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Cover image – ‘Campaspe Weir’
by Lynne Pearce.

Campaspe Times Newsletter

July 2020

Facing challenges head on

With COVID-19 restrictions continuing to impact services across Campaspe, it has been pleasing to see our community following government directions and supporting each other. I encourage the community to keep up to date with changes as they are announced and hopefully, we can soon see services returning to some level of normality.

Campaspe Libraries responded to the limitations of the number of people allowed in each building by expanding their online presence with a multitude of free resources available and continuing to be available. You can read more about this on page eight.

As the financial year ended, many projects both large and small were completed as part of the Capital Works Program. You can read about two major projects recently completed – the redevelopment of Echuca’s Riverfront and Kyabram Drainage Basin upgrade – on pages two and six. Council’s website now has a listing of projects for the year ahead from the recently adopted Budget, including a summary

of what’s to occur and timeframes. The information also links back to interactive mapping on the home page, so you can see what is planned near you.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my role as Mayor is the conferring and welcoming of new Australians to the Campaspe community. We recently celebrated 11 new Australian citizens in a modified manner. With gathering numbers restricted, the citizenship ceremony was recorded so friends and relatives did not have to miss out on the momentous occasion. Congratulations to all our new Australian Citizens and their families.

Winter is in full swing and with the wet weather upon us, please take care on the roads and drive to conditions. The community is encouraged to report any issues with the road network, or other services, by calling customer service (1300 666 535) or even easier - lodging a service request online via Council’s website.

Cr Adrian Weston
Mayor



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The Silva family pictured with Mayor, Cr Adrian Weston at the July citizenship ceremony.

Echuca Riverfront redevelopment project

Before



After



Before



After



Recently completed, the redevelopment of Echuca's riverfront provides universal access for everyone to enjoy the natural surrounds on the banks of the Murray River.

The \$5 million project was jointly funded with the Federal Government contributing \$2.6 million, State Government \$1.3 million and Council \$1 million.

Key elements of the project include:

- Restoration and improvement of the kiosk and canoe storage building
- Construction of sealed roadways into the riverfront from Watson Street for short term drop off, pick-up and boat servicing parking
- Construction of a network of Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant footpaths throughout the site, linking to Watson Street to the new promenade walkway

- Construction of a footpath connection to Hopwood Gardens, Murray Esplanade and the port precinct
- Establishment of soft landscaping, including grass areas, mulch under trees, gravel plaza area, and plant trees for shade
- Rearrangement of car and bus parking along the Watson Street frontage

This large-scale project supports the vision of the Port Precinct Plan 'a place to take your time, relax and enjoy yourself.'

With improved accessibility and visual appeal to the adjoining river, Echuca's riverfront (Riverboat Dock) has already attracted thousands to the iconic landmark which also supports access to houseboats and paddlesteamers.

When the COVID-19 pandemic has

settled and restrictions are lifted, Council will progress tenancy applications of the new kiosk café area which boasts exceptional river views.



This Is Not A Public Ramp

It is a service ramp to assist boat operators in adjusting their gangways when river levels change.

WickED results are in!

Campaspe Shire residents have had their say on waste and recycling with almost 400 residents completing the annual Waste in Campaspe – Know Educate Do (WickED) survey.

Conducted annually, the survey provides Council with valuable information on residents' knowledge, attitudes and behaviours in relation to the environment and waste management practices. It also helps Council better understand community perception and behaviour relating to waste and the environment

Results of the survey contribute towards the development of future waste education programs where knowledge gaps exist and behaviour change can be improved.

One year after the introduction of food scraps to the garden organics green bin service, 65 per cent of survey residents now have a green bin, contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by diverting organics from landfill.



Peter Mitchell (centre) won an Apple iPad simply by completing the WickED survey. Pictured with Environmental Project Officer's Kirsty Beattie and Carlie Guinan.

Other survey findings include:

- 92% of residents put their recyclables into the bin without using a plastic bag
- More than two thirds of residents use one of council's transfer stations
- 85% of residents take time to sort their unwanted materials before they arrive at a transfer station
- 97% of residents are committed to recycling

- 60% of residents said they recycle even when it requires more effort
- 48% of residents believe the best way to create less waste is to avoid purchasing products with lots of packaging
- The most common way residents contribute to general waste minimisation is by reusing shopping bags

The full survey results are available on Council's website.

70% of us #GiveaScrap

It's been 12 months since the green bin service was expanded to include food scraps with garden organics.

Back then, food and garden organics made up half of Campaspe's waste that was going to landfill and reducing this was the driving factor behind the change. Food and garden waste in landfill creates methane which is 25 times more damaging to our environment than carbon dioxide.

Rather than ending up in landfill, this valuable resource is now turned into nutritious compost and reused on local gardens, parks and farms via the green bin service.

Here is what the Campaspe community has achieved in the first year of the combined food scraps and garden organics green bin service:

- 1,900 new green bin services.
- 3,050 tonnes of food and garden waste diverted from landfill.
- 0.25% contamination rate!!! This is extremely low compared to other councils.

