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Cover image – 'Milkyway Over Canola'
taken by Grant Scott in Nanneella.



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Campaspe Times Newsletter

February 2024

Welcome to 2024

I hope you all had a restful and relaxing Christmas and New Year break. The beginning of 2024 certainly has been busy to say the least. As you may be aware, in the early days of January, Campaspe sustained heavy rainfall that led to another flood event in many of our towns and farming communities, particularly in and around Rochester, Strathallan and some parts of Echuca.

It's amazing to see how our community bands together during emergencies. I'd like to extend a big thank you to everyone who supported and helped during this flood event. Our teams, along with community members and Emergency Services teams were quick to act and busy on the ground providing relief and recovery centres, distributing sandbags, finding temporary accommodation for those who needed it and supporting our community. I'd like to extend a big thank you to everyone who supported and helped during this flood event.

Over the past few weeks, we've been able to work with community, visiting residents and farms in flooded areas and providing wellbeing support out of the Rochester Recovery Hub.

We've also welcomed many Victorian Government Ministers to Campaspe including the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Jaclyn Symes, Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Melissa Horne, Minister for Water, the Hon. Harriet Shing and Emergency Management Commissioner Rick Nugent. During their visits they discussed the flood damage, what support could be provided by the State Government.

For more information on flood related services, please read page 2-3. Alternatively, visit our Rochester Recovery Hub or give the team a call on 1300 666 535 and press option 2. We are here to help.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate our Australia Day winners, Don Hicks OAM, Citizen of the Year, Jordan Simpson, Young Citizen of the Year and Kyabram Plaza Theatre Volunteers, Community Group of the Year. What an achievement! I'm very proud of all those who were nominated, you should all be incredibly proud of yourselves and the work you do in and around the shire and the impact you have within your communities.

I'm looking forward to another great year with you all. Take care and look out for those around you.

Mayor Rob Amos



Flood Recovery Team Leader Lachlan Cozens speaks to Mayor Rob Amos and Victorian Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Melissa Horne during her visit to Rochester following the January floods.

Emergency Management Flood Update

In January, areas of Campaspe, including Rochester, Strathallan and select areas of Echuca experienced flooding due to heavy rain events across Victoria. Thank you to community members and Emergency Services for their hard work and support during the 2024 flood event.

The Municipal Recovery Committee has been formed and is meeting monthly. Committee members will come together to plan recovery efforts, advocate and engage on behalf of the community.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

There is a range of mental health and wellbeing support available for community members across the shire. If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, below are some providers available to assist.

Scan the QR code for our flood phone guide or visit the links below -



- MIND Australia – located out of the Recovery Hub, Rochester or www.mindaustralia.org.au
- Rural Health Connect – www.ruralhealthconnect.com.au
- Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Hub – www.mindaustralia.org.au/services/mental-health-and-wellbeing-hubs-bendigo-victoria

For more information and support services, visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/recovery



Secondary Impact Assessments

Council officers have been conducting Secondary Impact Assessments in Rochester and other areas, working from data provided by the response agencies in the initial incident. Officers will be visiting properties to assess the damage and quantify data to be used as evidence to access support services and advocate for municipal recovery funding.

Public Health

Flood affected residents should be vigilant against mosquito-borne diseases and mould, as recent flooding and warm weather creates an ideal breeding environment for both.

Council's Public Health team has been administering mosquito treatments post flood across the municipality as required.

Mosquitos breed in stagnant water and can carry diseases which can be passed onto people through bites. Diseases include Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus, Murray Valley encephalitis, Japanese encephalitis and Kunjin virus.

Some tips to prevent getting bitten and breeding sites on your property include:

- Tip water out of pots, plant-saucers, play equipment and other containers in your yard.
- Remove any debris in the yard that collects water, including old tyres, cans and palm fronds.
- Remove pools of standing water by clearing debris or digging small channels to assist drainage.
- Check for damaged fly screens on windows, doors and vents. If required, repair or install new screens. Mosquito-zappers or coils will also deter mosquitos around the home.

