

The Focus

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

1 Council 'Re-Groups' to better serve - With a new structure, Maroondah City Council aims to be not only a leader in Local Government, but one of Australia's leading customer service organisations.

1 Maroondah - A shared future - Maroondah City Council recently launched a package of strategies to take it and the Maroondah community through to the year 2000.



2 Is your pool or spa safe? - Having a swimming pool or spa in your home can be a great source of family fun but can also lead to unnecessary tragedies.

4 Council elections March '97 - The Maroondah community has the opportunity to ensure that its local Council remains the tier of government closest to them.

5 New Customer Service Office - Maroondah residents now have a new Council Customer Service Office in the heart of Ringwood.



Photographic Competition

Maroondah City Council, in conjunction with Maroondah Mail, recently ran a successful city-wide photographic competition - 'Maroondah - A Great Place To Live'.

The competition attracted some wonderful entries which were judged on how they best captured any of the positive aspects of living and working within the municipality.

First prize, a Pentax Z70 camera valued at \$800, was awarded to Rory Fink for his photograph of the Croydon Library. Second prize - film and film processing to the value of \$150 - was awarded to Helen Moss for her photograph 'Living and Learning in Maroondah'. Third prize went to Kaye Cant for her photograph of 'Ringwood Lake', winning film and film processing to the value of \$75. Harold Craig picked up the Encouragement Award of film and film processing to the value of \$40 for his photograph 'Golf Course'.

Council hopes the competition will become an annual event and it would like to thank the sponsors of the competition - Croydon Camera House, Pentax and Agfa - for their generous support.

Rory Fink's winning photograph 'Croydon Library'

Maroondah City Council wishes the community of the City of Maroondah a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

COUNCIL 'RE-GROUPS' TO BETTER SERVE

As the new era of Local Government within Victoria continues to evolve, Maroondah City Council is required to adapt to an ever changing environment. When the City of Maroondah was first established in 1994, and Maroondah City Council was created, an organisational structure was put in place to reflect the priorities at that time. The structure proved to be most effective in enabling Council to satisfy its community and legislative objectives, and in developing a high quality service delivery culture.

Following reform, Council has recognised that in the future it will not be a monopoly provider of services, or, if it is to be the sole provider, then it will have to demonstrate value for money.

In order to be an efficient organisation which is sustainable into and beyond the turn of the century,

Council recently 're-grouped' and underwent an organisational restructuring.

Consequently, Council will channel its performance into the following portfolios:

- *Strategy and Contracts*, which involves the planning and contractual management of services;
- *City Services*, incorporating all of the external services to residents and customers;
- *Economic & Organisational Performance*, which incorporates the economic development and organisational performance areas of Council; and
- *Corporate Services*, including the governance and financial areas of Council.

The new structure reflects how Council needs to demonstrate competitiveness and its ability to be a

competent and credible sphere of government. Being competitive means:

- *being best in quality*
- *being best in customer service*
- *being best in value for money*
- *being best in work practices.*

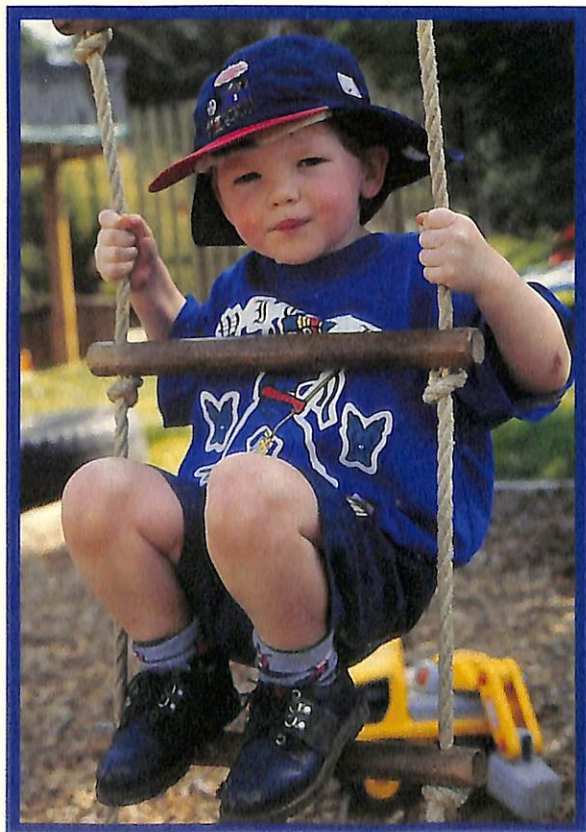
Maroondah is recognised as an innovative Municipality, focused on providing excellent services and ensuring a quality environment for the community. With the new organisational structure, Maroondah City Council aims to be not only a leader in Local Government, but one of Australia's leading customer service organisations.

