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Cover image - 'Canola capers'
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Campaspe Times Newsletter

September 2023

Welcome to the September issue of the Campaspe Times.

As we near the first anniversary of the 2022 floods which devastated parts of our shire, I've been reflecting on the difficult times that we have faced together, but also of the incredible strength and resilience our community has displayed over the past 12 months. During August, myself, CEO Pauline Gordon and Director Emergency Management, Shannon Maynard gave evidence at the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 floods. Some of the key points we raised included:

- The need for consistent information from all levels of government for the community to be informed of roles and responsibilities in times of emergency.
- We recommended the establishment of dedicated assessment teams who would gather information immediately following a disaster. The data gathered by these teams should be accessible to all approved agencies, including Council.
- We expressed frustration at red tape and delays in receiving federal and state emergency recovery funding which puts undue pressure on Council resources and budgetary processes, which in turn slows the repair works.
- We spoke of the importance that councils have clarity, certainty and consistency to address urgent flood-related needs and priorities while also continuing to deliver more than 80 different services to their communities every day.

You can read more on page 6 and Council's full submission is on our website. We look forward to the findings of the Inquiry and any recommendations for solutions to minimise the frequency and severity of floods in the future.

In the meantime, our dedicated Recovery Hub in Rochester is in full swing. The team has been running a range of events for the community, as well as providing mobile outreach services to other parts of

Campaspe. If you need support from the Hub Team, don't hesitate to call.

Our Roads Teams continue to work hard on flood affected roads, as well as our usual Capital Works Program. You can read about these and see some updates on page 7.

Several community consultations have taken place recently including online surveys and in person sessions for the future development of the Rochester Pool, activation of Campaspe Stadiums, the draft municipal Early Years plan and the continued engagement for the draft Economic Development and Tourism Strategy. Thank you to the organisations and residents who took time to provide feedback for these. There are always projects happening that we want your input on, so keep an eye on the 'Now Open' section of our website, as well as the local newspapers and social media so that you can have your say.

The 2024 Australia Day Awards are now open for nominations right across Campaspe Shire. Please take the time to put forward a nomination and recognise someone deserving of our praise and recognition. You can complete a nomination by going to Council's website or if you need assistance, call our Customer Service Team who are always happy to help.

Until next time, enjoy the beauty of Campaspe in Spring.

Cr Rob Amos, Mayor



(l-r) Mayor Rob Amos, Jesse Best, Macy Hawking and Cr Paul Jarman at Rochester Early Learning

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

17 October
21 November
12 December

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



Rochester Aquatics Survey

Rochester residents are invited to contribute their ideas about the future of the Rochester Pool. To provide your input, scan the QR code to complete the survey, call or visit any Council Service Centre or send a public submission in writing to shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au. Be quick! Survey closes 30 September.



What's On

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

25 August - 1 October

'Destination Unknown' by Maree Santilla, 'Mindset/Relative Strangers' by Boben Mammen, The Foundry Arts Space, 13-17 Murray Esplanade, Echuca

25 August - 30 September

Art by Joan and Claire Greenwood, Kyabram Town Hall Gallery

25 August - 28 October

Dreaming Exhibition, Kyabram Town Hall Gallery

28 August - 28 October

Gallery - Embroidery Group Exhibition, Kyabram Town Hall

Saturday, 23 September

Jigarre Jammin, Girgarre Memorial Hall

Sunday, 24 September

Moama Market, Moama Soundshell

Wednesday, 27 September

Rochester Outdoor Cinema - *Space Jam*, Rochester Silos

Thursday, 28 September

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

29 September - 1 October

Echuca Basketball Junior Tournament, Echuca Basketball Stadium, High St

Saturday, 30 September

Echuca Moama Uniting Church Makers Market, Echuca Moama Uniting Church, cnr Pakenham & Hare Sts