Residents should also be wary of mould developing in their homes. Mould grows in damp, poorly ventilated and humid conditions.

Some actions residents can take to reduce mould in the home include:

- Fixing any leaks in plumbing, roofs and other building faults.

- Ensuring gutters are cleared and well maintained.
- Reduce condensation by using exhaust fans, or opening windows in the bathroom and kitchen when using these areas.
- Wipe excess water caused by condensation on windows or showers.
- Air the home regularly by opening windows and doors on warmer days.
- Use reverse cycle air conditioning and a mechanical dehumidification if available.
- Vent clothes dryer to the outside and clean lint filters regularly. Ensure sufficient exhaust openings to the outside of the home if you use evaporative cooling. Evaporative coolers increase the moisture content in indoor air, follow the instruction manual to ensure sufficient airflow in the home.
- Service/maintain heating, ventilation and cooling systems.
- Use a vacuum cleaner with high efficiency particulate air filter (HEPA).
- Avoid placing your mattresses on the floor or surfaces without adequate ventilation.
- Vacuum and/or turn mattresses if it can be done safely.
- Increase air circulation around furniture and move furniture away from walls.

If you suspect mould contamination in your home but can't find its origin, residents can engage an occupational hygienist or environmental health and safety professional to conduct testing for a fee.

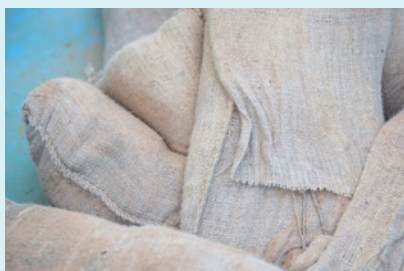
For more information on mosquito-borne diseases, prevention and mould post flood, please visit www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au.



Waste

Residents needing to dispose of storm or flood waste such as leaves, branches, debris or other waste can take items to Council's Resource Recovery Centres for disposal.

For more information on what is accepted and charges at the Resource Recovery Centres, please visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/rrc



Sandbag Removal

Sandbag collection on the nature strip took place in Rochester a few weeks ago. For any residents that missed the collection with sandbags that need to be removed, please take your outstanding sandbags to any of Council's Resource Recovery Centres.

If you require assistance moving your sandbags, please contact Council's Recovery Hub team on 1300 666 535.

Residents requiring any other assistance, including flood waste disposal on private property, sandbag removal, municipal clean up (blocked drains, mud on streets and any other waste debris) or general assistance should complete the form on our website, www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/floods or ring our Recovery Hub on 1300 666 535 and press option 2.

Events



Kath Koschel - The Kindness Factory

Come along to a free, community presentation by Kath Koschel, the founder of The Kindness Factory, a global not for profit organisation and movement which inspires ordinary people to do extraordinary things. A former professional cricketer and Iron Man competitor, Kath has defied all medical prognoses by teaching herself to walk on three separate occasions. For more information visit

www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/kathkoschel

Date: Wednesday, 21 February

Time: 7.30pm start

Where: Echuca Paramount Cinema,
392 High Street, Echuca

Cost: Free to attend (limit 4 tickets per person)

Light supper provided.

Tickets available by contacting Bobbi Aitken, Executive Assistant Communities 5481 2206 or email

b.aitken@campaspe.vic.gov.au

Active Stadiums Pilot Program

Campaspe Stadiums have daytime activities available at the stadiums in Kyabram, Tongala and Echuca, encouraging healthy active living. Activities include:

- Pickleball for Seniors
- Strength Balancing for Seniors
- Parents and Bubs Physical Activity Sessions
- Dodgeball for people with a disability
- Indoor soccer for people with a disability

For more information, scan the QR code.



Ride the Murray

After a break last year due to flood affected terrain, Council is excited to see the return of Ride the Murray in March. Whether you're a bike enthusiast or first-time competition rider, the track is sure to be fun for all.

