

# Campaspe Times Newsletter

## October - November 2023

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Cover image – 'Yellow Thornbill chasing insects on wattle'  
Noel Ruedin, Echuca.



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### One Year On

The anniversary of the October 2022 floods that decimated many of our communities has recently passed. While much progress has been made across the shire, we acknowledge there's still a long way to go for many of our impacted residents and communities to recover. Many people are still not living in their own home, some are grappling with mental health issues and whole communities are working hard to restore their social fabric and local economies. While these challenges will not fully resolve in the short term, the collective efforts of communities, governments and service agencies working in partnership is ensuring that locally identified needs and priorities are being progressively addressed. You can read about some of the key activities of the past 12 months in our story on page 5.

The draft Echuca Moama Flood Study Report is open for comment from Monday, 30 October until Monday, 27 November. The draft report is the first part of the Echuca Moama Torrumbarry Flood Study and Risk Management Plan Project. It's important for us to gain your feedback and hard evidence of the 1993, 2011, 2016 and 2022 events such as photographs and identifiable flood marks to back up your feedback. Read more about how you can be involved on page 2.

Recently I attended the launch of the construction of the Girgarre Solar Farm project by Enel Green Energy. This is a really exciting project within our municipality as once fully operational, the solar farm will supply clean power to around 43,000 Victorian homes. The project involves and overall investment of over \$140 million will result in hundreds of local employment opportunities for Girgarre and the neighbouring areas. The ripple effect will extend beyond the construction site, benefitting local businesses and service providers, from cafes and restaurants to retail, and fuelling economic growth that the wider community will benefit from.

Campaspe is participating in a joint advocacy campaign with five other northern Victorian councils as part of the Murray River Group of Councils (MRGC) Water Policy campaign,

#PushbackBuybacks. The federal government is proposing to introduce legislation aimed at amending the Water Act 2007. If the Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Bill 2023 is passed later this year, the government will reintroduce water buybacks and remove the requirement to consider the social and economic impacts of purchasing water from farming irrigators. This change is concerning for our farmers, local communities as well as consumers of Australian-grown milk, fruits and vegetables. Water buybacks have caused job losses, business closures and other negative impacts on communities in the past. The changes are also expected to add to cost of living pressures, with less availability of fresh produce leading to higher food prices at the checkout. Read more in our story on page 3.

While we acknowledge the importance of maintaining healthy river systems and waterways, it should not come at the expense of the social and economic wellbeing of the people and communities in our region. I encourage all concerned residents to visit [www.mrgc.com.au/pushbackbuybacks](http://www.mrgc.com.au/pushbackbuybacks) and show your support by signing our petition, and/or downloading a template letter to send to your local Member of Parliament and the parliamentary cross benchers.

Until next time,  
**Cr Rob Amos, Mayor**



Mayor Rob Amos at Njernda Wellbeing Services, with Youth and Community Services Officer Stuart Hearn having a cast made of his hand for inclusion in the Acceptance Tree sculpture, exhibited at the Mental Health and Wellbeing Expo in October in Echuca.

## Project Update

### Local Roads and Community Infrastructure - Phase 4

The first 3 phases of the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program provided Council with \$10.6 million to be spent on road and infrastructure projects. The program started in July 2020 and has been extended with Phases 1 - 3 to be completed by June 2024. We have delivered Phases 1 and 2 and are halfway through delivering Phase 3. The following projects have now been approved for delivery under Phase 4 which provides \$4.1 million in funding to be spent by June 2025.

#### **Kyabram Recreation Reserve Spectator Shelter**

Installation of a new spectator shelter for football and netball including footings, structure, glazing and seating.

#### **Rochester Recreation Reserve Lighting Upgrade**

Part funded and delivered by the Committee of Management this project will upgrade the lighting levels of Rochester Recreation Reserves Moon Oval to meet minimum lighting standards for community level football training.

#### **Toolleen Recreation Reserve Netball Court Upgrade**

Part funded and delivered by the Committee of Management this project will upgrade the netball courts at Toolleen Recreation Reserve to provide two courts with training lights compliant to Netball Victoria's Facilities Manual.

