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Cover image: 'Brown Falcon Hunting Mice' on the Patho Plains. One of the winning 2021 #MyCampaspe photo competition entries by Noel Ruedin.



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Campaspe Times Newsletter

February 2022

Welcome to 2022

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2022. We were hoping for a fresh start to the year, moving on from the pandemic, but as many sectors/services have had staff shortages due to positive tests or close contact isolation, has meant many businesses have closed, or operated with restricted trade. Postponement of the iconic Southern 80 Ski Race is an example with limited emergency services to assist. As case numbers decline, it is hoped business can return to a more stabilised operating environment, who knows what this will look like?

The positive news is that many events have still been held, in line with restrictions. Girgarre Moosic Muster, Echuca Moama Multi Sports Weekend, Australia Day, and coming up, Riverboats Music Festival – all relying on our many community groups to make them possible. Congratulations to the recipients of the Australia Day Awards (see pages

2 &3) and our six new Campaspe Shire Australian Citizens.

For Councillors, our priority is now to progress the development of the 2022-23 Budget. Campaspe Shire Council is a complex, \$80+ million dollar business, delivering more than 100 services to the community every day. As Councillors, our role is to set a responsible budget in the best interests of residents as well as the organisation's long-term financial sustainability. Before Christmas, we invited proposals from the community which will feed into our deliberations. A draft budget will go out for community for comment in April.

I wish everyone all the very best for the year ahead and I look forward to seeing more of your great community work, making our shire the fantastic place that it is.

**Cr Chrissy Weller
Mayor**



Mayor Chrissy Weller with Councillors Rob Amos and Colleen Gates at the Victorian Scouts Jamboree at the Elmore Events Centre.



I am... You are...

The Australia Day Awards recognise and reward the individuals and community groups that have made exceptional contributions to our communities. Each of the five local districts have their own Australia Day Committee, which is solely comprised of local community members. This committee elects their district award winners. A representative from each committee then joins the Mayor to elect the overall Campaspe winners. Congratulations to our 2022 Australia Day Award winners!



Citizen of the Year Mitchell Bull

Since moving to Kyabram in 2017, Mitchell Bull has become a recognised and respected name. Serving as a Senior Constable at the Kyabram Police Station, Mitchell is a born leader and a protector of community values. But when he hangs up his holster for the day, Mitchell's community work doesn't remain at the station. He puts his time and energy into the development of numerous youth and community engagement projects, most notably, the Kyabram Blue Light Program. Driven by Mitchell's enthusiasm and passion, the Blue Light Program has been transformed from completely non-functional and on the brink of collapse, to now having raised \$80,000 in grants and donations. The program has since developed youth discos and event celebrations, the Ky Fit Program, the construction of a gymnasium at Kyabram P-12 College – the list goes on.

But raising the Blue Light Program from the ashes wasn't enough for Mitchell. He has been a volunteer of the Kyabram Scouting Group, an assistant coach of the Tongala Football Netball Club and a committee member of Kyabram Community & Learning Centre. He has formed strong relationships with schools, care providers, businesses, stakeholders, residents – and he does most of this in his own time, without any expectation of acknowledgement or remuneration.

Mitchell is a truly worthy recipient of the Citizen of the Year award. His impact is evident when you see the increased numbers of young people now involved in events and activities that they previously did not have access to, or had no desire to be involved in. As a pioneer of youth engagement in Kyabram, it is of no doubt that many of Kyabram's youngest residents look up to Mitchell and consider him their role model.



Young Citizen of the Year Dimity Pearson

Dimity Pearson has a dream – to make a difference in her community. As a Rochester local, she's determined to make young people in Campaspe Shire heard and acknowledged. Dimity is an integral member of the Campaspe Youth Advisory Group (YAG), inspiring the group since joining in early 2020. When the pandemic reared its head, Dimity was a source of support to other YAG members, encouraging them to continue with their good work despite COVID induced setbacks. Even when the pandemic disrupted her employment, which resulted in her juggling several jobs, Dimity was unrelentingly committed to her voluntary roles.

Dimity was chosen, along with a fellow YAG member, to deliver a presentation to Council's councillors and executive management group. She worked tirelessly to ensure key youth issues, ideas and recommendations were recognised. The discussions following this presentation has resulted in youth participation becoming a Council priority.

