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Cnr Hare & Heygarth Streets
Echuca VIC 3564

PO Box 35 Echuca VIC 3564

P: 1300 666 535 | 03 5481 2200

E: shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au

www.campaspe.vic.gov.au

Campaspe Times Newsletter

June 2023

As I write this, we have just ticked over eight months since the October 2022 floods.

This is cause for reflection but more so, from a Council perspective, this is about us strongly increasing our advocacy for flood recovery funding arrangements and the need for certainty around future funding. There are so many complexities and constraints associated with the funding systems and processes and Council has a strong leadership role to play in ensuring there is certainty to help repair the full scope of damage – that alone is not an easy task, but one we are certainly up for and take seriously as an urgent priority. As such, we have joined with Buloke, Gannawarra, Loddon and Swan Hill Councils to raise our concerns with both state and federal governments. I led a delegation to Canberra in late May to meet with government ministers to ensure all affected shires in our region receive the required support to get our communities back on their feet.

In the meantime, the day to day operations of the shire continue, and the approaching colder months have not slowed the calendar of events across our region. There are a number of fantastic community led events that we have on offer – one could never get bored in Campaspe. Check out the upcoming events on page 2, or in the Event Directory on our website, rug up, and enjoy.

In May we received results from our Customer Satisfaction survey which was undertaken in March. Whilst there were some areas for improvement, it was really pleasing to see other areas where we received excellent feedback, such as library services, waste management, children's services and recreation facilities. In the areas where you have told us that you would like to see improvements, we are listening and taking ownership. At the May Council meeting, Councillors authorised the CEO to develop an action plan to address lower scoring results by the end

of June 2023. Some other areas where ratepayers have asked us to improve have begun to be addressed in our 2023/24 budget, including improvements to roads and beautification of towns.

Our draft budget has been open for submissions for the past few weeks and will be considered for adoption at the June Council meeting. Council's budget spend incorporates a significant capital works allocation to deliver essential infrastructure, with \$9.86m allocated to renewal and priority works across our road network.

I recently travelled to Mornington Peninsula along with CEO Pauline Gordon and Acting Director of Infrastructure, Kate Lemon to attend The Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) 2023 National and State Conference which brings councillors and officers together from across Australia, to advance female participation in Local Government and put a spotlight on issues facing women in the sector. This year, the theme was *Connect, Inspire and Thrive* and we celebrated 60 years of ALGWA Victoria.

27 May – 3 June was National Reconciliation Week. The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2023 was *Be a Voice for Generations*, which encourages all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives – where we live, work and socialise. Once again, Council proudly teamed up with Njernda Aboriginal Corporation to celebrate Australia's shared history, culture and achievement by supporting our indigenous people and participating in the community walk.

Finally, our next Council meeting will be on 20 June. We welcome members of the public to attend, with meetings held on the third Tuesday of the month at 6pm, however you can also live stream the meetings via our Campaspe Shire Council website.

Stay safe and warm until the next edition,
Cr Rob Amos, Mayor

What's On

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

10 - 11 June

Victorian Men's Par 3 Championships,
Kyabram Parkland Golf Course

Echuca Moama Steam, Iron & Trade
Revival, Rotary Park

Saturday, 10 June

Hopwood Garden Market, Echuca

Echuca Moama Uniting Church
Makers Market, cnr Pakenham &
Hare Streets

Sunday, 11 June

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

Stanhope Monster Garage Sale,
Birdwood Ave

16 June - 9 July

'For Our Elders' NAIDOC, The
Foundary Art Space, Echuca - Cnr
Parkenham & Hare Streets, Echuca

