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Cover image – 'Love playing under sprinkler' by Angela Nixon.



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Campaspe Times Newsletter

March 2021

Looking forward

Welcome to the first edition of our community newsletter for 2021.

Your new team of Councillors, elected last October, have been busy across the past few months increasing their understanding of the operations of Council, the new Local Government Act, meeting procedures and processes, the services being delivered and starting to engage with their communities.

One of our priorities is the development of a new Council Plan, a four year plan setting out the key priorities for our four year term.

But before we progress too far, we need to review Campaspe's Vision and we need you to be part of this.

The 'Campaspe: Thriving Together' community engagement program is now underway and I urge residents to be involved. Page 5 outlines the program, with upcoming workshops planned for March. We need to know what the priorities are for your community. If attending a local workshop doesn't suit, we have an online survey to capture your comments, or you may see our staff out and about in your town speaking with residents.

With COVID restrictions changing and allowing people to gather outdoors, Australia Day was celebrated with many

events, coordinated by community groups. I was fortunate to attend a number of events and my fellow Councillors also spent the day out and about, meeting many residents, and congratulating our award winners. You can read about our overall winners as well as the district winners on page 3. I also completed my first Australian Citizenship ceremony on the day at Tongala, with Rochelle Esperon, now living in Girgarre.

Australia Day was one of the first community events held for nearly a year now. With restrictions changing, events are slowly starting to return to our communities, albeit in a different form, with COVIDSafe Plans now a requirement. It's great to see our events calendar starting to fill with regular community markets, fundraising and annual events returning. Upcoming events are listed on page 2. If a community group needs to change or cancel an event at the last minute due to changing restrictions, I am sure our residents will understand.

Wishing everyone all the very best for the year ahead and I look forward to meeting you when out and about across our shire.

Cr Chrissy Weller
Mayor



Member for Murray Plains Peter Walsh (left) and Mayor Cr Chrissy Weller (right), with newly conferred Australian citizen Rochelle Esperon.

Explore Southern Campaspe

Colbinabbin, a small rural farming township in the south of the shire, nestled in Shiraz grape growing country, has another local attraction to add to the recently completed silos project, its general store.

The local community recently took over the Mitchell Street store which has seen an influx of customers through the door. The community recognised the need to retain the store and set up a cooperative management model and has more than 170 residents involved. With a focus on take-away food, a café and local produce, the store is finding a market for local workers looking for coffee and lunch, and visitors to the town to visit the nearby silos.

Local products currently include Kennedy Farm produce, Ironbark Apiary Honey, Meander Designs prints, tea towels and stationery, products from The Camel Milk Co and Kyvalley Dairy, and Myola Eucalyptus and Tea Tree Oils.

Local produce companies looking to expand their market are encouraged to make contact with the store. If you are in the area, stop in to say G'day to Joel and the team and visit the local attractions.

#lovewhereyoulive



Store Manager, Joel Raglus (in background) with the Kyabram Red Hatters, out on a daytrip. Joel use to work in Kyabram and many of the ladies commented that they had travelled to Colbinabbin, just to see Joel. The Red Hatters had visited Deb Dodd at the Many Makers Gallery in Stanhope, the quilting shop in Rushworth and following a visit to the store and the silos they were travelling to Rochester for lunch.

What's on

A listing of upcoming events across our region.

Events may be cancelled or amended at short notice, pending changes to COVID restrictions and approvals.

Saturday, 6 March

Echuca Farmers' Market - Aquatic Reserve, Echuca, 0437 746 459

Makers Market - Echuca Moama Uniting Church, Hare St, Echuca, 0429 801 342

Sunday, 7 March

Echuca Races - Echuca Cup Day, Echuca Racecourse, Scott Rd, 5482 2487

12 - 14 March

Champions League Basketball - Moama Recreation Reserve, Moama, 1300 087 004

12 - 20 March

Rochester Mural Festival - Rochester, 0456 728 665

14 - 18 March

Victoria Veterans Cricket - various locations, 0427 817 333

Sunday, 14 March

Girgarre Farmers' Produce and Craft Market - Girgarre Memorial Hall & Park Reserve, 5854 6283

Stanhope Monster Garage Sale - Birdwood Ave, 5857 2866

Kyabram Community Church 'Summer Nights' - John Pilley Reserve, Lake Rd, Kyabram, 0429 382 623