In 2021, Dimity nominated to join the We Hear YOUth project. Along with six other young volunteers from across the Loddon Mallee region, Dimity helped to align visions for the future youth of our region. Dimity's dedication, diligence, and downright determination has helped to create a brighter future for Campaspe Shire's young people of tomorrow.

...We are Australian



Wirima in Rotary Park Committee (L-R) Eliza Watson holding Meg, Rebekah Hocking, Heather Darbyshire, Naomi Riordan and Jeanne Aitken.

Community Group of the Year Wirima in Rotary Park Committee

If five women from Rochester were going to change the world, it would probably be the ladies of the Wirima in Rotary Park Committee. All from different walks of life, but with one shared goal – to develop Wirima (the Dja Dja Wurung word for 'play'), a nature based play space in Rochester's Rotary Park. Across four years, the committee has consulted with community members, schools, the kindergarten and early childhood services, the local indigenous community, families of children with additional needs and just about everyone in between. Their vision was a play space without mass produced plastic playground equipment, but with logs, rocks, sand, and a sensory, natural environment. A space where families could stop and relax, a place where visitors could bring their children.

The committee faced a steep learning curve, writing design briefs, researching sustainable resources, interviewing landscape architects, and negotiating through different constraints. They applied for funding through the Murray Darling Basin Grants and through Council's grant programs, both of which were successful. They put in hour after hour to create Wirima into a reality. Thanks to their individual skills and their devotion to the project, the collective dream has created an enduring space for Rochester families for years to come.



District Award Winners

Kyabram

Citizen of the Year – Mitchell Bull

Young Citizen of the Year – Jack Freeman

Community Group of the Year – 1st Kyabram Scouts

Rochester

Citizen of the Year – Bev Hoffman

Young Citizen of the Year – Dimity Pearson

Community Group of the Year – Wirima in Rotary Park Committee

Rushworth

Citizen of the Year – Deanne Brown

Tongala

Citizen of the Year – Ann Church



INITIATION

PROJECT
PLANNING

DESIGN

PROCUREMENT

DELIVERY

REVIEW AND CLOSURE
(COMPLETED)

Project Updates

Roads, footpaths, bridges, drains, buildings and open spaces are continually being renewed as part of the annual Capital Works Program. The following are a small selection of this year's projects, all at various stages.



Graham Road, Kyabram

Delivery

Construction is due to start to resurface a 600 metre section of Graham Road, east of Bolitho Road.



Storage Shed, Colbinabbin Recreation Reserve

Complete

Installation of the new storage shed at Colbinabbin Recreation Reserve has been completed.



Church Street, Girgarre

Complete

Kerb and channel renewal works have been completed in Girgarre's Church Street.



Lions Park, Gunbower

Delivery

Works have started on the redevelopment of Lions Park, which will include a natural play space, fishing and kayak jetty, barbeque and picnic areas and much more.



Swamp Bridge, Mitiamo & Grogan Bridge, Runnymede

Complete

Bridge repair works have been completed at Swamp and Grogan bridges.

Planning Tongala's Future

The development of Tongala's Place Based Plan is not unlike the phrase - full steam ahead! In January, eight community members nominated to Tongala's Place Based Planning Governance Committee. Each member of the committee will bring together different skills, connections with different community groups and their different perspectives. This committee will focus on supporting community engagement, ensuring feedback is represented, monitoring progress, and ultimately, authorising the plan once finalised on behalf of the community. Regular meetings will be held between the committee and Council staff to advance the Tongala Place Based Plan.

What is a Place Based Plan? It's an approach to guiding community development implemented by Council back in 2018. Since then, Tongala is the fourth township to develop a township Place Based Plan. It is a collaborative partnership between Council and the community, identifying the towns physical and social assets, capitalising on these, and making them sustainable. Tongala will be the first town in Campaspe to have a Township Facility Plan embedded within its Place Based Plan. This plan will review Council-owned building and land assets to review and recommend how best to use them now and into the future.



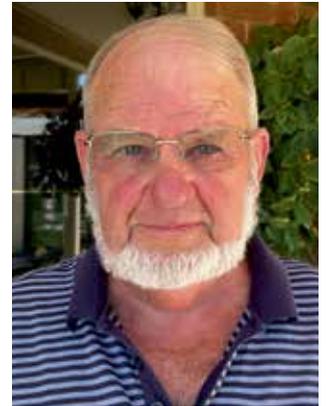
Jason Kelley
(Co-Chairperson)



Tyler Stagg
(Co-Chairperson)



Kay Fairchild



Murray Ross



James Stokes



Michael Thompson



Amber Townsend



Jessica Townsend

Council Meetings

Subject to COVID directions, 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:

▪ 16 February ▪ 16 March ▪ 20 April

60, Not Out!