This year sees new races added AND a team's category. Sign up for:

- **Ride the River** – Urban XC Mountain Bike Racing (1.5 hours)
- **Ride the Port** – taking place in the middle of Echuca on the Historic Port (20 minutes)
- **Ride the Track** – Moama Five Mile Mountain Bike Park (3 hours)

Bring the family and support the riders or enjoy tunes from the DJ, live streaming, events and a few other surprises.

Enjoy all the good things Campaspe has to offer over the weekend!



Campaspe Abilities Unleashed Adults Day

Abilities Unleashed Adults is a national initiative by Disability Sports Australia focusing on promoting active pathways for people with disabilities.

It's a fun, inclusive day of activities to be trialled in a safe environment and connects people with a disability to local sport and active recreation opportunities, as well as disability service providers in the area.

For more information, scan the QR code.



Date: Friday, 15 March

Time: 10am – 1pm

Where: Echuca Stadium

Cost: Free

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.



CEO Pauline Gordon with the Gunbower Tourism team and community members celebrating reading a Christmas Storytime in Gunbower prior to the festive season.



Anna Bonomini from our Library team presented the upcoming library programs, including the Big Summer Read at Moama Anglican Grammar School in December.



Jessica Ibbeson, Narelle Betts, Jacinta Addamo, Rishabh Kothari, Qader Karimi from Council's Community Development team were joined by Mayor Rob Amos for popup sessions in Rochester to gather community feedback on the upcoming Place Based Plan.



Lachlan Cozens, Lee Hardie and Liz Wells from Council's Recovery Hub taking the recovery van out and about in Rochester.



Kate Taylor, Resilience and Recovery Coordinator hosting the first Municipal Recovery Committee meeting in January.



Recovery Officer, Liz Wells along with some participants at Rochester basketball trails.



Council's Recovery Team hosted a pop-up information session at Echuca Village Hall to help connect flood affected residents connect with services they need.



Flood Recovery Team Member, Christie Lowe cooking up a storm for our flood affected residents at a community BBQ at the Recovery Centre in Rochester.



Victorian Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Melissa Horne, (pictured with Mayor Rob Amos and Council teams) visited Rochester following the flooding event in January.



Congratulations to our 12 new Australian citizens of Campaspe Shire who were conferred on 25 January.



Victorian Government Minister for Water, the Hon. Harriet Shing (centre) pictured with Mayor Rob Amos and CEO Pauline Gordon, visited Echuca to engage with stakeholders on the *Water Ammendment (Restoring our Rivers) Bill 2023*.

What's On

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

5 February - 30 March

Textile Art Exhibition by Lesley Edwards, Kyabram Town Hall, 199-209 Allan Street

5 February - 30 March

Basket Makers Exhibition by Northern Plains Basket Makers, Kyabram Town Hall, 199-209 Allan Street

Thursday, 15 February

Rochester Rotary Community Chat, Rochester Hotel, Moore Street

Friday, 16 February

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

16 - 18 February

Riverboats Music Festival, Aquatic Reserve, Heygarth Street, Echuca

Saturday, 17 February

Echuca Farmers Market, Aquatic Reserve, Echuca

Rushworth Market, High Street, Rushworth

Rushworth Speedway Race Meet, Nine Mile Road, Rushworth

17 - 18 February

Golden Power State Series - Go Karts at Rochester, Rochester Go Kart Track

Sunday, 18 February

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

Rochester Town Market, Rochester Skate Park, Cnr Gillies & Campaspe Streets

Moama Market, Moama Soundshell, Meninya Street

Thursday, 22 February

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

Friday, 23 February

M5 Echuca Pro Rodeo, Echuca Rotary Park, Rose Street

23 - 24 February

Great Northern Show, Rochester Recreation Reserve

Saturday, 24 February

Jigarre Jammin, Jigarre Memorial Hall

Wednesday, 28 February

Echuca Harness Racing, Frank Ryan Raceway, Simmie Street, Echuca

February - April

A is for Animal Exhibition by Splinter Contemporary Artists, Kyabram Town Hall, 199-209 Allan Street

