

Maroondah Focus

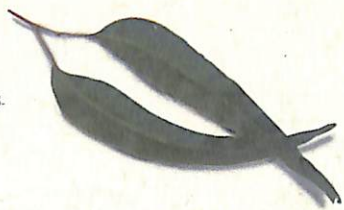
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

1997/98 Budget - Maroondah City Council presents the 1997/98 Budget which offers Maroondah residents the maintenance of services despite increasingly lean times.

1

2 Statewide Planning Reform Program - Offers Maroondah residents their say on some of the most fundamental changes to planning laws undertaken in the last 20 years.

2



Shine on Maroondah - The world's cleanest source of energy - the sun - will power new state-of-the-art lighting to be installed in several locations across Maroondah.

3



4 Home grown - The City's own indigenous flora will enliven the grounds of Maroondah Civic Offices in the City's first indigenous botanical garden.

4

The grounds of Maroondah City Offices in Braeside Avenue, Ringwood, will soon be awash with the beauty of local flora and fauna in the City's first indigenous botanical garden.

Message from the Mayor of the City Of Maroondah, Les Willmott.



Hello again,

Welcome to the latest edition of Maroondah City Council's quarterly community newsletter 'The Maroondah Focus'. Council hopes readers find the articles interesting and informative.

Since returning to Council after nearly a two and a half year absence, Maroondah City Councillors have approached the task of serving the Maroondah community with vigour, skill and enthusiasm.

Councillors have been busy working with Senior Council Officers on striking the rate and bringing in the 1997/98 Budget which incorporates a total budget of \$53.8 million.

The hard work has paid off as the budget offers the Maroondah community the maintenance of services despite increasingly lean times. Through containing costs, some services have even increased. Within the Capital Works area, Council has committed \$12.2 million to be spent on a well balanced range of projects across the Municipality.

When working through any budget process, individual Councillors may strive to have certain monies allocated to their Wards to benefit their constituents. While some may be disappointed that more

money may not have been spent on certain projects, all Councillors have the big picture of a total Municipality in mind and, at the end of the day, the process is very much a consensus view and each Councillor is comfortable with the final result.

As a Municipality, Maroondah has all the hallmarks of a great City. It has excellent education and training facilities and offers exceptional lifestyle opportunities by its environment. It is an established and dynamic growth centre yet has the potential for further economic growth. The City has a wide range of community support

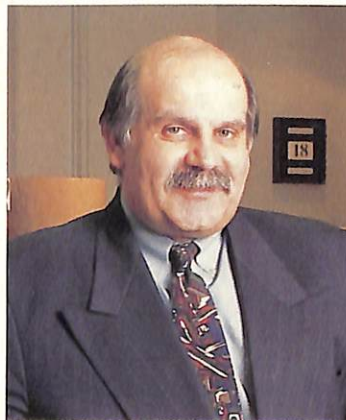
services and networks which are supported by a large volunteer network, contributing to a strong sense of goodwill and a caring community. To guide it, it has a Council committed to achieving a balanced, prosperous future in partnership with the Maroondah community.

As Council continues to build upon these solid foundations and implements the initiatives of the 1997/98 Budget, it is aware of its responsibility to realise the full potential of the City of Maroondah on behalf of all its residents.

Les Willmott

1997/98 BUDGET OVERVIEW

by Maroondah City Council Chief Executive Officer Michael Marasco



It is with much pleasure that I present the 1997/98 Budget to the Maroondah community on behalf of Maroondah City Council.

This budget has been developed following a number of

workshops at both Councillor and Senior Officer levels and reflects Council and community needs and aspirations which have been detailed in the Corporate Plan. At the same time, the budget also

recognises the need to ensure the long term financial health of the Municipality.

The 1997/98 Budget consists of a number of key and inter-related documents - Council's Operating Budget, its Three Year Capital Expenditure Program and its Long Term Financial Strategy.