FAMILY DAY CARE

Maroondah Family Day Care, based at Maroondah City Council, co-ordinates a comprehensive service for children aged 0 - 12 years (and sometimes older children, in special circumstances). The service operates 52 weeks of the year, seven days a week, making it flexible for the families of Maroondah to meet their child care needs.

Care takes place in the Careprovider's home. Small group experiences provide children with a sense of belonging in a family environment. Careproviders provide experiences and activities that are developmentally appropriate, are relevant to children's interests and skills and cater for diverse cultural backgrounds and special needs.

For more details, contact Louk Thiel, Team Leader, Maroondah Family Day Care on 9871-0254.



MAROONDAH - A SHARED FUTURE

Maroondah City Council recently launched a comprehensive package of programs and strategies to take it and the Maroondah community through to the year 2000.

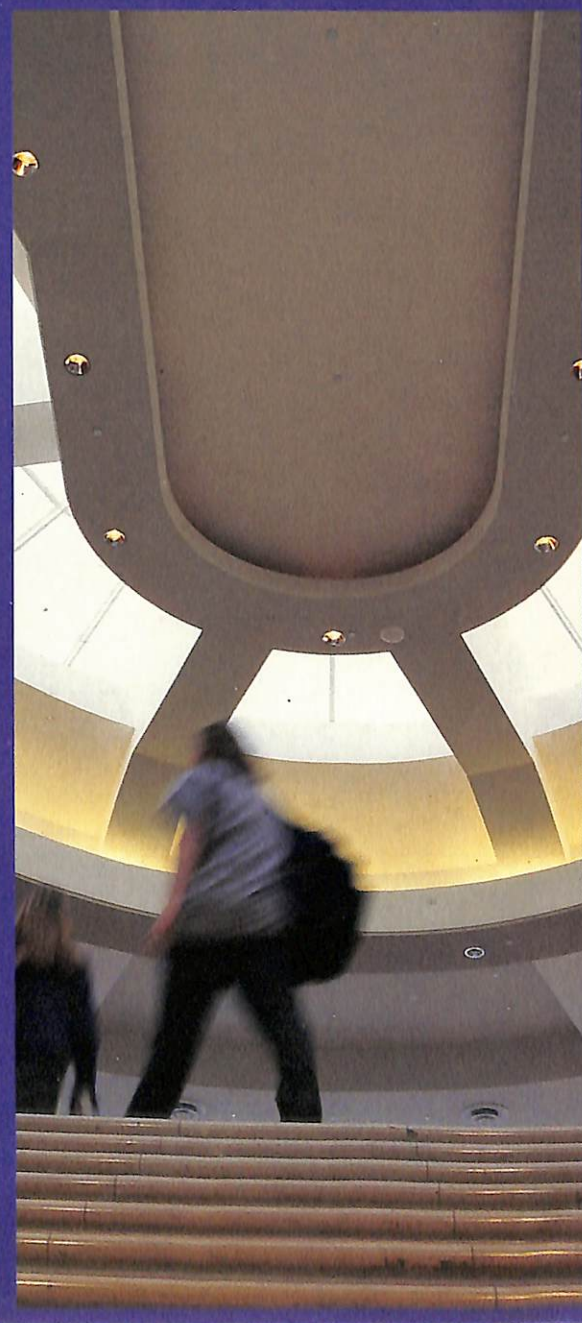
The publication 'The City of Maroondah - Packaged For The Future,' includes three inter-related documents: the 1996-99 Corporate Plan; the Five Year Financial Strategy; and Maroondah 2020 - A Shared Future.

