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Campaspe Times Newsletter

August 2023

It has been a huge couple of months for Council with the adoption of our annual budget in June, several ministerial visits as we continue to advocate for flood recovery support in our region and the continuation of our engagement process for the development of a shire wide Economic Development and Tourism Strategy. The 2023-24 Budget includes \$27.4 million for our Capital Works Program and I'm excited to share with you the new projects we have included. You can read more about these on page 5.

Economic development and tourism are very important to our shire. We want to see our economy grow, which leads to increased employment opportunities, higher revenue for businesses and in turn, boosts prosperity, satisfaction and the overall quality of life within our community. For these reasons, we are embarking on the development of an Economic Development and Tourism Strategy (page 8). Over the past three months, we have conducted a survey and held over twenty events, including community information sessions, industry forums and an economic development summit where community members, business and industry leaders have had the opportunity to provide input into the development of our new five-year Economic Development and Tourism Strategy. It has been extremely valuable for us to gather information on such a wide scale across the entire shire, as this provides great insight when developing a strategy like this, so I'd like to thank everyone for their input.

At the July Council meeting, we endorsed an Action Plan which includes a series of projects and actions that we will deliver over the next year aimed at improving communication, infrastructure development (including roads) and emergency management within the community – areas that you, the community, told us that we need to improve on in the 2023 Customer Satisfaction Survey. You can read the Action Plan in full on our website, or at any of our Customer Service centres.

I was privileged to be involved in the July Citizenship Ceremony in Echuca where

eight Campaspe residents were conferred as new Australians. Hailing from the Philippines, Vietnam, China and Sri Lanka, it gives me great pleasure to welcome so many diverse nationalities of people to live in our beautiful shire. Taking part in such a joyful and significant event for our fellow Campaspe residents is one of my greatest honours as a mayor. You can see a photo of our new citizens on page 2.

Rural Council's Victoria held their annual forum in Echuca in July which was a great opportunity for us to meet with Councillors and Mayors from all over regional and rural Victoria. We also took a group of delegates for a tour of the port precinct to show them how the 2022 floods impacted some of Council's public infrastructure and talked to them about the flood recovery steps we are taking across the shire. We were able to put the region on display by hosting visitors from a range of municipalities across the state.

Our grants programs continue throughout the year with Community Grants currently open for applications until 15 September. Find out more about how to apply on page 4.

The #MyCampaspe Photo Competition has recently opened. I encourage you all to take photos of your favourite places in the shire and submit them as part of the competition and to go in the running to be featured in the 2024 Campaspe calendar or across our social media. More information on page 8.

Wishing you well until the next edition,

Cr Rob Amos, Mayor



(l-r) Strathbogie Mayor, Laura Binks, Cr Paul Jarman, Cr Colleen Gates, The Hon. Melissa Horne, Mayor Rob Amos at the Rural Council's Victoria Forum, Echuca.

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.



Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Melissa Horne MP visited Rochester and met with Council's Director Emergency Management, Shannon Maynard, Cr Paul Jarman and Flood Recovery Team Leader Lachlan Cozens.



Mayor Rob Amos and Council officers attended the NAIDOC Week Flag Raising at Njernda Aboriginal Corporation in Echuca.



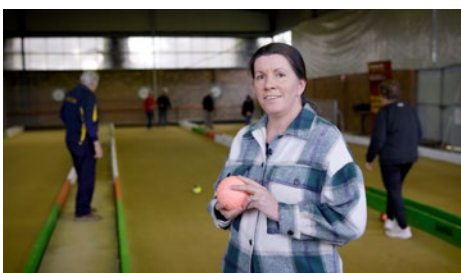
(L-R) University of Melbourne's Dr Dave Evans, Library Services Manager Jenny Mustey, CEO Pauline Gordon and Mayor Rob Amos at the launch of the trial STI Vending Machine. This is an initiative as part of a pilot program led by the University of Melbourne Department of Rural Health aiming to improve sexual health outcomes for regional communities, particularly LGBTIQIA+ communities, younger people aged between 16-25 years and Indigenous Australians.



Rural Councils Victoria (RCV) hosted their annual forum in Echuca with Mayors, Councillors and Executives attending from across the state.



Cr Colleen Gates, Cheryl Hammer - Tourism Development Manager and Louise Costa at the Rushworth Place Based Plan meeting.