The budget reflects the needs of the Maroondah community and direction of Council established through the Corporate planning process. By linking these documents together, Council is able to ensure there is consistency in direction. It also ensures that such decisions do not compromise the well being of the Municipality or Council's capacity to sustain current rating levels while it continues to maintain service levels and provide the necessary infrastructure for current and future generations.

The 1997/98 Budget refers to the July 1997 to June 1998 Financial Year. The Local Government industry had previously operated on an October to September financial year until changes to legislation were made. The 1997/98 Financial Year will be the first year since the change to July/June that the rating and financial years are aligned.

Council has been able to maintain a significant Capital Expenditure Program and, importantly, does not rely upon new loan funds to do so. Capital Expenditure over the three years - 1998/2000 - of \$26.3 million will enable Council to meet community needs and at the same time ensure the ongoing financial viability of the Municipality. Whilst maintaining such a program, Council cash investment levels will be approximately \$7.27 million in 2001, with indications of growth beyond that point in time.

Clearly, the financial health of the Municipality is sound.

Michael Marasco

CAPITAL WORKS HIGHLIGHTS

- Reconstruction of Yarra Road, Nangathan Way/ Croydon Hills Drive to Power Street.
- Street lighting improvements across the Municipality.
- Removal of silt from Ringwood Lake in Ringwood Park.
- Yarrunga Community Centre, Croydon Hills, Stage two.
- Oval surface improvements to Quambee Reserve and Mullum Reserve.
- Main pool and learners pool of Croydon Memorial Swimming Pool to be retiled.
- Completion of Health and Activity Pool at Ringwood Aquatic Centre.
- Development of visitor facilities at Ringwood Golf Course.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The 1997/98 Budget contains a number of important new initiatives including:

- Expanded asset maintenance works
- Weedwise program where residents are rewarded for removing environmental weeds from their properties
- A wastewise program which will assist the community to reduce waste going to landfill
- A notable trees audit which will offer subsidised inspections and maintenance of notable trees on private land
- The development of a Revised Maroondah Planning Scheme to introduce new state-wide planning zones
- Safer Communities Project
- Disability Access Audit
- The establishment of Business Incubators to support fledgling businesses grow into commercial enterprises
- A Retail Development/Infrastructure program to help increase the viability of local shopping centres
- A Maroondah Tourism Industry Review - the formation of a working group to review the tourism potential of the City of Maroondah
- Business Investment Program
- The development of a Home Based Business Development Program to support appropriate home based employment
- The development of Council's Customer Service Charter to ensure its service delivery is maintained at the highest standard
- The implementation of a Customer Link Request Tracking System to allow the recording and tracking of customer requests
- National Benchmarking Program
- An Environmental Audit to ensure that Council operates in a sustainable manner across all spheres of its operations
- The implementation of Council's Information Technology Strategy, designed to ensure Council has appropriate technology and systems in place beyond the year 2000.

The Planning Reform Program and You

The introduction of the Victorian State Government's Planning Reform Program now offers Maroondah residents the opportunity to have their say on some of the most fundamental changes to planning laws undertaken in the last 20 years.

THE PLANNING REFORM PROGRAM

In 1995, the State Government commenced a major review of all planning controls in Victoria. The proposed changes will affect every property in the State, including those in the City of Maroondah.

The Planning Reform Program aims to:

- reduce the number of planning schemes in Victoria from 206 to 78 (one for each of the State's Municipalities)
- reduce the number of zones from 2871 to 25
- enable planning schemes to set strategic directions for a Municipality
- result in a more user-friendly planning scheme; and
- provide greater certainty for the community.

The new planning system will have a clear strategic focus at both the State and local levels. A new State Planning Policy Framework will replace the policies in the current State and Regional sections of relevant schemes. Each local planning scheme will include a Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) and Local Planning Policies.

THE CHANGES

The most significant change to arise from the Planning Reform Program review was the introduction of standardised State zones and overlay controls. These zones and overlays reduce the number of zones throughout the State and are aimed at providing consistency across planning schemes.