With Council's Five Year Financial Strategy, sound and responsible business practice dictates that Council should focus attention on financial strategies which will not only provide sufficient funds for current operational and capital programs, but will also deliver longer term viability and security of community assets.

The Corporate Plan provides a clear framework for Council activities over the next three years. It forms the basis for Council to make decisions on resources and priorities in response to the community's long term aspirations. Its main purpose is to work towards achieving the strategic goals and directions of the City of Maroondah outlined in Maroondah 2020. This document presents a vision for the municipality which reflects the views and desired outcomes of the community. It provides a framework and guides the directions set by the organisation into the future.

A number of initiatives, specifically expressed in the Corporate Plan, have already taken place to implement the vision of Maroondah 2020. These include: the Safer Communities Project; the Maroondah Health Plan; an Arts & Cultural Strategy; an Environmental Strategy; an Open Space Strategy; a Housing Strategy; an Economic Strategy; and a Youth Needs Policy.

These documents have involved direct community input in order to provide meaningful and relevant policy directions for Council.



Maroondah residents tops in recycling

Maroondah City residents recently recorded one of the highest diversion rates of recyclable material in Victoria, almost doubling that of the Melbourne average.

According to the Litter and Recycling Research Association, the results of its annual recycling audit and garbage bin analysis recorded Maroondah with a diversion rate of 45.3 per cent against a Melbourne average of 23.2 per cent.

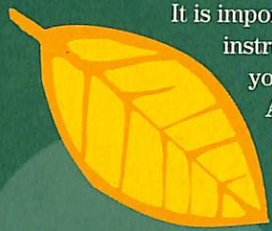
Knox recorded the best diversion rate of 45.6 per cent, placing Maroondah second by a fractional 0.3 per cent. However, Maroondah's rating improved from 38.5 per cent last year, whereas Knox's rating dropped down from 51.7 per cent.

The diversion rate is the weight of recyclable material put out for collection as a percentage of the total weight of material (garbage and recyclables) put out for collection.

Council Commissioner John Nathan praised Maroondah residents for the result, saying their efforts set the standard for other municipalities to follow.

Maroondah residents also recorded excellent results on a recent Chemical Collection Day organised by the Waste Management Council. Over 27,000 kilos of hazardous chemical were delivered to the Croydon Depot - twice as much as was delivered to any other collection point organised across Melbourne.

WASTE MANAGEMENT NEWS



It is important to follow the calendar's instructions to correctly prepare your material for collection.

All collected green waste is processed into mulch, therefore pollutants, such as plastic bags, wire or weeds, cannot be included.

Look for the hand leaflet in the same envelope from Visy Recycling which will help reduce the amount of material in your garbage bin.

Former Ringwood residents

Residents of the former area of Ringwood will receive a combined calendar for the monthly paper and green waste collections.

To have your green waste collected, prunings must be bundled and tied with strong wire. Grass clippings, twigs and leaves must be in a 50 litre rubbish bin or similar container.

