were installed throughout the centre.

Works totalling more than \$260,000 were largely funded by the Victorian Government's Department of Education and Early Childhood Development with a contribution from Council. Council worked closely with the YMCA, staff and the kindergarten's parent committee to finalise the designs.

Along with last year's refurbishment at South Castlemaine Kindergarten, the renovations are part of Council's plan to ensure community buildings are well maintained, suitable and accessible to the community.



Rhianvyen, Marissa and Hannah enjoying their new-look kindergarten



The changes have transformed the kindergarten



Children make playdough in the refurbished kitchen with Educator Tamsin Byrne

Introducing Youth Space Mondo Lounge

Council has launched a new youth space called the Mondo Lounge in partnership with Castlemaine Continuing Education on Templeton Street.

The Mondo Lounge is held Fridays during school term from 4.00pm to 6.00pm. It provides a safe and supportive space for young people aged 12-25 to catch up with friends and participate in workshops, training sessions and activities.

Young West Youth Hub at the Maldon Neighbourhood Centre also runs activities for young people every second Wednesday from 5.30pm to 8.30pm. Both programs are supported by Council and funded by Victorian Government's Engage! program.

For more information visit the Mount Alexander Youth or Young West Facebook page, email j.hearn@mountalexander.vic.gov.au or youngwest@maldonnc.org.au.



New playground equipment a hit

Council is proud to have funded new outdoor play equipment for kids attending the Mainly Children's Play program at the Castlemaine Salvation Army in Kennedy Street.

The need for equipment was identified by the Mount Alexander Community Children's Network, who worked with Council to organise the purchase and installation. Parents, volunteers and Work for the Dole participants helped to prepare the playground and assemble the equipment.

Council supports the Mainly Children's Play program in partnership with the Salvation Army and Castlemaine District Community Health. Thank you to everyone who supported this great project.

Buy local for your chance to win

Council is proud to partner with Elliott Midland Newspapers in the 2016 Buy Local campaign. Participating in the campaign is a great way to support the local economy and be in the running to win \$10,000 of groceries. Pick up your coupon book from Maldon and Castlemaine newsagencies or Elliot Midland Newspaper office and start saving when shopping at participating businesses.

Spotlight on community facilities

Council recently completed several projects to improve community facilities throughout the shire.

NEW LIGHTS AT CAMP RESERVE

Council has installed four new light towers at Camp Reserve to improve night time use of the facility. The lights have three settings and comply with AFL guidelines for training and night competitions. Council funded the project with support from a grant from the Department of Sport and Recreation Victoria and funds from the Camp Reserve Committee of Management and the Castlemaine Football and Netball Club.



NEW LIGHTS AT NEWSTEAD

New lights at Newstead Recreation Reserve will support evening netball and tennis training, and open the possibility for future night competitions. The lighting marks the completion of works at the tennis and netball courts, which included a new pavilion completed in 2014.



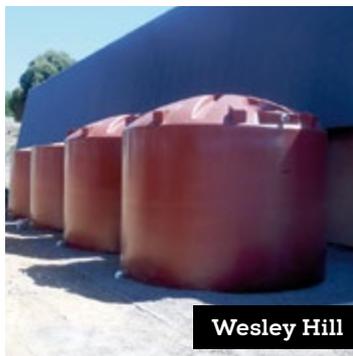
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN BARFOLD

A new replacement bridge on School Road in Barfold was opened in February. The bridge was identified for replacement following a detailed assessment of more than 220 bridges throughout the shire. It was closed in 2015 due to termite damage.



NEW IRRIGATION AT WESLEY HILL RECREATION RESERVE

Council installed an automatic irrigation system at the Doug Powell Oval to establish the sportsground playing surface used for junior football. The system minimises water waste and overspray.



CASTLEMAINE RSL

Castlemaine RSL building has had exterior painting, roof repairs and new gutters, which were completed in March.



PEDESTRIAN CROSSING UPGRADE

The installation of raised pedestrian crossings, kerbing and additional street lighting near Castlemaine Station has improved commuter safety. The works at the busy Templeton and Kennedy streets intersection were funded by Council and the Victorian Government's Transport Investing in Regions initiative. A Transport Accident Commission grant helped fund design works for the project.

CASTLEMAINE LIBRARY

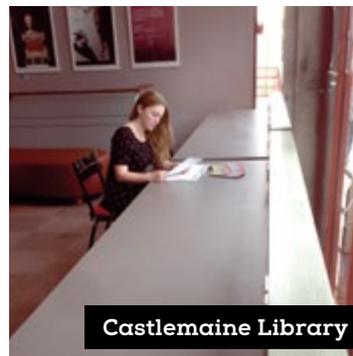
New benches and heating and cooling systems have been installed at the foyer shared by Castlemaine Library and Phee Broadway Theatre. The upgrade was funded through the Victorian Government's Living Libraries fund, as part of a broader vision to improve the community hub in the arts and culture precinct.

