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Cover image –: 'Music is fun Girgarre'. One of the winning 2020 #MyCampaspe photo competition entries by Irene Labbett.



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Campaspe Times Newsletter

June 2021

Winter is on Our Doorstep

I was pleased to recently present our annual Volunteer Awards, as part of National Volunteer Week, in May. Due to pandemic restrictions last year our winners were announced via video, so this year it was great to acknowledge and celebrate our volunteers in person. Congratulations to all winners and a special acknowledgement to all of the nominees whose collective efforts make Campaspe the wonderful place it is. Details of our award recipients are on page 7.

We have a new kerbside bin collection contractor starting from Monday, 5 July. For some households and businesses this will mean a change of collection day. If your service is changing, you will shortly receive a letter advising of your new collection details. You can also go to our website, enter your address and see if there are any changes to your collections. I appreciate not everyone has access to the internet - you can contact our call centre 1300 666 535,

visit a service centre and use one of our self-help kiosks, or speak with staff directly.

In adopting Covid support measures for our community, Council last year endorsed a range of financial support measures to assist ratepayers, residents, businesses and community groups. Interest on unpaid rates continues to be waived through to 30 June 2021. With this date only weeks away, I would urge ratepayers experiencing financial hardship to make contact as soon as possible to discuss your situation.

Winter is now here and with the wet weather expected, 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 lodging a service request online via Council's website.

Cr Chrissy Weller
Mayor



Cr Colleen Gates and Cr Chrissy Weller inspecting the recent waste audit. Results of the audit will be detailed in our next community newsletter.

Creating Sustainable Community Places, Together

Through a Place-Based Planning approach, Council is collaborating with local communities to make public places better for everyone.

Council staff skilled in community development, planning and engagement are working alongside people who live, work and play in a particular place (from a street to an entire town), to understand their needs, priorities and future aspirations. Together, they identify physical and social assets unique to a locality, then develop a Place-Based Plan, capitalising on these strengths to create distinctive and sustainable places.

Five different Place-Based Plans may be developed, depending on community needs:



While addressing a community's needs and aspirations, a Place-Based Plan might also align with Council's Capital Works Program and take advantage of funding/advocacy opportunities to bring identified projects to fruition.

Rochester Plan

A township-level plan was developed for Rochester in 2018 aimed at boosting the local economy following the closure of the Murray Goulburn factory.

The plan highlighted four key directions, as follows:

- **Link the town to the land**
- **A great place to live**
- **See the opportunity**
- **Share the skills**

All but one of the 19 projects identified in the Rochester plan are either underway or have been completed, such as painting murals on the GrainCorp silos, establishment of a community bike sharing program and development of a town logo.

The Rochester plan has provided the basis for three successful grant applications via the Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Grants program. Two grants were secured for Council, including \$500,000 to upgrade the Rochester Riverside Holiday Park and \$440,000 for revitalisation of the township.

Chairperson of the Rochester Recreation Reserve Committee which runs the holiday park, Brendan Martin, said the Rochester plan identified the park upgrade as important to the town and the grant enabled the shovel-ready project to become a reality. "Using the grant, we've purchased two new accommodation units, installed a camp kitchen and upgraded the children's playground. These improvements have helped attract more visitors," said Mr Martin.

A \$500,000 community grant was also secured for the Rochester Business Network.



The Rochester Holiday Park, a popular tourist park alongside the Campaspe River.

Stanhope Plan

A township-level plan was developed for Stanhope in 2019/20 aimed at achieving the vision of "Stanhope is a thriving and innovative rural community ready to embrace the future".

The plan highlighted four key directions, as follows:

- **Strong community connections**
- **Recreation and lifestyles**
- **Modern rural identity**
- **Investment and industry**

The plan identified 14 projects for implementation over a 10-year period, including beautification of the town, continued development of the Community Recreation Precinct, development of the open art space, relocation of the kindergarten and a wetlands passive recreation area.

A successful application via the Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Grants program has secured funds to develop a detailed design from a masterplan for the Community Recreation Precinct upgrade. Stanhope resident and member of the Community Recreation Precinct Committee, Andrew Hipwell, said more is achieved for the town when local clubs and organisations work together.

"Many of the town's facilities are beyond repair, so as a united group we are focussing our efforts on creating a recreation hub with good quality multipurpose facilities so clubs can continue with their sport, attract new members and thrive. The masterplan also includes integration of the Stanhope Primary School oval into the precinct and development of a community building. Once the detailed design is completed, we'll be looking to apply for grants to build the facilities," said Mr Hipwell.

