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Cover image –“Play time” by Fiona McKiernan.



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Campaspe Times Newsletter

September 2020

Spring is in the air

During these uncertain times we are enduring, it is refreshing to see trees in blossom and the sun shining.

Now is often the time for many to do some spring cleaning, clear rubbish and clutter from around the home. It is also the perfect time to get outside and tidy up your property in preparation for summer and the fast approaching fire season. Removing fallen branches, leaves and twigs from around the house and clearing gutters is a great place to start. You can read more about spring cleaning and preparing for the fire season on pages 6 and 7.

The ongoing impacts of the coronavirus pandemic are evident, and Council has reviewed existing financial support measures and introduced some additional support measures to assist the community during these challenging times. Read more on page 3.

Nominations for the 2021 Australia Day Awards are now open. This is an

opportunity to pay tribute to people within our community who have made a significant contribution to enrich the lives of others. More information and how to nominate is available on Council's website.

Council will benefit from an additional \$2.6 million in funding from the Federal Government to upgrade local roads and community infrastructure through a new funding program. A list of eligible projects across the shire has been prioritised, including gravel road resheeting and road shoulder works, new and upgrades to culverts, street trees, road line marking, footpaths and lighting. Read more about this on page 4.

I congratulate the community on the ongoing support given to each other at school, in business and at home during stage three restrictions and I look forward to sunnier days ahead.

Cr Adrian Weston
Mayor



COVID restrictions have closed Council meetings to the public since March, now conducted through video conferencing. Meetings remain available to the community through live streaming.

Recycling contamination

Get to know your recycling today – because what you do makes a difference.

Campaspe Shire residents are being asked to make a difference to the amount of rubbish sent to landfill by getting to know their recycling.

The state-wide 'Know Your Recycling' campaign is being launched in Campaspe in September. Developed by Sustainability Victoria, the initiative aims to help residents confidently know the right bin to put things in.

With 97* per cent of residents committed to recycling, the right steps have already been taken to get it right, with a focus to reduce what ends up in landfill.

The campaign will be rolled out over several months and will provide a range of information to help residents improve their recycling.

(*source - 2020 WickED survey)

TOP TIP- Remember to keep recycling out of plastic bags and place recyclables loose in the recycling bin.

Common household items that can go in the yellow bin include steel and aerosol cans, foil containers,

aluminium cans, glass bottles and jars, paper products, newspapers, magazines, phonebooks, cardboard, hard plastic containers and bottles with recycling symbols 1-6. These items are sorted at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Echuca, where they continue on the recycling

Recycling Bin



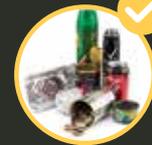
Paper, cardboard & cartons



Plastic bottles & containers



Glass bottles & jars



Aluminium cans, steel cans & foil

Also ok:

- Aerosol cans
- Plastic punnets
- Foil trays
- Junk mail



Not on the list?

More at campaspe.vic.gov.au

journey.

If you aren't sure what goes in what bin, the A-Z guide on Council's website is a good place to find a detailed guide on what can and can't be recycled.

www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/AZguide

Resilient Rochester

Rochester is prone to flooding due to its location on the Campaspe River floodplain, the Resilient Rochester Project provides the local community with the knowledge and tools to plan for what they will do to minimise the impact.

The project will assist the community in better understanding flood predictions and warnings, individual flood risk and better plan for and respond to, future flood events.

When a flood warning is issued in the future, the Rochester community will be able to readily understand what it means for them, know where to obtain information relevant to their individual needs and then decide what actions they need to take.

Thank you to SES Rochester and the Northern Central Catchment Management Authority who partnered with Council for the project.



Financial support extended

Council has extended a range of financial support measures to assist ratepayers, residents, businesses and community groups in response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Financial support measures were initially introduced in April, in response to the first wave of the pandemic. With the reintroduction of stage 3 restrictions for regional Victoria in August. Council recently reviewed those actions and identified a range of additional measures that would assist with ongoing support.

The impact of coronavirus on our communities and the broader region is concerning and Council recognises the important role it can play in supporting the community and local businesses, alleviating some of the financial pressures being experienced.

With the many unknowns as a result of COVID-19, future measures may be required, and these will be considered as the pandemic continues.