1 October - 30 November

Linden Lancaster- Textile Artist at Kyabram Town Hall Gallery

Sunday, 1 October

Moama Market, Moama Soundshell

Celebrate Stanhope Food & Wine Festival, Birdwood Ave

Mr Perfect Monthly BBQ Meet Up, Apex Park, High St, Echuca

3 - 5 October

Elmore Field Days, Elmore Events Centre

6 October - 7 November

2023 Feature Artist, Exhibition & Workshop, The Foundry Arts Space, 13-17 Murray Esplanade, Echuca

Saturday, 7 October

Echuca Farmers Market, Aquatic Reserve, Car Park Area, Heygarth St

Gunbower Cup, Gunbower Race Course, 257 Dormoyle Rd

Tongala Community Garage Sale

Sunday, 8 October

Tongala Eats & Beats, Tongala Soundshell Gardens

Sweat vs Steam, Hopwood Gardens, Echuca

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

Stanhope Monster Garage Sale, Birdwood Ave

Spring onto the Dancefloor

Winter has drawn to a close and it's time to dust off your Sunday best. Spring in Campaspe is the season of special events featuring food, wine and music.

Celebrate **Stanhope Food and Wine Festival** on Sunday, 1 October at Birdwood Avenue. The street party will include a variety of activities and includes food and wine from local vendors, music and children's entertainment. Entry by gold coin donation.

Tongala Eats and Beats will return to the Tongala Soundshell on Sunday, 8 October for their third year in this fantastic, free, family event. Friends and families will gather their picnic rugs and chairs and meet at the soundshell to enjoy the smooth sounds of local musicians amongst local food vendors and stall holders.

In honour of Victorian Seniors Festival 2023, Council is hosting rockabilly music legend **Lonnie Lee** in concert at the Lockington Community Centre on 12 October. The event starts at 1.30pm with Lonnie's performance followed by afternoon tea. Tickets are \$5 per person. To book, contact Council on 1300 666 535.

After the 2022 postponement due to floods, the **Lockington Country Music Festival** is back from 27 - 29 October. Held at the Lockington Community Centre which boasts a great dancefloor as well as ample seating, this event promises a fantastic line up of country music artists. The three day event will finish with a wind down BBQ following the Sunday finale performance. For more information and tickets, visit www.lockingtoncmf.com.

The country music fans are truly spoilt for choice this spring as the **Kyabram RV Country Music Festival** follows from 8 - 12 November. Making a triumphant return after their 2022 postponement, this is an RV friendly festival at the Kyabram Showgrounds featuring an array of artists and coincides with Kyabram's popular **Annual Bush Market**. For more information and tickets, visit www.kyrvcountry.com.au.

#lovewhereyoulive



Thursday, 12 October

Lonnie Lee Seniors Concert, 1.30pm
Lockington Community Centre

Saturday, 14 October

Hopwood Garden Market, Hopwood
Gardens, Echuca

Rochella 2023, Rochester Recreation
Reserve

Victorian Canoeing Mini Marathon,
Echuca Boat Ramp, Scenic Drive

Sunday, 15 October

Two Feet & a Heartbeat 'Rivers Run'
Walk, Rochester Silo's

Moama Market, Moama Soundshell

Echuca Country Music Club - Monthly
Concert, Tongala Shire Hall

Thursday, 19 October

Campaspe Murray Mental Health &
Wellbeing Expo, Hopwood Gardens,
Echuca

Rochester Rotary Community Chat,
Rochester Hotel, Moore St

Friday, 20 October

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

Saturday, 21 October

Echuca Farmers Market, Aquatic
Reserve, Car Park Area, Heygarth St

Rushworth Market, High St

Kyabram Agricultural Spring Show,
Kyabram Showgrounds, Allan St

Rushworth Speedway Race Meet,
Rushworth Speedway, Nine Mile Rd

Sunday, 22 October

Girgarre Open Garden Festival
presented by Girgarre Community
Cottage, collect map from Girgarre
Community Cottage

Tuesday, 24 October

Annual Service of Remembrance-
3rd Cavalry Regiment (Vietnam)
Associations, Tongala

Wednesday, 25 October

Echuca Harness Racing Club, Frank
Ryan Raceway, Simmie St

Thursday, 26 October

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

27 - 29 October

Lockington Country Music Festival,
Lockington Community Hall

Saturday, 28 October

Jigarre Jammin, Girgarre Memorial
Hall

Sunday, 29 October

Campaspe Carp Catch, Campaspe
River, Rochester, Opposite old Milk
Factory.

