

In This Issue

Out and About	2
Christmas Waste Changes	3
Victoria Park Boat Ramp	4
Summer at Campaspe Aquatics	5
Fire Season	5
Christmas Events in Campaspe	6
What's On	6
Christmas Operating Hours	7
Council Meetings	8
Maternal and Child Health	8

Get social and stay updated

f @CampaspeShireCouncil
ig #campaspehire
in campaspe-shire-council



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

December 2023

Season's Greetings!

It has been an honour and privilege to be re-elected by my fellow councillors as Mayor of Campaspe Shire following what has been an extraordinary year. I'm sure I speak for all councillors when I say we are looking forward to another great year of working with and advocating for the community to make Campaspe a great place to live.

In October, I was part of a delegation from the Murray River Group of Councils who travelled to Canberra to participate in a public hearing conducted by the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee for the Inquiry into the Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Bill 2023 as part of the Murray River Group of Councils 'Pushback Buybacks' campaign.

Along with Cr Adrian Weston, we advocated on behalf of the region for the importance of keeping irrigation water with our farmers and concerns of our local community and agriculture industry representatives. Whilst caring about environmental needs, there are water-saving and efficiency projects which we believe are better alternatives to buybacks. We were grateful for the opportunity to present the Murray River Group of Councils position.

As you may see across the shire, festive celebrations have begun. Three Illumination Stations are being installed in Kyabram, Rochester and Echuca as well as a range of other decorations and events across the municipality. See page 6 for more information on events or visit one of our Customer Service Centres to get a copy of our Christmas in Campaspe booklet.

As we approach Christmas, there are a couple of reminders about Council's

operating hours. Service centres and libraries will close at 3pm on Friday, 22 December and reopen on Tuesday, 2 January. A full listing of Christmas service hours is available on page 7.

There will also be changes to kerbside collection dates over Christmas with collection services operating one day later than usual across the shire. For more information, visit page 3.

Calendar Competition Winner!

Over 150 entries were received in the 2023 #MyCampaspe Calendar Competition. From the shortlisted photos, I was amongst the panellists who selected the 13 winners. Congratulations to Nicholas Masters for winning the front cover slot with his photo 'Flood Water Receded' captured in Echuca Village. Nicholas won the competition with over 470 reactions on Facebook! Our 2024 #MyCampaspe calendar is available at any of Council's Service Centres. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's calendar competition. Start snapping your favourite places in Campaspe to submit next year.

Finally, on behalf of councillors and staff, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Cr Rob Amos, Mayor



Mayor Rob Amos with performer Lonnie Lee at the Seniors Concert in Lockington.

Out and About

Campaspe Shire councillors and staff have been 'out and about' in the community, attending various events and celebrating partnerships between Council and the local community. Here's a few of our most recent snapshots.



Australian Senator David Van met with representatives of the Murray River Group of Councils (MRGC) as well as business owners and industry leaders to discuss their concerns about the potential reintroduction of water buybacks by the Australian Government. (L-R Mayor Rob Amos, Cr Tony Marwood, Tongala dairy farmer Andrew Tyler, Senator David Van, Bamawm dairy farmer, Ann Gardiner.)



Victoria Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Emergency Services Jaclyn Symes attended the official opening of the Campaspe Shire Recovery Hub in Rochester. (L-R CEO Pauline Gordon, the Hon. Jaclyn Symes, the Hon. Jacinta Allan, Cr Paul Jarman, Mayor Rob Amos and Cr Tony Marwood).



Council took part in the Mental Health and Wellbeing Expo aimed at promoting awareness, education and advocacy around mental health in the shire and at Hopwood Gardens, Echuca.



Winner of the Dress up your dog competition at the official opening of Stage 2 of the Echuca East Community Precinct.



Council hosted Kyabram P-12 College students for an industry showcase. Pictured is Workshop Team Leader Daniel Moylan showing students some road grading equipment.



Mayor Rob Amos and Cr Adrian Weston presented on behalf the Murray River Group of Councils at a Senate Committee public hearing for the Inquiry into the Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Bill 2023 in Canberra.



