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Cover image – 'The Best Thing About Summer' taken by Jo McMaster on the Murray River at Echuca.



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Campaspe Times Newsletter

February 2023

On the Ground and in the Skies

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2023. We're looking forward to the year ahead and already, there have been some fantastic achievements.

In January, Council received tremendous news that our funding application for upgrades to the Echuca Aerodrome was successful through Round 3 of the Federal Government's Regional Airports Program. The aerodrome has been a key advocacy priority for Council for more than a decade, to ensure the continuation of vital air services for the people of Campaspe and our surrounding region. Residents can rest assured that access to air ambulance and other emergency services will remain secure. The overall cost of the project is estimated at \$4.8 million, Council committing \$2.45 million.

We recently met with Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC CVO, Governor of Victoria, in Rochester. The Governor was joined by her husband Mr Anthony Howard AM KC and Victoria's Emergency Management Commissioner Andrew Crisp. We were taken on a tour of Rochester by Chair of the Rochester Recovery Committee

Leigh Wilson, who described how the flood is continuing to impact the town four months later. It was so heartening to see the connection that the Governor, Mr Howard and Commissioner Crisp created with local residents.

We want to acknowledge and thank the many wonderful people across Campaspe who are continuing to help flood-impacted communities back on their feet. Whether volunteering to help those in need, hosting displaced people in your home or taking on extra roles and duties as part of your normal job, everyone's contributions toward the recovery effort, big or small, are highly valued and much appreciated. We are most grateful to you all.

With so many major events coming up in the next month, we hope to see an influx of visitors to provide an added boost to our local economy. But when they all go home, we need to continue to support our local traders and businesses.

Please continue to look out for your friends, family, neighbours and of course, yourself.

Cr Rob Amos, Mayor



The Governor of Victoria visited Rochester, joined by the Emergency Management Commissioner.

2023 Campaspe Australia Day Awards

The winners of the 2023 Campaspe Australia Day Awards were announced at events across the shire on 26 January. Each year, these awards take place at community led events around Campaspe Shire, and are judged by community committees who decide the winners for their district from local nominations. A panel with a member from each committee along with the Mayor, award the overall winners in each category from the local winners. Congratulations to all 2023 Australia Day award recipients!

Citizen of the Year

Michael (Mick) Simpson



Cr Daniel Mackrell with Mick Simpson

Mick Simpson was diagnosed four years ago with Lewy Body Dementia, a disease that is characterised by abnormal deposits in the brain called Lewy bodies that can lead to problems with thinking, memory, movement, behaviour, and mood. Since then, Mick has made it his goal to learn as much as possible about the disease, as well as raise awareness and remove the stigma about dementia within his local community. Over the past three years, Mick has completed multiple walks to raise dementia awareness and much needed funds for Dementia Australia. One example of this was in 2022 when Mick organised a 190 kilometre walk from the Kyabram Memorial Gardens to Parliament House in Melbourne, where he spoke about his experience.

Together with the Kyabram Community Learning Centre, Mick was also instrumental in the formation of a support group, aptly named 'Don't Demention It', one of only three support groups of its kind in Victoria. The group meets once a month at 'Dementia Café' at the Kyabram Community & Learning Centre on Lake Road. Mick encourages local people with dementia, as well as their family and carers, to come along to share information, foster new social connections and whether they are a person with dementia or a carer, to know they are not alone in the community.

Mick is an active member of the Kyabram community, in particular as a member of the local Lions Club. Mick is part of the club's working party which regularly maintains the grounds at the Kyabram Fauna Park and recently assisted with moving furniture for people impacted by the flood in Rochester.

Young Citizen of the Year

Cameron Barnes



Mayor Rob Amos with Cameron Barnes

Campaspe Young Citizen of the Year recipient Cameron Barnes was described by Mayor Rob Amos as a young man who had "dedicated his life to helping others and has a desire to make a difference". Cameron has been an active member of the 1st Echuca Scout Group since 2011 and is currently the Unit Chair. Cameron leads the unit in volunteering and participating at community events as well as mentoring and supporting the younger scouts.

He is a member of the Youth Advisory Group which advocates to Council about issues that affect young people in our community.

Cameron is currently studying Certificate IV in Personal Fitness with the goal to work in the field of disability and rehabilitation. He enjoys volunteering at the Elders exercise program at Njernda's Nyini Health and Wellness Centre. He also mentors younger clients to gain a better understanding of their mental and physical health.



The Community Group of the Year Girgarre Development Group



Deputy Mayor Colleen Gates, members of the Girgarre Development Group John Warde, Lorraine Warde and Jan Smith with Cr Adrian Weston

"This shows what a small community can achieve when we all sing from the same book." That was the reaction of Jan Smith from the Girgarre Development Group when presented with the Campaspe Community Group of the Year award in Stanhope on Australia Day.