Former Croydon residents

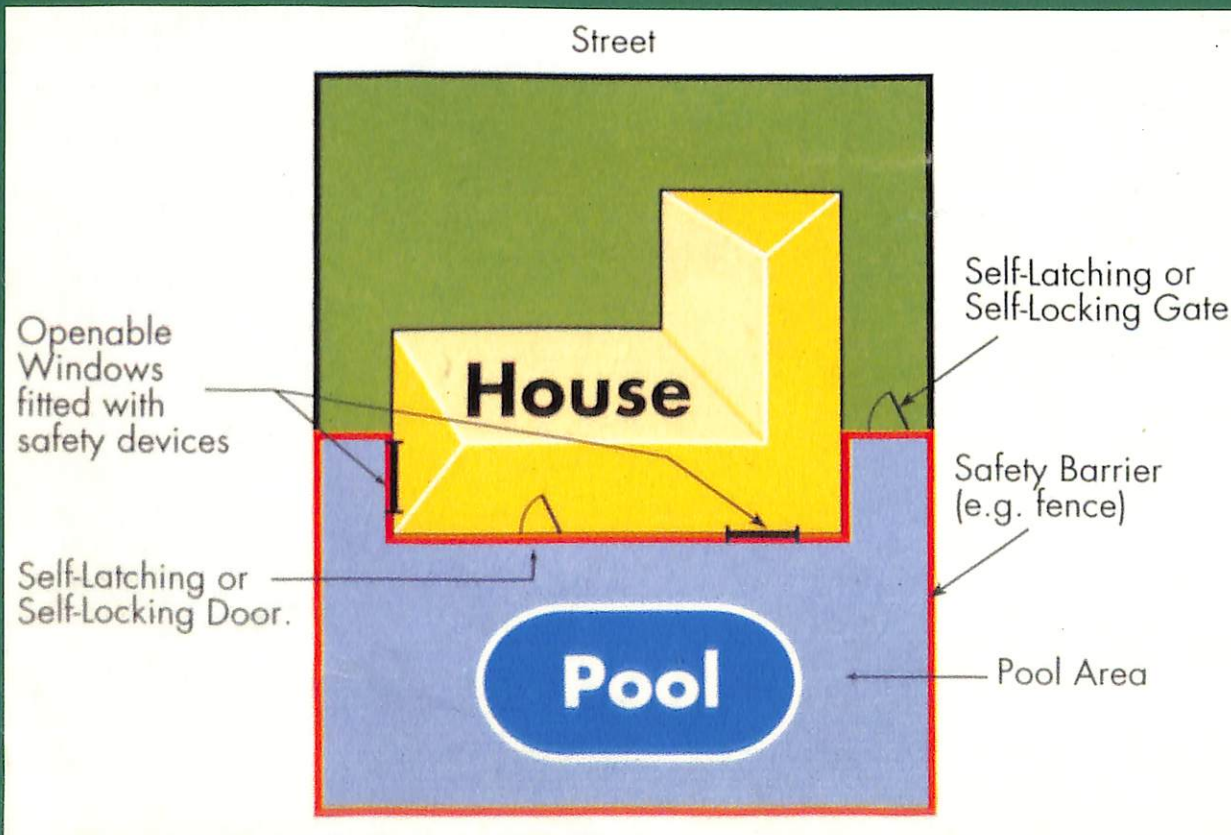
Residents of the former area of Croydon will receive a 1997 calendar for green waste and hard waste collection dates. For all hard waste collections, there is a limit of two cubic metres of material per collection - any excess material will not be collected.

Former Shire of Lillydale residents

Your Waste Management Services will continue to be provided by the Shire of Yarra Ranges. Enquiries: 9735 8333.



Is your pool or spa safe?



Having a swimming pool or spa in your home can be a great source of family fun but it can also lead to unnecessary tragedies.

It is now a legal requirement that all existing swimming pools and spas in private residences constructed before April 8, 1991, are provided with safety barriers to prevent a young child's unsupervised access. Swimming pools and spas constructed since April 1991, are already covered by regulations to meet this requirement.

If you own a house with a swimming pool, or are considering buying a house with a swimming pool, you should be aware of pool fencing regulations. The regulations apply to **ALL** swimming pools or spas with a depth exceeding 300mm.