1 - 24 March

'Nurturing Nature' exhibition by Tilly Keen, Foundry Arts Space, Murray Esplanade, Echuca

Saturday, 2 March

Holden SS Commodore Owners Club Victoria, Murray Esplanade, Echuca

Echuca Farmers Market, Aquatic Reserve, Echuca

Echuca Fire Brigade Competition, Victoria Park, Echuca

Rushworth Speedway Race Meet, Nine Mile Road, Rushworth

Sunday, 3 March

Volksclub Bendigo annual Echuca Ice Cream Run, Murray Esplanade, Echuca

Mr Perfect Echuca- Free Monthly BBQ, Apex Park, High Street, Echuca

Moama Market, Moama Soundshell, Meninya Street

Wednesday, 6 March

Sounds 2024 - Chamber Philharmonia Cologne Performance, Echuca Moama Uniting Church, corner Pakenham & Hare Streets

Friday, 8 March

Kyabram Rodeo, Kyabram Showgrounds, Allan Street

Saturday, 9 March

Makers Market, Repair Café & Pre-Loved Books Market, Echuca Moama Uniting Church, corner Pakenham & Hare Streets

Hopwood Garden Market, Hopwood Gardens, Echuca

Sunday, 10 March

Echuca Races - Echuca Cup Day, Echuca Race Course, Scott Road

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

Stanhope Monster Garage Sale, Birdwood Avenue, Stanhope

Moama Market, Moama Soundshell, Meninya Street

13 - 17 March

Veterans Car Club Rally (1 & 2 Cylinder Rally), Echuca (Torrumbarry & Girgarre)

Friday, 15 March

Campaspe Abilities Unleashed Adults Day, Echuca Sports Stadium, High Street

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

15 - 17 March

Rich River Rod Run, Echuca-Moama-Rochester

Saturday, 16 March

Echuca Moama Discovery Day, Echuca Library, Heygarth Street

Rochester Town Market, Rochester Skate Park, Corner Gillies & Campaspe Streets

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

Elmore Tractor Pull, Elmore Events Centre

Echuca Farmers Market, Aquatic Reserve, Echuca

Rushworth Market, High Street, Rushworth

16 - 17 March

Kyabram Mack Muster, Kyabram Showgrounds, Allan Street

17 - 21 March

Victoria Veterans Cricket, Various locations

Register your community event

Free website event listing is available to community groups within the shire. Register at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/eventsdirectory. Keep an eye on this event directory as events are added and updated regularly!

2024 Campaspe Australia Day Awards

The Australia Day Awards recognise and reward the individuals and community groups that have made exceptional contributions to our communities. Each of the five regions have their own Australia Day Committee, which is solely comprised of local community members. This committee elects their district award winners. A representative from each committee then joins the mayor to elect the overall Campaspe winners. Congratulations to our 2024 Australia Day Award winners!

Citizen of the Year

Don Hicks OAM



Cr Chrissy Weller, Cr Tony Marwood, Don Hicks OAM and Mayor Rob Amos

Don Hicks OAM, an exemplary citizen with over 65 years of active involvement in administration and sports in the Echuca area was awarded Campaspe Shire Citizen of the Year. Over the decades Don's commitment to his community and sporting activities is unwavering within cricket, football, and lawn bowls clubs holding a variety of roles such as club president, secretary, treasurer, association delegate, selector, and junior coach. His influence extended to establishing a turf wicket at the Bamawm Extension Ground, involvement in the local radio station and providing reports for the league's football record.

Beyond sports, he has held various key roles, including secretary of the Bamawm Heard Testers Association, director of Ibis Milk Products and president of the Echuca West Primary School Council for seven years.

Joining the City of Echuca Bowls Club in 1982, he played pennant until 2021 and held administrative positions, including club secretary and president. From 1996 – 2014 Don was the Tournament Director, organising the Echuca Bowls Club May Carnival, attracting over 1400 bowlers nationally. Known for his personal connections with bowlers, Don managed various aspects, from accommodation to daily draws, presentations, refreshments, umpires, and record-keeping, showcasing his exceptional contributions to the community.