ANA HALL IN HARCOURT

The ANA Hall in Harcourt has received a \$58,000 facelift including restumping, replacing and painting fascias and weatherboard cladding, installing new window frames and doors, external painting and more.

HARCOURT RECREATION RESERVE

Works have been underway to improve the sportsground surface at Harcourt Recreation Reserve. A safety gate and new bollards were also installed at the reserve playground.



Solar investments performing

In its first year the 30kW solar system on the Castlemaine Town Hall has saved ratepayers around \$10,000 in power bills. There's more great news at the Civic Centre next door with a 14.5kW system on Council's main office building. Taken together, the two systems will save ratepayers hundreds of thousands over the next 25 years. They have already reduced carbon emissions equivalent to planting more than 1200 trees!

What's on

BEN QUILTY: AFTER AFGHANISTAN

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

MALDON TOWN WIDE GARAGE SALE

Saturday 9 April
From 7.45am
Maps from corner of Spring
and High Streets.
www.maldon.org.au

CASTLEMAINE LIONS CLUB SWAP MEET

Sunday 10 April
6.00am – 3.00pm
Camp Reserve, Castlemaine
Vintage car parts and
memorabilia.

2016 NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Saturday 16 April – Sunday
29 May
Many community groups
are planning fantastic
ways to celebrate the 2016
National Trust Heritage
Festival including historical
exhibitions, tours and steam
train rides.
www.nationaltrustfestival.org.au

VINTAGE ENGINE 20th ANNUAL RALLY

Saturday 16 (10.00 am –
5.00pm) and Sunday 17 April
(10.00am – 3.00pm)
John Powell Reserve,
Guildford
Mechanical history on display
including Lanz Bulldog tractor
and McDonald engine.
Entry \$5 adults, children free.
Contact Graham on
0448 888 256.

APRIL FEATURE SHOW

Sunday 17 April
10.00am – 3.00pm
Camp Reserve, Castlemaine
Clydesdales and mini
Shetland horses show.
Contact Debbie on
debbiehamilton@gcom.net.au
or 0413 339 058.

ANZAC DAY

Monday 25 April
Various services around the
shire.

THE BOOGALOO INVITATIONAL

Saturday 30 April – Sunday
1 May
9.00am – 5.00pm
Wattle Flat Reserve, 81
Richards Road, Castlemaine
A tribute to the traditional hot
rod shows of the past featuring
an invited list of some of
the country's best hot rods,
customs and motorcycles.
www.theboogalooinvitational.com.au

GOLDFIELDS ROD RUN

Sunday 1 May
9.00 – 3.00pm
Western Reserve, Castlemaine
Show and Shine.
Contact Geoff on
0408 507 621.

Celebrate our heritage at
the 2016 National Trust
Heritage Festival

SEMINAR: FUNGI OF EDDINGTON FOREST AND BELLS

Monday 2 May
7.00pm – 9.30pm
Baringhup Community Hall
This talk explores the
ecological significance of
fungi and endeavours to
elevate both fungi and
swamps to new levels of
interest, care and concern.
For bookings contact Judy
Crocker on 0428 506 525
or jcroc22@gmail.com.

MOTHERS DAY AFTERNOON TEA

Sunday 8 May
2.00pm – 4.00pm
Buda Historic Home and
Garden
Guest speaker author
Susan Green.
www.budacastlemaine.org

COMMUNITY PICNIC

Sunday 8 May
11.00am – 3.00pm
Maldon Gardens, Maldon
Celebrates 50 years as
Australia's first notable town.
www.nationaltrustfestival.org.au

NATIONAL SORRY DAY COMMEMORATION

Thursday 26 May
Time and venue TBC
Welcome to Country
and acknowledgment of
Traditional Owners. For
further information contact
Cath Butler 5479 1000.
www.cdchcastlemaine.com.au

BEANIE AFFAIR

Friday 27 – Sunday 29 May
9.00am – 5.00pm
Historic Castlemaine
Market Building
Hand spun headwear and
handmade items for sale.
Various workshops for
all levels.
www.beanieaffair.org.au

Markets

CASTLEMAINE FARMERS' MARKET

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

CASTLEMAINE ARTISTS' MARKET

First Sunday of every month
except January
9.00am – 2.00pm
Western Reserve
More than 50 stalls.

MALDON MARKET

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

WESLEY HILL MARKET

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

REMINDER:

Pet registrations are
due on Sunday 10 April.

Calling all cat owners

Almost 100 cats were de-
sexed in Mount Alexander
Shire in February as part
of the RSPCA's offer to
de-sex and microchip cats
for free. To improve animal
welfare in the shire, the
RSPCA has set a target to
de-sex 170 cats and are
looking to offer the free
program again in June.
If you are interested in
taking up the opportunity
to de-sex and microchip
your cat for free please
register your interest
with the RSPCA on
(03) 9224 2222.

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 12 April

Civic Centre

Tuesday 26 April

Maldon Community Centre

Tuesday 10 May

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
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AUSTRALIA

To the Residents