Community Transport Officer, Narelle Betts spoke to Ron Wood on his "Out & About" show on EMFM about the need for additional volunteer community transport drivers.



Council hosted its annual Seniors Concert in celebration of Victorian Seniors Festival where hundreds turned out at Lockington Community Centre to hear musical legend, Lonnie Lee perform.



Campaspe Shire Council hosted a night with Shane Jacobson entertaining crowds at the Paramount Theatre in Echuca. (L-R Chrissie Marwood, Shane Jacobson, Cr Tony Marwood.)



Council hosted a Social Media and Content Marketing Workshop run by Business Victoria attended by local business owners, community volunteers and staff from local organisations to learn more about utilising social media.



Murray River Council Mayor Frank Crawley, Mayor Rob Amos and Flood Study Project Officer John McCartney at the launch of the draft Echuca Moama Flood Study report.



Cr Chrissy Weller and Mayor Rob Amos presented winners with medals at the Victorian Clay Target State Carnival in Echuca.



Launch of Youth Take Over which aims to bridge the disconnect between young people and employers in the Loddon Campaspe region. (L-R Kyran Blake - Intern, Mayor Rob Amos, Tania MacLeod - North Central CMA Citizen Science Coordinator, Melinda Mann - HQ Events, Jess Ibbeson - Campaspe Shire Community Development Coordinator.)

Christmas Waste Changes

There will be no Council kerbside collection on Christmas Day, Monday, 25 December which means that from Boxing Day, Tuesday, 26 December until Saturday, 30 December, kerbside collection services will operate one day later than usual across the shire. Don't dismay – it's just one day! If your usual collection day is Monday, your bins will be collected on Tuesday; if your usual collection day is Tuesday, bins will be collected Wednesday and so on until Saturday, 30 December. As always, to ensure your bins are collected, please place them outside the night before. Then you can relax, sleep-in and enjoy your morning coffee knowing that the Christmas waste is taken care of. Kerbside collection services will resume as normal from Monday, 1 January 2024.



Date	Collection days
Monday, 25	No collection
Tuesday, 26	Monday collections
Wednesday, 27	Tuesday collections
Thursday, 28	Wednesday collections
Friday, 29	Thursday collections
Saturday, 30	Friday collections

Christmas season opening hours for Resource Recovery Centres

All eight Resource Recovery Centres will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day. Services will operate as usual on all other dates. For additional information about our Resource Recovery Centres locations and opening hours scan the QR code or call us on 1300 666 535.