As part of the plan, Council has auspiced a funding application through the national Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal to set up a sensory garden at the school.



LR Ashton Nurse and Lennon Hall prepare for a mark at the Stanhope Recreation Reserve.

Echuca Creative Arts Space Plan

A specific-location plan developed in 2019 aims to create an arts and cultural activity hub within the Port of Echuca Precinct.

The Echuca Creative Arts Space Plan sets out key opportunities for the area that houses several Council-owned buildings, including The Foundry and The Old Brothel, the surrounding open space and Little Hopwood Street. Development of the plan was a key component of the Echuca Port Precinct Strategy, which identified the development of an arts and culture, events and entertainment hub as a significant strategic outcome.

Following adoption of Council's new arts and cultural strategy in coming weeks, it is proposed to deliver the first project of the plan as part of 2021/22 Budget - detailed design of the garden located in front of The Old Brothel.



What's Next?

Kyabram and Tongala are the next townships for which Place-Based Plans will be developed.

The Kyabram plan is underway in consultation with the Kyabram Development Group and is expected to be ready for community feedback in the second half of 2021.

Work will start on a Tongala Place-Based Plan later this year.



Project Update

INITIATION

PROJECT
PLANNING

DESIGN

PROCUREMENT

DELIVERY

REVIEW AND CLOSURE
(COMPLETED)

The annual capital works program continues with works across the shire on roads, footpaths, bridges, drains and open spaces. The following is a selection of projects at various stages of the project management cycle.



McEwen Road, Kyabram drainage basin

Procurement

Stage 3 of the drainage basin upgrade is out to tender. Works are planned to start before the end of June.



High Street, Rushworth reconstruction

Delivery

Works are well underway to update the streetscape, including road surface, kerb, footpaths and parking. Works are scheduled to be completed by August.



Ramsay Street, Rochester open drain

Completed

Works on the open drain have been completed.



Marine Vessels

Delivery

The PS Adelaide was slipped in May as part of the annual program of works on marine vessels. All three paddle steamers will be slipped in the coming month.



Bridge barrier replacement program

Delivery

Bridge barriers have been replaced on Camerons Creek Bridge, Torrumbarry (pictured) and Stockyards Bridge on Mount Terricks Road. Works on Quirks Bridge on Bangerang Road will start mid-May.

Investing in Our Footpath Network

Council is investing heavily in footpath maintenance and construction in line with its commitment to create “walking and cycling towns” across the shire.

Funding to maintain Council's 250 kilometres of existing footpaths, construct “missing link” paths and build new paths, is allocated within the context of available funding to ensure that all Council-owned infrastructure, including bridges, drains, buildings, roads and footpaths, is fit for purpose.

At the end of 2020/21, \$1.67 million will have been spent on footpath works and an allocation of \$4 million is proposed to be spent in 2021/22.



Funded through the Healthy Hearts of Victoria Program, works in Eyre Street, Echuca started in May.



A section of footpath in Cox Avenue, Tongala has been replaced.

Footpath works in 2020/21

Footpath Replacements

\$824,700 was spent to bring sections of existing footpaths, totalling 1.5 kilometres, up to standard at locations across the shire including:

- Kyabram - Edis Street, Dawes Road/Allan Street
- Tongala - Cox Avenue, McGowan Street
- Echuca East - Mitchell Street, Sutton Street, McKinlay Street, Goulburn Road, McIntosh Street, Ostram Court, Horne Street
- Echuca - Annesley Street, Nish Street, Hovell Street

\$324,000 was spent replacing sections of the shared walking/cycling path in Kyabram at South Boundary Road.

\$129,525 from the Victorian Government's Healthy Hearts of Victoria Program is funding construction of a 250-metre stretch of footpath along Eyre Street, Echuca. To be completed in June, works include new footpaths, sealing of gravel shoulders of the road and construction of five pram crossings.

New and Upgraded Footpaths

\$300,000 from the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI, Phase 1) funding has been allocated to construct “missing link” footpaths at:

- Tongala - Gooda Street
- Girgarre - Church Street, Dickman Street
- Echuca - Elizabeth Street

\$100,000 (LRCI funding, Phase 1) is being spent on the design and installation of pole-mounted, solar-powered lighting along the shared path in Rose Street and a section of the shared path in Campaspe Esplanade, Echuca West.