#### **Campaspe Public Amenities Program - Echuca and Colbinabbin**

Removal of outdated public toilet blocks and replacement with modern, accessible facilities. (Echuca Apex Park and Colbinabbin).

#### **Campaspe Dog Parks - Kyabram and Tongala**

Development of new dog exercise parks in Kyabram and Tongala.

#### **Toolleen Axedale Road Widening and Safety Enhancement**

This project is for the widening, rehabilitation of the existing pavement and a significant road (barrier) safety treatment of Axedale-Toolleen Road, Toolleen between Northern Highway, and the Campaspe shire boundary to improve safety and to improve connectivity across the district.



Kyabram



Rochester



Toolleen



Toolleen

## Australia Day Nominations

Nominations for the 2024 Australia Day Awards are now open.

Details and nomination forms can be downloaded from Council's website and are available from all customer service centres.

Nominations must be submitted to local Australia Day committees by Friday, 1 December.

Now  
Open



## Have Your Say Echuca Moama Flood Study

The draft Echuca Moama Flood Study Report is the first part of the Echuca Moama Torrumbarry Flood Study and Risk Management Plan Project. It has been prepared to better understand flood behaviour of the Murray, Campaspe and Goulburn River systems and their impact on the Echuca-Moama area.

We are seeking your comments on the draft report and associated flood mapping. An anonymised summary of all feedback will also be incorporated into the final report. The second part of the project which will investigate flood mitigation options, flood warning systems and information to assist in managing flooding, will follow in 2024.

Visit the Now Open section of our website, scan the QR code or call us for more information of how you can be involved.





## We're Pushing Back on Water Buybacks

Water is the lifeblood of our communities. Agricultural production, food processing and associated businesses drive our northern Victorian economies. Together, the agriculture and food processing sectors in our region account for:

- One third of all economic output
- 43% of all local expenditure, and
- One in four jobs.

That's why Campaspe Shire Council, along with Gannawarra, Loddon, Moira, Mildura and Swan Hill councils, is part of the Murray River Group of Councils' (MRGC) advocacy campaign to keep local and affordable Australian-grown food on the tables of Australian families.

The MRGC's #PushbackBuybacks campaign, launched on 5 October, aims to stop the Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Bill 2023 from becoming federal law. If the Bill is passed, the Australian Government will reinstate water buybacks from farmers as part of the Murray Darling Basin Plan implementation.

Last time, water buybacks caused massive job losses, business closures and decimated communities across

northern Victoria. Water buybacks will also put at risk one of the nation's largest food bowls and add to cost-of-living pressures on Australian families. Water buybacks reduce water availability and increase input costs for farmers.

The flow-on effect is less production and availability of milk, dairy, grains and fresh fruit and vegetables, which would drive up the price of fresh produce and packaged food products at the checkout.

The MRGC supports the environmental outcomes the Australian Government aims to achieve through the Basin Plan but there are better alternatives to water buybacks. The water-saving and efficiency projects underway at Hattah Lakes and Gunbower Forest as part of the Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project, are good examples.

To find out more about this issue of national importance and how you can get involved, including signing the petition, visit [www.mrgc.com.au/pushbackbuybacks](http://www.mrgc.com.au/pushbackbuybacks).



## Flood Waste Services

Twelve months on from the floods, Council's waste services in flood-affected communities have now returned to normal operation. Although flood waste will no longer be received free of charge at Council resource recovery centres, sandbags will continue to be accepted at no cost for quantities of less than three cubic metres. If you have any other flood waste enquiry, please contact the Recovery Hub on 1300 666 535 and press 2, or email [shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au](mailto:shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au).

## Don't Dismay, it's just one day! 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 December	No collection
Tuesday, 26 December	Monday collections
Wednesday, 27 December	Tuesday collections
Thursday, 28 December	Wednesday collections
Friday, 29 December	Thursday collections
Saturday, 30 December	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.



## 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.



Mayor Cr Rob Amos attended the closing ceremony of the Basketball Victoria Regional Jamboree at Echuca Stadium.



