


Maroondah Focus

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



April 1999

11405 NWD 02-03-02 Box 6



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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

By Cr Maureen Naylor



Welcome to my first column as Mayor of the City of Maroondah.

Many residents already know me for my role as Councillor for Yarrunga Ward. However, I have a long association with Maroondah, and prior to amalgamations was a councillor with the City of Croydon for two years.

After the amalgamation of the former Ringwood and Croydon Councils, I was an active member of Maroondah City Council's Community Consultative Panel.

I am very honoured and feel very humble and excited to be the City's new Mayor.

I am very proud of the City of Maroondah and am ecstatic to be its first female Mayor. It is a City that offers so much to its community - parks, natural reserves, sporting and recreational facilities and a host of community activities, from art and culture to social support.

I feel I have a great deal to contribute as Mayor. My fellow Councillors Peter Gurr, Nick Kirmos, Neil Rose, Les Willmott, Marj Munro and Joe Cossari, have shown great confidence in me and my abilities and I look forward to this challenging role.

We are a Council of committed individuals, who come together from a wide range of backgrounds and in fact our very strength is in our diversity. It ensures vigorous debate, and the generation of ideas that can only come about through commitment to the common good of the Maroondah community.

In the coming year, I will be actively broadening my contacts with many sectors of the community. In particular, I will be continuing Cr Joe Cossari's work in building a greater relationship with our business community.

I have a long history of involvement with our community, from mother, to committee member to Councillor, and take my additional responsibilities as Mayor very seriously. We are a dynamic City with a vibrant community life and need to ensure that we maintain and improve our services and facilities, for the whole community.

Community involvement is the lifeblood of our City and I look forward to meeting more of the members of our community who contribute to that sense of community.

I looking forward to the challenges of my new office and thank all those who have offered me congratulations in my first month as Mayor.

Who Cares Wins

Children and their families using the Maroondah Family Day Care service are all smiles, giving the service a 97 per cent satisfaction rating in a recent survey.

"We are very happy with the results of the survey, although not completely surprised. Our informal feedback from parents, children and Careproviders was that we operate a high quality, efficient, comfortable and safe family day care service," said Louk Thiele, Team Leader Family Day Care.

Family Day Care primarily provides childcare for children from birth to five years of age, but can also assist school aged children up to 12 years, in a small family-type environment.

One of the key findings of the survey was that service users chose it because care was in a home environment.

The survey also found that over nine in ten service users were satisfied with the knowledge and skill of their Careprovider

(97 per cent), the hours of service (96 per cent), the comfort of homes (93 per cent) the activities and their experiences for their child (92 per cent), and the feedback of the Careprovider (92 per cent).

"We put a lot of effort into matching children with their Careprovider and to building relationships between children. It aids their socialisation and hopefully makes them happier people. We're dealing with something intangible - care and human interaction - and to have service users tell us we're doing a great job is very satisfying," Louk said.

Maroondah's Family Day Care operates 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year.

Careproviders are carefully selected, screened and trained, ensuring child safety and parents' peace of mind. In-service training sessions are provided on a monthly basis for Careproviders, to enhance their skills and knowledge of child care and the wider family day care community.

Centrepiece

A colourful

A public arts project at the Yarrunga Community Centre has created a vivid and bright new mural, which now adorns the Southern wall of the Centre.

Maroondah City Council's Leisure and Culture Services Unit initiated the arts project in the second half of 1998 and the mural was completed just before Christmas.

Local artists Niki Hassold and Anne Iversen, both tutors at the Wyreena Community Arts Centre, designed the mural which is made up of several materials, including glass, clay and metal.

The theme reflects the natural surroundings of the Centre, featuring water, fish, ducks, local birds and trees, which are prevalent in the Candlebark Walk Reserve, opposite the Centre.

"The mural is quite spectacular and unique. It is a tremendous asset to the Yarrunga Community Centre and to Maroondah," Yarrunga Ward Councillor and recently elected Mayor, Maureen Naylor said.

"The colours are bright and the theme is just beautiful. As it is located outside, it's easy for people to come to the centre and view".