COVID-19 Financial support measures

Rate payments

Interest will be waived for the period 25 March 2020 to the end of the current financial year, 30 June 2021.

Debt collection processes

Suspended until 30 June 2021.

Public space trading permits

Continue to waive, on a monthly pro rata basis, the fees related to the 2020/21 public spaces trading permits for the display of goods, A-frames and footpath trading, if businesses have been impacted by the State Government Restricted Activities direction, until the direction is revoked.

Child care

Waive the daily gap fee when allowance absences are being applied for children unable to attend the service.

Off street parking permits

Adjust the second quarter payment, on a pro rata basis, for the period impacted by stage 3 restrictions. Refund, on a pro rata basis, the annual off street parking permits paid in advance for the period impacted by and at the conclusion of stage 3 restrictions.

Paid car parking

Parking meters will not be in

operation from 19 August 2020, until the stage 3 restrictions are lifted. Time restrictions will still apply.

Echuca Holiday Park

Waive, on a month by month pro rata basis, the annual site holder fees at the Echuca Holiday Park, until stage 3 restrictions are revoked.

Food, beauty and accommodation premises

Waive one-half of the annual registration renewal fee for the 2021 calendar year, for businesses classed as Food Act premises or businesses under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act (beauty and accommodation premises).

Caravan park registrations

Waive one-sixth of caravan park registration fee (a 3 year fee).

There are a number of additional financial support measures in place to support community groups occupying Council buildings and facilities through User Agreements, rental payments for Council buildings and facilities, with a full list and details on Council's website www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/covidfinance

Improve Your Rural Property Landscape

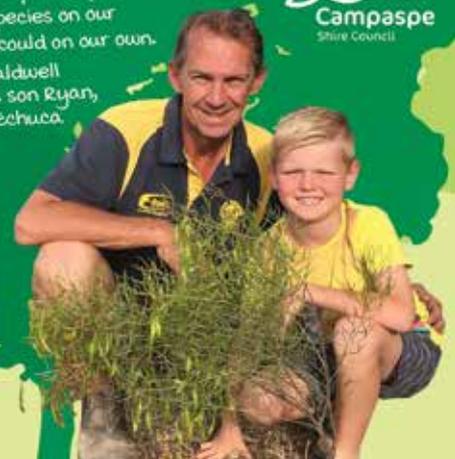
All Campaspe Shire rural zoned ratepayers are eligible to purchase a limited number of plants at a subsidised rate through the Rural Tree Scheme.

Available until 1 November, or until the allocated funds have been spent.

Order forms available from all customer service centres, the Campaspe Shire website or can be mailed out on request.

Now Open!

“The tree scheme helped us plant more indigenous species on our property than we could on our own.”
- Jaye Caldwell with his son Ryan, Echuca



Maximising funding opportunities

The Federal Government recently announced a new \$500 million Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. The program allows local councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects, supporting jobs and the resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council received \$2,622,795 through the program, which has been allocated to 52 specific projects to be completed in the coming financial year. The following have been approved under this program:



\$1,742,795 - 20 projects to provide improvements to gravel shoulders, gravel roads and drainage culverts across the shire.



\$80,000 - Works guided by the draft Urban Tree Management Plan with the introduction of street trees.



\$100,000 - Installing shared path lighting in Echuca.



\$250,000 - Upgrading Collins Street by the Colbinabbin silos.



\$450,000 - 28 projects to complete line marking of 'wide streets' and improve our footpath network by connecting missing links.

Australia Day Nominations

Now
Open

Nominations for the 2021 Australia Day Awards are now open.

Details and nomination forms can be downloaded from Council's website and are available from all customer service centres.

Nominations must be submitted to local Australia Day committees by Friday, 4 December.



Campaspe Arts Trail

We are very fortunate to live in Campaspe Shire, home to creative and very talented artists, art galleries, unique public art displays and colourful murals.

Council has developed an Arts Trail map highlighting these 'must see' destinations. It's sure to inspire the inner creative in us all.

The map can be downloaded from Council's website and when the State Government restrictions are lifted, we encourage you to explore our wonderful region.

Got a full day up your sleeve?

Start your day in Echuca. Grab a coffee and browse the town's many galleries at various Arts Spaces across Echuca's Port Precinct.