Owners affected by the regulations need to determine the extent of the 'pool area'. In most cases this will be the backyard as shown in the diagram. Owners must make sure that barriers around this area will restrict access by children under the age of five years.

Existing swimming pools must comply with the regulations by July 1, 1997, or if the property is sold, within 30 days of the settlement of the sale.

Pool owners who have any doubts or queries about the pool fencing regulations can obtain advice and an information kit by contacting 9871 0327.

No-cost job search assistance in the east

Finding yourself suddenly without a job can be an unsettling experience yet a service with several bases in the outer eastern suburbs has helped thousands of job seekers back into the workforce.

Eastern Employment, funded by the State Government through the Department of State Development,

provides specialised job search assistance to short term unemployed people. It has four locations in the eastern suburbs- Bayswater, Croydon, Lilydale and Wantirna.

When you attend your personal appointment with Eastern Employment, you will receive support with career planning, identification of skills, resumes and

letters of application, access to its own recruitment service, and links to local employers. *The service is completely free of charge and without obligation.*

Finding employment takes time, energy and know-how.

For specialised job search assistance, call Eastern Employment now on 9213 6751.

Local youth support

The Maroondah Youth Services team has expanded to now boast six staff members, including a Youth Services Coordinator, two Youth Programs Workers, a Youth Entertainment Worker, a Youth Activities Worker and a Youth Support Worker.

With its range of skills, the new team can cater to the needs of the young people of Maroondah and their families in areas including counselling, special events, strategic planning and program development.

Some of the team's recent initiatives include a Summer Teenage Holiday Program, an action-packed Circus Skills course, Breakthrough adventure-based camps, a 'Sound Knowledge' music course and, from early 1997, the introduction of a youth group operating out of the Nosh Pit Cafe.

With the new expanded Youth Services team, 1996 will go out with a bang and 1997 looks set to be an exciting year for local young people. From December '96, the team will be hosting the 'Fight for your Right' Battle of the Bands as well as a series of 'all ages' gigs, featuring the hottest live acts in the land. In February '97, the Festival in the Foothills will host the 'Youth Arts Showcase' which will include the art, music, drama, street performance, sporting events, and other displays of local youth culture.

For more information on any of the services and support offered to young people, call the Maroondah Youth Services team on 9871 0252.

Business directory a valuable business tool

Whether you are looking for providers of robotic welding, silk flowers or body waxing, you'll find them in the new Maroondah Business Directory, published by Maroondah City Council.

This easy to use resource book of around 1000 listings means businesses and residents can find locally available products and services. The directory aims to boost local economic activity and expand business networks.

Developed by Council's Economic Development Unit, the directory is part of an economic strategy being developed to support business over the next five years. The Unit also runs small business workshops, business cluster development workshops and seminars to assist local small business operators. For details contact Josephine Lo Presti on 9871-0278.



Maroondah - more awards for our environment

In an outstanding achievement, the Maroondah community and Maroondah City Council have excelled in this year's Keep Australia Beautiful City Pride Awards. At the recent Award presentations, the City of Maroondah won the Most Environmentally Conscious Commercial/Industrial Operation Award for Cadbury Schweppes of Ringwood, the Ongoing Project Award for the Yarra Community Centre and Reserve in Croydon Hills, and, despite being last year's winner of the Proud City Award, received an award for being one of five finalists in the 1996 Proud City Award. Established in 1967, the Cadbury Schweppes plant in Canterbury Road is one of the largest manufacturers in the eastern metropolitan area. Cadbury believes that a manufacturing plant of this nature has a responsibility to the nearby residents. Accordingly, Cadbury has established an Environmental Policy which focuses on being socially responsible and maintaining the integrity

of Cadbury through the practice of environmentally sound operations.

Yarra Community Centre and Reserve, shown last year to the Keep Australia Beautiful Council judges as a concept and clay paddock, now boasts a 40 square highly functional community centre, carpark and the old adjoining watercourse now features a huge man-made lake with extensive plantings of indigenous species. The project has been community driven from the initial request to Council.

