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Cover image – 'Grevillea' taken by  
Fiona Witney in Echuca.



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# Campaspe Times Newsletter

## July 2023

I'm delighted to announce that after much thoughtful debate, the 2023/24 budget was adopted at the June council meeting. The budget has dedicated \$27.4m to our capital works program, including \$10.2m on roads and bridges, bringing much needed improvement to the thousands of kilometres of roads we all drive on every day. \$6.5m has been allocated to new and replacement plant and equipment so that our wonderful works crews can get the job done of making our parks and gardens a great place for you all to visit. There is also \$4.3m being spent on public buildings which will ensure the public spaces our residents use are up to the standard they expect, as well as investing in a spread of community projects.

You can view a full copy of the adopted budget on Council's website.

During the first week of July, Campaspe celebrated NAIDOC week. The theme this year was 'For Our Elders' celebrating the important role and prominent place that Elders hold in our communities and families.

I attended a flag raising ceremony and morning tea at Njernda Aboriginal Corporation. It was great to see so many in attendance and hear stories of our Elders and how they have guided generations over the years.

The Foundry Arts Space also celebrated NAIDOC week with an exhibition created by students from St Joseph's College. They commemorated the NAIDOC week theme by creating portraits of their Elders and respected Indigenous community members. I hope you had the chance to see the wonderful work from the students at The Foundry Arts Space.

I had the opportunity to travel to Canberra last month with some of my fellow Councillors and our CEO Pauline Gordon. Talking to Federal Government Ministers is an important role we play ensuring



they understand the needs of our area as well as working to secure any funding opportunities that may be available. I also attended a dinner with other local government Mayors and CEOs, meeting Ministers and our Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese.

Last month Campaspe Shire Council signed a joint Memorandum of Understanding with Murray River Council to continue cross-border collaborations. This document cements the great working relationship that Campaspe Shire and Murray River Council have with each other as we work together to support service delivery to towns on both sides of the Murray River.

Get your cameras out! The #MyCampaspe Photo Competition is almost here. 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. For more information visit page 8.

We've got some great events happening in the shire, including Library Information Week. With the winter weather well and truly settling in, the libraries are a warm and welcoming place to borrow or read a book, but there is so much more happening in our libraires, call in and see for yourselves. Refer to page 5 for events happening soon.

**Cr Rob Amos, Mayor**

# Campaspe Times Newsletter

## 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.



Resource and information stalls were set up at the Say No to Violence football round in Rochester. The round aims to raise awareness and assist to prevent violence in the community.



Six drop-in sessions took place across the shire collecting community input on the upcoming Economic Development and Tourism Strategy. Pictured above, the drop in session in Kyabram.



Council's Community Development team and members of the Rushworth Place Based Plan Committee launched the engagement process for Rushworth's upcoming Place Based Plan at Gus and Ollies Café.



Mayor Rob Amos, Deputy Mayor Colleen Gates, along with representatives from Njernda and Victoria Police lead the community walk in Echuca during Reconciliation Week.



Council staff attended a pop-up session with community members on the upcoming Rochester Place Based Plan.



Representatives from the Parliamentary Committee held an information session for community members in Rochester about Flood Inquiry Submissions.



Campaspe Shire and Murray River Councils signing the updated Memorandum of Understanding, cementing the great working relationship to support service delivery to towns either side of the Murray River.

Pictured (L-R) Cr Tony Marwood (Echuca Ward), Murray River Council Mayor Chris Bilkey, Campaspe Shire Council CEO Pauline Gordon, Campaspe Shire Mayor Rob Amos and Murray River Council CEO Terry Dodds.



Students from St Joseph's College Echuca attended a session with Council staff on youth employment and the different opportunities in Local Government.

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## Library & Information Week, 31 July – 6 August

This is the week where we celebrate the work that library and information workers do all around Australia. Every year, libraries and information services throughout Australia showcase their resources and services to their communities, through programs and events. Whether it's a library in your school, community, university, hospitals, cultural or law institutions, this week is an opportunity to learn more about what libraries do and the important roles they play in our local community, work and personal lives.

This year the theme for Library & Information week is "Where's the source?". It is no secret that libraries and library staff are sources of information. With the advent of Artificial Intelligence this brings into focus the right questions to ask: how do we confirm the accuracy, determine copyright, and ensure fair use, when dealing with this type of information? The theme encourages people to ask themselves questions to determine the real source and to identify what's fake, what's real and how to verify the difference.