Previously local Councils had the ability to prepare their own zones and overlays to meet and reflect local conditions. Under the new system the production of local zones is not possible. All schemes in the State will consist of a selection of State zones and overlays. The local input into the scheme is derived from the Municipal Strategic Statement, local policies and, to a lesser extent, the schedules to some of the State zones.

THE NEW MAROONDAH PLANNING SCHEME

Like all local Councils, Maroondah City Council has been required to place a Municipal Strategic Statement and revised Planning Scheme on public exhibition for at least two months and invite community input. Given the scope of the proposed changes, Council has decided to place the revised Planning Scheme on exhibition for a three month period.

To ensure the Municipal Strategic Statement and revised Planning Scheme reflect the views of the Maroondah community and are based on significant research, Council began a process over 18 months ago to ensure that its strategies were up-to-date and relevant.

This process began with 'Maroondah 2020 - A Shared Future' and Council's Corporate Plan. The overall strategic directions contained in these two documents led to the development of detailed strategies including Council's:

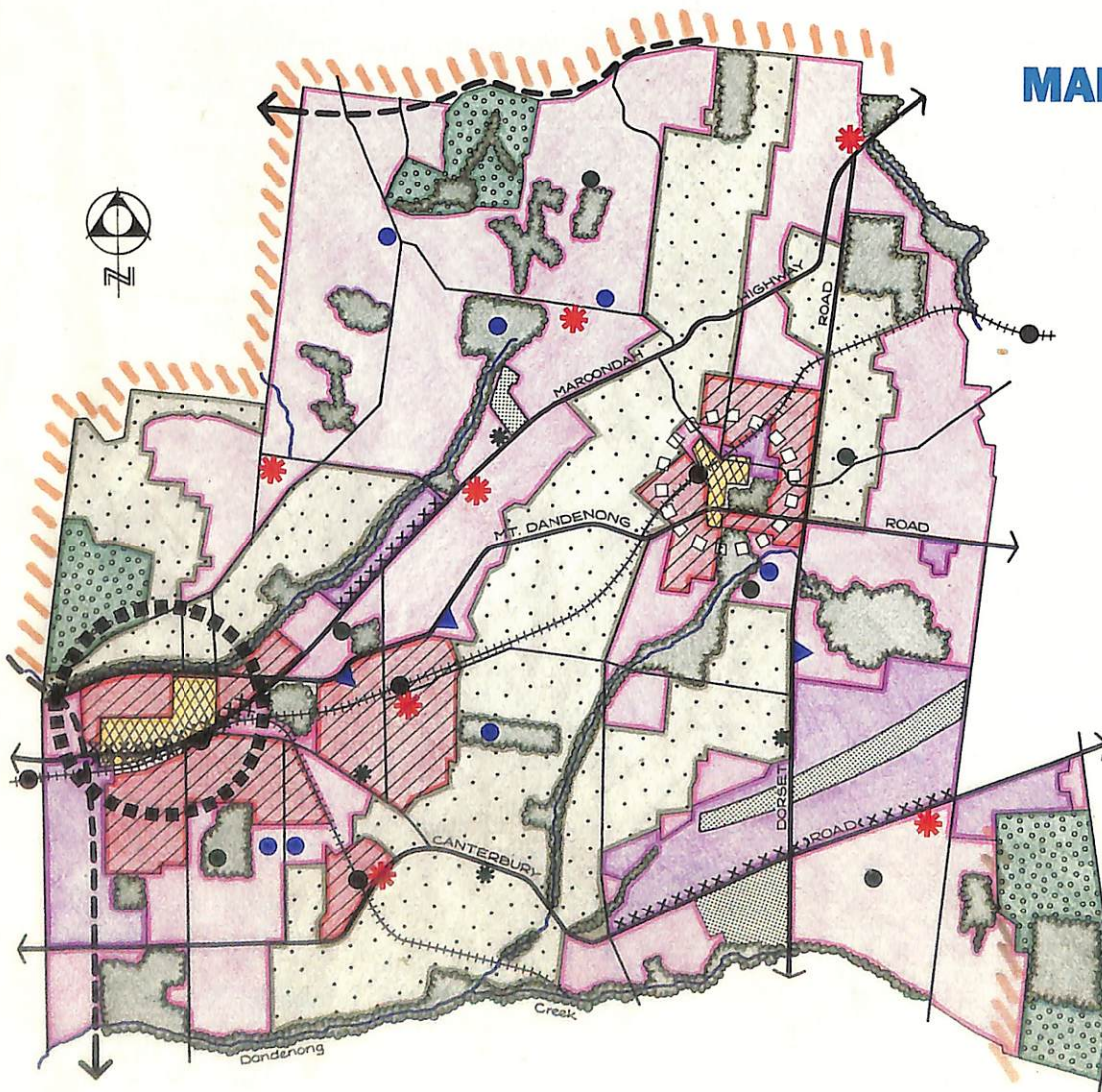
- Branching Out - An Environment Strategy for Maroondah
- Maroondah Economic Strategy
- Maroondah Municipal Housing Strategy
- Maroondah Open Space Strategy
- Notable Trees of Maroondah
- Ringwood District Centre Structure Plan Review
- Roadside Conservation and Street Tree Strategy
- Sites of Biological Significance in Maroondah
- Retail Strategy