Deputy Mayor Cr Colleen Gates filming a welcome video with the Kyabram Bocce Club for the Australian Bocce Raffa Open Championships held in Kyabram.



Uncle Rick Ronan, Mayor Cr Rob Amos and MP The Hon Peter Walsh at the July Citizenship ceremony in Echuca where Campaspe Shire welcomed eight new citizens including Corazon Ashe of Girgarre (Philippines), Minh Ha of Echuca (Vietnam), Li Li of Toolleen (China), Emily Melville and Elisha Melville both of Kyabram (Philippines), Prabath Palle Gedara of Echuca (Sri Lanka), Melly Ann Salico and Flor Salico both of Echuca (Philippines).



Mayor Cr Rob Amos was the guest speaker at the Echuca Beef Farmers Group at their July meeting where he spoke about port flood recovery efforts and the role of farmers in the development of the shire wide Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.

Elmore Field Days Celebrates 60 Years

This year marks 60 years of the Elmore Field Days. From their first Field Day in 1963, the event has grown and gained recognition as one of Australia's leading agricultural Field Days.

Elmore Field Days purpose and vision is to give primary producers the opportunity to learn about the latest in farming and to give manufacturers the opportunity to display and demonstrate those innovations.

Since its inception, the event has been community driven and is organised by a volunteer committee that aims to stimulate economic benefit to regional areas.

Enjoy the exhibitors and products at the Field Days this year on 3, 4 and 5 October. There will be displays of heavy machinery, innovative farm practices, eco-friendly alternatives, leaders in agricultural innovation and herd and crop welfare.

It's fun for the whole family with arts and crafts, stalls from local businesses and community groups, interactive activities, rides and animal shows.

See you in Elmore.



What's On

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

25 August - 1 October

'Destination Unknown' by Maree Santilla, 'Mindset/Relative Strangers' by Boben Mammen, The Foundry Arts Space, Echuca - 13-17 Murray Esplanade

Saturday, 26 August

Jigarre Jammin,
Girgarre Memorial Hall

28 August - 28 October

Gallery - Embroidery Group Exhibition, Kyabram Town Hall

Saturday, 2 September

Echuca Farmers Market,
Aquatic Reserve

Sunday, 3 September

Mr Perfect Monthly BBQ Meet Up,
Apex Park, Cnr High & Leichardt Street, Echuca

Tuesday, 5 September

Father's Day Pasta Night, Kyabram
Italian Social Bocce Club, Fischer Street

Saturday, 9 September

Hopwood Gardens Market, Echuca

Echuca Moama Uniting Church -
Repair Café, Cnr Pakenham & Hare Streets, Echuca

9 - 10 September

American Iron Echuca Heritage Truck Display, Rotary Park, Rose Street, Rotary Park, Rose Street, Echuca

Sunday, 10 September

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

Stanhope Monster Garage Sale,
Birdwood Ave

Kez R Art - Art Journal Club,
Rushworth ART Depot, 9 Horne Street

Sunday, 15 September

Mr Perfect Monthly BBQ Meet Up,
Beechworth Bakery, 513 High Street, Echuca

Saturday, 16 September

Echuca Farmers Market,
Aquatic Reserve

Rushworth Market, High Street

16 - 19 September

Basketball Victoria Country Junior Jamboree, Echuca Basketball Stadium, High Street

Sunday, 17 September

Echuca Country Music Club - Monthly Concert, Tongala Public Hall

Saturday, 23 September

Jigarre Jammin,
Girgarre Memorial Hall

Sunday, 24 September

Kez R Art - Kids Art & Botanical Art Workshops, Rushworth ART Depot, 9 Horne Street

29 September - 1 October

Echuca Basketball Junior Tournament, Echuca Basketball Stadium, High Street

Register your community event

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

Keep an eye on this event directory as events are added and updated regularly!

Grant Programs

Many of the wonderful community projects, activities and events that take place in Campaspe can benefit from a Council grant program. Council's grants programs provide financial assistance to a diverse range of projects and initiatives that contribute to the social, cultural, environmental, and economic development of the Campaspe community.

The Community Grants Program – Now Open

Council's Community Grants Program offers up to \$4,000 in grants to support not-for-profit community organisations, groups and associations for projects, exhibitions and/or performances that contribute to the municipality and support Council's vision. Applications close 15 September. For more information, scan the QR code or contact Council.