Friday, 19 March

Echuca Harness Racing Club Echuca Cup Meet - Frank Ryan Raceway, Simmie St, Echuca, 5482 2036

Saturday, 20 March

Echuca Farmers' Market - Aquatic Reserve, Echuca, 0437 746 459

REHF Rushworth Market - High St, Rushworth, 0402 576 103

Rushworth Speedway Race Meet - Rushworth Speedway, Nine Mile Rd, 0491 680 977

27 - 28 March

Torrumbarry Fishing Classic, Murray River near Torrumbarry, 0457 222 320

Saturday, 27 March

Murray to Moyn - starts in Echuca, 0427 681 744

Rochester Town Market - Rochester Town Hall & Market Reserve, 0409 075 074

Earthhour 'Spot the Glider' Squirrel Glider Tour - Campaspe River Reserve, Rochester, 0408 753 344

Sunday, 28 March

Tongala's Beersheba Rod, Custom & Classic Car & Bike Show - Tongala Soundshell, Mangan St, 0499 384 272

Teddy Bears Picnic - Kerrabee Soundshell, Moama, 1300 087 004

Friday, 2 April

Echuca Rodeo - Echuca Rotary Park, Rose St, 0457 287 128

Saturday, 3 April

Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival - High St, Rushworth, 0402 576 103

Echuca Farmers' Market - Aquatic Reserve, Echuca, 0437 746 459

Makers Market - Echuca Moama Uniting Church, Hare St, Echuca, 0429 801 342

8 - 11 April

Cinema Pop Up, Kerabee Sound Shell, Moama,

Sunday, 4 April

Echuca Harness Racing Club meet - Frank Ryan Raceway, Simmie St, Echuca, 5482 2036

Saturday, 10 April

Rushworth Speedway Race Meet - Rushworth Speedway, Nine Mile Rd, 0491 680 977

Sunday, 11 April

Girgarre Farmers' Produce and Craft Market - Girgarre Memorial Hall & Park Reserve, 5854 6283

Stanhope Monster Garage Sale - Birdwood Ave, 5857 2866

Saturday, 17 April

Echuca Farmers' Market - Aquatic Reserve, Echuca, 0437 746 459

REHF Rushworth Market - High St, Rushworth, 0402 576 103

18 - 23 April

Campaspe Valley Bowls Division Victorian Women's Bowls Carnival - Various clubs across shire, 0409 949 008

Monday, 19 April

Echuca Races, Echuca Racecourse, Scott Rd, 5482 2487

24 - 25 April

Lockington Scarecrow Competition - Lockington, 0499 170 329

Saturday, 24 April

Rochester Town Market - Rochester Town Hall & Market Reserve, 0409 075 074

Rushworth Speedway Race Meet - Rushworth Speedway, Nine Mile Rd, 0491 680 977

Saturday, 1 May

Echuca Farmers' Market - Aquatic Reserve, Echuca, 0437 746 459

Sunday, 2 May

Echuca Moama Bridal & Events presents Tie the Knot Festival - Echuca Racecourse, Scott Rd, 0409 173 376

'I am, you are, we are Australian'

Australia Day Awards celebrate the outstanding contribution of people within our community. It is an opportunity to formally recognise those who have dedicated their time and achieved great things.

This year, awards were presented in the Echuca, Rochester, Kyabram, Tongala and Rushworth districts, in two categories: Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year. Additionally there were overall category award winners as follows:



Citizen of the Year Hannah Thompson

A long standing volunteer in the Rochester community, Hannah has been the recipient of many community awards. She suffered a significant stroke at the age of 23 which left her with an enduring disability but this has not stopped her from helping out whenever and wherever she can.

Hannah has been collecting for The Royal Children's Hospital in the Good Friday Appeal since she was 9 years old and helps her Dad deliver Meals on Wheels. She sells raffle tickets for the bowling club every Friday night when the meals are on.

Hannah's accolades don't stop there, she has been co-editor for the Uniting Church newsletter since 2005 and helps out at St Joseph's Primary School with reading and other tasks. She has a great relationship with patients at the local hospital and knows what they like to buy from the lolly trolley. Hannah brings sunshine into what can sometimes be a grey day.



Young Citizen of the Year Jack Norris

Nominated for his significant contribution to the Kyabram community, Jack Norris takes great pride in representing the young people of Kyabram.

