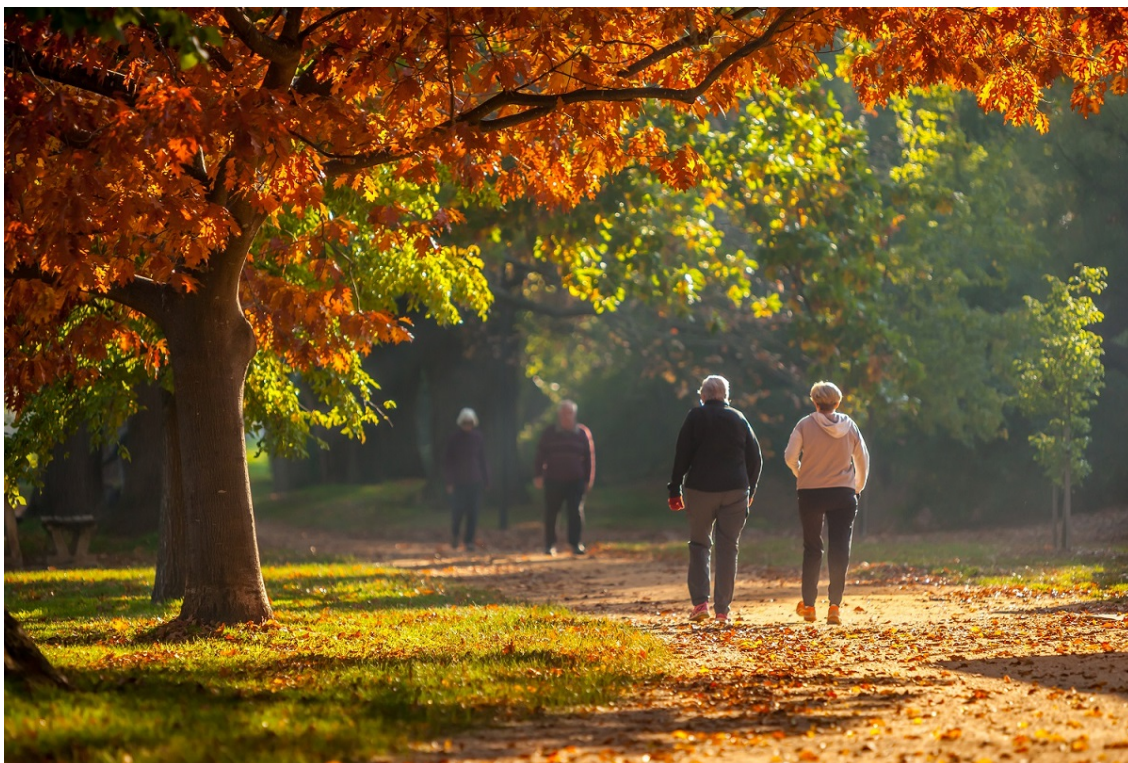




## Welcome to the May edition of Shire News

In this issue you'll find out about a new podcast to wrap your ears around, get the latest on our Events Grants recipients, discover what's proposed in our 2022/2023 draft budget, and more.



## Take a look at our 2022/2023 proposed budget

Initiatives that reduce the impact of flooding, improvements to increase road safety, and upgrades to community sporting facilities are just a few highlights of our proposed budget for 2022/2023.

Other highlights include:

- Construction of flood levees in Castlemaine and Campbells Creek.
- Continued upgrades and improvements of community sports facilities, including new change facilities at Maldon's Bill Woodfull Recreation Reserve (subject to funding), improved change rooms and toilet facilities at Harcourt Leisure Centre, and a new netball court at Campbells Creek Recreation Reserve.
- Upgrades to a 2.24km stretch of Fogarty's Gap Road, between Woodbrook and Leversha Roads.
- Continuing town streetscapes improvements with the redevelopment of Frederick Street Castlemaine, between Mostyn and Lyttleton Streets, over two financial years.
- Upgrades to Yeats Street in Castlemaine by sealing the residential street.

To find out more about what's in store in the proposed budget, visit our [website](#).

Written submissions on the proposed budget can be made until 5.00pm on Wednesday 11 May.



### First round of 2022 Events Grants awarded

We're pleased to announce that 13 recipients will share in \$26,000 in grants to deliver community events throughout the shire.

This round of funding supports projects such as the Castlemaine Emergency Response Expo where you can check out the emergency vehicles, meet the first responders and find out what volunteer opportunities are available. Another highlight is the Castlemaine Documentary Festival which will take place in July and will deliver both in-cinema and digital documentaries as well as panel discussions.

Read the full list of funded projects and find out more on the [Grants](#) page of our website.

The next round of Events Grants opens on



### Join the Pride Across the Ages listening party

We're proud to support Pride Across the Ages, a new podcast that shares generational stories of pride from LGBTIQA+ people who call central Victoria home.