Veteran's cricket is a spectator sport like no other. It produces thrilling matches jam-packed with Phils, spills and plenty of drink refills – to summarise, it's the most fun you'll have in one afternoon. The 9th Annual Over 60's Cricket Carnival is no exception, with participation numbers soaring. In their inaugural year, just four teams entered the carnival. This year, 24 Victorian teams and four interstate teams will converge to smack 'em for six at cricket grounds



Reigning Division One Premiers, Vic Country.

#lovewhereyoulive

sprawled from Rushworth to Bunnaloo, Cohuna to Nathalia, and everywhere else in between.

The 9th Annual Over 60's Cricket Carnival will be held across our local region from Sunday, 19 March to Thursday, 24 March. A total of 40 one day matches will be played across four days (recovery day Tuesday). The carnival is a welcome addition to our sporting calendar, with around 800 visitors supporting our local businesses and traders. Council was proud to provide Veterans Cricket Victoria Inc with \$2,000 from Council's Community Event Sponsorship to go towards event management costs.

The dedication and passion that goes into this sport is unmatched. Not only through the players genuine love of the game, but the sheer enthusiasm radiating from the event organisers will bowl you over. Don't let the average age fool you! Remember, these players were practicing Greg Chappell's cover drive back in their twenties. For a full itinerary, go to www.veteranscricketvictoria.org.au

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.

February – March

Northern Planes Basket Weavers Exhibition
– Kyabram Town Hall Gallery, Allan St

Sonya Else Textiles Exhibition – Kyabram
Town Hall Gallery, Allan St

18 – 20 February

Riverboats Music Festival – Aquatic
Reserve, Echuca

Saturday, 19 February

Echuca Farmers Market – Aquatic Reserve
REHF Market – High Street, Rushworth

Sunday, 20 February

Echuca Country Music Club Monthly
Concert – Kyabram Bocce Club, Breen Ave

21 – 25 February

Massive Murray Paddle – Murray River -
Echuca, Torrumbarry, Gunbower

Friday, 25 February

M5 Echuca Pro Rodeo – Echuca Rotary
Park, Rose St

Saturday, 26 February

Jigarre Jammin – Gigarre Memorial Hall

March – April

Legends of the Mountain – Kyabram
Showgrounds

Saturday, 5 March

Echuca Farmers Market – Aquatic Reserve
Echuca Fire Brigade Competition – Victoria
Park

Gigarre Memorial Hall Centenary
Celebrations – Gigarre Memorial Hall

Sunday, 6 March

Volksclub Bendigo Annual Echuca Ice
Cream Run – Murray Esplanade

Friday 11, March

Kyabram Rodeo – Kyabram Showgrounds

Saturday, 12 March

Elmore Summer Send Off B&S Ball –
Elmore Events Centre

12 – 14 March

Echuca Basketball Junior Tournament –
Echuca Basketball Stadium

Sunday, 13 March

Echuca Races Cup Day – Echuca
Racecourse

Gigarre Farmers Produce and Craft Market
– Gigarre Memorial Hall & Park Reserve

Stanhope Monster Garage Sale – Birdwood
Ave

Saturday, 19 March

Echuca Farmers Market – Aquatic Reserve
Rushworth Speedway Race Meet – Nine
Mile Rd

REHF Market – High Street, Rushworth
Elmore Tractor Pull – Elmore Events Centre

Sunday, 20 March

Rich River Rod Run – Moama Recreation
Reserve

Echuca Country Music Club Monthly
Concert – Kyabram Bocce Club, Breen Ave

20 – 24 March

Victoria Veterans Cricket – Various ovals

20 – 27 March

Rochester Mural Festival – Moore St

Saturday, 26 March

Jigarre Jammin – Gigarre Memorial Hall

Earthhour 'Spot the Glider' Squirrel Glider
Tour – Campaspe River Reserve, Rochester

Register your community event. Free website event listing is available to community groups within the shire.
Register at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au

Give a Scrap About the Garden

Compost is the original ugly duckling. Potato peels, celery tops and eggshells naturally transform into rich, organic fertiliser. The cycle starts when you dispose of your food and garden waste in the green bin. The truck picks up your bin and transports it to the Biomix facility near Stanhope. Biomix then converts the waste into compost which ends up back in the garden.