Striving to make the community a better place for his peers, Jack is a strong voice for the local youth and serves on the College Council at his local school, Kyabram P-12.

Jack is also a member of Council's Youth Advisory Group and has been a very active member in the consultation process informing the development of the Kyabram Community Place Based Plan.

Jack was awarded the Australian Defence Force 2019 Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award for being a young leader in the Kyabram community. He was also accepted into the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program for the class of 2021, an academic enrichment program for high-achieving students.



2021 Australia Day Award Winners

Echuca

Citizen of the year -
Denis Jackman

Young citizen of the year -
Martyn Currey

Rochester

Citizen of the year -
Hannah Thompson

Young citizen of the year -
Yazmin Hayes

Kyabram

Citizen of the year -
Denise Gemmill

Young citizen of the year -
Jack Norris

Tongala

Citizen of the year -
Sarah Tee

Young citizen of the year -
Not awarded

Rushworth

Citizen of the year -
Leah Huggard & Christine Brown

Young citizen of the year -
Julie Habegger

Project update



At the half way mark of the financial year, Council has delivered around \$12 million in capital works across the shire. Major programs in road resealing, resheeting, road rehabilitation and kerb and channel are all on track to be completed by the end of June.

Council is also continuing to scope and design additional projects funded by stimulus grants provided by Federal and State governments in response to COVID-19.

Below is a snapshot of works in the project cycle:



Shire Irrigation Program

Delivery

Irrigation works in Girgarre Progress Park have been completed as part of the shire wide parks and open spaces irrigation renewal program.



Rushworth, Streetscape project

Procurement

The contract for the streetscape works for High Street has been awarded. Planning is underway to stage construction, mindful of the Easter Parade..



Echuca, Service Street Kerb and Channel

Complete

Kerb and channel (gutter) works have been completed in Service Street, Echuca as part of the shire wide program.



Rushworth, Rushworth Murchison Rail Trail

Design

Design has started for the rail trail between the Rushworth township and Channel Inlet Road, bordering the City of Greater Shepparton.



Kyabram, South Boundary Road Shared Path

Delivery

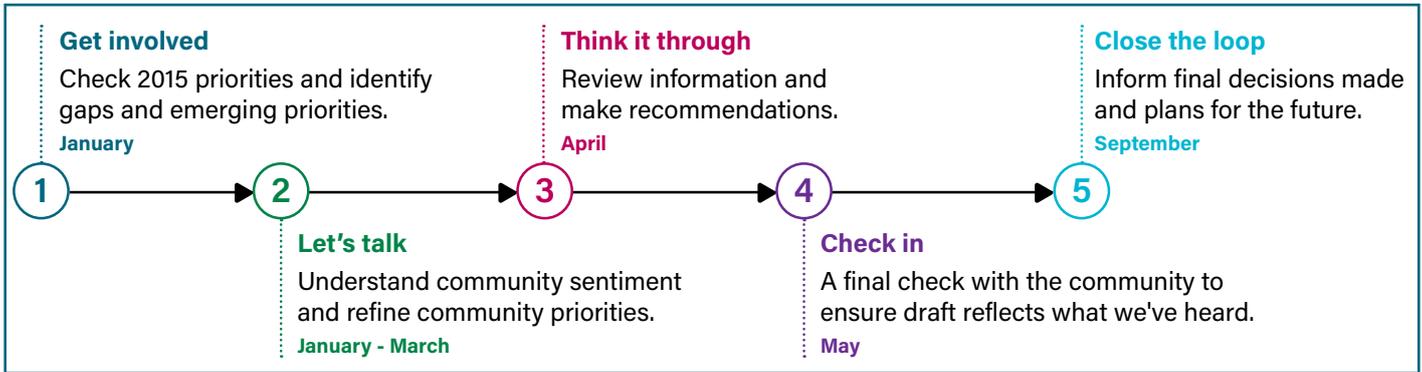
Works to replace the existing shared path on South Boundary Road are underway. Works are planned to be finished by the end of February.

Campaspe: Thriving Together

You can help shape the future of Campaspe!

Council has started an extensive community consultation program, where you can provide your feedback about what you think Council needs to focus on and prioritise.

This will happen in five steps:



In 2015, Council in conjunction with its communities set a vision for the future, 'We want to be strong, supportive, vibrant and sustainable.'

