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# Campaspe Times Newsletter

## March 2024

### The Sun Sets on Summer...

My fellow councillors and I are in full planning mode and have been working closely with Council officers to formulate the Draft 2024-25 Budget. This year we have updated our community consultation process and in December last year, we invited residents to put forward their ideas for consideration before finalising the budget. We were blown away with more than 200 submissions for a variety of fantastic community ideas and will be considering these alongside feedback on the draft fees and charges and in turn will inform the overall budget. Council aims to adopt the fees and charges in April followed by the full budget in May. We hope this makes the process more streamlined and allows for selected projects and works to begin early in the new financial year.

Recently, the Victorian Minister for Local Government announced Campaspe Shire will undergo a notable change to its electoral boundaries in 2024, and will become an unsubdivided municipality with all nine elected members representing the whole shire. At the February meeting of Council, we noted the State Government's advice that the election for councillors to

Campaspe Shire Council will be held on Saturday, 26 October 2024. You can read more on page 7.

Campaspe Shire's Community Grants Program is now open and local community organisations are actively encouraged to apply for support. The program is Council's commitment to providing financial assistance which fosters grassroots initiatives, diverse projects and endeavours that encourage positive change and enhance the wellbeing of our residents. Read more on page 8.

As we farewell the warmer weather and the vibrant hues of summer in Campaspe Shire, we also spare a thought for those in other parts of the state who have battled bushfires – we know the devastation that events such as these cause, and our thoughts are with everyone involved. I've noticed the start of the subtle transformation of our region's scenic beauty on my various walks, and with the first school term coming to a close and Easter around the corner, it's a great time to check out the many community events across our shire on page 5.

On behalf of Campaspe Shire Council, I wish you all a safe and happy Easter holiday with family and friends.

**Mayor Rob Amos**

Pictured top of page: Mayor Rob Amos with the team from Rochester Community House at the Australia Day Awards reception held on the Echuca Wharf in February. L-R Mayor Rob Amos, Amanda Logie, Jodie Dobson and Jodie Parker.

## Out and About

Campaspe Shire Council staff and councillors have been 'out and about' in our community. Here's a few of our most recent snapshots.



Council's Community Development Officers, Jacinta Addamo (centre) and Qader Karimi (right), visited Lockington Neighbourhood House Coordinator Tanya McDermott and discussed the upcoming Lockington Place Based Plan.



Mayor Rob Amos and Deputy Mayor, Cr Tony Marwood, with their wives and members of the Rich River Quilters at their 2024 exhibition launch at The Foundry Arts Space.



Council in partnership with the Monarch Institute and Business Victoria, hosted a free workshop 'Maximise Your Marketing' for local businesses and organisations.



Council hosted a free talk by Kindness Factory founder, Kath Koshel who inspired the audience detailing her experiences as a former professional cricketer and Iron Man competitor, who defied all medical prognoses by teaching herself to walk on three separate occasions.



Winners of Australia Day awards from around the shire attended a reception on the Echuca Wharf to celebrate. Pictured is Don Hicks OAM, Citizen of the Year with Mayor Rob Amos; Cr Daniel Mackrell with members of the Loco Shed Committee, Peter Mitchell, Dick Phillips and Cal Phillips; Cr Adrian Weston with Gail Corner of Rushworth and Bernie Ryan of Girgarre.



Community Development Officers Qader Karimi (pictured) and Jacinta Addamo attended the Rushworth Market to seek feedback on the draft Rushworth Place Based Plan, along with members of the Place Based Plan Committee and Cr Adrian Weston.



State opposition leader John Pesutto and Members for Northern Victoria Peter Walsh, Wendy Lovell and Gaelle Broad visited Rochester to meet with Councillors, Council officers and community leaders following the January floods to debrief on the event and find out how they could advocate in parliament for additional resources and assistance.



There were over 300 young people who came along to the Kyabram Pool to enjoy the Kyabram Blue Pool Party. Pictured L-R Council's Youth Community Development Officer Kane Stewart, Senior Constable - Shepparton Proactive Mitchell Bull, Kyabram Blue Light Committee Volunteer Laurelina Berick and Kyabram Blue Light Vice President Sarah Langley.