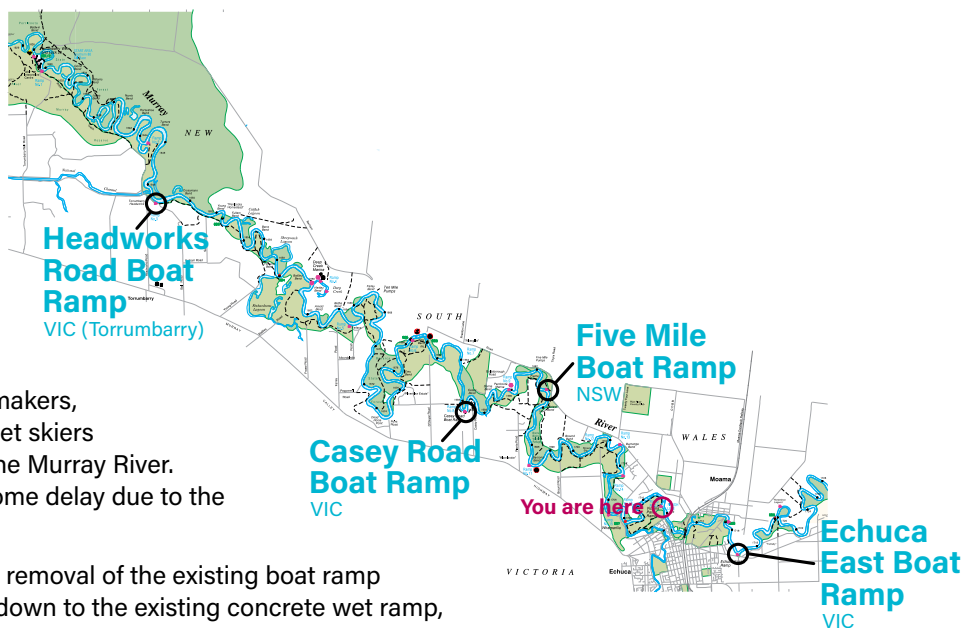
Project Update

Echuca - Victoria Park Boat Ramp

This project is a multi-year program to upgrade the Victoria Park boat ramp and associated infrastructure. This will be a safe and accessible boat launch and retrieval point for anglers, campers, water skiers, houseboating holidaymakers, canoeists, power boat enthusiasts, jet skiers and nature lovers to easily access the Murray River. The program has been subject to some delay due to the 2022 flood.

In November 2023, works began on removal of the existing boat ramp pavement from the top of the bank down to the existing concrete wet ramp, approximately 2 metres above the normal summer operating level. These are scheduled to finish early December 2023. During this time the Victoria Park ramp will be closed – see map for alternative locations.

Stage 2 will include renewal and upgrade to the wet ramp pavement and existing retaining walls to include an all-abilities walkway ramp and a floating dock. The dock will include a crane to assist loading people with disability into boats. Works are scheduled to start in May 2024 and finish in September 2024, during the off-season when the river water level is at its lowest.



Echuca - Aquatic Reserve

This project aims to enhance and upgrade the Aquatic Reserve for the benefit of the community and events. Recently contractors have completed construction of the new retaining wall and pad, installation of aerators in the lagoon, a culvert to redirecting stormwater through the wetland system, strategic tree removals to improve community safety and filling and levelling of the existing swale drain to open up the space for events.



Kyabram - Breen Ave Shared User Path

The Breen Avenue Shared User Path project is progressing toward construction. A contractor was awarded in August and work is being done to gain approvals to adhere to governing authority requirements. In the meantime, preliminary works have begun on the south side of Breen Avenue, as well as on Bolitho Road. These works include the construction of footpath, pedestrian ramps to connect to the future Shared User Path in the rail reserve and a pedestrian refuge island.



Rushworth - Rushworth to Murchison Rail Trail

Works are progressing on the Rushworth Rail Trail Project. Local contractor Arbor Dynamics were engaged to undertake tree removals along the alignment of the new trail. Native vegetation offset credits have been purchased and the larger trees were donated by Council to the Waranga Basin Fish Habitat project. The native timber habitat will support the current high-quality redfin fishery and an enhanced recreational fishery for golden perch. The project aims to enhance the habitat and increase the primary production of biofilms and algae, enabling better survival and growth rates for fish in basin.

Make a Splash this Summer with Campaspe Aquatics

Council is pleased once again to provide FREE ENTRY this summer to the Colbinabbin, Kyabram, Lockington, Rushworth, Stanhope and Tongala outdoor pools. The outdoor pools are open from Saturday 25 November 2023 until Monday 11 March 2024 and during school term are open from 4-8pm on weekdays and 1-8pm weekends. During school holidays the pools are open from 1-8pm every day except Christmas Day. The Rochester Swimming Pool remains closed due to flood damage and the Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre pool will be undergoing painting works from Saturday, 16 December until Monday, 22 January. During this time the

pool will be closed but the gym and group fitness classes will operate as normal. During these closure periods, Rochester and Echuca residents are encouraged to utilise any of the other outdoor pools around the shire.

All outdoor pools open or close depending on temperatures advised by the Bureau of Meteorology. If the temperature is below 25 degrees, the Kyabram pool will open for the early morning sessions as usual, but close in the afternoon. For all other pools, when the temperature is below 25 degrees, they close for the entire day and only open for swimming club sessions or programs.

All outdoor pools close on Christmas Day.