Don's lifelong passion for sport has cemented his place in local history when he was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2015 with a medal of the Order of Australia for his services to sport in the Echuca region. Remarkably, at 94 years old, he continues to actively contribute to the Echuca Bowls Club.

Young Citizen of the Year

Jordan Simpson



Cr Chrissy Weller, Cr Tony Marwood, Jordan Simpson and Mayor Rob Amos

The 2024 Young Citizen of the Year is Jordan Simpson of Echuca. Since joining the Echuca CFA in 2017, Jordan has been a dedicated member. His journey includes winning the Junior Firefighter of the Year award in 2018 and achieving remarkable milestones such as securing a bronze medal at the 2019 Australasian Championships. Notably, in 2022, Jordan made history by being elected the 4th Lieutenant of Echuca Fire Brigade, becoming the youngest in the brigade's storied history.

Beyond his official roles, Jordan has been instrumental in community well-being, playing a vital role during the 2022 floods alongside brigade members to safeguard our town. His leadership skills have been a driving force within the brigade, fostering connections and encouraging fellow members, especially juniors, to unleash their full potential.

Jordan's influence extends to the sports arena, where he serves as Head Junior Leader, running the Winter Junior Program and coaching both Junior and Senior Urban Running teams. The results speak for themselves, with his teams achieving notable success in state championships, showcasing Jordan's coaching prowess.

In addition to his community service and coaching roles, Jordan actively participates in charitable initiatives. He has lent his support to events like the Good Friday appeal and the Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb, raising funds for cancer and mental health. Simultaneously, he contributes to the continuous improvement of the brigade through regular training sessions.

His impact on our community is noteworthy, surpassing expectations of someone his age, and taking on tasks with enthusiasm. Jordan's commitment to community service has left a lasting mark on the Echuca region.

Community Group of the Year Kyabram Plaza Theatre Volunteers



Kylie McGlade, Di O'Dwyer, Carmen Nicholson,
Sheila Atley, Chris Motton and Ray Muller

The dedicated volunteers of the Kyabram Plaza Theatre were awarded the Community Group of the Year at the Australia Day Awards. Since its inception in 1983, the Kyabram Plaza Theatre has been a beacon for residents, offering a blend of cinematic and live theatre experiences within the rich tapestry of its historic walls.

A testament to this success is the outstanding commitment of the group of volunteers who have tirelessly managed and worked there for nearly four decades. The heart and soul of the Plaza are its 40 active volunteers, engaging in diverse roles that span committee membership, ticketing, kiosk operations, ushering, and behind-the-scenes responsibilities such as projection, event coordination, finance management and social media presence.

These unsung heroes contribute nearly 700 volunteer hours each year, ensuring that the community enjoys over 80 movie screenings annually. Without a doubt, their immeasurable dedication ensures that the Plaza remains a vibrant hub for the Kyabram and district community. What truly sets the Plaza Theatre volunteers apart is their diversity, representing a wide cross-section of the Kyabram community, ranging from longstanding contributors with over 20 years of service to those newly embarking on their volunteering journey, gaining invaluable experience whilst contributing to their community.

The Kyabram Plaza Theatre is not just a venue; it is a community hub where residents can enjoy movies, dance shows, school productions, guest speakers, and more. In acknowledging the invaluable role played by our volunteers, we recognise that their selflessness and commitment are the driving forces behind the success of the Kyabram Plaza Theatre. Congratulations to each and every volunteer for this well-deserved recognition as the Campaspe Community Group of the Year.