Now five years later it's time to ask the community again what it aspires to and what are the issues that Council must address with and for its communities.

The project is not about what you will see next week, or next year, it's about looking to the future, thinking outside the square, thinking long term.

Community feedback sessions are underway, already held in Stanhope and Koyuga, with more sessions planned for the coming month:

Township	Date	Time	Location
Echuca	Monday, 1 March	7pm	Echuca Civic Centre
Rochester / Nanneella / Strathallan	Wednesday, 3 March	7pm	Rochester Hall
Echuca	Thursday, 4 March	7pm	TBA
Tongala	Wednesday, 10 March	7pm	Tongala Hall
Girgarre	Monday, 15 March	7pm	Girgarre Hall
Kyabram	Wednesday, 17 March	7pm	Kyabram Senior Citizens Hall
Lockington	Thursday, 18 March	7pm	Lockington Community Hall
Colbinabbin / Toolleen / Corop	Monday, 22 March	7pm	Colbinabbin Hall
Gunbower	Wednesday, 24 March	7pm	Gunbower Hall
Kyvalley	Thursday, 25 March	7pm	Kyvalley Hall
Rushworth	Monday, 29 March	7pm	Rushworth Hall

Staff will also be out and about in communities, conducting targeted interviews, and surveys in the streets. An online survey is also now open. Residents who complete the survey have the chance to win an iPad. The survey closes Friday, 2 April.

All members of the community are encouraged to be involved, to help shape the future of the shire.

Council wants to hear from people of all ages and interests to ensure a broad range of views and ideas on a wide variety of topics are considered, as well as identifying the challenges for now and into the future.

Conversation kits are also available if your group wants to get involved.

For more information and to access to the survey, visit our webpage:

www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/futurecampaspe



Resilient Rochester

The Rochester community is now equipped with resources to help them better understand flood predictions and warnings, thanks to the Resilient Rochester Project.

The project addressed flood risk to individual properties and provided residents with valuable and easy to follow information that will help them better plan for, and respond to, flood events.

Eighty per cent of Rochester businesses and residents were significantly impacted by the unprecedented floods of January 2011 which caused devastation to the town. Extensive work has since been



The Campaspe River in flood at Rochester in 2011.

undertaken by the community, Council, and partner agencies to reduce the impact of future flood events on the town and to improve flood warnings.

Rochester SES Unit Controller, Judith Gledhill said the combined effort has provided valuable flood information and flood mapping for the town.

"If everyone is aware of their flood risk and what they can do to prepare, they can reduce the impact on themselves and their family. We are safer if we are prepared and all work together," Ms Gledhill said.

The new automated Rochester Town Gauge provides water level information in real-time which helps the public and emergency services monitor water levels.

The project delivered a variety of tools and information including:

- Information packs for residents and business owners including property specific flood height data linked directly to the Rochester Town Gauge
- Flood markers at various locations around town which are a record of historical floods

- Flood information signs on each side of the river
- A series of short videos, available soon, to explain the project and to celebrate the resilience of the Rochester community, featuring some familiar local faces
- Flood education material including the 'Bag It, Block It, Lift it & Leave' flood jingle.

The project has now carried out all the recommendations of the Flood Management Plan and was partly funded through the Natural Disaster Resilience Grant Scheme. Campaspe Shire led the project in partnership with local and regional VICSES and the North Central CMA.

"The project enhances the capacity, capability, and resilience of the Rochester community. When a flood warning is issued, residents can now understand what it means and how they should respond," Ms Gledhill said.

"Major floods in Rochester are rare, however it is important the community understands their individual flood risk and have a plan."



Rochester SES Unit Controller, Judith Gledhill checking one of the local flood markers.

Council Meetings

Council meetings are streamed live on Council's website. Only a limited number of people can attend the meeting and the agenda is available the Friday before each meeting.

Please refer to Council's website for full details.

Upcoming meetings



Register Your Community Group

Free website listing available to community groups in Campaspe Shire.



Register now at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au

WickED competition winners

How you recycle @ home!

Campaspe school students once again proved their commitment to leading the way in doing their bit for their environment.

The WickED (Waste in Campaspe - Know Educate Do) behaviour change program held a "how you recycle @ home" competition during National Recycling Week in November 2020. Students were asked to submit a video or photo showing how they recycle at home. The competition was open to all schools across Campaspe.