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.

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.



Industry representatives joined with Council staff at several forums across the shire to gain further insights for the development of Council's draft Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.



Children and Educators from Rochester Early Learning took their hand-made keep cups on an excursion to the Rochester Café, as part of Plastic Free July.



Flood Recovery Team Leader, Lachlan Cozens, with emergency services personnel at the recent Rochester flood recovery town hall meeting



Cr Tony Marwood presented prizes to Campaspe Aquatics Winter Swim Challenge participants. Pictured is Cr Marwood with overall winner Noela Fisher who swam 3440 laps during June, July and August.



Cr Chrissy Weller with members of the Echuca RSL Sub Branch at the Victory of the Pacific Service at the Echuca Cenotaph.



Twisted Science and Campaspe Libraries staff held a special reading of *Meet Einstein* along with interactive experiments during National Science week.



The students and teachers from Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School visited Council's Echuca Service Centre to audit the accessibility of the building entrance under the 'Access At A Glance' initiative.

Improve Your Rural Property Landscape

All Campaspe Shire rural zoned ratepayers are eligible to purchase a limited number of plants at a subsidised rate through the Rural Tree Scheme.

Available until 1 December, or until the allocated funds have been spent. All plants must be picked up by 20 June 2024. Order forms available from all customer service centres, the Campaspe Shire website or can be mailed out on request.

Now Open!

“The tree scheme helped us plant more indigenous species on our property than we could on our own.”
- Jaye Caldwell with his son Ryan, Echuca



Turning Waste into Wine

How food and garden scraps transform into nutrient-rich compost for local vineyards.

Imagine your kitchen scraps and garden waste embarking on a remarkable journey from your home to our local vineyards... Every time you put food waste, garden clippings, and other organic materials into your green bin, you're setting them on a path to sustainability, all whilst contributing to our local economy.



In recent months, the Heathcote Wine Growers Association, which includes Humis, Lake Cooper Estate and Colbinabbin Estate vineyards located in Campaspe Shire around Toolleen and Colbinabbin, was awarded a grant from Sustainability Victoria for the purchase of shared compost spreading equipment to increase the uptake of compost use in vineyards. They are currently trialing the use of compost on various sites to reflect the varied conditions across the Heathcote winemaking region.

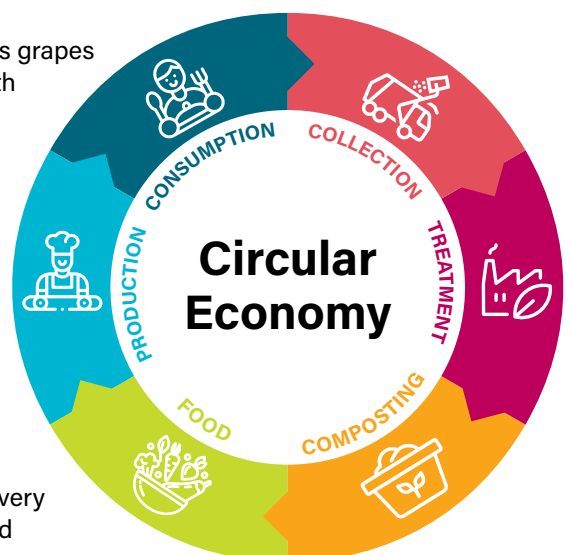
Our composting contractor Biomix collects and processes your green bin contents on a large scale. These materials are then mixed, aerated, and monitored to ensure efficient decomposition. Over time, through the action of microorganisms, composting magic happens. Organic waste becomes rich, dark, and nutrient-packed compost that's ready to revitalise our vineyards.

Compost from our green bins can enrich vineyard soil with essential nutrients, enhancing grape quality and flavour. Production and use of compost also reduces landfill waste, emissions and water consumption as compost helps to retain soil moisture.

With nutrient-rich soil and moisture levels, come abundant crops of delicious grapes which are produced into award winning batches of fine wines to be sold both locally and internationally. And just like that, you have helped to create jobs and enhance our local economy just by filling your green bin!