The mural is located at the Yarrunga Community Centre, at the corner of Croydon Hills Drive and Barwon Court, Croydon Hills, on the outside wall of the new extension, facing the playground. Visitors are welcome to stop by for a look!



MURAL MURAL ON THE WALL... Anne Iversen and Niki Hassold show off the new Yarrunga Mural.



SHARING THE CARE... Mala DeSilva with some of the children in her care. Picture: Mike Martin. Published courtesy of Leader Newspapers.

"With full-time care (50 hours per week) costing only \$140.00 per week and government subsidies for eligible families, this is certainly high quality, low cost childcare. One of the great things is that

parents pay for only the hours they need. They do not pay for four hours when they only need two," Louk said.

For more information contact Maroondah Family Day Care on 9871 0254.

A plan for older residents

Council has officially launched its Older Residents' Plan, which outlines priorities for Council over the next three years in service delivery, planning and advocacy.

The Plan includes key actions and recommendations that clearly indicate Council's role as either a planner, an advocate, a purchaser or provider of different types of aged services.

Arrabri Ward Councillor and Chair of the Maroondah Health Planning Network, Peter Gurr said the Plan provided direction for the Council and for older residents.

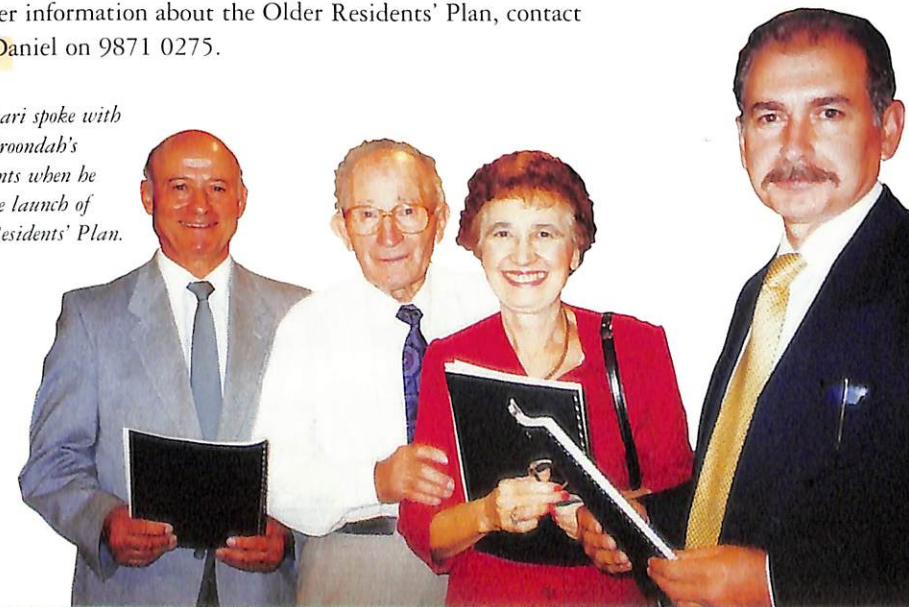
"The Older Residents' Plan provides a clear direction for Council for the next three years in relation to older resident services. It will assist in a strategic and coordinated response to the development, provision and maintenance of services and facilities for older residents within Maroondah," Cr Gurr said.

"It will also assist in prioritising resources in Aged Services and will form part of the annual budget considerations" he said.

The development of the Plan involved extensive community consultation, including workshops and face to face interviews with older Maroondah residents, senior citizens clubs, Probus groups and other community agencies and organisations.

For further information about the Older Residents' Plan, contact Gail McDaniel on 9871 0275.

Cr Joe Cossari spoke with some of Maroondah's older residents when he attended the launch of the Older Residents' Plan.



Stepping on the millennium bug

Maroondah City Council is wasting no time in making sure that its computer and non information technology (IT) systems are in good working order, so that there is no glitch at all when it comes to the year 2000.

It has already set up a working party to identify and manage a changeover of outmoded computer systems and other electric appliances which are affected.