Cr Adrian Weston and Mayor Cr Rob Amos, pictured with representatives from Enel Green Energy and the Girgarre Development Group at the "turning of the first sod" launching the construction of the Girgarre Solar Farm.



Mayor Cr Rob Amos presented Citizenship certificates to the newest Australian Citizens at their ceremony in Echuca.



Our Community Partnerships, Libraries and Aquatics team attended the Kyabram Youth expo at Kyabram P-12 College on RU OK? Day.



Our Economic Development, Events and Recovery Teams shared information and resources at Elmore Field Days.



CEO Pauline Gordon and Director Sustainability Michael Sharp toured SLTEC Fertilisers in Tongala, pictured here with Maria Hashmatt and Jamie McMaster.



Lonnie Lee rocked Lockington as part of the Seniors Festival.



# 12 Months on from the Floods

While the October 2022 floods impacted people and communities in different ways. What our residents have in common, is a strong resolve and united action to support each other in recovery: to rebuild people's lives and livelihoods; mend the social fabric of towns; reignite businesses and local economies; repair beloved community facilities; restore the natural environment; and strengthen our resilience for the future. In this article, we reflect on some of Council's key activities of the past 12 months to support our community in recovery.



## Recovery Hub

Council operated temporary flood recovery support hubs from several locations until a fit-for-purpose Flood Recovery Hub opened in Rochester on 10 July 2023. More than 1,500 people have attended since it opened and a further 150 calls have been received by the dedicated flood support phoneline. A broad range of events are delivered aimed at social reconnection, advice and support to flood affected residents.



## Community Recovery Committees

Council has supported three community recovery committees (CRCs), including the Echuca, Rochester and Campaspe West (Gunbower and Torrumbarry) Community Recovery Committee. In July 2023, the first meeting of the new Municipal Recovery Committee (MRC) was held. The MRC is a vital link between government departments agencies, other community recovery committees, impacted communities and Council.

## Rates Relief Package

A 2022-23 rates relief package for identified flood-impacted properties was endorsed by Council. The package was the most equitable economic way Council could help ratepayers.

## Emergency Management

Council has put significant resources into rebuilding its emergency management capability, with several dedicated officers tasked with making sure Campaspe is ready for any future event. These officers will focus on both our internal capability and external capabilities – ensuring we are working with agencies and the community to be prepared.

## Advocacy

Advocating on behalf of our community has been a top priority of Council. The program of advocacy activities has included many ministerial meetings, funding applications and submissions to a variety of reviews as well as the Victorian Flood Inquiry. Seeking a solution to mitigate flooding caused by overflow spillage from Lake Eppalock and reviewing flood plans have also been top priorities.

## Repair of Council-Owned Assets

More than 1,400 road segments have been inspected and repairs undertaken at more than 703 locations. Many damaged buildings, sports grounds, paths, playgrounds and other community facilities have been progressively repaired and reopened.

## Waste Services

In the immediate aftermath of the flood, the Emergency Transfer Station received 3,739 tonnes of general flood waste before closing mid-November. Since then, Council's resource recovery centres have received: 2,755 cubic metres of general flood waste; 164 fridges and air conditioning units; 324 mattresses; 1,071 sandbags and other waste.



## Flood Inquiry

Council lodged a submission to inquire into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria, highlighting a raft of issues that hampered the various authorities' efforts to effectively tackle the disaster.

We thank all those in our community who have helped, and continue to help, those affected by the floods as we continue to navigate the myriad challenges of the recovery process. For more information on flood recovery, please visit [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/recovery](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/recovery)

## 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 when they reopen on Saturday, 25 November.

The Rochester Swimming Pool remains closed due to flood damage. Council's Active Communities Team has recently completed community engagement activities to find out about Rochester residents aspirations for the future services and location of the Rochester Swimming pool. Stay tuned for further updates.

The Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre will be undergoing painting works from Saturday, 16 December 2023 until Monday, 22 January 2024. This is the quietest time of year as there are no learn to swim lessons or school bookings. During this time the pool will be closed but the gym and group fitness classes will operate as normal.