The ten episode podcast is a collection of incredibly moving, funny and raw stories from our community. It tells the life stories of ten Mount Alexander Shire residents as they grow up and come out. It focuses on their feelings on the decriminalisation of homosexuality in Victoria and what pride means to them – how they live it and celebrate it, then and now.

It will be launched at the Castlemaine Library on Thursday 5 May, 5.30pm-7.00pm with a listening party, and a meet and greet with the LGBTIQA+ Steering Group.

Monday 8 August 2022, for events held in the first half of 2023.



## Join Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week activities

Come along to one of the many events being held in the shire to acknowledge Sorry Day (26 May) and National Reconciliation Week (27 May–3 June).

To start the week, we are hosting an event to commemorate Sorry Day on Thursday 26 May from 10.30am at the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens.

To find out more about events planned throughout Reconciliation Week, which include an art exhibition, children's storytime at the Castlemaine Library, a cultural tour, films at Theatre Royal, and more, visit our [website](#), or pick up a flyer from Council's Civic Centre or the Castlemaine Library.



## Thank you, volunteers

It's National Volunteer Week on 16–22 May, and we want to thank all the wonderful volunteers who do so much for our community.

They help to plan and coordinate events, are trusted companions to some of our most vulnerable community members, help us to manage sports and recreation

Learn more and listen now at [Pride Across the Ages](#).



## Open your rates notice with one click

Did you know you can receive your rates notice via email?

The process for signing up to receive your rates notice by email is simple, and there are lots of benefits, such as:

- Easy access to your rates at any time – no more misplaced notices.
- An electronic paper trail for future reference.
- Faster than standard mail.
- Save on Council costs through reduced paper, printing, envelopes and postage.
- Reduce your carbon footprint.

[Sign up](#) to receive your rates notice via email.



## Reconnect with your community

Are you or someone you know feeling lonely or isolated? Do you want to feel more socially connected?

Come along to the next Mount Alexander Connectors session for a chat with our friendly community connectors. They'll help reconnect you with your community, and link you with local services and

reserves, improve our environment, and welcome visitors to our shire with a smile.

We're partnering with Volunteer Central Vic to hold a free community forum, Volunteering is for Everyone, which aims to understand and address the barriers to participation.

**Forum:** Friday 20 May, 9.30am–12.30pm, Castlemaine Senior Citizens Centre.

Find out more at [Volunteer Central Vic](#).



## Do you have a big idea for a small business?

We love to support local businesses and we have a great range of resources to help businesses of all shapes and sizes.

Highlights include:

### **MindFit at Work workshops**

Tuesday 31 May, 9.30am–1.30pm

### **Maximising Your Marketing**

Monday 6 June, 9.30am–11.30am

### **Small Business Workshop Bus**

Wednesday 22 June–Thursday 23 June

Find out more and book now on the [Business Resources](#) page of our website.

activities.

The session is being held on Tuesday 24 May from 10.00am to 12.00pm in the Castlemaine Library Foyer.

For more information or to speak to a connector, contact Council on 5471 1700, email Melissa at [m.fowler@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:m.fowler@mountalexander.vic.gov.au) or visit our [website](#).

All sessions are COVID safe.



## Enjoy your coffee in the sunshine

We're installing new planter boxes outside Saint Florian and Wild on Templeton Street, Castlemaine in the coming week.

This means there'll be more space to enjoy a warm beverage in the fresh autumn air.

We've also installed more seating in the Village Square on Frederick Street, Castlemaine. Our friends at Like Butter (pictured) designed and installed accessible, modular bench seats ... and they're very comfy!

These projects were made possible through a grant from the Victorian Government's Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package.



## Have your say with Shape

Do you want to know how you can make your community safer? What's happening in small towns, or what's going to be in the next budget?

Sign up to our online engagement platform, Shape Mount Alexander, to have your say on projects and initiatives happening in the shire.

Get involved in our latest project: [School traffic in Castlemaine](#).

To learn more about this project, and others, visit [Shape Mount Alexander](#).



## What's On

Our shire is well-known for its local heritage, events, artists and musicians. There's always plenty happening here so make sure you stop by for events such as Volunteer Week, the Pride Across the Ages listening party, and the long list of gigs taking place this month.

Check out [what's on](#) including events in the shire, art exhibitions and much more.

You can also get the monthly What's On guide sent straight to your inbox every month. [Sign up](#) now.

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## Upcoming Council meeting

Our next Council meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 17 May.

To raise a question at the Council meeting [email](#) the Governance team or write to them at PO Box 185, Castlemaine VIC 3450. Messages must be received by 12.00pm on the day of the meeting.

The meeting will be live-streamed to [Youtube](#).

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## Follow us



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