16 June - 29 June

AW8 - Textile Art - Traveling
Exhibition, Kyabram Town Hall

Saturday, 17 June

Echuca Farmers Market,
Alton Reserve

Rushworth Market, High Street

17 - 18 June

Nissan Nightmoves Trail, Whroo
Forest Area/ Rushworth/Heathcote

Sunday, 18 June

Echuca Country Music Club - Monthly
Concert, Tongala Public Hall

Thursday, 22 June

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

Saturday, 24 June

Jigarre Jammin,
Girgarre Memorial Hall

Wednesday, 28 June

The Songwriter Sessions, Radcliffe's
Function Centre, Echuca

30 June - 23 July

Moama Lights, Horseshoe Lagoon

1 July - 9 September

Agayle Newcombe & Lynda
Robinson, Kyabram Town Hall

Saturday, 1 July

Echuca Farmers Market,
Alton Reserve

Rushworth Market, High Street

Sunday, 2 July

Mr Perfect Monthly BBQ Meet Up,
Apex Park, Echuca

Wednesday, 5 July

The Songwriter Sessions, Radcliffe's
Function Centre, Echuca

Saturday, 8 July

Hopwood Garden Market, Echuca

Sunday, 9 July

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

Stanhope Monster Garage Sale,
Birdwood Ave

Tuesday, 11 July

Girgarre Christmas in July

14 July - 12 August

'Earthed- Clay, Charcoal, Ochre' The
Foundary Art Space, Echuca - Cnr
Parkenham & Hare Streets, Echuca

Saturday, 15 July

Echuca Farmers Market,
Alton Reserve

Rushworth Market, High Street

Sunday, 16 July

Echuca Country Music Club - Monthly
Concert, Tongala Public Hall

Wednesday, 19 July

The Songwriter Sessions, Radcliffe's
Function Centre, Echuca

Thursday, 20 July

Rochester Rotary Community Chat,
Rochester Hotel

Friday, 21 July

Mr Perfect Monthly BBQ Meet Up,
Beechworth Bakery, Echuca

Saturday, 22 July

Jigarre Jammin,
Girgarre Memorial Hall

Tonny Bazaar - Pre Loved Clothing
Market, Tongala Community Centre

Thursday, 27 July

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

Friday, 28 July

Echuca Races, Scott Road

27 - 30 July

Echuca-Moama Winter Blues Festival



Echuca Moama Steam, Iron & Trades Revival

The Echuca Moama Steam, Iron & Trades Revival will be presented by the newly formed Echuca Steam Preservation Society on Saturday, 10 and Sunday, 11 June to Rotary Park!

Come along and check out the array of attractions on display from steam machinery, classic and historic vehicles, working horses & lost trades. Sample the range of food options available while you discover traditional camp cooking techniques and observe trades, crafts and techniques from yesteryear and the artisans that are keeping them alive today. There will be plenty to see for the whole family including riding onboard the miniature steam railway.

Tickets on sale via their website on Monday, 1 May.

Prices: Family \$30 | Adult \$10 |
Children 7-16 \$5 | 6 Under Free

For tickets and information head to
<https://www.steamrevival.org.au>

FREE Rabia Siddique Presentation

Campaspe Shire Council invites residents to attend a special presentation by Rabia Siddique. Rabia

is a history-making humanitarian, an Australian criminal and human rights lawyer, retired British Army officer, former terrorism and war crimes prosecutor, hostage survivor, international speaker and published author.

Buckle in for an extraordinary experience as Rabia shares her story of extreme courage in a wartime hostage crisis, and beyond. Rabia inspires audiences to rise up and live with strength, integrity and humanity in the midst of adversity.

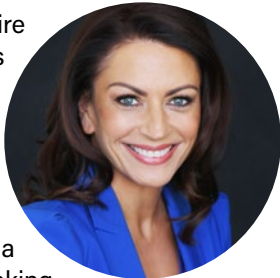
Rabia has received numerous awards, including a Queen's commendation in 2006 for her work in Iraq, Runner Up for Australian Woman of the Year UK in 2009, Australian Business Woman of the Year Finalist and being named one of Australia's Top 100 Women of Influence.