Council has supported a total of 32 school and community gardens across the shire through the 'Give a Scrap' compost program. Community gardens that are run by small but strong armies of green-thumbed volunteers, who work tirelessly to provide homegrown fruit and vegetables to community members in need. School gardens that are managed by small people in hats and shorts, learning about healthy eating and reaping the rewards of hard work.

The Biomix compost, which started as an apple core in your food scrap caddy, provided much needed nutrients to these gardens across summer.

Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School

Compost was used in their Eco Garden Program, giving existing soil layers to their no-dig gardens and allowing for further gardens to be built.

Girgarre Community Cottage

During the pandemic, food and meal services increased. In response, the Cottage secured funding to build an edible garden. The compost was used to provide soil health and to fill fruit and herb pots. The produce grown goes to community meals and food parcels.

St Joseph's Primary School Rochester

Compost was used to rejuvenate their six vegetable plots.



Girgarre Community Cottage



Echuca Neighbourhood House



Rochester Community Garden

Echuca Neighbourhood House

Compost was used in sixteen community garden beds. The fruit, vegetables and herbs grown are used in their community kitchen programs and packed into food bank parcels. The front garden beds are accessible to the public 24/7, so community members can harvest their own food to take home.

Rochester Community Garden

Compost was used in raised garden beds, including repurposed bathtubs that have been used to give homes to even more homegrown produce.

Echuca Primary School

Compost was used in both their vegetable gardens, as well as garden beds, spread out by the students in the Hands on Learning team.

Biomix compost can be purchased for your own home garden at select local nurseries and garden centres.

Chat with us Online

There is a new way for residents to reach Council's Customer Service staff.

'Webchat' an instant messaging service, accessed through the Council's website, is available from 8.30am to 4.45pm, Monday to Friday.



#campaspeservices

Your 'chat' can be activated through the icon on the bottom right hand corner of the home screen. A window will pop up, and you can start to directly communicate with a staff member.

Webchat provides the community another timely and convenient way to speak with staff. Customers that have used the technology to date have asked a range of questions, including information about waste services, planning permits, building, and the animal shelter.

Other ways you can contact Campaspe Shire include:

By phone: 1300 666 535, from 8.15am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Online: 'Report it online' - capturing service requests, 'Make a payment' - for all payments, both available 24/7

In person: at any of our five customer service centres

In writing: email: shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au

or mail: PO Box 35, Echuca 3564

In 2021, Council received more than 42,000 calls, 21,000 in person visits, 33,000 service requests, and webchat provides another avenue for residents to make contact.

Frequently Asked Questions

What day is my bin collected?

Visit Council's website, activate the "When is your bin collected?" tile, type in your address and all kerbside bin collection details will be shown on the screen.

How do I order a bin for my new house?

This can be arranged when a Certificate of Occupancy has been issued. Once you have your certificate, you can order your new bin service online at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/binservices

My bin was not emptied today?

You can call 1300 666 535 and follow the prompts for waste services. Your call will go directly to our waste contractor for action. Alternatively you can report it online, or contact customer service by webchat, phone or in person to log your request.

I need to change my postal address, how can I do this?

Your change of address request needs to be in writing. You can log your change of address online at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/rates You can also contact customer service by webchat or phone and a staff member can post the address form to you.

How do I request some maintenance? For example, road to be graded, stormwater pit cleared, sign post replaced etc.

You can log a maintenance request online at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au "Report it online". Alternatively, you can contact customer service by webchat, phone or in person to log your request.

How do I report a barking dog?

Our information booklet 'Barking dogs in your neighbourhood' outlines what steps you can take, and what steps Council can take. The booklet also includes templates for you to use in lodging your complaint. The booklet is available online at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/animals Alternatively, you can contact customer service by webchat or phone and a staff member can post the booklet to you.

When are my rates due and how can I pay them?

Please refer to our website for information on rates, including when they are due, payment options, pension concessions, www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/rates

Alternatively, you can contact customer service by webchat, phone or in person.

How do I get a copy of my rate notice?

A copy of your rate notice can be provided. Your request can be made by webchat, phone, email, or in person.

How do I report a wandering dog or cat I have found?

If you have the animal contained, you can phone customer service to discuss collection options. If after business hours, your call will be directed to our after hours service. If you are unable to contain the dog, you can still contact customer service to report it as a wandering dog.