Footpath works in 2021/22

The following projects are proposed for completion next financial year:

- \$733,500 for the Footpath Replacement Program.
- \$440,000 to construct the final 1.8-kilometre link of the Breen Avenue, Kyabram shared walking/cycling path.
- \$1.1 million (LRCI Phase 2 funding) to construct priority missing link footpaths.
- \$190,000 (LRCI Phase 2 funding) on footpath improvements to enhance accessibility through the DDA works program.

Council will also explore grant opportunities to obtain \$900,000 to construct the Rushworth Murchison (Waranga) Trail. Design is currently underway, with a total project cost of \$1.8 million.

Council meetings

Council meetings are streamed live on Council's website. Due to ongoing COVID restrictions, only a limited number of people can attend the meeting and the agenda is available the Friday before each meeting.

- 16 June
- 21 July
- 18 August

Please refer to Council's website for full details.

Campaspe's Got You Covered

The installation of more than 70 umbrella sleeves at food premises across Campaspe will make outdoor dining a more pleasant experience year-round, rain, hail or shine.

The sleeves have been installed at 25 local pubs, restaurants, cafes, and other food outlets which registered interest in participating in this Victorian Government-funded initiative, designed to stimulate business activity through outdoor dining in the wake of the pandemic.

The project is just one of the projects funded from a \$250,000 Victorian Government grant and involved the design and construction costs of the umbrella sleeves to provide a secure, in-ground base to support heavy duty umbrellas supplied by the business owners.

The umbrella sleeves will allow the food premises to create inviting spaces and a relaxing atmosphere for their patrons to enjoy Australia's great outdoors while enjoying local hospitality.

Brandon Harpley, co-owner of "1895 The Royal" in Echuca, said outdoor umbrellas are good for business and good for the local area.

"We didn't have an overly spacious beer garden so it's great that we've been able to create a large and attractive

#lovewhereyoulive



Brandon Harpley setting up the outside dining area ready for business.

outdoor dining area with 10 large umbrellas, wind barriers and pot plants to give the front of our building a warm and welcoming feel," he said.

"Beyond their practical function, the visual aspect of the umbrellas is helpful in attracting patrons through our doors, and the surrounding area is now more aesthetically pleasing."

Umbrella sleeves have been installed across the shire, including Echuca, Kyabram, Rochester, Rushworth and Tongala.

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, 12 June

Echuca Moama Rotary Family Fun Day - Rotary Park, Rose St, Echuca, 0417 609 458

12-13 June

Victorian Men's Par 3 Championships - Kyabram Parkland Golf Course, Racecourse Rd, 0419 565 797

Sunday, 13 June

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

Stanhope Monster Garage Sale - Birdwood Ave, 5857 2866

Saturday, 19 June

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

Echuca Farmers' Market - Aquatic Reserve, Echuca, 0417 597 282

Sunday, 20 June

Community Concert Series featuring Simon Marks - Rushworth Memorial Hall, 0420 381 216

Echuca Country Music Concert - Kyabram Bocce Club, Breen Ave., 0438 160 222

Wednesday, 23 June

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

25-27 June

8th Waranga Winter Film Festival - Rushworth Memorial Hall, 0456 529 248

Friday, 25 June

'Dreaming' 2021 NAIDOC exhibition - The Foundry, Murray Esp, Echuca, 0436 470 590

Saturday, 26 June

Jigarre Jammin - Girgarre Memorial Hall, 5854 6283

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

26-27 June

Nissan Nightmoves Trial, Whroo Forest Area/ Rushworth/ Heathcote, 0409 347 785

Sunday, 27 June

Echuca Gets its Glow On - Echuca Rotary Park, Rose St, Echuca, 0433 397 707

Saturday, 3 July

Echuca Farmers' Market - Aquatic Reserve, Echuca, 0417 597 282

Echuca Races - Echuca Racecourse, Scott Rd, 5482 2487

Sunday, 11 July

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

Stanhope Monster Garage Sale - Birdwood Ave, 5857 2866

Tuesday, 13 July

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

Saturday, 17 July

Echuca Farmers' Market - Echuca, 0417 597 282

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

Sunday, 18 July

Echuca Country Music Concert - Kyabram Bocce Club, Breen Ave., 0438 160 222

23-25 July

Echuca Moama Winter Blues Festival - Echuca various places, 0427 083 286

Saturday, 24 July

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

Jigarre Jammin - Girgarre Memorial Hall, 5854 6283

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

Celebrating Campaspe's Volunteers

Volunteers were recently celebrated at a special morning tea, recognising their outstanding devotion to serving the community at this year's Campaspe Community Volunteer Awards. The volunteer awards provide a great opportunity to say thank you to our community volunteers who give up their time and work tirelessly for the benefit of others, which coincided with National Volunteer Week (17-23 May).