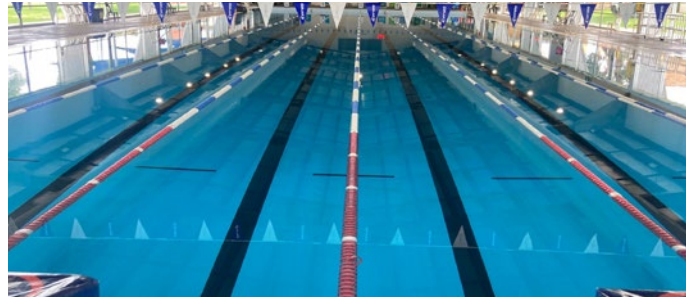
## Project Updates

This financial year over \$40m is planned to be spent on capital projects across the shire to improve our roads, footpaths, bridges, drains and open spaces. Take a look at some of the projects that have been recently completed:



### Lockington Recreation Reserve

The Lockington Recreation Reserve project included construction of two multipurpose courts, fencing, lighting towers and replacement of the playground.



### Shire wide pool painting program

Painting of the pool surface and minor repairs to the pool at the Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre were completed within schedule allowing the pool to be reopened earlier than planned.



### Campaspe Animal Shelter

The project included installation of 46 new dog cages and non-slip flooring.



### Rochester kerb and channel works

Works have been completed in Rochester on Edward and George Streets. These works included renewal of kerb, channel, footpath, the school pedestrian crossing and the inclusion of disability compliant carparking for the school.

## Rochester Early Learning One Year Anniversary

Rochester Early Learning (REL) celebrates its one-year anniversary on 20 March 2024. The occasion is a time to reflect on the journey of REL and how it has become a symbol of hope and resilience for the Rochester community.

REL, formerly known as Rochester & District Child Care sustained extensive damage in the October 2022 flood event. The team found a new home on Fraser Street, temporarily relocating services to Tongala while the renovations and repairs of the new building took place.

Throughout the last 12 months, REL has achieved many great accomplishments, including expanding enrolments, a great team of educators and meeting the National Quality Standards.

The team at REL is committed to continuing to foster a nurturing environment where every child can thrive and reach their full potential.

Happy anniversary to all the educators, families and children of Rochester Early Learning.



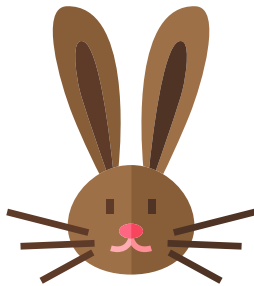


## Don't Waste Easter

Easter is just around the corner, and we want you to enjoy your celebrations whilst being sustainable at the same time! Roughly 4% of our nation's total waste comes from the chocolate consumed over Easter. The best way to reduce your waste around Easter is by repurposing, reusing and recycling where possible.

### Our top tips:

- Avoid Easter eggs that are packed in plastic, opt for foil instead.
- Make your own decorations and Easter baskets – or even better, reuse last year's.
- If you're dyeing real eggshells, avoid food waste and use the eggs in your cooking.
- Make your own hot cross buns or homemade chocolates. Then make the most of your leftovers! (Hot cross buns make excellent bread and butter pudding!)
- Reuse items around your home like old cardboard boxes or wrapping paper, to make fun decorations.
- Decorate fruit punnets or egg cartons to package your DIY Easter goodies.



And when you do have to throw packaging away, follow the list below!

## Typical Easter Items



### Aluminium foil

Roll into a ball the size of your fist before recycling in the yellow bin.



### Lolly wrappers, 'fake foil'

If the foil doesn't stay 'scrunched', it's plastic foil and needs to be discarded in the red bin.



### Hard plastic moulded insert

Keep as moulds for DIY Easter eggs  
OR Recycle in the yellow bin.



### Cardboard boxes

Keep and turn into decorations  
OR Use to pack your own Easter gifts  
OR If there's a plastic film in the box, remove this and put into the red bin. Recycle the cardboard box in the yellow bin.



## Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival

Hop along to the renowned Easter Heritage Festival in Rushworth on Easter Saturday. The annual festival showcases the historic town through a street parade of vintage and historic vehicles and horses.

Spend time visiting the range of market stalls, free children's entertainment, live music and vintage steam engines on show... AND finish the day with the grand parade featuring the Moora draught horses, steam engines and vintage cars!

The event aims to engage local businesses, groups, schools and entertainers to showcase Rushworth and the great offerings of the town.



## What's On

A listing of upcoming events across our region. Events may be cancelled or amended at short notice.