The week will include regular activities, book chats and a special event at Echuca on Wednesday, 2 August.

### Monday, 31 July

Echuca Library Rhymetime

### Tuesday, 1 August

Kyabram Library Book chat 10.30am

### Wednesday, 2 August

Echuca Library Craft and chat 12.30pm

"Where's the source?" Panel discussion and afternoon tea 2pm, guests to be announced.

### Thursday, 3 August

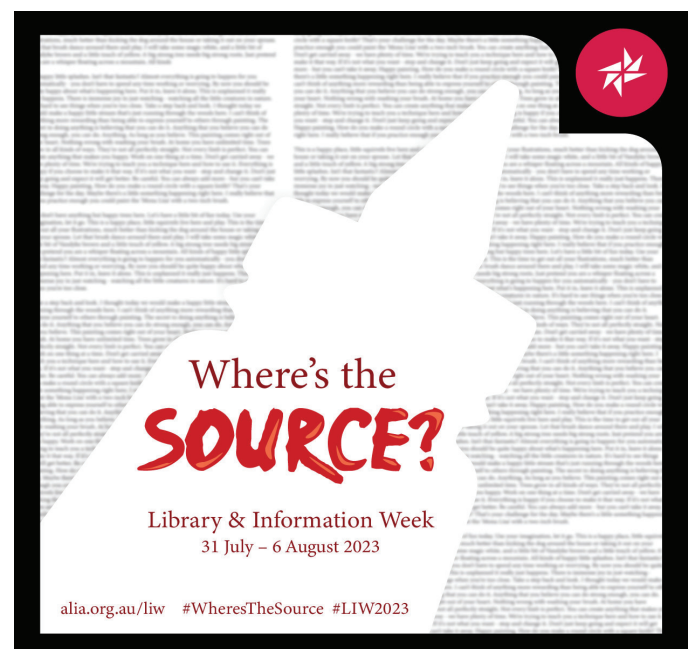
Tongala Library Book club 10.30am, Rochester Library Book Chat 10.30am, Kyabram Library Craft and Chat 10.30am, Echuca Library Book Chat 2pm

### Friday, 4 August

Echuca Library Storytime 10.30am, Rushworth Library Book Chat 10.30am, and Echuca Library Movie afternoon 1pm (BYO lunch)

### Saturday, 5 August

Echuca Library Family Storytime 10.30am.



## Appointment of Our New Directors

Following a rigorous and thorough recruitment process, appointments have been made to the vacant Director positions at Council. The Directors (below) started their new roles in July, joining Shannon Maynard who was appointed in April, making up the Executive Leadership Team at Council under CEO, Pauline Gordon. For more information about the Management team and their responsibilities, visit the 'Our Council' section on our website.



Director  
Communities  
**Jo Bradshaw**



Director  
Infrastructure  
**Kate Lemon**



Director Corporate  
**Matthew  
McPherson**



Director  
Sustainability  
**Michael Sharp**



Director  
Emergency  
Management  
**Shannon Maynard**

## Community Grants

Campaspe Shire Council is delighted to announce the successful recipients of the Community Grants programs from 8 May - 27 June. These grants aim to support and empower local community organisations and groups in their valuable work to enhance the quality of life for residents throughout our region.

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. Council received numerous applications for funding, each displaying the passion and dedication of local groups and individuals towards improving our vibrant community.

The grants that were awarded included:

### Community Event Sponsorship

- Echuca Steam Preservation Society Inc. \$5,000
- Colbinabbin Silo Art (Colbinabbin & District Historical Society Inc.) \$5,000
- Kyabram Parkland Golf Club Inc. \$2,500
- Echuca Neighbourhood House Inc. \$500

### Community Equipment Grants

- Kyabram Little Athletics Centre Inc. \$2,000
- Kyabram Plaza Committee Inc. \$2,000
- Rochester Cemetery Trust \$2,000
- Echuca Moama Photography Club Inc. \$2,000

- Kyabram Valley View Golf & Bowls Club Inc. \$2,000
- Kyabram Croquet Club Inc. \$1,800
- Colbinabbin Football Netball Club Inc. \$1,000
- Nanneella Timmering Landcare Group \$2,000
- Echuca Village Tennis Club Inc. \$1,950