- Saved 4,575 Co 2e (harmful greenhouse gases) by composting food and garden waste.

Thank you Campaspe for 'Giving a Scrap' to your green bin.



Project update

'Country roads...take me home'

With a road network greater than that of the entire country of the United Arab Emirates, Campaspe Shire Council has a massive job inspecting, upgrading and maintaining our roads.

Roads make up Council's largest single item of expenditure, with around \$15 million spent in maintaining and upgrading the local road network.

Here is a snapshot of some road projects managed by the Project Management team.



Delivery

Corop Wanalta Road, Corop Rehabilitation works

After reviewing Council's condition data, sections of Corop Wanalta Road were identified as requiring reconstruction.

The road was in very poor condition and as such, serviceability heavily impacted. An inspection revealed that sections of the road had lost shape, were rutted - especially in vehicle wheel paths, and in need of resealing. The surface was cracking and numerous bitumen patches indicated that the road was weakening. Maintenance costs for patching were very high and almost at intervention level.

Works are currently underway to reconstruct the area to prevent water infiltration into the road surface and further rapid road deterioration.

This \$1.5 million project is funded through the State Government's Fixing Country Roads Program.



Completed

Gravel Resheeting Program

The Gravel Resheeting Program ensures Council's 2,440 kilometre gravel road network meets the needs of the community.

After reviewing condition data, resheeting is carried out on identified segments of gravel roads across each year. These segments have been assessed and prioritised in line with available funding.

Additional roads, not on the priority list, but in need of attention due to various issues, may be considered for works within Council's discretionary component of the resheeting program.

Once resheeted, these sections of gravel road will provide local users with an all-weather access road.

This \$2.6 million project is part funded through the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery Program.



Completed

Annesley Street, Echuca Urban reconstruction works

Road condition assessments and data identified a segment of Annesley Street and its kerb and channel (gutters) in need of repair to ensure the road continued to be suitable for its high traffic volumes.

The road surface, seal and kerb and channel on Annesley Street between Eyre Street and McKinlay Street, was identified as being in a condition requiring replacement.

The kerb and channel was broken, deformed and rolled causing water pooling issues that further impacted on the longevity of the road. The road showed significant signs of aging and deformation with evidence of 'crocodile cracking', potholes and seal failures along with existing patches.

Reconstruction works were completed at the end of June. This \$626,000 project is funded through the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery Program.

History in pictures

The coronavirus pandemic has been an incredibly tough time for so many but on the bright side, look at what artist Tim Bowtell has achieved in just twelve weeks of isolation.

The Colbinabbin community has had much delight in witnessing the unique transformation of the six Vic Feeds silos into an impressive tourist attraction that has put the small farming town of 'Colbo' on the national map.

And all of this would not have been possible without dedicated locals forming the Colbinabbin Silo Art Committee. The committee successfully secured \$112,500 in State Government funding through the Pick My Project initiative to support the development.



As the project developed, so did the number of silos to be painted.

Project Member Sadie Vale said extensive community consultation was undertaken for theme ideas and a strong interest in telling the Colbinabbin story resulted. "The pleasure for the community was seeing the themes come to life."

The project provides the district with a sense of identity and builds on existing ventures in the region such as the Heathcote Wine Trail.

A must see, the striking artwork features as part of the Australian Silo Art Trail - the ultimate road trip, and

already the town has seen an influx of visitors from across Victoria to the region.

"The creation of these artworks would not have been possible without the generosity and support of so many people contributing to the fruition of the project. Colbinabbin is now officially a tourist destination," Sadie said.

But the work doesn't stop there. The committee is now in the process of planning further development in the area with an expanded carpark and viewing area, new parklands and picnic areas.

Woka Walla - Land and Water

Woka Walla is an enterprise of the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation that provides employment and training opportunities for Yorta Yorta and other Aboriginal people.

With a shared interest and commitment to preserving Yorta Yorta land, Campaspe Shire Council recently joined forces with Woka Walla, engaging the crew to undertake rabbit control works on two roadsides. The project was funded by the State Government's Roadside Weeds and Pest Control Program.

Rabbit control works took place on Watson Road, Kanyapella and Dickinson Road, Gunbower - a large sand hill adjoining Cockatoo Lagoon. Works involved baiting for rabbits and demolishing rabbit burrows.

Woka Walla Senior Supervisor, Graham Weston led the crew and said it was a great project to work in partnership with Campaspe Shire Council.



Woka Walla crew baiting rabbits on a large sand hill at Dickinson Road, Gunbower.

"Rabbit control at the Gunbower site was our first project with Council and we look forward to continuing our working relationship in the future with further projects," Graham said.

Kyabram Drainage Basin project

Kyabram is now better equipped to handle stormwater runoff with one of two drainage basin upgrade projects in McEwen Road now completed.

The McEwen Road west basin, increased from 20,000 cubic litres to 44,000 cubic litres, will remain empty during normal weather conditions. It is designed to only start filling with stormwater runoff in very wet conditions, with the water pumped away at a speedy 64 litres per second.