### February - April

A is for Animal Exhibition by Splinter Contemporary Artists Kyabram Town Hall, 199-209 Allan Street

### 5 February - 30 March

Basket Makers Exhibition by Northern Plains Basket Makers, Kyabram Town Hall, 199-209 Allan Street

### 5 February - 4 April

Textile Art Exhibition by Lesley Edwards, Kyabram Town Hall, 199-209 Allan Street

### 1 - 24 March

'Nurturing Nature' exhibition by Tilly Keen, Foundry Arts Space, Murray Esplanade, Echuca

### Tuesday, 19 March

Tongala Weeds, Waste & Invasive Species Information Session, Tongala Shire Hall, Mangan Street

### Thursday, 21 March

Echuca Harness Racing, Frank Ryan Raceway, Simmie Street, Echuca

Rochester Rotary Community Chat, Rochester Hotel, Moore Street

Rushworth Weeds, Waste & Invasive Species Information Session, Rushworth Hall, High Street

### Saturday, 23 March

Jigarre Jammin, Girgarre Memorial Hall, Girgarre

### 23 - 24 March

Ride the Murray, Echuca Moama

### Tuesday, 26 March

Tongala Hay Bale Trail Launch and Easter Egg Hunt, Tongala Village Green, Mangan Street

### Wednesday, 27 March

Rotary Club of Kyabram - Community Easter Egg Hunt, Edis Park, Oswald Street, Kyabram

### 27 March - 28 April

Altered States by Tuesday Junction, The Foundry Arts Space, 13-17 Murray Esplanade, Echuca

### Thursday, 28 March

Rainbow Coffee/Pride Brunch, Fuzion Café, 258 Pakenham Street, Echuca

### Saturday, 30 March

Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival & Market, High Street, Rushworth

### 29 March - 1 April

Echuca Easter Lawn Tennis Tournament, Echuca Lawn Tennis Club

### 30 March - 1 April

Kyabram Lawn Tennis Club Annual Easter Tournament, 39 Lake Road, Kyabram

### Sunday, 31 March

Moora Working Draught Horses, Moora Recreation Reserve, Moora

Port of Echuca Easter Sunday Celebrations, Port of Echuca, Murray Esplanade

Echuca Harness Racing, Frank Ryan Raceway, Simmie Street, Echuca

Moama Market, Moama Soundshell, Meninya Street

### 2 April - 31 May

Sue Hourigan Ovens Gallery, Kyabram Town Hall, 199-209 Allan Street

### 6 April - 14 April

Rochester Mural Festival, Rochester

### Saturday, 6 April

Murray to Moyne - Starts in Echuca

Echuca Farmers Market, Aquatic Reserve, 2 Heygarth Street, Echuca

### 6 - 7 April

Torrumbarry Fishing Classic, Murray River near Torrumbarry

### Sunday, 7 April

Mr Perfect Echuca - Free Monthly BBQ, Apex Park, High Street, Echuca

### Monday, 8 April

Echuca Races, Echuca Race Course, Scott Road

### 8 April - 1 June

Lyn Weeks Textile Art Exhibition, Kyabram Town Hall, 199-209 Allan Street

### Saturday, 13 April

Rushworth Speedway Race Meet, Rushworth Speedway, Nine Mile Road

Hopwood Garden Market, Hopwood Gardens, Echuca

Beyond Blue Car Rally, Murray Esplanade, Echuca

### Sunday, 14 April

Girgarre Farmers' Produce and Craft Market, Girgarre Memorial Hall & Park Reserve

Stanhope Monster Garage Sale, Birdwood Ave, Stanhope

Moama Market, Moama Soundshell, Meninya Street

### 17 April - 24 April

Trakmaster Off-Road Caravan Club - Annual Gathering, Elmore Events Centre

### Thursday, 18 April

Rochester Rotary Community Chat, Rochester Hotel, Moore Street

### 18 - 21 April

Veterans Car Club Rally (Four & More Cylinders), Kyabram

### Friday, 19 April

Mr Perfect Echuca - Free Monthly Coffee Meet Up, Beechworth Bakery, High Street Echuca

### Saturday, 20 April

Echuca Farmers Market, Aquatic Reserve, 2 Heygarth Street, Echuca

Rushworth Market, High Street, Rushworth

### Sunday, 21 April

Rochester Town Market, Rochester Skate Park, Cnr Gillies & Campaspe Streets

Echuca Country Music Club - Monthly Concert, Tongala Public Hall, Mangan Street

## Register your community event

Free website event listing is available to community groups within the shire. Register at [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/eventsdirectory](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/eventsdirectory). Keep an eye on this event directory as events are added and updated regularly!

## Active Stadiums Pilot Program

The Active Stadiums Pilot Program is underway. The program began in February and encourages healthy active living within the community, focusing on Council's nine groups of priority, including new parents, seniors and people living with a disability.