HOW THE PLANNING PROGRAM REVIEW WILL AFFECT YOU

Although all zones will change, the current planning framework of Maroondah will remain substantially intact.

To avoid misunderstandings, Council Manager, Integrated Planning, Phil Turner, encourages Maroondah residents to discuss the proposed changes with Council Planning Officers who are available between 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday at Maroondah City Offices, Braeside Ave, Ringwood. Appointments can also be made with Council Planning Officers after hours or at Council's Customer Service Offices in Croydon and Ringwood Plaza.

MAROONDAH LAND USE FRAMEWORK PLAN



	District Centre
	Community Centre
	Neighborhood Centre
	Local Centre
	Medium Density Housing Preferred Areas
	Residential - Landscape Protection Area
	Residential - Environmental Protection Area
	Residential
	Major Development Opportunity
	Peripheral Sales
	Industry
	Open Space
	Education Establishments
	Community Facilities
	Hospital Network
	Met Rail / Stations
	Principal Road Network
	Major Arterial Road (Proposed)
	Watercourse
	Rural / Residential Interface

For further information, please call Council's Integrated Planning Department on 9871 0459.

YOUR SAY

Having completed its draft Planning Scheme, including the Municipal Strategic Statement, Maroondah City Council now invites all members of the Maroondah community interested in the future planning laws of their City to study the document and provide comment.

Council will be holding community and interest group forums to explain the new planning scheme over the exhibition period.

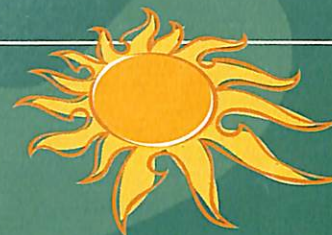
Copies of the new Maroondah Planning Scheme and local policies are now available for inspection at all Council Customer Service Outlets:

Maroondah City Offices,
Braeside Ave, Ringwood,
(03) 9871 0222

Croydon Customer Service
Office, Civic Square,
(03) 9724 3222

Ringwood Customer Service
Office, 12 Civic Place,
(03) 9876 9899

Shine on Maroondah



The world's cleanest source of energy - the sun - will power new state-of-the-art lighting to be installed in several locations across the City of Maroondah.

As part of Maroondah City Council's ongoing commitment to reduce the City's reliance on non-renewable energy, a program has commenced to install solar lighting wherever possible.