The second upgrade project, on the east side of McEwen Road, is now underway and will double this basin's capacity from 20,000 cubic litres to approximately 40,000 cubic litres. This is expected to be operational by early 2021.

Both projects, totalling \$2.2 million, were identified in the Kyabram Flood Study and are designed to support the north-western side of the township.



While the past four years have been dry, heavy rainfall events such as those experienced in 2016, 2012 and 2011 are always possible and this kind

of investment in Kyabram's drainage system will have positive benefits for the community.

Pawsome upgrades to say the leashed

The Campaspe Animal Shelter provides a temporary home for lost and stray animals needing a new lifetime home. The shelter recently received a much needed makeover with works improving conditions for staff and their inmates while in care.

As parts of Council's 2019/20 Capital Works Program, upgrades included:

- New shade sails over external exercise yards to protect animals from the weather
- Acoustic treatments to the indoor dog area to reduce noise



- New reception counter with security improvements
- New dog yard/exercise area with synthetic grass
- An enclosure to keep birds out
- Improved animal drop off area for rangers

Improved utilisation of the additional space will allow for more group play for dogs and a more convenient area for adoption meet and greets.

Avoid parking fines

In 1935, the world's first parking meter was installed in Oklahoma City in an attempt to restore order to the chaos of off street parking.

Fast forward to 2020 and the same principle applies not just in Campaspe Shire but throughout regional and metropolitan areas across Australia and the world.

Metered parking exists in Echuca's CBD to ensure parked vehicles are turned over on a regular basis, allowing shoppers access to all businesses in the area. This in turn increases business turnover.

When choosing to park in a paid zone, it is your responsibility to ensure tickets are displayed correctly (with date and time visible) otherwise fines will be issued.

Echuca's CBD also has a number of free car parking areas provided by



Council, including Goldie car park, Manns car park, Sturt Street car park,

available for short term or long term parking.



Tickets must be clearly displayed or fines will apply.

Tips to avoid a parking fine:

- When using a coin fed parking meter, remember to clearly display your ticket.
- When using Paystay (the online parking app), remember to check you're using the right car registration number.

To learn more about parking options in Echuca's CBD, or to view parking and mobility maps, visit Council's website and type 'parking' in the search box.

Council Meetings

Council meetings are normally open to the public - please refer to our website to see if COVID restrictions still apply.

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



Register Your Community Group

Free website listing available to
community groups in Campaspe Shire.



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

Service profile

Campaspe Regional Library Service

The Campaspe Regional Library Service has five branches and five depot outlets across the shire, as well as servicing Moama, part of the Murray River Council.

Branches are located in Echuca, Kyabram, Rochester, Rushworth and Tongala with depot outlets in Colbinabbin, Girgarre, Gunbower, Lockington and Stanhope.

Campaspe Libraries provide a wide range of resources in a variety of formats:

- books, DVDs, magazines, audio books, large print, parenting collection, local history collections
- outreach services including Books on Wheels and the Talking Newspaper
- virtual school holiday activities and early literacy programs



- an online library catalogue, where members can reserve and renew items 24/7

Campaspe's libraries are highly valued and utilised and are a great place for the community to come together for learning, recreational and cultural purposes. The coronavirus pandemic

#campaspeservices

has put a hold on some activities, as well as limiting the use of computers and WIFI.

For more information on locations, hours of operation and services available, visit Council's website and search 'library'.

Libraries are also online

In response to COVID-19 restrictions, the Campaspe Regional Library Service has expanded its online presence.

The Libraries Victoria app provides up to date information on Campaspe Libraries, what loans and reservations you may currently have and links directly to various online resources. A stand-out feature of the app is the scan ISBN barcode function with the ability to scan books from bookstores. If Campaspe Libraries have it, you can reserve the book directly from the app.

Other online services provided by Campaspe Libraries via Council's website include:

- **Online homework assistance** through the Studiosity Program which offers a free tutor service to students from Years 3 to VCE level, every day except Saturdays.
- **Storybox Library** around 300 stories and activity time sheets available on a range of themes. These can be accessed free with your library card via www.storyboxlibrary.com.au.
- Access to 15 **Gale online resources** to support students of all ages across our region with authoritative and interactive information. Academic peer reviewed journal articles are also included which are fabulous for students attending TAFE and University.
- More than 550 **eAudio books** and around 1,300 **eBooks** are available from Borrow Box. All you need to do is



Free library membership allows free access to resources – all you need is your library card.

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- More than 3,500 **Magazines** as well as eBooks and eAudio can be downloaded and saved via the RB Digital app.
- Free access to the library edition of **Ancestry.com**, however remote access is not available, so you must visit a library branch.
- **The Good Reading Hub** offers new book reviews, podcasts, magazines, competitions, giveaways and fantastic information from authors and publishers in Australia.

Campaspe libraries are always exploring and trialling new products so watch out to see what other great resources may be on offer in the future.