### Responsive Grants

- Rochester Football Netball Club Inc. \$1000
- Rochester Historical & Preservation Society Inc. \$981
- St Patrick's School, Tongala \$69.75

### Junior Development Grants Program

- Jacob Brighton of Echuca \$200
- Jorja Ponton, Stanhope \$200
- Charlie Boswood, Kyabram \$200

### Community Grants Program (Round one)

- Echuca Neighbourhood House Inc. \$4,000
- Echuca Historical Society Inc. \$1,320
- Kyabram & District Men's Shed Inc. \$4,000
- Girgarre Stanhope Rail Trail (Girgarre Development Group Inc.). \$721
- Lockington Recreation Reserve Inc. \$4,000
- Kyabram Bowls Club Inc. \$4,000

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 highlights the strong commitment towards creating a vibrant and inclusive community for all residents.

## Rushworth Place Based Plan Survey

Rushworth – have your say in the upcoming Place Based Plan. Residents are encouraged to share their big ideas, future ambitions and improvements for the town.

Community members and frequent visitors are encouraged to share their ideas about how Council and the Rushworth Place Based Plan Committee can make the town even better and what can be done to help facilitate positive change in the community.

The information collected from the consultation will be documented into a Place Based Plan by December 2023. The plan will feature a series of priority projects which the Committee will work towards achieving over the next 10 years.

To complete the survey and to follow for more details about the progress of the development of the Rushworth Place Based Plan, visit Council's website [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/rushworthpbp](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/rushworthpbp) or simply scan the QR code.

Hard copy surveys can also be collected at the Rushworth Service Centre and filled in with staff.



## Get your Groove on this Winter in Campaspe

Campaspe is soaring with tunes across the shire. Whether you fancy a jam session with the players of Jigarre Jammin or prefer to carve up the dance floors at the Echuca Moama Winter Blues Festival or the upcoming Lockington Country Music Festival - there are always great music events happening in Campaspe.

July begins with the monthly Echuca Country Music event held in Tongala on Sunday, 16 July. Enjoy entertainment from artists and the Echuca Country Music Club band. Just a few days later on Wednesday,

19 July, The Songwriter Sessions return to Radcliffe's for musicians to share their stories, experiences and original music.

In the heart of Girgarre, Jigarre Jammin entertains with five hours of playing, singing and catching up. If you've been searching for a musical group to join, grab your instrument and head down to check out this monthly musical phenomenon.



Echuca Moama ignites for the Winter Blues Festival. Now in its 24th year, the festival is bringing an impressive line-up of blues favourites and new artists to discover through various venues. From 27 - 30 July, experience 60+ electrifying blues bands at various venues around Echuca.

Save the date for later in the year for the Lockington Country Music Festival on Friday, 27 October and the Kyabram Country Music Festival from 8-12 November. Bookings are already open for these events.

Visit our Events Directory on our website for more information about these musical events, and many more happenings across our region!

**Enjoy the sounds of Campaspe!**

## What's On

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

### Thursday, 20 July

Rochester Rotary Community Chat,  
Rochester Hotel

### Saturday, 22 July

Jigarre Jammin,  
Girgarre Memorial Hall

Tonny Bazaar - Pre Loved Clothing  
Market, Tongala Community Centre

### 27 - 30 July

Echuca-Moama Winter Blues Festival,  
various locations in Echuca

### Friday, 28 July

Echuca Races, Scott Road

### 1 August - 30 September

Art by Joan & Clair Greenwood,  
Kyabram Town Hall Exhibition

### 1 August - 28 October

Dreaming, Kyabram Town Hall  
Exhibition

### Saturday, 5 August

Echuca Farmers Market,  
Aquatic Reserve

### Sunday, 6 August

Mr Perfect Monthly BBQ Meet Up,  
Apex Park, Echuca

Johnno's Run CLRS Fun Run (5km,  
10km & 21km course), Moama Sound  
Shell and Echuca

### Saturday, 12 August

Hopwood Gardens Market, Echuca

### Sunday, 13 August

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

Stanhope Monster Garage Sale,  
Birdwood Ave

### 15 - 19 August

Australian Darts Open,  
Moama Bowling Club

### Thursday, 17 August

Rochester Rotary Community Chat,  
Rochester Hotel

### 18 - 20 August

'Plan On' by Echuca Moama Theatre  
Company, The Foundry Arts Space,  
Echuca - 13-17 Murray Esplanade

### Saturday, 19 August

Echuca Farmers Market,  
Aquatic Reserve

Rushworth Market, High Street

### Sunday, 20 August

Echuca Country Music Club - Monthly  
Concert, Tongala Public Hall

### 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

Embroidery Group,  
Kyabram Town Hall Gallery

## Register your community event

Free website event listing is available to community groups within the shire. Register at [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au).