Other grant programs include:

- Community Equipment Grants
- Community Event Sponsorship
- Responsive Grants Program
- Business and Commercial Event Sponsorship
- Junior Development Grants
- Seniors Program Grants
- Youth Go! Grants

For more information on these grant programs, including eligibility and funding priorities, go to Council's website: www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/grants or call us on 1300 666 535.



Grant Recipients – July

Council is delighted to announce the following successful recipients of the grant programs during July.

Responsive Grants Program

- Bocce Australia, Kyabram \$1,000
- Warramunda Villages Inc. Kyabram \$1,000

Community Event Sponsorship

- Kyabram Theatre Group Inc. \$1,000
- American Truck Historical Society Australian Chapter Inc. Echuca \$1,500
- Echuca Historical Society Inc. \$800
- Kyabram RV Country Music Festival (Kyabram Development Committee Inc.) \$4,000
- Stanhope & District Development Committee Inc. \$2,500



Community Equipment Grants Program

- Elmore Equestrian Club Inc. \$2,000

Campaspe Shire Council would like to express its gratitude to all the organisations and groups that submitted grant applications. The level of community engagement and participation displays the passion and dedication of local groups and individuals towards improving our vibrant community.

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

19 September
17 October
21 November

Around the Wards

A snapshot of just some of the projects to be delivered across our shire, ward by ward, in the coming year. A full list of projects is available in the 2023/24 Budget which can be viewed on Council's website or at any of our Customer Service Centres.



Echuca Ward - Mayor Cr Rob Amos, Cr Tony Marwood, Cr Chrissy Weller

The final stage of the Echuca East Community Precinct Redevelopment will see connected paths and a bike skills area installed.



Significant works will begin at the Echuca Aerodrome part funded by Council and the Federal Government's Regional Airport Program. The project will deliver resurfacing and upgrading of the airstrip, extending the main runway, resealing the taxiway and aprons, improving drainage, upgrading lighting, and installing a patient transfer station and dedicated aeromedical helipad.



Kyabram Deakin Ward - Deputy Mayor Cr Colleen Gates, Cr Daniel Mackrell, Cr John Zobec

This project will see the development of the Breen Avenue, Kyabram dual cycling/walking track. The project will see the establishment of approximately 1.78 kilometres of shared user path, forming the missing link in the town shared user path network.



Under the annual building renewal program, flooring will be updated at Kyabram Service Centre and Library.

Kyvalley Hall toilet will be made accessible co funded by Council and a Living Local Regional grant. Solar panels will also be installed under the Federal Government's Local Roads and Infrastructure program.



Rochester Ward - Cr Paul Jarman

Lighting upgrades at Rochester Moon Oval and a netball court upgrade at the Toolleen Recreation Reserve will be delivered by the respective sporting committees, part funded by Council and State Government's Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action grants.



As part of a shire wide public amenities replacement program, the toilets at the Rochester Rotary Park will be replaced.



Waranga Ward - Cr Adrian Weston

Stage 2 of the Rushworth Streetscape Renewal works will take place on High Street between Moora Road and Wigg Street. The works will be concentrated on the west side of High Street and the east side between



the old railway line and post office corner and are expected to take place between September 2023 to March 2024, aiming to be completed prior to the 2024 Easter Heritage Festival.

As part of a shire wide public amenities replacement program, the toilets at the Lions Park will be replaced.

There will also be an upgrade of the parking area adjacent to Lions Park, off Station Street. The works include drainage and sealing of the pull-off/ parking area and the provision of one parking space for use by people of all abilities.

Under the annual building renewal program, internal and external painting, air conditioner replacement and flooring will be updated at both Rushworth and Stanhope Senior Citizens, with Stanhope also having a kitchen renovation.



Western Ward - Cr Leanne Pentreath

As part of a shire wide program an upgrade of the skip loading bays at Lockington Resource Recovery Centre will be completed to improve safety and useability for customers.



Lockington Community Centre will receive solar panels as part of the Federal Government's Local Roads and Infrastructure program, which will ensure cheaper energy bills for the building user-groups.

Get Ahead of Your Spring Cleaning This Year



In the age of fast fashion, clothing and textile waste has become a global issue. On average Australians buy 27 kilograms of new clothing a year and dispose of 23 kilograms to landfill, making Australia the second highest consumer of textiles globally.