In conjunction with supplier Showers Solar International, Council is currently installing solar lighting in four locations in Maroondah where main power is not readily accessible and lighting is needed for public safety and security.

The sun will power lights in a laneway at the rear of the Ringwood Army Information Complex and in a laneway adjacent to a school crossing in Yarra Road. Solar lighting will also

be installed at Yarrunga Reserve to illuminate the playground and barbecue areas and another will be erected adjacent to the bridge which crosses the waterways.

New technology together with sophisticated timing devices will ensure that the lights will function all year around - even during periods of extended cloud cover. The lights are easy to install and will be maintenance free for up to 10 years.

Update on Business Excellence Awards

Two more outstanding local businesses have been nominated for Maroondah City Council's Business Excellence Awards.

Rebel Sport (Ringwood) has been nominated for the 'Ringwood CES Employment Development Award' which recognises the contribution of local businesses who have recently increased their staffing levels in a sustainable manner.

Canticle Bakery in McAdam Square Shopping Centre has been nominated for the 'Local Sustainable Development Award' which recognises businesses which employ environmentally conscious practices; such as waste minimisation, energy and water conservation, pollution reduction and restoration of local vegetation, and demonstrate how these practices can be good for business.

The Business Excellence Awards are an initiative by Council to recognise and reward the City's successful, world-class local businesses.

Other categories of the Awards include: the 'Australian Automotive Air Innovative Products & Quality Management Award', the 'Business Victoria Best New Business Venture Award' and the 'Commonwealth Bank Export Performance Award'.

For more information on the Business Excellence Awards, call Council's Economic Development Unit on 9871 0278.

Access for all

The support offered to parents of children with additional needs and the child care staff who work with them by Maroondah's two new Children's Services Resource and Development Officers (CSRDO) is proving to be invaluable.

Since Maroondah City Council secured Commonwealth funding in late 1996, CSRDOs Monica Heathcote and Judy Baird have been assisting the integration and inclusion of local children with additional needs: children with a disability; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders; and children from non English speaking backgrounds.

With a population of approximately 93,000 people, the City of Maroondah has a statistical incidence of 10,364 individuals living with a handicap or disability. Of these, approximately 312 would be children aged between 0-4 years. Social Security has registered 574 children receiving Disability Allowance alone. The percentage of Maroondah's non English speaking background population is 9.5 per cent. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders number 188 over the Maroondah region.

In their roles, Monica and Judy work with staff from Child Care Centres, Family Day Care, Out of School

Hours Programs and Vacationer Care Programs to assist children with additional needs to be included in all aspects of the program. They advise families of services they can access and provide staff training and in-service programs to assist staff to meet the needs of special needs children.

The Child Care Centres which have already included children with additional needs in their services have welcomed the assistance of the CSRDO. Parents who once were reluctant to use mainstream child care for their child with additional needs now feel more confident knowing that CSRDO support is available.

As a Council, Maroondah has embraced the policy of equal access of all residents. The Federal Government has outlawed the discrimination of children on the basis of disability and this program will ensure that the Maroondah community opens its hearts and minds.

For further information on how Monica and Judy could help you or a member of your family call them direct at Maroondah City Council on 9871 0305.

USEFUL COUNCIL NUMBERS

General Enquiries	9871 0222	Local Laws	
After Hours Emergency	016 378 738	(Neighbourhood Services Team)	9724 3253
City Works, Parks & Gardens	9724 3300	Rates	9871 0344
Community Services	9871 0275	Waste Management	9724 3365
Economic Development	9871 0278	Building	9871 0387
Health Services	9724 3203	Planning	9871 0287
		Engineering	9871 0292

Indigenous Botanical Garden



The grounds of Maroondah City Offices in Braeside Ave, Ringwood, will soon be awash with the beauty of the City's indigenous flora and fauna.

Maroondah City Council Parks and Gardens staff have started to develop the City's first indigenous

botanical garden on the northern lawn of the Ringwood Office facing Maroondah Highway. It is hoped that the area will also act as a seed and plant material bank to preserve the genetic variations of the City's local flora.