All residents and members are encouraged to utilise any of the other outdoor pools around the shire.



### Learn to Swim

The Swim and Survive program delivered at the Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre caters for all students from six months of age to adults. Certified teachers lead the 30-minute lesson in groups, focusing on water safety and development. Participants can swim their way through the levels, with each indicating the skills achieved. The Little Wonders Program is for infants and toddlers and is taught with a parent or carer in the water, supporting water familiarisation for children up to four years old.

Lessons run during the school term, and enrolling means you can swim at the pool anytime – even outside lesson times. For the keen swimmer, students can further develop their skills by joining squads in a 45-minute session. For more information or to enrol, go to Campaspe Aquatics website, visit Echuca War Memorial Aquatic Centre or call 03 5483 9698.

## What's On

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

### Saturday, 4 November

Echuca Farmers Market,  
Aquatic Reserve

Echuca Moama Uniting Church  
Makers Market, Echuca Moama  
Uniting Church, Cnr Paknham & Hare  
Street, Echuca

### Sunday, 5 November

Moama Market, Moama Soundshell,  
Meninya Street

Mr Perfect Monthly BBQ Meet Up,  
Apex Park, Echuca

### 6 October – 7 November

2023 Featured Artist, Exhibition &  
Workshop' by Marco Luccio, The  
Foundry Art Space 13-17 Murray  
Esplanade, Echuca

### Tuesday, 7 November

Echuca Races – Melbourne Cup  
Meeting, Echuca Race Course,  
Scott Road

### 8 – 12 November

Kyabram RV Country Music Festival,  
Kyabram Showgrounds, Allan Street

### Wednesday, 8 November

Diwali  
Echuca Library Meeting Room

### 9 – 12 November

Victorian Clay Target State Titles,  
Echuca Gun Club, 205 Echuca-  
Mitiamo Road, Echuca West

### Friday, 10 November

Kyabram Bush Market, Allan Street,  
Kyabram

### 10 November – 4 December

VIVID – An exhibition by artists  
engaged in disability support, The  
Foundry Art Space, 13-17 Murray  
Esplanade, Echuca

### 11 – 12 November

Echuca Moama Show, Echuca Show  
Grounds, Simmie Street

### Saturday, 11 November

Girgarre Remembrance Day  
Ceremony, Girgarre Cenotaph, Station  
Street

Hopwood Garden Market, Hopwood  
Gardens, Echuca

Rushworth Speedway Race Meet,  
Rushworth Speedway, Nine Mile Road

### Sunday, 12 November

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

Stanhope Monster Garage Sale,  
Birdwood Avenue, Stanhope

### Wednesday, 15 November

Lockington Ladies Invitation Fours  
Tournament, Lockington Bowling  
Club, 148 Pannoo Road



## Spring Into Events In Campaspe

Swing into events across the shire that will keep you entertained throughout spring.

The Kyabram RV and Country Music Festival is the perfect place to take the camper and relax for a few days while enjoying some great country tunes at the Kyabram Showgrounds. Filled with likeminded travellers, enjoy five days of entertainment and explore the wonderful attractions of Kyabram from 8 - 12 November. In conjunction with the festival, the famous Kyabram Bush Market takes place on Friday, 10 November and free shuttles will run to and from the showgrounds. Head along to these fantastic events in Kyabram and support local businesses.

Just a week later, be invigorated by the best youth talent in the region with Showdown at the Soundshell Youth Talent Competition, hosted by the Gargarro Botanic Gardens. Some of the shire's finest musicians, aged 12 - 18 years will take to the stage to show audiences and judges their very best and compete for the \$1,000 first prize! While you're there, treat your senses at the Girgarre Soundwalk or marvel at the native plantings while you wander the grounds of Gargarro, enjoying the gardens and onsite café.