When clothing and textile waste is buried in landfill, it releases greenhouse gases and toxic chemicals into soil and water. Instead of sending your waste to landfill, choose alternative ways to dispose of your waste. Council's Resource

Recovery Centres at Echuca and Mount Scobie accept clothing for free to recycle.

Top tips for recycling textiles:

- Send your clean, good quality clothing to op shops to be purchased again
- Recycle your clothing at Council's Resource Recovery Centres
- Re-sell your unwanted clothing items on second-hand fashion sites
- Swap your clothing with friends, family or community members
- Reuse old clothing for cleaning rags, pet blankets and other household items
- Repurpose clothing for gardening or flocking for upholstery

Did you know that there are hundreds of kilograms of textiles received every week by op shops around our region that cannot be sold in store? In fact, on average, only around 5% of donations meet retail quality. This can be due to seasonality and not having sufficient storage space, or more commonly, due to items being dirty or damaged. Most op shops do not have laundry facilities to mend

or wash items so please be mindful when you donate, as it can often cost these organisations to dispose of dirty or broken donations.



At many local op shops, such as the Recyclability Op Shop in Echuca run by Community Living and Respite Services, donations that cannot be sold are exported overseas to socially and environmentally responsible partner sorting facilities for further sorting to take place, allowing for global distribution of quality garments, upcycling as well as downcycling (e.g. cleaning rags), which embraces the notion of a circular economy.

Visit Council's website for more information on what is accepted at Resource Recovery Centres.

Rushworth Residents Don't miss the chance to make your home 'nbn ready' !



It is now time for Rushworth residents to ensure they have the new nbn equipment installed into their homes. While there is no obligation to connect to an nbn service, having the equipment installed makes the process much faster and easier if you do want to be connected in the future. Once Fulton Hogan has left town in a few weeks, there may be delays connecting your premises if you have missed this chance to have the equipment installed into your home. So even if you are uncertain if you will connect to the fibre network in the future, it is worth ensuring your home is 'nbn ready' by installing the nbn equipment now.

There are three easy ways to make an appointment time for installation.

1. Register your details at www.fultonhogan.com/contact-us-nbn
2. Call Fulton Hogan on 1800 434 022
3. Email your details to FultonHoganBuild@fultonhogan.com.au.

If you have already registered for the nbn equipment installation, you can expect to receive a call or email to schedule an appointment time that suits to have these works carried out. There is no need to re-register.



WickED

Congratulations

to the 2023 WickED survey winners who took home a \$100 prepaid Visa and a reusable Keep Cup.

Rose-Ann Mulholland from Tongala

Sheila Atley from Kyabram

Lauren Conneely from Echuca

Elise Delaney from Echuca

Melissa Dillon from Kyabram

New Community Recovery Hub Opens

Council's new fit-for-purpose Recovery Hub for Campaspe Shire has opened at 48 Mackay Street in Rochester.

The hub is staffed five days a week from 8.30am-5.00pm by dedicated community recovery officers. Council's Building Inspector is also located at the hub.

Funded by the Victorian Government through Emergency Recovery Victoria, the hub will be the primary location for people to access the services and support they need to

recover from the flood. A mobile outreach unit will also enable the staff to visit people in the community through pop-up sessions, events and specialised programs.

Residents, business owners, community groups and other people in the community will also be able to participate in forums and programs designed to equip them with knowledge and skills on emergency preparedness and resilience.

A range of government and professional agencies will operate from the hub, including Anglicare case management and financial counselling, Partners in Wellbeing small business financial counselling, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, MIND Australia, Echuca Regional Health case management and Bendigo Community Health case management.



(l-r) Lachlan Cozens, Flood Recovery Team Leader; Larna Tarrant, Flood Recovery Officer; Kate Taylor, Resilience & Recovery Coordinator; Lee Hardie, Flood Recovery Customer Service Officer; Christie Lowe, Flood Recovery Administration Officer. Absent: Liz Wells, Flood Recovery Officer.

To contact the Recovery Hub please call 1300 666 535 or email shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au.

Campaspe Library Author Visits!

Campaspe Library Service are hosting two author visits this month.