Locations

- Colbinabbin – 52 Mitchell Street
- Kyabram – corner Fenaughty and Union Streets
- Lockington – 5 Burns Street
- Rushworth – corner Geyle and Southam Streets
- Stanhope – 31 Midland Highway
- Tongala – 621 Henderson Road

For more information or to enrol, go to Campaspe Aquatics website, visit Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre or call 03 5483 9698.

Are you Prepared for the Fire Season?

The CFA restricts the use of fire in the community during the Fire Danger Period which began in Campaspe on Monday, 13 November and may end as late as May 2024.

As a property owner it is important that action is taken now to reduce the risk of fire over the Fire Danger Period. Council is encouraging you to look around your property, remove flammable materials and cut any long grass.

Fire Prevention Officers have commenced inspections to identify properties which pose a potential fire risk. Owners of identified properties will be issued with a Fire Prevention Notice. The Notice will require the landowner to act immediately to remove hazards. Failure to comply with a Notice may result in Council engaging a contractor to complete the works and costs will be passed directly to the landowner.

In preparation for the fire season, you are also encouraged to review your fire plan. Reviewing your fire plan now will ensure that in the event of a fire, you and your family have the best possible chance of protecting yourselves and your property.

The CFA has some excellent resources available to assist residents in preparing their homes for fire. Check out cfa.vic.gov.au. If you wish to find out more about fire prevention in Campaspe Shire you can visit campaspe.vic.gov.au/gettingfireready

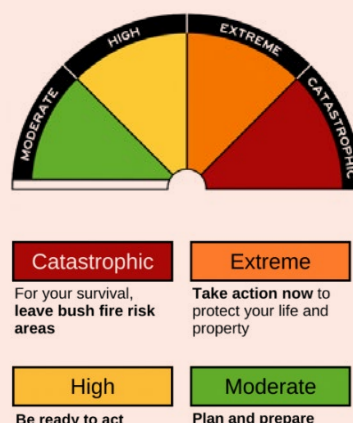
Get to know the National Fire Danger Ratings

Wherever you plan to be, always check the fire danger ratings and be aware of local conditions.

Fire Danger Ratings tell you how dangerous a fire could be if one started.

They provide information so you can take action to protect yourself and others from the potentially dangerous impacts of bushfires and grassfires. The new system is in use across Australia, so whether you are at home or travelling you will see the same system being used. Campaspe is within the Northern Country District.

For more information on what the ratings mean visit: emergency.vic.gov.au/prepare/#fire



Heat Health

It's important to take care in hot weather. Older people, young children and people with a medical condition can be at increased risk from extreme heat.

The Victorian Government's Better Health Channel has five tips to help survive the heat:

- drink plenty of water
- never leave anyone (or pets) alone in a car
- keep cool
- plan ahead
- check in on others

betterhealth.vic.gov.au/heat

Christmas Events in Campaspe

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Campaspe. Scan the QR code or pick up a copy of the Christmas in Campaspe guide from any of Council's Service Centres and hit the trail for a magical December.



Three Illumination Stations are being installed in select towns including the Big Christmas Tree in Echuca, the Big Santa in Rochester and the Big Teddy Bear in Kyabram. Visit the Illumination Stations as they come to life at night, perfect for the community to enjoy and get in the festive spirit... and they're a great photo opportunity! There are a range of other activities happening in December for you to

enjoy! In Echuca the Port will host the giant gift in the park, gingerbread house selfie station on Hare Street, the Australian Christmas tree and a range of activities at the library.

Tongala will come to life with the Christmas hay bale trail, Santa Ferguson, giant gift at the soundshell, Christmas display at the Tongala Arts Precinct and Lions memory tree. Not far down the road, Kyabram will continue the annual yarn bombing display in Allan Street, as well as Santa's cave at the Town Hall, the nativity scene and Christmas story time.

Rushworth will don a decorated bell tower and community trees, elf yourself station, reindeers in High Street and Christmas story time. While Rochester brings a Christmas scavenger hunt to town, as well as bike wheel trees and toddler rhyme time.