Then, jump in the car and cruise east to the rural township of Tongala where you can view more than 50 murals scattered throughout the streets.

Next stop is not far down the road, to Kyabram where you can explore three exceptional gallery spaces – one at the historic Town Hall which is solely dedicated to fashion – a must see.

From Kyabram take the scenic drive south to Colbinabbin via Stanhope where you will spot the Brudenell Street art space and the Fonterra factory mural. In Colbinabbin, the impressive six silo art pieces by Tim Bowtell will surely take your breath away – so bring a picnic lunch, or stop in at the hotel.

Allow the hillside backdrop to guide you west to Rochester where their



outdoor art welcomes you. Park your car and take advantage of the walking tracks, stretching your legs whilst absorbing the town's iconic murals and silo art. A great destination to also shop, eat and drink.

Finally, head back north towards the Murray River to Gunbower. Refreshments await you alongside the impressive hotel art.

Only half a day?

Break the towns down via:

- North west south – Gunbower, Echuca, Rochester, Colbinabbin

- North south east – Tongala, Kyabram, Stanhope, Colbinabbin

Outdoor only?

Some of Campaspe's iconic art pieces can easily be viewed from the comfort of your car. Try the following route:

- Gunbower Hotel
- Rochester silos, Iddles Lane & Mural Park
- Colbinabbin silos
- Stanhope Fonterra
- Tongala street art

Council Meetings

Council meetings are currently being conducted online during COVID restrictions – please refer to our website to see if COVID restrictions still apply in October.

Residents are encouraged to lodge a question online, which will be answered during the question time portion of the meeting. Meetings are held in Echuca and start at 5pm and are streamed live on Council's website. The agenda is available on our website the Friday before each meeting.

Upcoming meetings

15 SEP

29 SEP

13 OCT

17 NOV

Register Your Community Group

Free website listing available to community groups in Campaspe Shire.



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

Get ready for spring!

Spring is here, which means it's time to get out and into the garden.

Using a green bin for your food and garden waste reduces the amount of organic waste sent to landfill and recovers a valuable resource that is composted and reused.

It's the perfect time for properties within the town boundaries who don't already have a green bin, to get one. Bins come in two sizes to suit each residence - a 240 litre or 140 litre option.

Green bins are collected fortnightly (on the alternate week to your recycling bin). The cost for this service is \$55 a year and residents who opt in for a green bin will receive a lower rate for their red (waste) bin charge.

When a green bin is used for food and garden waste, contents are being diverted from the red bin, reducing a property's waste to landfill. Council also provides the option of reducing the size of your red bin from a 140 litre to a smaller 80 litre red bin, which saves you money and effectively offsets the cost of the green bin service.

What DOES go in your green bin

Food & Garden Waste Bin

- Seafood, meat & bones
- Vegetable & fruit scraps
- Bread, pasta & rice
- Paper towel, tissues & nappies
- Tea bags & coffee grounds
- Garden prunings, grass, weeds, sticks

Also ok:

- Egg shells
- Animal poo
- ONLY compostable bags (AS 4736)

What does NOT go in your green bin

Food & Garden Waste Bin

- NO PLASTIC BAGS
- Biodegradable bags can NOT be used
- ONLY compostable bags (AS 4736) break down naturally
- Plastics
- Food packaging including cling wrap
- Nappies
- Glass

For a full list of what goes in your green bin, visit campaspe.vic.gov.au and click on Food & garden waste under the Live tab.

Since 1 July 2019, when food scraps were introduced into the green bin service, residents with a green bin have diverted more than 3,700 tonnes of food and garden waste from

landfill. With an average contamination rate of just 0.25% residents are indeed putting the right things in their green bin.

A big thank you and congratulations to the Campaspe community for "giving a scrap" to their green bin and reducing waste to landfill!



Vivid Work Crew members delivering compostable bags.

Food scraps have been included in Council's green bin service since 1 July 2019 and 71 per cent of households are now on board.

Before the green bin service expanded, food and garden organics made up half of Campaspe's waste that was going to landfill. Reducing this was the driving factor behind the change.

To celebrate the one year anniversary of the expanded service, Council delivered two free rolls of compostable bags to all new green bin services ordered in the month of July.

Council also partnered with Vivid to deliver two free rolls of compostable bags in August to a random selection of residents with a green bin service.