District Award Winners

Echuca and district

Citizen of the Year – **Don Hicks OAM** (overall shire winner)

Young Citizen of the Year – **Jordan Simpson** (overall shire winner)

Community Group of the Year – **Loco Shed Echuca**

Kyabram and district

Citizen of the Year – **Patricia (Trish) Worsfold**

Young Citizen of the Year – **Huon McIntosh**

Community Group of the Year – **Kyabram Plaza Theatre Volunteers** (overall shire winner)

Rochester and district

Citizen of the Year – **Leigh Wilson**

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

Community Group of the Year – **Rochester Community House**

Tongala and district

Citizen of the Year – **Jenny Reid**

Young Citizen of the Year – **Harley Reid**

Community Group of the Year – **3rd Cavalry Regiment (Vietnam) Association**

Waranga Ward

Citizen of the Year – **Noel Mattei**

Young Citizen of the Year – Not awarded

Community Group of the Year – **Rushworth Op Shop & Foodbank**



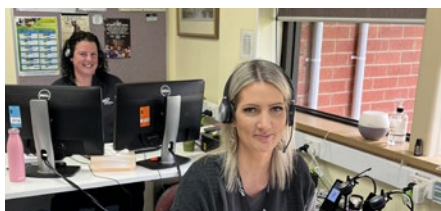


Council is making it easier for residents to recycle waste at the Resource Recovery Centres. All eight Resource Recovery Centres now have EFTPOS services available.

Expressions of interest to join the Lockington Place Based Plan Committee are now open. Visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/lockington or call us to learn more.



Customer Service Team



Council's Customer Service Team is a crucial resource for residents, dedicated to ensuring a seamless interaction between the community and local government functions. Recognising the significance of accessible and efficient services, the team stands ready to assist with a myriad of queries, fostering a stronger connection between residents and Council.

Whether you have questions about waste management, planning permits, community programs, childcare or immunisations, our Customer Service team is your first point of contact. Their expertise extends to guiding residents through the intricacies of local government processes, offering clarity on policies, and providing information on upcoming initiatives that directly impact the community.

Our Customer Service Team is dedicated to being inclusive and responsive to ensure the community is easily connected with our services.

Residents can reach out to the team through various channels, including phone, National Relay Service, email, webchat or in-person visits at any of our five Service Centres, ensuring that assistance is easily accessible to everyone.

If you can't visit in person, don't have time to call, or just have a quick question to ask us, Web Chat could be a great option for you.

To use the Web Chat function, visit our website www.campaspe.vic.gov.au and look for the chat icon on our homepage. Click on the icon and type your query. Our Customer Service Team will quickly respond to your enquiry with an answer to help you. Check out the example on the right to see how fast and easy it can be to find the information you need as a resident of our shire.



Monday – Friday, 8.15am – 5pm
PO Box 35, Echuca VIC 3564
Phone (Free within shire only)
1300 666 535
Outside shire area 03 5481 2200
Email shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au
National Relay Service 133 677

#campaspeservices

< Message Us

This is the beginning of your conversation with us. Please send a message to get started.

Hi, I've just moved to Lockington and I need to find out what day my bins are collected please.

Thank you for contacting Campaspe Shire Council. A customer service officer will be with you shortly.

Hi there! Brianna here. Can you please let me know what street in Lockington? Thank you.

I'm on Singer Road

The red waste bin at the property will be collected on Monday 22 January, the yellow recycle bin will be collected on Monday 22 January and the green garden organics bin will be collected on Monday 29 January. Please put your bin out the night before collection. You can check the collection date for your property anytime on our website at: <http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/bindate>

That's great - thanks for your help!

Send a message...



Mayor Rob Amos – New Rural Council's Victoria (RCV) Committee

Rural Councils Victoria (RCV) represents Victoria's rural councils, supporting and promoting strong, liveable, prosperous rural communities. In Victoria, 38 of the 79 councils are classified as 'rural'. Victoria's rural councils are responsible for 79 per cent of Victoria's land area and have a combined population of approximately 822,000 people. RCV is the peak body representing and advocating to federal and state governments for Victoria's rural councils. Cr Rob Amos, Mayor of Campaspe Shire Council was elected as the new RCV Committee member representing the RCV Rural North East Region in December.