Maroondah's indigenous plant nursery, the CRISP Nursery in Ringwood, will supply a variety of species and volunteers and residents from nearby homes will help plant the garden.

Maroondah is home to over 400 species of flora and fauna, some extremely rare and declining in numbers with need of protection due to development and human interference.

Council's Environment Planner, Vivienne Fraser, encouraged residents unfamiliar with their City's indigenous flora to "take another look" and discover some of the "amazing flora that grows naturally in their Municipality".

"Indigenous plants offer a number of wonderful benefits to the gardener - they are often particularly attractive in appearance, they attract birdlife and, because they are adapted to local conditions, they are relatively low maintenance. They also play an important role in providing habitat for local wildlife," Vivienne explained.



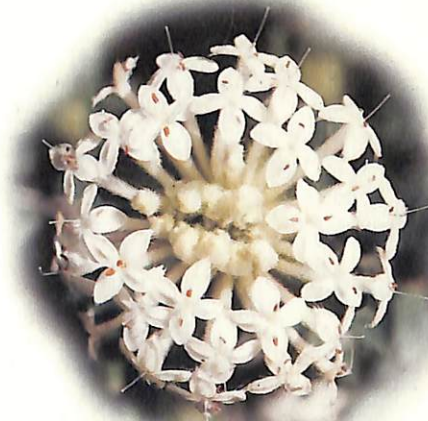
"Local residents can feel rightfully proud of their City's flora and every time an indigenous plant is planted over an introduced plant, the unique identity of our local area is enhanced," Vivienne added.

A large variety of indigenous plants are readily available from CRISP or the Candlebark Community Nursery in North Croydon where staff will be more than willing to give advice to residents on how best to utilise local flora in their garden. Residents can also receive free advice from Council by calling Council's Contracts Supervisor Parks, Peter Goegan, on 9871 0335.



A CD ROM entitled 'Indigenous Plants of Maroondah' which catalogues every known species in Maroondah is now available by contacting Baber Enterprises on 9879 0351.

Flowers (clockwise from top left):
 Black-anther Flax-lily *Dianella revoluta*
 Chocolate Lily *Arthropodium strictum*
 Walflower Orchid *Diuris Corymbofa*
 Common Rice-flower *Pimelea humilis*



Local store wins nation's top award

Maroondah City Council Mayor, Les Willmott, congratulates Steve Metherall, State Manager, from Clive Peeters for the store's recent win of the inaugural Mingays Award for Best Retail Store in Australia. Located in Maroondah Highway, Ringwood, the Clive Peeters store won the Award for 'Best Electrical Retail Store' in Australia, defeating a field of 5900 other electrical stores. Refurbished and expanded in 1996, the Clive Peeters Ringwood store is now the largest specialist electrical retail store in Australia.



Welcome to Wyreena

Visitors to Wyreena Community Arts Centre in Hull Road, Croydon, will soon be able to enjoy morning and afternoon teas and light lunches in the Centre's stunning new conservatory.

The conservatory has been designed to compliment the Centre's four and half acres of parklands, offering visitors the chance to refresh themselves while enjoying the wonderful array of art and craft exhibits of the Centre. The conservatory will also host a number of night time activities such as musical recitals, seminars and private functions and will be available for private hire and community activities.

Already over 600 people pass through the doors of Wyreena to take part in one of the 38 different art and craft classes run every week. The Centre's gallery showcases the works of students as well as local, emerging and established artists. The Centre's newly renovated craft shop also offers visitors the opportunity to browse through a wide

range of hand made glass wear, ceramics, jewellery and ornamental items.

The conservatory will be opening in August with an exhibition featuring the vibrant ceramic works and paintings by Wyreena's resident potter, Nikki Hassold.

To find out what Wyreena can offer you, call the Centre on 9725 4611.