Chief Executive Officer, Mike Marasco, praised the "outstanding collective efforts" of the Maroondah community and Maroondah City Council staff on their recent achievements.

"Through their efforts, the City of Maroondah is undoubtedly becoming known as one of the most environmentally-aware municipalities in Victoria. For this we should all feel extremely proud," Mr Marasco said.

Outer East Pet Care Day

Pets galore! On Sunday, February 23, 1997, the Outer East Pet Care Day will be held at Bayswater Community Centre, Cnr Bayswater and Scoresby Rd, Bayswater.

The day is part of a program to raise community awareness about the needs of pets and the responsibilities of pet owners. The information expo will feature over 30 exhibitors, promoting better pet management. Respected animal behaviorist, Robert Holmes, will be guest speaker on the day. For more details call Polly Oliver on 9871 0364.

Maroondah Business Directory
Edition 1ne
1 9 9 6



Council elections March 1997

Mid March, 1997, will see the first Council elections for Maroondah City Council. For more than two years Maroondah has been led through the Local Government reform process by three Commissioners. The Maroondah community has the opportunity to ensure that their local Council remains the tier of government closest to them, the one which directly responds to their needs and aspirations.

A new era of local government

Local Government in Victoria has undergone radical restructuring. These changes are part of the wider reforms of government throughout the world and aim to position each Council to respond in a changing world. These reforms are being driven by a number of key principles including:

- public sector bodies should steer rather than row;
- communities should be helped to act for themselves;
- competition should be encouraged;
- activity should be driven by vision rather than rules;
- activity should be focused towards outcomes rather than inputs;
- we should meet the needs of our customers and citizens - not the needs of bureaucracies; and
- investment should be made in development and prevention rather than cure.

In its Final Report, - 'The roles and Functions of Councils 1995', the Victorian Local Government Board envisaged Councils with much greater capacity than those of the past:

'Local Government reforms have created the potential and capacity for local government to be more proactive in providing leadership to enable local communities to take control of the quality of their life in a far more effective way. These reforms also provide the opportunity for all three spheres of government to work together more effectively to provide better outcomes for all communities.'

It is important that the momentum is maintained in Maroondah. The incoming Council will have a wonderful opportunity to move beyond the traditional role, and achieve Maroondah's vision in a refreshing and inspirational manner.

New wards

To reflect and enhance the new culture of Local Government, Maroondah City Council, after extensive community consultation, adopted the City's new election structure. This consists of seven councillors, single member wards, triennial elections, and the introduction of new ward boundaries, new ward names and postal voting.

Based on local features and community assets, the new wards are:

- **Yarrunga** - to cover Croydon Hills, Warranwood, part of Ringwood North - named after Yarrunga Community Centre meaning 'big trees';
- **Wyreena** - to cover Croydon Central, part of Croydon North - named after Wyreena Community Arts Centre meaning 'a clearing in the forest';
- **Eastfield** - to cover Croydon, Croydon South, Ringwood East - named after Eastfield Park;
- **Arrabri** - to cover Ringwood East, Bayswater North, Canterbury Gardens, Kilsyth - named after Arrabri Community Centre and means 'a place where people meet at the base of a mountain';

- **Clocktower** - to cover Ringwood Central, Heathmont, part of Vermont - named after the Ringwood Clocktower monument;
- **Loughnan's Hill** - to cover Ringwood, Ringwood North. Loughnan's Hill is a geographic feature named after an early Ringwood settler; and
- **Mullum** - to cover Ringwood East, part of Ringwood - dissected by Mullum Mullum Creek, after which it was named. Mullum Mullum means 'many eagles'.