The weekly activities are one of the outcomes from the Active Stadiums consultation that took place last year. The program aims to make better use of Council's stadiums during the quiet periods of the day and encourages residents to engage in a range of activities.

The sessions include strength and balance for seniors, new parents and bubs physical activity session, pickleball for seniors and dodgeball and indoor soccer for people living with a disability. Take a look at the sessions.

The program will run until June. For more information, scan the QR code or visit [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/activestadiums](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/activestadiums).



## Volunteer Community Transport Drivers Celebrated!

In December, Council officers hosted an end of year luncheon aboard the MV Maryann, attended by Cr Paul Jarman, to celebrate the team of community transport volunteer drivers. Two retiring drivers received praise from the community for their dedication and service over the years.

The Community Transport Program supports eligible Campaspe Shire residents to access out of town medical appointments. Typically, customers are older people or younger people with a disability, who lack alternate means to access important specialist appointments, treatment or surgery.

Campaspe Shire has 10 volunteer drivers who in 2023, completed 220 trips, comprising 45,000kms of travel and 1,000 hours of volunteer service. This enabled residents to travel for vital procedures such as new heart valves, pacemakers, exploratory procedures, fracture repairs, organ transplant follow ups, cataract, and other eye surgeries.

Each trip makes a difference to the lives of residents in the shire. This year, we are delighted to onboard three new volunteer drivers in Echuca and are always looking for volunteer drivers in other towns. We are especially seeking drivers from Kyabram to take residents on Melbourne bound trips.

For more information or to apply to become a volunteer Community Transport Driver, contact our Community Transport Officer on 1300 666 535.



## New Business Welcomed to Tongala

Recently in Tongala local businesses and community leaders held a lunch to welcome the new owners of Tongala Nutrition (a UHT and liquid packaging company located at the former Nestle factory). CEO Sid Jani and Chief Commercial Officer Phil Gomizel, talked about their vision for the factory and expressed their desire to work collaboratively with other local businesses to build capacity and capability. They have already hired several locals to work with them on commissioning the factory. Attendees at the lunch gave them a warm welcome and were genuinely excited about the factory being re-activated.

Both Sid and Phil are looking forward to spending time in Tongala and getting to know the community. In fact, Sid has already has his first appearance for the Tongala Cricket Club, taking 2 wickets and enjoying a good win!

Events like this create an important forum for our local businesses to connect with each other, share information and talk about shared opportunities and challenges. It also creates a welcoming environment for new investors to the region.

If you are looking for business networking assistance, contact our Economic Development Manager.

## Your Councillors

For assistance, please lodge a service request on 1300 666 535 or via our website, however if you would like speak with one of your Councillors here are their contact details.



**Mayor Rob Amos**  
(Echuca Ward Councillor)  
P: 0413 040 199  
E: r.amos@campaspe.vic.gov.au



**Cr Tony Marwood**  
(Deputy Mayor & Echuca Ward Councillor)  
P: 0437 731 169  
E: t.marwood@campaspe.vic.gov.au



**Cr Colleen Gates**  
(Kyabram Deakin Ward Councillor)  
P: 0457 916 615  
E: c.gates@campaspe.vic.gov.au



**Cr Paul Jarman**  
(Rochester Ward Councillor)  
P: 0407 825 133  
E: p.jarman@campaspe.vic.gov.au



**Cr Daniel Mackrell**  
(Kyabram Deakin Ward Councillor)  
P: 0429 517 535  
E: d.mackrell@campaspe.vic.gov.au



**Cr Leanne Pentreath**  
(Western Ward Councillor)  
P: 0437 248 212  
E: l.pentreath@campaspe.vic.gov.au



**Cr Chrissy Weller**  
(Echuca Ward Councillor)  
P: 0437 567 401  
E: c.weller@campaspe.vic.gov.au



**Cr Adrian Weston**  
(Waranga Ward Councillor)  
P: 0428 320 464  
E: a.weston@campaspe.vic.gov.au



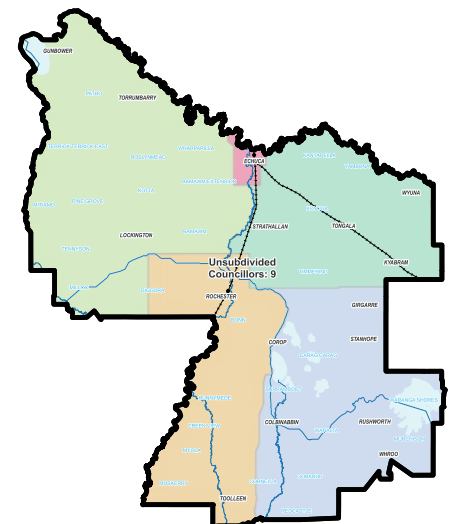
**Cr John Zobec**  
(Kyabram Deakin Ward Councillor)  
P: 0418 213 413  
E: j.zobec@campaspe.vic.gov.au