LATEST ADDITION - Wyreena's new conservatory in the final stages of construction.

MAKING THE MOST OUT OF MAROONDAH

Just how many people utilise the City's community services and leisure facilities each year?

Maternal and Child Health: Services to over 8,300 children and their parents in nine Centres across the Municipality

Family Day Care: 72,800 hours of care to over 280 families and 320 children

Occasional Day Care: 36,750 hours of care to over 115 families and 148 children

'Kerrabee Club' Adult Day Activity and Support Services: 17,860 hours of care to 76 frail aged resulting in 14,244 hours of respite to their carers

Home and Community Care: 2000 recipients of care sharing over 90,000 hours per annum of assistance in their homes

Meals on Wheels: 80,000 meals delivery by volunteers per annum

Croydon Library: 322,611 visits per annum

Ringwood Library: 489,211 visits per annum

Ringwood Aquatic Centre: 400,000 visits per annum

Croydon Memorial Pool: 65,000 visits per annum

Croydon Leisure Centre: 250,000 visits per annum

Ringwood Public Golf Course: 80,000 rounds of golf per annum

Karralyka Convention Centre and Kitchen: Caters for up to 800 hungry customers through the function centre and provides 1500 Meals on Wheels per week

Karralyka Theatre: 8,000 audience members in theatre

The figures show that people are making great use of the City's services. Tell your friends so that they too can 'make the most out of Maroondah'.

This range of services is jointly funded by Maroondah City Council with contributions from the State and Federal Governments.



LOCAL LAW TIPS

Did you know :

- that it is the responsibility of property owners to ensure any overhanging branches are kept clear of footpaths and do not endanger pedestrians?
- property owners are responsible for displaying an easily identifiable street number?
- it is illegal to park an unregistered vehicle on a road or naturestrip?
- all cats and dogs over the age of six months must be registered with Maroondah City Council?
- no burning off is allowed in the City of Maroondah? Council City Works can be contacted for the most effective method for disposing your garden waste on 9724 3365.
- Council Neighbourhood Services Officers regularly patrol schools? Please ensure you park legally at schools for the safety of all children.
- dog owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dog in public places?

For more information on any Local Law issues, please call 9724 3253.

Waste Management Tip



Remember - if you want your green waste collected, tie it up in

bundles with strong twine and do not place it in plastic bags.

Council Meeting Dates

Members of the Maroondah community are invited to attend Council meetings which commence at 7.30pm in Council Chambers, Braeside Avenue, Ringwood, on the following evenings:

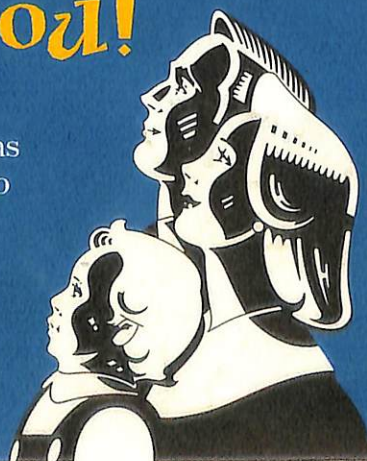
July 7
July 21
August 4
August 18
September 1
September 15

Council wants you!

If you are interested in Council publications, aspects of Council's Customer Service or Council's community relations functions and events, Maroondah City Council invites you to become a member of some focus groups to be formed.

The focus groups will help ensure Council's activities are 'hitting the mark' and meeting the needs of the Maroondah community.

To register your interest, please call Council's Customer Service Centre on 9871 0350.



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

Croydon Customer Service Office
Civic Square, Croydon 3136
Tel: (03) 9724 3222 Fax: (03) 9723 2615

Ringwood Customer Service Office
Ringwood Plaza,
12 Civic Place,
Ringwood 3134
Tel: (03) 9876 9899
Fax: (03) 9876 8966



Published by Maroondah City Council
Produced and Designed by TMP Worldwide
Printed on 100% recycled stock