After enjoying the sounds of Campaspe, take to the mighty Murray River with the Massive Murray Paddle which runs from Yarrawonga to Koondrook from 20-24 November. The 415km, five-day event raises funds to assist local community-driven projects and provides great fun on the Murray. The race hits Campaspe from days three to five when paddlers arrive from Moama, heading through Echuca to Torrumbarry via Gunbower. If you want to get involved, register by 10 November at [www.mmp415.racing](http://www.mmp415.racing). Grab your canoe, kayak or even paddleboard and see you in Campaspe!



### Friday, 17 November

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

### 17 - 19 November

Gilweroo Scout Camp, Elmore Event  
Centre, Elmore

### Saturday, 18 November

Echuca Farmers Market, Aquatic  
Reserve

Rushworth Market, High Street,  
Rushworth

### Sunday, 19 November

Gargarro Botanic Gardens,  
Showdown at the Soundshell,  
Gargarro Botanic Gardens, Winter  
Road

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

Moama Market, Moama Soundshell,  
Meninya Street

### 20 - 24 November

Massive Murray Paddle, Echuca

### Friday, 24 November

Gunbower/Torrumbarry Christmas  
Party, Gunbower Apex Park

### Saturday, 25 November

Jigarre Jammin, Girgarre Memorial  
Hall, Girgarre

Perricoota Pop & Pour Festival,  
Perricoota Road, Moama

### Sunday, 26 November

Wesley College Elsertnwick Concert  
Band, Hopwood Gardens, Echuca

### Wednesday, 29 November

Echuca Harness Racing Club, Frank  
Ryan Raceway, Simmie Street

### Friday, 1 December

Tongala Hay Bale Trail, various  
locations, Tongala

Girgarre Christmas Carols, Gargarro  
Soundshell, Girgarre

### Saturday, 2 December

Echuca Farmers Market, Aquatic  
Reserve, Echuca

Rushworth Market - Arts & Craft  
Market, Shire Hall, High Street

Nanneella Christmas Party, Nanneella  
Hall & Recreation Reserve

### 2 - 3 December

Victoria Go Kart State Cup, Rochester  
Go Kart Track

### Sunday, 3 December

Moama Market, Moama Soundshell,  
Meninya Street

## Register your community event

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

## Winner

Congratulations to Nicholas Masters for winning the cover spot on the 2024 Campaspe Calendar with his photo 'Flood Water Receded' taken in Echuca Village.



## Get Mosquito Ready

Campaspe Shire Council offer immunisations as a simple, safe and effective way of protecting the community against certain diseases. Council's immunisation program covers select vaccinations for babies, schools, workplaces and adults.

This year, FREE Japanese Encephalitis vaccinations will be available to Campaspe residents. Members of the community spending substantial time outdoors are encouraged to get vaccinated.

The vaccination can be administered at one of our immunisation sessions, from your GP, Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and community pharmacies.

To book an appointment, visit <https://portal.cirv.vic.gov.au/>.

The Japanese Encephalitis vaccine doesn't protect against other mosquito borne diseases and it is important that residents and visitors take measures to prevent themselves from getting bitten. Other prevalent viruses in Campaspe include Ross River, Barmah Forest and Murray Valley Encephalitis.



#campaspeservices

Some ways residents can protect themselves from mosquito-borne diseases include:

- Using mosquito repellent that contains DEET
- Wearing long, loose-fitting clothing
- Wearing shoes with socks
- Limiting outdoor activities where there are lots of mosquitos
- Removing stagnant water from around your home
- Installing mosquito coils in small outdoor areas
- Clean up around your home by cutting back long grass, keeping gutters and swimming pools clean, checking water tanks are sealed and replacing bird bath water regularly
- Use fast acting fly sprays indoors
- Sleeping under a mosquito net
- Use flyscreens on your windows and doors



Mosquitoes are most prevalent between November and March. Lots of rain and warmer weather are perfect breeding conditions for mosquitoes.

Council run an annual mosquito monitoring program, including the trapping and treatment of mosquitos. This program helps identify mosquito disease risk in the shire through the identification and virus testing of mosquitos. Suitable treatment is then applied based on the risk to the community.

**Don't wing it with mosquitoes and protect yourself.**

For more information, visit Campaspe Shire Council or the Better Health website.

## 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

21 November

12 December