## Changes to Electoral Boundaries for Campaspe Shire in the 2024 Elections

From the 2024 election, Campaspe Shire will change from the existing five ward structure (Echuca, Western, Rochester, Kyabram-Deakin and Waranga) to an unsubdivided structure with all nine elected members representing the whole municipality.

The changes were announced by the Victorian Government in February following the review of 39 local councils during 2023-24 by an independent electoral representation advisory panel where residents were invited to participate and provide feedback on whether they thought councils had an appropriate number of councillors and the structure of wards.

Stay tuned to future editions of Campaspe Times to learn more about this year's election which will be held on Saturday, 26 October.



## Council Meetings

Council meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to take part through the question time portion of the meeting. Meetings are held in Echuca and start at 6pm and are streamed live on Council's website. The agenda is available the Friday before each meeting.

### Upcoming meetings

19 March  
23 April  
21 May

## Planning

#campaspeservices

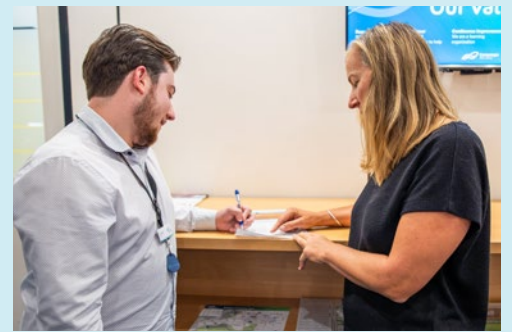
Our Statutory Planning Team has a strong customer service ethos and work with a diverse range of stakeholders, including our community to provide guidance on the planning provisions within Campaspe Shire.

The team responds daily to general enquiries, provides formal written advice and upon request, can arrange pre-application meetings to provide specific guidance to a project prior to the lodgement of an application.

The dedicated team continue to look at ways they can provide planning support to our community.

### Council's Planning Team are trialling drop-in sessions!

Our Planning Team are trialling new drop-in sessions from 14 March until the end of June. Each Thursday, from 10am to 1pm, a member of the Planning Team will be available at the Echuca Customer Service Centre for general enquiries face-to-face. Bookings are not required, and residents are encouraged to drop in and visit the team for advice and information regarding any planning enquiries. As always, our planning team can still be contacted on 1300 666 535 for verbal or written enquiries and to organise dedicated face to face meetings.



## Community Grants Program Now Open

Council's Community Grants Program, offers financial support to not-for-profit community organisations, groups and associations for projects, exhibitions and/or performances that contribute to the municipality and support Council's vision. The maximum grant amount is \$4,000. Applications close 5pm on Friday, 12 April. If you require assistance with your application, contact our Community Partnerships Team on 1300 666 535. Visit our website for more information.



## Reminder - Animal Registrations Due 10 April

Dogs and cats aged 12 weeks and older must be registered with Council until they pass away. Annual registrations are due by 10 April each year. Pet owners whose cats and dogs are already registered with Council will receive a renewal notice. If you do not receive your renewal, you can contact Council and pay over the phone or through our website. Dogs and cats must be microchipped before Council can accept registration.

### How much will the registration cost?

The fee levels include:

Full fee: \$154

Full fee - pensioner: \$77

Reduced fee: \$51

Reduced fee - pensioner: \$26

If your animal is desexed or aged over 10 years, you may qualify for the

reduced fee. There are also reduced fees for pensioner card holders.

### How do I change my registration details?

- If you move house or change your telephone number, please complete a change of owner's details form.
- If the owner of the animal changes, please complete a change of ownership form.
- If you move to Campaspe Shire and your animal is registered in a different shire, please complete an animal registration application form and submit with proof of paid registration.

The above forms and more information are available on our website

[www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/animals](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/animals)



## YAG Applications Now Open

The Youth Action Group (YAG) is a group of young people aged 12-25 who build skills to advocate for their community and work together to see better outcomes for young people. Apply online at [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/YAG](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/YAG)