Food waste should go into your green bin. Every day, we generate significant amounts of organic waste, including food scraps and garden clippings. Instead of letting these valuable resources go to waste in landfills, we can harness their potential just by placing them into a green kerbside bin provided by Council. Your commitment to recycling green waste not only benefits the environment but also contributes to a flourishing circular economy in our region.

If you live in township areas and are eligible for green bin, you can contact us to lodge a service request to have one delivered. If you live outside of township areas, you can drop off garden waste at any of our Resource Recovery Centres (RRCs) and food waste at Echuca and Mt Scobie RRCs, or you could consider composting at home to enhance the soil in your garden!



Flood Recovery Update

Flood Inquiry Public Hearing



Campaspe Shire Council's Mayor Cr Rob Amos, Chief Executive Officer Pauline Gordon and Director Emergency Management Shannon Maynard presented at the public hearing for the Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria last month. They highlighted a raft of issues that hampered the various authorities' efforts to effectively tackle the disaster. Below is a summary of some of the key issues raised.

Lack of role clarity and accountability

During the emergency, there was a lack of clarity about the different roles and responsibilities between the Victorian Government's Emergency Management Victoria, VICSES and Council. This lack of clarity not only led to confusion and misunderstanding in the community, but it also fuelled community angst and directed blame for decisions towards Campaspe Shire Council, when these decisions were made by other authorities. When these authorities were given the opportunity to take ownership of these decisions, they did not. For example, the decision to establish a temporary levee in Echuca, where it was located, and the size of the levee was not made by Campaspe Shire Council.

Lack of Council staff resources

More than 40 percent of Campaspe Shire Council staff were directly impacted by the flood. Because of the sheer scale of the event, and the urgent and wide-ranging need to support residents in multiple communities across the shire, those who could, showed up every day to support the community, many juggling multiple roles and working for days on end, fatigued and without adequate breaks.

Lack of data sharing by the government

The Victorian Government would not share data gathered from impact assessments it had conducted with some residents, and this caused problems for Council and the community in terms of managing follow-up processes, such as building matters and determining rates relief eligibility. Council therefore had to send teams back into Rochester to conduct another round of impact assessments with residents. This was an extremely difficult undertaking because already traumatised people had to go through the same process they'd already been through with the government.

Funding blockages, red tape and delays

Since the event, bureaucratic blockages, red tape and delays in receiving funding has put undue pressure on Council resources and budgetary processes. Council has raised this matter at both federal and state levels, and while there is some acknowledgement of the concerns and frustrations, more certainty is needed about whether requested funding to repair the full scope of damaged assets will be honoured and provided in a timely fashion.

The Mayor told the hearing that with climate changing the frequency and nature of extreme events, it is incumbent upon all levels of government to do everything in their power to take heed of the lessons learned and work together in finding solutions and taking action to better prepare for, and mitigate against, the severity of any future flood events.

For more information, visit

<https://new.parliament.vic.gov.au/floodinquiry>.

Recovery Events Calendar

Campaspe Shire's Flood Recovery team has organised a new program of events and information sessions for residents impacted by the October 2022 floods. From fun and creative school holiday activities to pop-up events in local towns, information sessions and training opportunities, there's plenty on offer for children, young people, families and others from flood-impacted communities.

To view the events calendar, and access a range of recovery information and resources, visit

www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/recovery.



Television presenter and Beyond Blue ambassador Brad McEwan makes a point about kindness at the recent Rochester community recovery update event attended by more than 120 members of the community.

Flood Repairs: Betterment Funding Announced

Council welcomed the Victorian and Australian Governments' recent funding announcement for a Council Priority Betterment Program to improve the resilience of public assets damaged by the Victorian floods in October 2022. Council, along with many others in the local government sector, has advocated for change to the current restrictive Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, which only allow councils to repair critical assets, such as roads, bridges and footpaths, to pre-disaster condition. Campaspe Shire Council will now receive up to \$1 million in betterment funding to enable damaged critical infrastructure to be repaired to a more resilient standard.

Recovery Hub

Campaspe Shire's new Flood Recovery Hub located at 48 Mackay Street in Rochester is the primary place to access support and resources. Council's dedicated Flood Recovery team operates from the hub Monday to Friday from 8.30am-5pm. The hub is also home to a range of government and professional agencies, including Anglicare, Partners in Wellbeing, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, MIND Australia, Echuca Regional Health case management and Bendigo Community Health case management. To download a Recovery Hub services guide, visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/recovery and click on 'Recovery Hub'.