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

# Campaspe Times Newsletter

## Seniors Support

### Seniors Program Grants 2023

Campaspe Shire Council is committed to promoting positive ageing through increasing the health, wellbeing and social connectedness of the aged community. The Senior Program Grants is a way of achieving this.

The Seniors Program Grants provides funds of up to \$1,000 to deliver programs or activities.

We are looking to fund innovative projects that support positive ageing initiatives and activities that focus on social connection and wellness.

Examples could include:

- Resources to directly support existing senior programs or activities.
- Activities or events to welcome new senior participants or residents.
- Fun programs that seek to engage our Seniors.
- Support to make programs more inclusive of vulnerable community members. E.g. eg. Culturally and Linguistic Diverse, LGBTQIA+ communities.
- Providing support or training to develop new skills or talents.

More information about the eligibility, the assessment process and how to apply can be found on our website, by contacting the Community Development Team on 1300 666 535, or email [shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au](mailto:shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au) or by visiting any of our Customer Service Centres. Grant applications open on 17 July and close on 7 August. Successful recipients will be notified on 8 September.

## Community Transport for Seniors



Council provides a Community Transport Service, available to assist frail older people and people with disabilities who are unable to get to medical appointments using public transport or other transport options. Trained volunteer drivers can take you to your appointment using a Council owned vehicle. As there is no government funding for this service, it is dependent on driver and vehicle availability. It is available only to eligible people and a fee is charged.

Our libraries also offer a "Books on Wheels" service where volunteers can deliver your library books if you are unable to get to the library. Contact Campaspe Libraries on 5481 2400 or email [libraries@campaspe.vic.gov.au](mailto:libraries@campaspe.vic.gov.au) for more information.

## Accessible parking permits

Accessible parking permits give parking concessions to those with impaired mobility. If you need an accessible parking permit, you can apply online, or request a hard copy of the form from us. You will then need to visit your GP or occupational therapist for them to complete an online assessment and submit your application. Council will review the application and if your application is successful, you'll receive your permit in the mail.

## Community connections



Campaspe offers a wealth of community groups and activities for senior citizens to become involved in. Whether it is special interest groups, service clubs, arts and crafts or volunteering opportunities, Council can help you find out more information about connecting with your community. You can visit our Community Directory and our Events Directory on our website or visit any of our Customer Service Centres or libraries for information on local groups, events and activities.

## No internet? No problem!

If you don't have internet or a computer and would like assistance with finding out information, our Customer Service Team can help you by phone or in person. We have computers available for public use at our Customer Service Centres and our team is happy to help you. We can also print hard copies of forms, surveys, applications for you in person or we can send them to you in the post.

To find out more about these services visit our website, Customer Service Centres or call us on 1300 666 535.

## 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

- 18 July
- 15 August
- 19 September

## Project updates

### Shire Wide Solar Project

Several Campaspe Shire community buildings will have solar power systems installed (inverter and panels) in the coming months. This will help the Committees of Management reduce the energy costs.

An analysis was completed of multiple buildings to assess power usage, structural integrity, roof size and orientation, with the following locations being included in the program:

- Echuca East Community Building
- Kyvalley Hall
- Kyabram Plaza Theatre
- Girgarre Memorial Hall and Supper Room
- Koyuga Hall
- Nanneella Memorial Hall
- Tongala Community Centre
- Lockington Community Centre
- Rochester Service Centre

Key points to note:

- Communication with the relevant user groups will be ongoing throughout the project.
- Design and construction contracts were recently awarded.
- Detailed designs showing the proposed solar systems have been received and reviewed by Council.
- Over the next couple of months, Council will focus on completing the following:
  - Site investigations, structural verification and finalising designs for all nine buildings.
  - Seek power authority approval for the designed works.
  - Order all solar system materials and equipment and commence construction.