From citizen to Councillor - Standing for Council

If a mission statement was written for today's Councils collectively, it could be as broad as: *'To provide leadership in ensuring the physical, economic, social and environmental well being of the community in partnership with other spheres of government, the private sector, residents and the community.'*

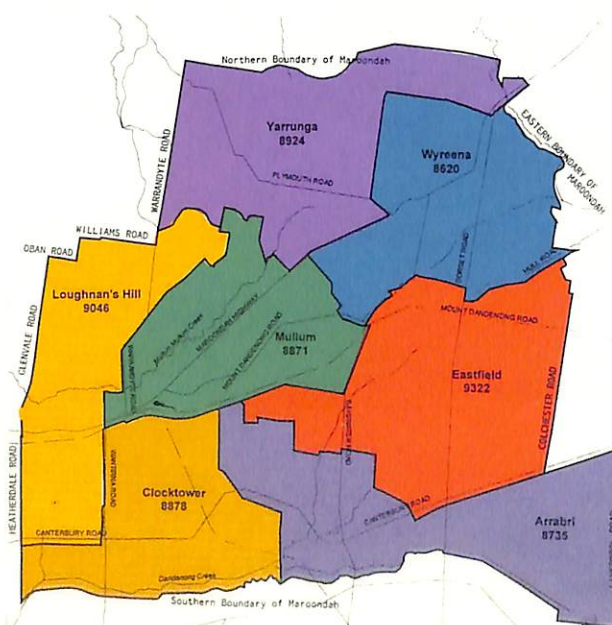
With larger municipalities and larger budgets, from March next year, Councillors will need to embrace the broader issues associated with strategic planning and economic development. Council Management will be delegated with the responsibility for day to day operations of the organisation.

The people of Maroondah deserve to be well represented. A position on Maroondah City Council must therefore attract high quality candidates. For it to be truly representative of its people, Council must have expertise in professional and business areas as well as a variety of cultural and social experience. There are various eligibilities to enable a person to stand for Council. The most common is that a person lives in the municipality, is aged 18 years and over, and is an Australian citizen. A person can choose to stand for election in any ward but is limited to only standing in one ward.

Nominations for council will be open from February 7, to 4pm, February 12, 1997.

Council candidates have their say

By taking the time to find out the views and policies of Council candidates, you will be able to make informed decisions on the future of your City and how you will be represented.



In February, 1997, Maroondah City Council will be conducting election seminars in each of the City's seven new wards, once nominations for Council elections have closed (4pm, February 12, 1997). Each candidate for the ward will be invited to present their views and policies to the seminar. Venues are still to be confirmed but there will be one location in each ward and the dates and venues will be well publicised.

Electoral Roll - Have your say

If you are already on the State and Federal electoral roll for your present address, you will automatically be on the voter's roll for the City of Maroondah.

If you are not already on the State and Federal electoral roll for your present address and:

- you are 18 years of age or older;
- you are an Australian citizen; and
- you have lived at your present address for at least one month -

you will need to complete an enrolment form, available from any Post Office.

Even if you are not eligible for the State and Federal roll, you may still apply to be on the Maroondah roll if you fall into one of the following categories:

- a non resident owner or occupier of property in Maroondah and you are not the first named person on Council's rate records;
- an appointee of a corporation that owns or occupies property in the City of Maroondah;
- resident of Maroondah who is not an Australian citizen.

The voters' roll closes on December 18, 1996. If you have not enrolled by this date, you will be ineligible to vote.

As Maroondah's first elections will be conducted via postal voting, Ballot Papers will be sent to all Maroondah residents on the Electoral Roll. Included with the ballot papers will be information on each candidate together with an indication of their voting preferences. **Ballot papers need to be returned by March 14, 1997.**

Key election dates

Listed are key dates in the lead up to Council elections on 14 March 1997:

18 December, 1996:

Entitlement Day - final date to be enrolled to vote.

7-12 February, 1997:

Nominations of candidates to be received.

14 March, 1997: Ballot papers to be returned

Ballot papers must be returned by Friday, March 14, 1997, to be a valid vote. Counting of the ballot papers will commence on Saturday, March 15, and results in each ward should be declared that night.