Council's flood recovery staff at the new Rochester facility.

Focus on Roads

Each year Council maintains a road network of more than 4,000 kms, including 1,181 kms of sealed roads, 2,110 kms of gravel roads and 834 kms of earth roads.

Council makes a significant investment in repairing and upgrading roads to ensure they are safe for the community to use. Roads make up Council's largest single item of expenditure. This financial year we have budgeted \$9.86 million to our annual maintenance program.

In addition to regular annual maintenance, \$8m has been allocated towards roads in our Capital Works budget for this financial year including:

- \$1 million to resurface sealed roads throughout the municipality
- \$3.5 million for gravel road resheeting and shoulder resheeting programs to recondition gravel roads
- \$200K for the replacement of rural culverts.
- \$1.6 million for the kerb and channel (gutters) program. Some of the locations being completed include:
 - Barry Street, Echuca
 - Boothman Street, Echuca
 - George Street, Rochester
 - Campaspe Street, Rochester



Flood Repair Works

Additionally, emergency repair works to flood-damaged roads have been occurring across the shire. Since the flood waters receded, Council has inspected more than 1,400 road segments and identified that immediate repairs were required at more than 690 locations. Urgent localised works have been undertaken at about 580 of these sites, including fixing road scouring and erosion which have caused washout holes, failed culverts with sink holes, deep rutting in earthen and gravel roads, and small seal failures requiring patching.



Adopting a Furry Friend from the Campaspe Animal Shelter

#campaspeservices

We've all heard the saying that a dog is a man's best friend, and a cat can be a purr-fect companion. If you're considering adding a new member to your family, look no further than the Campaspe Animal Shelter. Adopting a pet can bring immeasurable joy to your life, while also providing a loving home to a deserving animal.



Sadly, there are also times when people adopt pets without carefully considering the care and commitment a pet needs, which can also result in the animal being surrendered. Every day, dedicated staff and volunteers work tirelessly to care for and rehabilitate abandoned and surrendered pets.



Adopting a pet from the Campaspe Animal Shelter is a deeply rewarding experience. Not only are you offering a forever home to an animal in need, but you're also opening your heart to unconditional love and companionship. Shelter pets often display immense gratitude and loyalty, making the adoption journey all the more special.



Tips for Welcoming Your New Pet

Bringing a new pet into your home requires thoughtful preparation. Here are some essential tips to ensure a smooth transition and a lifetime of happiness with your furry friend:

1. Patience and understanding

Understand that your new pet might need time to adjust to their new environment. Show them patience and support as they adjust to their new home.

2. Create a safe space

Designate a cozy and quiet area in your home where your pet can retreat to when feeling overwhelmed. Providing a safe space will help them feel secure and comfortable.

3. Regular exercise and play

Whether you have a playful pup or a curious cat, regular exercise and playtime are crucial for their physical and mental well-being. Take your dog for daily walks and provide interactive toys for your cat.

4. Healthy diet

Consult your vet to ensure you're feeding your new pet a well-balanced and nutritious diet that suits their age, size, and health needs.

5. Regular vet check-ups

Schedule regular check-ups with a trusted vet to monitor your pet's health and address any medical concerns promptly.

6. Training and socialisation

For dogs, training classes can help establish good behaviour and strengthen the bond between you

and your pet. Socialising your pet with other animals and people can also promote their confidence and happiness.

7. Love and affection

Shower your new pet with love, care, and affection. The more love you give, the more it will be returned in spades.

By adopting a pet from the Campaspe Animal Shelter, you're not just bringing home a pet; you're welcoming a forever friend into your life. The rewards of adopting a shelter animal are boundless, and you'll find your heart forever enriched by the love and companionship they bring.

Location and Hours

The Campaspe Animal Shelter
530 McKenzie Road, Echuca
Open by appointment
Monday to Friday: 10am – 4pm
Saturday and weekday public
holidays: 10am - 12noon
Closed Sundays



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