Founded 18 years ago, the Girgarre Development Group is an umbrella group consisting of representatives from all local community organisations. The group has overseen the revival of the town by uniting the community to work together towards a shared vision for future generations.

Some of the groups achievements include the establishment of regular events to invigorate the town, such as the Girgarre Markets and the Girgarre Moosic Muster, both of which attract large crowds of visitors and locals. The group has also been instrumental in fundraising and establishing several notable attractions including the Sound Shell, Sound Walk, Girgarre to Stanhope Rail Trail and the imminent Gargarro Botanical Gardens, which will celebrate indigenous history and be home to an unrivalled collection of native plant species.

The group also supports the revitalisation of community facilities such as Memorial Hall and the kindergarten. They have created a community equipment bank for community groups to utilise. In 2016, they published a centennial history book about Girgarre.



District Award Winners

Echuca and district

Citizen of the Year – **Sarah Peake**

Young Citizen of the Year – **Cameron Barnes** (overall shire winner)

Community Group of the Year – **Echuca Moama Community Radio EMFM 104.7**

Kyabram and district

Citizen of the Year – **Michael (Mick) Simpson** (overall shire winner)

Young Citizen of the Year – **Will Mitchell**

Community Group of the Year – **Ky Project Committee Inc.**

Rochester and district

Citizen of the Year – **Rochester Township**

Young Citizen of the Year – **Georgia Matthews**

Community Group of the Year – Not awarded

Tongala and district

Citizen of the Year – Winner declined to participate in the awards program

Young Citizen of the Year – **Bailey Marsh**

Community Group of the Year – **Tongala Development Group Inc.**

Waranga Ward

Citizen of the Year – **Gavan Poole**

Young Citizen of the Year – **Josh Francis**

Community Group of the Year – **Girgarre Development Group Inc.** (overall shire winner)



Project Updates

INITIATION

SCOPING

DESIGN

PROCUREMENT

DELIVERY

REVIEW AND CLOSURE

Roads, footpaths, bridges, drains, buildings and open spaces are continually being renewed as part of the annual Capital Works Program. Here's a selection of projects currently underway.



Shire Wide Solar Program Procurement

Tender for this program is currently being evaluated, to install solar panels onto nine community buildings – Kyabram Plaza Theatre, Kyvalley Hall, Koyuga Hall, Nanneella Memorial Hall, Tongala Community Centre, Lockington Community Centre, Rochester Shire Hall, Girgarre Hall and the Echuca East Community Building. Funded by the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.



Kyabram Recreation Reserve Second Netball Court Delivery

The new retaining wall has been completed, along with the two rock layers on the court surface. Works coming up include the installation of the asphalt surface layer, construction of a fully accessible ramp, handrail and steps, and installation of light towers and fittings. Funded by the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.



Barnadown Myola Road Completed

Works have been completed on the Barnadown Myola Road. This project involved the replacement of a 200 metre section of road between Roulston Road and River Road, along with the replacement of two culverts.



Echuca Holiday Park Playground Procurement

The contract for a new playground and water play space at the Echuca Holiday Park is due to be awarded. Procurement for the delivery of accessible cabins is also underway.



Step Up to Clean Up!

Join a Clean Up Australia Day volunteer team in Campaspe. Find a team near you by scanning the QR code or go to www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/join-a-clean-up



Recovering from the Flood

The flood emergency transitioned to the recovery phase of the emergency management process in early January. While recovery is about rebuilding and repairing damaged roads, community facilities and the environment, most importantly it's about helping people. Residents young and old, business owners and farmers need support to navigate the myriad challenges and complexities of restoring their lives and to take care of their health and wellbeing. Many community groups, agencies, clubs and other local facilities also need support and resources to get back to normal.

Community Led Recovery

Council is the lead agency of the recovery phase, however, community led recovery is at the heart of everything we do now and hope to do in the future. Four Community Recovery Committees are being established to lead local recovery efforts. The work of the committees includes identifying and making recommendations on local needs and priorities, and working with Council, other levels of government and the emergency services to get the funding and resources their communities need to rebuild and recover.

Recovery Progress

While there's still a way to go, much progress has, and is, being made. Here's a snapshot of some key recovery activities.

Support for People and Businesses

A broad range of government, industry, community, emergency services and not-for-profit representatives are providing support and advice to residents, primary producers and other business owners on temporary accommodation, clean up services, health and wellbeing services, legal and insurance matters and government grants.

Removal of Echuca Levees

Following SES approval, the temporary levees in Echuca were removed.

Repair of Roads and Infrastructure

Over 1,300 segments of Council owned roads were impacted. Urgent remedial works started last year as the water receded and in February, Council appointed a panel of contractors to accelerate the urgent road repairs. These emergency works are fully funded by the state and federal governments and are expected to take about three months to complete. While these externally funded emergency works are underway, Council's ongoing road construction and maintenance activities, as part of the Capital Works Program, will continue. The second stage of remedial flood-related road works is expected to take up to two years to complete.