This project is expected to be completed by 30 September 2023.



### Shire Wide Public Amenities Program

The contract has been awarded for replacement of three ageing public amenities across the shire. New fully accessible 'modular' amenities will be installed at Alton Reserve in Echuca, Rotary Park in Rochester and Lions Federation Park in Rushworth. Accessible parking and footpaths will also be installed at the Rochester and Rushworth sites, with accessible parking already available at the Echuca site. The modular design enables the amenities to be fabricated and assembled in the factory, and then craned into position on site, minimising the time that the amenities are out of action for the community. Each of the sites have alternative amenities a short walk away. Council will install signs during construction advising of these alternative locations. The new amenities are clad in Colorbond, with the colour specified to suit each location. These amenities will be completed by 31 October 2023.

Both programs of works have been funded by the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure grant funding.

## Immunisations Going Online

From July onwards you will be able to register and book online for immunisations. You can register for an appointment at <https://portal.cirv.vic.gov.au/>

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting children and adults against certain diseases. Immunising yourself or your children is important for not only your health, but also for the health of your community because when enough people are immunised diseases no longer spread.

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 or head to [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/Our-services/Public-health/Immunisations](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/Our-services/Public-health/Immunisations) 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 - we are here to help!



# Campaspe Times Newsletter

## Flood Recovery Update

### Flood Inquiry Submissions

Thank you to all those in the community who took the time to lodge a submission to the Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria. While the statistical data speaks volumes about the devastating asset losses, it's only through the stories of local residents, businesses, farmers, teachers, community groups and others impacted by the flood that the human toll can be truly understood. Your experiences and insights will now inform the committee's recommendations to better protect our communities from such disasters into the future. At the time of writing, of the more than 750 submissions received to date, about half are from Rochester alone.

### New Community Recovery Hubs

Since the October floods, residents and impacted people have been able to access support and resources from temporary community recovery hubs. With Victorian Government funding, Council has now set up the first fit-for-purpose community recovery hub at 48 Mackay Street, Rochester, including a mobile unit for outreach. The hub will be staffed five days a week by dedicated community recovery officers and a range of Council, government and professional support services will be delivered from the venue. To contact the Rochester Recovery Hub please call 1300 666 535 or email [shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au](mailto:shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au).

## Flood Advocacy

We are delighted that our latest funding applications to the state and federal governments have been successful. An amount of \$1.087 million has been awarded under Round One of the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) for:

- review and updating of the Echuca Moama Torrumbarry Flood Study
- preparation of a Flood Risk Management Plan.
- purchase of demountable levee panels.

An amount of \$110,000 was also awarded under the Connecting Community to Builders Program. This will help flood-impacted residents to rebuild their homes by linking them to local trades in the area and assist Council to process the increase in planning and building permit applications.

## Plastic Free July – UpCup!

Plastic Free July is a global social movement that aims to end plastic waste so that we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Once again, we are participating in this initiative.



Recent estimates show takeaway coffee cups lined with plastic, and their lids, are now one of the most used single-use plastic items in the country with recent research finding 1.84 billion single-use cups used each year. Most single-use coffee cups end up as landfill or as litter on our beautiful beaches and in our rivers and oceans. Once in the environment they break up into microplastics, which cause lasting harm to wildlife and marine ecosystems. One way to reduce plastic is by choosing to 'Up Cup' by ditching disposable coffee cups and bringing a reusable coffee cup to your favourite cafes. If you are not a coffee drinker, we encourage you to choose another plastic item to give up. Check out [www.plasticfreejuly.org](http://www.plasticfreejuly.org) for inspiration.



## #MyCampaspe Calendar

Get your cameras ready as the annual #MyCampaspe calendar photo competition is open to enter from 2 August until 25 September.



Photo guidelines are:

- Photos need to be in landscape orientation and high quality (up to 10MB)
- Your photo(s) must be taken in the Campaspe Shire region.
- You can enter up to five photos.
- 13 photos will be selected as finalists.
- The competition is free and open to everyone.

### June newsletter correction

'Co-mingled recycling' and 'paper and cardboard' CAN go into the yellow kerbside recycling bin **as well as** be taken to any of Council's 8 RRCs free of charge.