Awards are presented in three categories; Individual, Youth and Organisation.



Thomas Murphy

Individual

Thomas, a Rochester resident, has volunteered across a variety of community endeavours over many years, helping his fellow citizens in times of need and bringing joy into people's lives.

Thomas joined St Vincent De Paul Society in 1994 and served as secretary for more than 20 years. During the drought, he collected food from the Cobram Food Bank which was sorted into hampers and distributed to the local farmers. During the flood, Thomas took on the task of distributing \$180,000 of donated money to help people get by until their insurance was settled.

Thomas helps at the Rochester Food Bank once a week and often takes elderly residents from the village community in which he lives, on social outings, medical appointments, and other trips.



LR Terri Hateley, Mayor Chrissy Weller and Lincoln Cameron.

Lockington Youth Action Group

Youth

The Lockington Youth Action Group run by the Lockington Neighbourhood House provides school-aged secondary students with opportunities for leadership, and to plan and participate in community activities.

Beyond the program, the young members of the group are volunteering their time to assist many local events, worthy causes, and fundraising activities. This support has included: helping at Australia Day flag-raising ceremonies; serving meals at a CFA Men's Health night; assisting with fundraising such as raffles, trivia nights and barbecues; and helping with the Good Choices, Great Life campaign at the Lockington Family Wellbeing Day.



Kyabram Blue Light representatives, (LR) Gail, Ros, Mitchell, Trish, Bernie and Brenda with Mayor Chrissy Weller.

Kyabram Blue Light

Organisation

The dedication and desire to make a positive difference has seen Kyabram Blue Light continue to provide opportunities for young people to get together and engage with each other, despite pandemic restrictions last year.

Weekly gym challenges and awards helped keep young people and their families healthy and active. And a recent three-day leadership camp attended by 60 young people from across the shire, provided a wonderful opportunity for young people to catch up with friends, and engage with local police officers and teachers in a fun, active and informal environment.

The diverse knowledge and skillset of the large contingent of volunteers on Kyabram Blue Light allows for a broad range of activities and events to be organised for young people, including camps, day trips, the weekly gym program, blue light discos, pool parties and more. These initiatives have also brought together volunteers from other community organisations such as the SES, CFA, Rotary and Lions, to engage and collaborate for the benefit of Campaspe's youth.

New Bin Collection Services

Changes to Campaspe's kerbside bin collection services for residential, commercial and rural properties come into effect from Monday, 5 July, with JR Richards & Sons appointed as Council's new contractor for the next 10 years.

Through Council's robust tender evaluation process, the combination of JR Richards & Sons' extensive experience, value-for-money service delivery and innovative customer service approach, was assessed as providing the best overall bin collection service for the people of Campaspe going forward.

Introduction of the new service will mean that the bin collection day and weekly/fortnightly cycle for household garbage, recycling and garden/food organics, will change for some households, businesses and farms across the municipality.

All properties affected by the change



The Garner family have the full suite of kerbside bins, red, yellow and green, and are active recyclers, reducing the amount of waste to landfill.

will receive written notification from Council around mid-June, providing details of their new bin collection day and weekly/fortnightly cycle.

After the introduction of the new bin collection service in July, residents and businesses will be able to check their

collection dates online via Council's website by simply typing in their address.

For more information about kerbside collection services in Campaspe, and bin options for available, visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/binservices

Kindergarten Registrations Open

Registration for 2022 four-year-old and three-year-old funded kindergarten programs are now open.

Kindergarten is an important stage of a child's social and emotional development, providing a strong foundation on which skills are learned, developed and built on right throughout their lives.

Children are eligible to attend a funded kindergarten program if they turn either three or four years of age on, or before, 30 April in the year of attendance.

Council coordinates central registration for 12 of the 16 kindergartens across the shire. Central registration is available Berrimba (Echuca), Colbinabbin, Echuca Central, Echuca East, Echuca South, Goodstart Early Learning (Moama),



Gunbower, Lockington, Pink & Blue (Echuca), Rochester, Stanhope and Tongala.

Central registration can be submitted online through Council's website. They are also available in hard copy,

through customer service centres, the kindergartens, Maternal and Child Health centres and Berrimba Childcare Centre.

Applications for first round offers close on 26 June.