As we work through the insurance process, the remediation of many community assets, such as sport and recreation facilities, buildings, parks, gardens and pathways, is continuing.



What's Happening Next?

Council will continue to work with community recovery committees, support agencies, government departments and the emergency services to continue supporting those impacted by the floods. We'll also be working with the state government and local water authorities to amend the current flood study with new data from the recent flood. A range of potential flood mitigation options will then be developed. We'll keep the community informed of progress.

In the meantime, we want to send a strong message to everyone that Campaspe Shire is open for business! We warmly welcome everyone back to enjoy our wonderful hospitality, and the unique events and tourist attractions that make our shire such a wonderful place to visit.

Community Grants

Council's Community Grants Program will open as of Wednesday, 1 March. To find out more, go to www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/grants



Echuca Moama Discovery Day

The Echuca Moama Discovery Day is a diverse smorgasbord of community groups, service clubs, volunteer organisations and social clubs from across the shire and across the border, gathering on the lawns of the Echuca Library. The Discovery Day is a fantastic opportunity for Campaspe residents to find out what groups are out there and how they can get involved. Pick up a brochure, talk to the members, watch demonstrations, join in the activities.

Last year's event was a tremendous success, attracting over 1,400 attendees with at least 60 community groups present. And don't think it's just about discovering Echuca Moama. Groups from near and far will gather to promote what they have on offer. The event will be held outside the Echuca Library on Saturday, 1 April between 10am – 1pm.

Community groups are encouraged to pick up an application form from any Campaspe Library branch or by emailing libraries@campaspe.vic.gov.au.

Applications are due on Friday, 17 March.



What's On

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

27 February – 3 March

Massive Murray Paddle, Echuca

Saturday, 4 March

Echuca Fire Brigade Competition, Victoria Park

International Women's Day Workshop, Kyabram Town Hall

Rushworth Speedway Race Meet, Nine Mile Road

Echuca Farmers Market, Aquatic Reserve

Sunday, 5 March

Australian Army Band in the Park, Hopwood Gardens

Volkscub Bendigo Annual Echuca Ice Cream Run, Murray Esplanade

Friday, 10 March

Kyabram Rodeo, Kyabram Showgrounds

Saturday, 11 March

Hopwood Garden Market, Hopwood Gardens

Makers Market, Echuca Moama Uniting Church

Sunday, 12 March

Echuca Cup Day, Echuca Racecourse

Stanhope Monster Garage Sale, Birdwood Avenue

Farmers Produce and Craft Market, Girgarre Memorial Hall

16 – 19 March

NSW Open Golf Club Championship, Rich River Golf Club

Saturday, 18 March

Elmore Tractor Pull, Elmore Events Centre

Echuca Moama Model Aero Club Come and Try Day, Watson Road, Tongala

Echuca Farmers Market, Aquatic Reserve

Rushworth Speedway Race Meet, Nine Mile Road

Rushworth Market, High Street

18 – 19 March

Kyabram White Truck Muster, Kyabram Showgrounds

19 March

Echuca Country Music Club Monthly Concert, Tongala Shire Hall

19 – 23 March

Victorian Veterans Cricket Tournament, various locations across the shire

24 – 26 March

Southern 80, Victoria Park Boat Ramp

Saturday, 25 March

Jigarre Jammin, Girgarre Memorial Hall

Earthhour Squirrel Glider Tour, Campaspe River Reserve, Rochester

Saturday, 1 April

Echuca Moama Discovery Day, Echuca Library

Murray to Moyne, Echuca

Rushworth Speedway Race Meet, Nine Mile Road

Sunday, 2 April

Teddy Bears Picnic, Moama Soundshell

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!

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.



Cr Leanne Pentreath and Community Development Officer Deb Chumbley attended the Lockington Seniors Lunch. 100 seniors gathered for a two course lunch funded by Council's Seniors Grants Program, awarded to events aimed at increasing the health, wellbeing and social connectedness of older citizens.



Wendy Holland from Community Vibe enjoying a tour of Rushworth and meet and greet with Community Development Officer Lachlan Cozens ahead of the Rushworth Place Based Plan. Pictured (L-R): Jean Crossman, Wendy Holland, Lachlan Cozens & Kerrie Raglus



Mayor Rob Amos spoke at the launch of the Southern 80 Launch in January. Pictured (L-R): Moama Water Sports Club President Steve Shipp, Mayor Rob Amos and Member for Murray Plains Peter Walsh MP.



Cr Adrian Weston presented Rushworth's local Citizen of the Year Award to Sadie Vale for her contribution towards the realisation of the Colbinabbin Silos Art Trail project.



Cr Paul Jarman and Barry Powells from the Rochester Lions and Leos Club attended Rochester's Australia Day community breakfast.

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

- 21 March
- 18 April
- 16 May