**Wednesday, 28 June,
starting at 7.30pm**

Paramount Theatre,
392 High Street, Echuca

Attendance is free of charge,
including supper

Tickets available by contacting
Bobbi Aitken on 5481 2206 or
b.aitken@campaspe.vic.gov.au



Recycling at the Resource Recovery Centres

The following items that cannot go in the yellow bin, can still be recycled for FREE at all of our RRCs, including:

- Batteries (car, truck and household)
- X rays
- Co-mingled recycling
- E-waste
- Paper and cardboard
- Fencing wire
- Fluorescent light tubes
- Mobile phones
- Paint tins (empty, up to 20L)
- Scrap metal
- Whitegoods (degassing charge for fridges and air conditioners)

There are a number of other items that can be recycled for free, but only at Echuca, Mt Scobie, Rochester and/or Rushworth RRCs. For the full list, visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/rrcf

For these materials to be recycled at our RRCS, they must first be sorted. By taking a little extra time to sort your load before you leave home you will not only ensure items are recycled correctly but it can also save you money.



Annual WickED Survey - Complete and Win!

Council has launched its annual WickED (Waste in Campaspe – Know Educate Do) survey, aimed at gathering community feedback on waste education practices and understanding current attitudes towards waste disposal. The survey seeks feedback on the use of Council's eight resource recovery centres, kerbside collection, illegal dumping and what goes in what bins. It provides consistent baseline data to help with identifying waste education priorities as well as the planning, coordination, implementation and evaluation of the program year on year.

The WickED survey is open to all Campaspe Shire and Moama residents, groups, businesses and schools, and can be accessed via the 'Now Open' section on Council's website. The online survey closes 5pm on Friday, 16 June.

Scan to enter:

Or go to Council's website



Survey closes Friday, 16 June

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, starting at 6pm and are streamed live on Council's website. The agenda is available the Friday before each meeting.

Upcoming meetings

- 20 June
- 8 July
- 15 August

Progress on the Road to Flood Recovery

Much progress has been made across the Shire of Campaspe since the October 2022 floods, the worst event experienced in our area in more than 150 years. While recognising that there's still challenges to overcome, the collective efforts of communities, governments and service agencies working in partnership is ensuring that locally-identified needs and priorities are being progressively addressed. Here's a snapshot of Campaspe's flood recovery activities six months after the event.

Some Impacts at a Glance

- 1 human death
- 728 animal deaths
- 2,800 properties impacted
- 58,007ha (45.80%) farm area impacted
- 1,887kms of fencing destroyed
- 32,224 tonnes of crops lost
- 27,807 tonnes of hay lost

Support for Communities

- A **2022-23 rates relief package** for identified flood-impacted properties was endorsed by Council.
- With funding from the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria, a range of free sport and leisure activities have been run for **young people**.
- Five localised **flood recovery update newsletters** are distributed regularly.
- **2,500 cubic metres of general flood waste** plus 120 fridges and 260 mattresses have been received free of charge across the shire's eight resource recovery centres.
- **60,000+ sandbags** have been removed.
- **AusIndustry business advisors** have provided one-on-one advice to business owners.

Repair of Council Assets

- More than **1,400 road segments** have been assessed, with 630 locations identified for immediate repair and urgent works undertaken at 370.

- Council has removed sections of **temporary levees** from Council-owned roads in Echuca and Torrumbarry. The temporary levees were built by the Victorian Government as part of the flood response.
- **Damaged buildings, sports grounds, paths, playgrounds and other community facilities** are being progressively repaired. Several buildings in Rochester have reopened, including Council's Service Centre and library service, and Rochester Early Learning Centre.

Working with our Partners

- Council staff are supporting three **community recovery committees**, and key community leaders to address locally-identified needs and priorities.
- Council is working with its partners on the recalibration of the draft **Echuca Moama Torrumbarry Flood Study** to incorporate data from the October 2022 flood event.
- Council hosted a **Campaspe Flood Recovery Forum** with all three tiers of government to discuss current challenges, emergency preparedness and mitigation, and support of vulnerable people during disasters.