Bestselling author and ex-teacher, Gabbie Stroud will be discussing her most recent novel, *The Things That Matter Most*. The novel discusses



the strain and emotional load that teachers experience, as well as the love, hope, passion and spirit for the job. It's a moving and compelling story about teachers and their students that explores a range of themes and emotions. Gabbie has also released bestselling books, *Teachers* and *Dear Parents*.

Hear Gabbie at Echuca Library on Tuesday, 22 August at 7.15pm. The event is free, however bookings are required. Please visit Campaspe Library's website or phone 5481 2400 to make a booking.

The following week, Melbourne writer, journalist and broadcaster, Justin Smith will host an author visit at

Echuca Library. His latest novel, *Good as Gold* is a reimaging of the very first race that stops the nation. It's a heartwarming story about triumph and the things that mean more than gold.

Listen to Justin's experiences in writing his book and his personal connection to the story on Thursday, 31 August at 2pm. The event is free, however bookings are required. Please visit Campaspe Library's website or phone 5481 2400 to make a booking.



Book Immunisations Online

Residents are now able to register and book online for immunisations. You can register for an appointment at <https://portal.cirv.vic.gov.au/>

Council provides free childhood immunisation sessions in accessible community settings, adolescent programs in schools, and offers a range of vaccines for adults and business programs (fees may apply). Scan the QR code to find out more and book in to a session near you.

If you are having difficulty making an appointment online, please call Council on 1300 666 535.



Economic Development and Tourism Strategy Update

Campaspe Shire Council is developing a new five-year Economic Development and Tourism Strategy for the shire.

Since early June, a comprehensive engagement process has been underway to gather valuable insights, ideas and priorities from the community to help shape the strategy. The engagement activities have included six drop-in sessions in local towns, an online survey, a half-day summit event, interviews with the business community and several industry-specific forums.



More than 150 business, industry and community leaders attended the summit on Friday, 21 July. Guest speaker, renowned Australian demographer Simon Kuestenmacher, presented on the latest demographic and economic trends facing Australia and the implications of these for Campaspe Shire.

He also gave some powerful and practical insights about how we can leverage our competitive advantages and take decisive action to address some of the key challenges, such as the shortage of affordable housing and access to skilled workers.

Over the next several weeks, the data and information gathered from the engagement process will be carefully considered. A draft 2023-2028 Economic Development and Tourism Strategy will then be prepared for Council consideration and placed on public exhibition for further community input.



For more information on the 2023-2028 Economic Development and Tourism Strategy, visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/edts.

Skill Shortage Solutions

Did you know the Goulburn Valley (GV), Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) is a skilled migration program that is tailored to the needs of the GV Region? The GV DAMA enables employers in the Goulburn Valley, who are unable to recruit appropriately qualified Australians, to supplement their workforce with overseas workers. Employers in the Goulburn Valley region are invited to make an appointment with the GV DAMA Coordinator to learn about the process and eligibility.

The Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT) is the minimum salary that must be paid to a sponsored employee to obtain a temporary skilled visa in Australia. From 1 July the TSMIT increased to \$70,000 for applications to sponsor employees. Concessions to TSMIT are available for employers for the eligible occupations listed in the GV DAMA Table of Approved Occupations which can be viewed at www.gvdama.com.au. There must be a strong business case provided to support a TSMIT concession.

Contact Goulburn Valley DAMA Coordinator, Tina Pellegrino on gvdama@shepparton.vic.gov.au or 03 5832 9501 more information.

#MyCampaspe Calendar

Capture the essence of where you live in this year's #MyCampaspe photo competition, now open until 25 September.

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 2024 calendar.

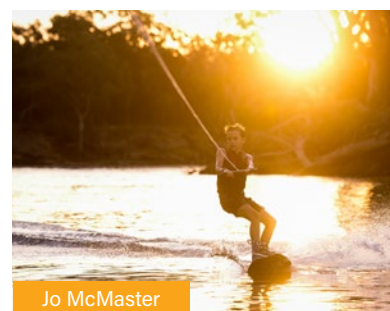
Up to five photos can be entered by each person with each winning entry receiving \$50, a calendar and bragging rights for a full year.

Selected photos from the competition will form part of Council's photographic library and feature in promotional publications, social media and reports.

Applications are online, with entry photos able to be uploaded directly from your smartphone. Full details at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/nowopen



Tymika Weppner



Jo McMaster