What's On

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

Friday, 1 December onwards

Tongala Hay Bale Trail, various locations, Tongala

Wednesday, 6 December

Kyabram Pasta Night, Kyabram Italian Social Bocce Club, 1/118 Fischer Street

8 December - 28 January

The Foundry Art Space - 'Summer Salon' EMAI Members Gallery Shop, 13-17 Murray Esplanade, Echuca

8 - 23 December

Rochester Christmas Tree Display, Rochester Town Hall, Moore Street

Friday, 8 December

Rochester Town Twilight Market, Gillies Street

Stanhope Christmas Carols, Birdwood Avenue

Saturday, 9 December

Hopwood Garden Market, Hopwood Gardens, Echuca

Rushworth Speedway Race Meet, Nine Mile Road

Tongala Community Carols by Candlelight, Mangan Street

Echuca Moama Community Christmas Carnival, Martin Street, Moama

Sunday, 10 December

Christmas by Candlelight, Echuca-Moama Uniting Church, Hare Street, Echuca

Moama Market, Moama Soundshell, Meninya Street

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

Stanhope Monster Garage Sale, Birdwood Avenue

Echuca Moama Lions Club Christmas Carols, Moama Rec Reserve, Perritoota Road, Moama

11 - 15 December

Festival of Christmas Trees, Echuca-Moama Uniting Church, Hare Street

14 - 22 December

Kyabram Town Hall Gallery - Santa's Cave, Allan Street

Thursday, 14 December

Kyabram Combined Church Christmas Carols, Memorial Gardens, Allan Street

Friday, 15 December

Koyuga Christmas Function, Koyuga Hall

Mr Perfect Monthly Coffee Meet Up, Beechworth Bakery, High Street Echuca

Saturday, 16 December

Rushworth Market, High Street

Echuca Farmers Market, Aquatic Reserve

Sunday, 17 December

Echuca Country Music Club- Monthly Concert, Tongala Public Hall, Mangan Street



Gunbower will host Christmas story time and Australian Christmas Wind in the Willows, while Nanneella's Memorial Hall will be home to the community Christmas tree and toy soldier.

The Colbinabbin Pub will come to life with the Christmas carol trail at the silos, while Lockington hosts the Christmas projector. Immerse yourself in the sound walk in Girgarre or enjoy Santa's cave and photo booth in Stanhope.

There's so much to enjoy this festive season!

Christmas Operating Hours

Customer Service Centres – close 3pm on Friday, 22 December and reopen Tuesday, 2 January.

Library branches – close 3pm on Friday, 22 December and reopen Tuesday, 2 January. Book chutes will remain open and all online services available.

Resource Recovery Centres – closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Maternal and Child Health – service operating for first home visits and essential appointments only, contact the MCH booking line to discuss your options on 1300 644 964.

Campaspe Animal Shelter – closed Sundays and Christmas Day. Open via appointment only from 10am – 12pm on Boxing Day and New Years Day. All other days in between open via appointment as per usual operating hours.

Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre – Pool closed 17 December – 22 January. Gym and group fitness remain open. Centre closed Christmas Day.

Outdoor swimming pools – closed Christmas Day.

Quarries – closed for sales from 12pm, Friday, 22 December and reopen on Tuesday, 2 January.

Road maintenance – close 3pm on Friday, 22 December and reopen on Tuesday, 2 January.

Campaspe Community Children's Centre – close 5.45pm on Thursday, 21 December and reopen Thursday, 4 January.

Rochester and District Childcare Centre – close 6pm on Thursday, 21 December and reopen Thursday, 4 January.

Rangers – on call ranger services operate throughout the holiday period for emergencies only.

For urgent requests, call 1300 666 535 and follow the prompts.