Flood Recovery Advocacy

As a result of our ongoing advocacy efforts to the state and federal governments, Council has so far received the following commitments:

- The Victorian Government will assess the operating and infrastructure arrangements at **Lake Eppalock** to find opportunities to reduce the impact of flooding from overflow spillage.
- Estimated **\$38+ million** to repair damaged Council-owned infrastructure. Council has so far received a **\$7.44 million** advance under the jointly-funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding arrangements and **\$1.5 million** from the Council Support Fund.

- **\$944,200** to establish **flood recovery hubs** and **\$512,000** for dedicated **community recovery officers** to work directly with communities.

Among other key flood recovery priorities, Council will continue to advocate for:

- funding to review and update the **Rochester Flood Plan**.
- funding for construction of a **new Rochester aquatic facility** to replace the destroyed Rochester swimming pool.
- funding for **stages 2 and 3 of Echuca's Aquatic Reserve Open Spaces Project** to provide an accessible community open space to cater for major events.
- urgent establishment of a working group, comprising of Campaspe Shire Council, North Central CMA and the Department Energy, Environment and Climate Action to determine the appropriate location for a **permanent levee for Echuca East**.
- a commitment that Emergency Management Victoria will approve Council's application for funding via the Australian Government's **Disaster Ready Fund**. Council's application seeks funding for:
 - review and updating of the Echuca Moama Torrumbarry Flood Study
 - preparation of a Flood Risk Management Plan
 - purchase of demountable levee panels, among other things.

We will continue to advocate strongly for funding and resources to support Campaspe's flood recovery. We believe that the funding of any solution or measure that prevents a scenario the magnitude of the October 2022 flood ever happening again is a strategic investment by any government. Not only will appropriate financial investment reduce longer-term costs to both the government and community in repairing damaged infrastructure from any future flood events, but it will also avoid the devastating toll on our communities from the social, economic and environmental upheaval.

Project Updates - Kyabram Deakin Spotlight



Photo: Kyabram Free Press

Kyabram Fauna Park Reptile Habitat Completed

Works have been completed and the new Reptile Habitat has opened at Zoos Victoria's Kyabram Fauna Park. The new reptile house is the outcome of a funding partnership between the state and federal governments, and Campaspe Shire Council. The Reptile House will be another drawcard for locals and visitors alike to visit Kyabram Fauna Park, boosting tourism the region.



Kyabram Rec Reserve Second Netball Court and Lighting Upgrade Completed

Funded by the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program, the second netball court and lighting upgrade have been completed.



Wilf Cox Pavilion Design

Designs are currently underway for the Wilf Cox Pavilion upgrade at the Kyabram Recreation Reserve.

Oakdene Court Procurement

Works will be delivered as part of the Council's footpath renewal program and are due to be tendered soon.



Kyabram Northern Oval Amenities renewal Design

Designs to renew the amenities and changerooms at Kyabram Northern Oval sports pavilion are almost complete



Breen Avenue Shared User Path Design

Detailed design of the shared user path, and approvals have been completed following extended discussions with landowners and external authorities (Telstra, Vic Track and VLine). The next steps are to obtain internal planning approvals and go to tender. Most construction works will be completed after June 2023.

Kerb and Channel Program

Replacement of sections have been completed at Davies Court, Crossthwaite Street and Tristania Street.

Tongala Tennis Club Rooms Renewal Procurement

The design stage for has been completed with works to the roof, flooring and painting due to be completed by 30 June.

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.



As part of the State Library of Victoria's commitment to engage with regional/rural libraries, Paul Duldig, CEO of the State Library, recently visited Campaspe Library.

(L-R) Mayor Rob Amos, Maxine McKew - Chair Advisory Committee Public Libraries, Library Board of State Library Victoria, Jacqui Horwood - Head of Sector Engagement, State Library of Victoria, Janelle Wheatley - Manager Community Health, Angela Savage - CEO Public Libraries Victoria, Paul Duldig - CEO State Library Victoria and Jenny Mustey - Campaspe Libraries Services Manager.



Cr Paul Jarman and Rochester Community House Coordinator, Amanda Logie at the Rochester tree planting event to honour the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.



Opening of Wirima at Rotary Park in Rochester was enjoyed by all attendees despite the rain!