The award winners were:

- Louis Taylor (age 6 - Prep) – Junior primary school winner from St Mary's Primary School Echuca
- Pryce McMaster (age 10 – Grade 4) – Senior primary school winner Twin Rivers Primary School Echuca
- Bronte Tabone (age 14 – Year 8) – Secondary school winner from St Joseph's College Echuca



Remember "know your recycling – because what you do makes a difference". For more information on recycling please visit Council's website.

Grown in compost projects

Through Council's 'Give a Scrap Program', more than 50 trailer loads of Biomix Compost was donated to 10 schools and 6 community groups in November 2020. Compost was made available free of charge through an application process to all eligible schools, early year's services and community group gardening projects in Campaspe (including schools in Moama). All projects that were able to demonstrate benefits to the wider Campaspe community were approved.

The following community groups and schools are currently planting and tending their garden projects using Biomix compost:

Schools: Echuca East Primary, Echuca Twin Rivers, Rushworth P-12, River City Christian College, Stanhope Primary, Tongala Primary, St Augustine's College, Gunbower Primary School, Lockington Consolidated School and St Joseph's Primary School, Rochester

Community Groups: Lockington Bush Nursing, Lockington Neighbourhood House, Kyabram Men's Shed, Rotary Club of Rochester/Rochester Community House, Rushworth Community House and Strathallan Landcare

The Kyabram Men's Shed is using the compost to feed the plant beds inside their polytunnels and outdoor beds.



The beds are used to grow a variety of vegetables and fruit, which are distributed to members, regardless of whether they work in the garden or not. For some members, this ensures they have a regular and free supply of fresh vegetables and fruit. Well done Kyabram Men's Shed!

Lockington Consolidated School is creating a dreamtime garden with their Grade 5/6 students, including research and construction of the project as part of their Indigenous Studies unit. The compost will be used in this garden as well as in the school veggie gardens.

Biomix compost is made locally at

a commercial compost facility near Stanhope; it meets the Australian Standard (AS4454) and is certified organic. More than 4,700 tonnes of food and garden waste has been composted by Campaspe residents with green bins since the start of the 'Give a Scrap' program in July 2019. By using Biomix compost, made from Campaspe green bins, the school and community group garden projects will see improvements in soil health and garden productivity.

Well done to all our amazing community groups and schools for providing healthy gardens that benefit our community!

Service profile

#CampaspeCareers

Quarry Operations

Council owns and operates two quarries, one in Mt Scobie (near Kyabram) and the other at Nanneella. The quarries remove rock (mudstone) and gravel from the ground and use the materials to produce road base, crushed rock and spalls (uncrushed rock).

Mudstone varies in hardness and is used for multiple purposes. The quarry team produces road making materials, used by Council as well as by private customers.

Council uses rock for resheeting gravel roads and for sealing road shoulders.

Farmers use the softer rock for cow pads and cow lanes. Harder rock is used by farmers and residents for driveways and access tracks. Spalls are commonly used for irrigation purposes – lining channels and drainage.

The Quarry Operation team of six has almost 100 years of combined experience in quarrying, loader operation, crushing equipment,



The quarry wall with some loose material ready for processing.

explosives, diesel mechanics and sales.

The quarry receives waste concrete and bricks from across the shire and beyond. Their next major project is to process this material to make a recycled crushed concrete product.

To collect material, tarped trucks are required for private purchases, no trailers are permitted. Council can

arrange rock and cartage by request.

Quarry products and a price list is available on Council's website www.campaspe.vic.gov.au (search 'quarry').

On average, approximately 1,200 tonnes of road base is produced daily.

Crush that rock

The quarry has recently purchased a new Metso LT220 secondary crusher, replacing the existing 20 year old machine which had limited capabilities. The old machine finally reached the end of its life.

The new crusher is track mounted in one unit and the Quarry team is able to move it around the quarry site with ease - a major improvement for operations. The machine's mobility reduces the time to set it up ready for operations and transport costs will significantly reduce, with only one machine to move.

The internal mechanics of the crusher are cone shaped which is perfect for the mudstone material as it doesn't break the rock down as much as some of the other crushers.



The unit has a large 5' x 18' screen and three decks providing the ability to make three products at once if required. Aggregate products can now be produced which was not possible

in the past.

A 20 metre track mounted stacking conveyor is expected to arrive shortly which will stockpile the rock, reducing loader movements.