Wednesday, 20 December

Echuca Harness Racing Club, Frank Ryan Raceway, Simmie Street

Thursday, 21 December

Rochester Rotary Community Chat, Rochester Hotel, Moore Street

Wednesday, 27 December

Moama Market, Moama Soundshell, Meninya Street

Thursday, 28 December

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

Sunday, 31 December

Echuca Racing Club NYE Kids Day Out Race Day, Echuca Race Course, Scott Road

2024

Monday, 1 January

Echuca Harness Racing Club - Echuca Cup, Frank Ryan Raceway, Simmie Street

Saturday, 6 January

Echuca Farmers Market, Alton Reserve

Sunday, 7 January

Moama Market, Moama Soundshell, Meninya Street

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

10 - 14 January

Girgarre Moosic Muster, Girgarre

Saturday, 13 January

Rushworth Speedway Race Meet, Rushworth Speedway, Nine Mile Road

Hopwood Garden Market, Hopwood Gardens, Echuca

Sunday, 14 January

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

Stanhope Monster Garage Sale, Birdwood Ave

Thursday, 18 January

Rochester Rotary Community Chat, Rochester Hotel, Moore Street

Friday, 19 January

Mr Perfect Monthly Coffee Meet Up, Beechworth Bakery, High Street Echuca

Saturday, 20 January

Rushworth Market, High Street

Echuca Farmers Market, Aquatic Reserve

20 - 21 January

Echuca Moama Multi Sport Festival, Various locations

Sunday, 21 January

Echuca Country Music Club - Monthly Concert, Tongala Public Hall, Mangan Street

Moama Market, Moama Soundshell, Meninya Street

Thursday, 25 January

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

Sunday, 28 January

Moama Market, Moama Soundshell, Meninya Street

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

Upcoming meetings

12 December

20 February 2024

Maternal and Child Health

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Service works in partnership with families to care for babies and young children until they start school. All Victorian families have access to the service through their local council, free of charge.



Within Campaspe Shire many of the Maternal and Child Health centres are co-located with kindergartens and day care centres, providing safe and easy access to the service. We have ten centres throughout the Shire, from Gunbower right through to Colbinabbin!

The service consists of ten Key Age and Stage visits, beginning with a home visit for your new baby just after birth, and ending with a preschool development assessment at 3.5 years - just before your child heads off to kinder and school!

These visits focus on optimising child and family health, wellbeing, safety, learning and development. At each visit, you will be warmly welcomed to the centre, and given a chance to discuss any concerns or questions confidentially.

The MCH nurse will check your baby's weight, length and head circumference, and will complete a thorough health and development assessment to make sure your baby is growing and developing to their potential. They will also perform screening and referrals for maternal health and wellbeing, including postnatal depression.

Health advice and information will be discussed at each key age visit, relevant to your baby's stage of development and specific to your individual needs. This can include topics such as baby sleep patterns, responsive settling techniques, breastfeeding, commencement of solid foods at six months, tooth eruption and oral health, rashes/skin care, immunisations, ways to enhance your baby's learning and brain development, promotion of fine and gross motor skills, among many others.

All MCH nurses are registered midwives who have completed additional studies in Child and Family Health, enabling them to work as community clinicians within the MCH service. They can provide tailored support for families, including those with complex needs.



#campaspeservices



MCH nurses have expertise in identifying health concerns and developmental delays and can provide referrals to appropriate agencies. They can link new families into playgroups and First Time Parents Groups, which foster connections and friendships within our local community.

The MCH service also provides a confidential, 24-hour support line which can give you information and advice about the care and health of your child. All Victorian families can access this service on 13 22 29.

If you have recently moved to the Campaspe area, and have young children, you can access our service by calling 1300 644 964, or by visiting the council website where we are trialling a new online appointment request form at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/mch.

Our operating hours are Monday to Friday. If you are expecting a new baby, and already live within Campaspe shire, we will contact you once we receive your birth details from the hospital.

We look forward to meeting you and supporting you in your parenting journey!

The Victorian Department of Health is conducting a study on Murray Valley encephalitis. The study aims to identify how many people have been infected and develop trends of those most likely to be infected. Participation is via blood sample and questionnaire. For more information on how to get involved in the study, scan the QR code. Study closes 1 January 2024.