The Mayor, Councillors and staff attended the official opening of the Girgarre Botanic Gardens and Café.





Mayor Rob Amos, Cr Christine Weller, CEO Pauline Gordon and our Gender Equality Action Group had hosted Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner Dr Niki Vincent and Fiona Savedra and discussed Campaspe Shire Council's Gender Equality Action Plan and how Council can incorporate gender equality into all of our activities.



Cr Chrissy Weller and Deputy Mayor Colleen Gates welcomed some of Campaspe's newest Australian citizens, the Mateo family at their Citizenship ceremony in Echuca.



In May, Council hosted representatives from multiple local organisations including health services, disability services and schools gather to look at ways to make their services more welcoming and inclusive of LGBTIQ+ people.



Mayor Rob Amos and Manager Community Development, Sam Campi launched the Tongala Place Based Plan with the Tongala Place Based Planning Committee and community members at the Tongala Shire Hall.



The Shrine of Remembrance *Changed Forever - Legacies of Conflict* exhibition opening at the Tongala Shire Hall. (l-r) Shrine of Remembrance CEO, Dean Lee; member of the Royal Australian Navy, Helen Ward, Deputy Mayor Cr Colleen Gates, Mayor Rob Amos.



Community Development Officer, Jim Gow with members of the Rushworth community at the Rushworth Place Based Plan pop up information session.

Youth Engagement

Council's Youth Engagement team works with the broader community to give young people the support they need to thrive in our shire. They are responsible for the facilitation of programs, activities, events and opportunities that focus on the development and celebration of young people in our region, resulting in increased participation of young people in community decision making, and civic engagement activities.

Some of the initiatives and projects performed by council's Youth Engagement Officer include:

- Electing and managing council's Youth Action Group (YAG).
- Seeking funding and providing young community groups with financial assistance to support youth programs and events.
- Coordinating the annual Campaspe School Leaders Forum – an opportunity for young leaders to network, elevate and discuss current youth issues and ideas and grow their skills.
- Leading the Campaspe Youth Services Network – an information sharing network for the youth services sector.
- Facilitating Youth Matters Forums in various communities across Campaspe
- Supporting and partnering with schools, Campaspe Cohuna Local Learning Employment Network, Headspace and the youth sector via fostering connections and advocacy for youth affairs.



2023 Campaspe Youth GO! Grants

The Campaspe Youth GO! Grant program is now open! You can apply for up to \$1,000 funding for activities or events that focus on youth participation, youth development or youth celebration.

This grant program is open to schools, community groups or organisations to host youth focused events or activities. Visit Council's website for criteria and to apply. If you would like further information, or have questions about your application, please contact Ben Hearn, b.hearn@campaspe.vic.gov.au or 1300 666 535. Applications close midnight, Friday, 16 June.



Follow [@CampaspeYouth](#) on Facebook and Instagram for the latest news and events for young people.

If you want your Youth program or event promoted, contact Council's Youth Engagement Team.

Youth Action Group

The YAG was formed to activate the Campaspe Youth Charter, adopted by council in 2017. The charter represents council's commitment to actively support young people, and to encourage and respect their ideas, opinions, talents and dreams for the future.

The 2023 Youth Advisory Group (YAG) is made up of passionate and inspired young people ready to put their hands up to provide a youth perspective on Council's key plans and strategies. They provide insight to Council on how to direct youth funding towards desired programs, activities and events and brief community groups, businesses and Council on issues that significantly impact young people in Campaspe.

The YAG work to ensure the voice of youth is part of council's culture. Council is committed to embracing the views of young people, particularly in the decision-making process. The YAG provides dedicated young people the opportunity to help shape the community in which they live by contributing ideas on a broad range of issues.

The YAG provides an inclusive and respectful environment and welcomes all young people from diverse backgrounds and communities. The YAG is made up of wonderful role models for other young people in our shire, and many past members have benefited greatly from their involvement, going on to gain desired employment, scholarships and leadership opportunities, locally and further afield.

Want to be involved? Scan the code.