Thanks again for giving a scrap!

Prepare for fire season

The sun is out and the warmer weather is now upon us. It's the time for spring cleaning and clearing out clutter. Now is also the ideal time to get outdoors and start preparing for the fire season.

First and foremost – clean up. Prepare your property to prevent fires over the warmer weather and reduce fuel by clearing long grass, fallen leaves and twigs from around the house. Remove dead undergrowth and fallen branches which can also be hazardous.

Firewood and flammable household items can also be hazardous and removing these from around the house and yard could make all the difference.

Other things you can do to prepare for the fire season include:

- keeping grass cut to a low level
- cleaning leaves out of gutters
- using soapy water to check barbecue gas fittings for leaks.

Residents are encouraged to report any potential risks, such as overgrown empty house blocks, to Council. Following an inspection, staff can issue a fire prevention notice, calling on the landowner to cut the grass to a specified height. If not actioned, Council is able to do the work and charge back to the landowner.

To assist landowners in their clean-up efforts, Council's transfer stations will accept household garden organics free of charge at a date yet to be confirmed, with dates dependent on weather conditions.

Follow us on Facebook for an announcement date, coming soon.



#MyCampaspe photo competition

Capture the essence of where you live in this year's #MyCampaspe photo competition, now open until 7 October.

Send in snaps of your favourite places, faces or special times to illustrate what you like best about the Campaspe Shire region, and your photo could be featured in our

2021 calendar.

Up to five photos can be entered by each person with each winning entry receiving \$50, a calendar and bragging rights for a full year.

Selected photos from the competition will form part of Council's photographic library and

feature in promotional publications, social media and reports.

The application process has been improved, with all submissions now online at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/photocomp. Users can even submit their photos and entry directly from their smartphone.



Service profile

Building Services

The role of the Building Unit is varied, ensuring developments meet the necessary regulations for the benefit of the community for health and safety, amenity and accessibility, and energy efficiency. Working under a variety of Acts, Regulations and Codes, the team provide advice to ensure requirements are met in line with a uniform set of technical provisions.

Council's Manager Planning & Building, leads a highly trained team of Building Surveyors, Building Inspectors and experienced technical and administration staff.

There are many aspects to the tasks carried out by the Building Services team – it's not just about approving a permit to build a house. The team also is responsible for:

Essential Safety Measures (ESM)

Ensuring commercial properties meet compliance with emergency access, adequate signage, pathways etc. This is an owner's obligation; however, Council has a role in ensuring compliance.

Report and consent

The process for consulting with, and obtaining the approval of, a reporting authority (Municipal Building Surveyor) when building work may affect assets, infrastructure or the amenity of the community. Certain aspects of the Building Regulations may require consent before having a building permit issued. These include frontage setbacks, height of buildings, walls

#campaspeservices



Temporarily relocated due to COVID restrictions, Andrew and Jacqui discuss an application.

on boundaries, building near or over easements.

Occupancy permits for events

A place of public entertainment (POPE) is a building or place where a public event or meeting is held. When an event exceeds a certain size or an admission fee is charged, a POPE is required.

A temporary occupancy permit (TOP) is an occupancy permit for temporary structures which are listed prescribed structures in the building regulations.

These permits are required when an event attracts a large number of people, increasing the public safety risk.

Building permits

Under State legislation a building permit is required before starting most building works. The definition of 'building work' in the legislation includes a new building, demolition and/or alteration. In many cases the

builder or architect/draftsperson obtains the permit on behalf of the property owner. This is a service provided by Council and Council's website provides guidance about when a building permit is required.

A building permit will specify what inspections are required and/or when a certificate of final inspection is necessary on completion of the building work. Building permit scan be obtained via a private surveyor who must operate to the same codes and standards as Council.

Swimming Pools

In Victoria, swimming pools and spas with a water depth of more than 300mm must have safety barriers around them. This is to restrict access of young children to the pool area and improve safety.

If you have any building service queries, please call the team at Council on 1300 666 535.

Have you registered your pool or spa?



New Victorian Government safety laws require **all landowners** to register their swimming pool and spa **by 1 November**.

All **permanent, relocatable** and **temporary** pools and spas with water deeper than 300mm **must be registered** at campaspe.vic.gov.au or by calling 1300 666 535.