Election Services

Council elections will be conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC). The VEC has had a vast amount of experience with municipal elections - conducting over 75 per cent of the elections conducted for Local Government in March this year.

There will be a VEC representative on site at Council's Civic Centre, Braeside Ave, Ringwood, during the election period to handle queries from both the public and candidates and to conduct the election.

New Customer Service Office

In November, Maroondah City Council opened a new Customer Service Office in the heart of Ringwood.

Located at 12 Civic Place, the new Office offers full cash receipting facilities, information on health and local laws and Council services, rate enquiries, and general community information.

The new Customer Service Office compliments Council's Ringwood Office in Braeside Ave, and its other Customer Service Office located in the former Croydon council offices in Civic Place, Croydon. It is also the new location for the Neighbourhood Services Team Two - the Croydon office being the home for the Neighbourhood Services Team One.

Established in September this year, Neighbourhood Services teams include Health and Local Laws staff to focus on a particular group of clients in defined geographical locations.

Local Laws and Health staff are key customer service field staff and it makes sense to combine them with other staff who have constant contact with customers and are as near as possible to the major community centres in the municipality. The move to a customer/resident based Neighbourhood Team approach is about making sure that Local Laws and Health staff are accessible and responsive to client needs. Telephone 9876 9899.



At your service: Office architect Leigh Mattingley, Customer Service Team Leader Judy Oswald and Council Commissioner Janice Bateman, at the opening of the new Customer Service Office in Ringwood.

List of 1997 Council meetings:

Maroondah City Council has set four dates for Council meetings in the early months of 1997. They are:

January 29
February 10
February 24
March 11

Council Elections will be held on March 14, 1997, after which the new Councillors will decide on meeting dates and times for the remainder of 1997.

Upcoming events

Australia Day Celebrations

January 26, 1997

Ringwood Lake comes alive on January 26 each year as we celebrate Australia Day. Come along to the Australia Day BBQ with plenty of entertainment for the whole family, including clowns, bands and children's rides.

Festival in the Foothills

February 15 and 16

The excitement of the Maroondah Festival in the Foothills takes off at Ringwood Lake and Croydon Park, during February. As one of the largest community festivals in Australia, the Festival will have a range of activities for the whole family and involve a number of community groups providing top quality food, fun and entertainment.

Like the Festival, the Croydon Main Street Shopping Centre has been a significant part of local culture. This year 'Croydon For Shopping' has announced it will be the Festival's major sponsor, held on Saturday, February 15, at Ringwood Lake, and Sunday, February 16, at Croydon Park.

The Festival program is packed with craft markets, stage entertainment, international food, street performers, children's entertainment, expos galore, and a pyrotechnics display.

The Festival organisers are also currently developing the content of this year's event including the very popular expos. The *Festival Boulevards* offer prominent promotional sites for businesses and community groups to expose their products or services to over 150,000 Festival goers.

For further information on all aspects of the upcoming Festival, call the special information Hotline on 1900 147 050, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

LEISURE MAP

Within the City of Maroondah there is a wide range of leisure & culture opportunities available through the diverse range of facilities, services and programs. Recently Council's Leisure, Culture and Youth Services team produced an exciting 'Leisure Map' of the City of Maroondah.

The 'Map' is an exciting full colour poster showing the leisure life of Maroondah. It includes all of the leisure facilities, bike paths, Community Houses, parks and reserves, and walking tracks the City has to offer.

For further information call Maroondah City Council's 24 hour Leisure Line on 9871 0373.

Maroondah City Offices Braeside Avenue,
Ringwood 3134, PO Box 156, Ringwood 3134
Tel: (03) 9871 0222 Fax: (03) 9879 3534

Customer Service Outlets

Croydon: Civic Square, Croydon 3136,
Tel: (03) 9724 3333 Fax: (03) 9725 2354

Ringwood Plaza:

12 Civic Place,
Ringwood
Tel: (03) 9876 9899
Fax: (03) 9876 8966



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