Maroondah Councillor, Les Willmott said the so-called Millennium Bug or Year 2000 Bug also posed potential problems to homes and businesses within Maroondah.

"Many people may not know that the bug does not restrict itself to personal computers (PC's) or computer based software and systems. It may impact on any computer chip which has only two digits to store the year date," Cr Willmott said.

"Microwaves, stoves, air-conditioning systems, security systems, fire alarm systems, lifts and even cars which have embedded micro chips, may be affected. While this affects businesses, it also affects appliances in the home," he added.

The cause of the problem is that older computer chips have two digits for the year date. A double zero (00) date is likely to be recognised as 1900, effectively meaning the chip, and therefore the appliance, will cease to operate.

"We all need to ensure that products that we use, and intend to buy in the future, are not affected by the bug," Cr Willmott said.

"If you need advice, contact the Millennium Bug Hotline," he added.

For further information, contact 1800 11 2000 or Internet www.y2k.dsd.vic.gov.au.

"Remember, 'If in doubt, get it checked out'," he said.

A Flash of Imagination

Don't be too surprised if you see a lot of people taking photographs in Maroondah over the next few months - they're probably putting together their entries for Maroondah City Council's annual photographic competition.

The competition will open in May and run until the middle of July, with the judging taking place in late July. Look out for the entry forms at Council's Service Centres in May. Great prizes await the winners, including the opportunity to have your photo on the front cover of the Maroondah Mail. So come and join in the fun of photography!

The key to success

Maroondah City Council is keen to support all small businesses increase their knowledge and networking opportunities. By subsidising a series of small business courses over the past two years, Council has been able to assist over 250 businesses increase their business management skills.

Human Resource Training is the second business training course for 1999 hosted by Council, as part of its series of training courses for small business.



Maroondah's Business Advisory Board recently met to advise Council on business issues within the City.

This course will cover acquiring the knowledge and skills to hire and manage staff in the interests of a healthy small business. This will include the statutory requirements relating to employment, an effective work environment, staff selection, motivation and issue resolution. The course begins on 21 April and continues each Wednesday until 26 May, from 6.30pm to 9.30pm.

Business Planning covers the format and purpose of the business plan, processes required for successful planning of a business' marketing plan, operational plan and financial plan. This course begins on 29 July and continues each Thursday until 2 September, from 6.30pm to 9.30pm.

The final course of the year will be Marketing, which will introduce the concept of marketing, market size, market share, research and marketing mix as well pricing, distribution, promotional and competitive strategies. This course starts on 6 October and continues each Wednesday until 17 November, from 6.30pm to 9.30pm.

Individual modules cost \$63, with additional modules, priced at \$40. All courses will be held at Maroondah City Council Offices, Braeside Avenue, Ringwood.

To book into your course, contact Jo Lo Presti on 9871 0278.

Magical Morning Music A Must at Karralyka

The Karralyka Centre has launched its return season of the popular Morning Music at Karralyka series of concerts.

The first series of concerts was sold out and the second series is sure to please.

Proudly sponsored by Eastland Shopping Centre, GIO, Le Pine, Evergreen and Prime Life, the Morning Music at Karralyka series will give patrons the opportunity to see and enjoy some of Australia's biggest and finest talents at a local venue.

Cr Marj Munro said the second series of Morning Music concerts has been widened to include a series of afternoon shows and for the first time a night show starting at 8pm on April 27, for those who can't get to a show during the day.

"All of the entertainers will perform at 11am and again at a second show at 2pm. The name Morning Music really is a misnomer now, with our series of extra concerts in the afternoon", Cr Munro said.

The first concert for the 1999 season, on 30 March, featured radio and television personality Denis Walter in Concert.

The next concert will feature The Phantom of the Opera's Donald Cant on 4 May.

On 15 June, the Karralyka welcomes Brian Hannan, Norman Yemm and Co. in another hilarious Gilbert and Sullivan show.

Tuesday 31 August offers a Rogers and Hammerstein tribute, with music from memorable musicals, including Oklahoma, Carousel, South Pacific, The King and I and The Sound of Music.

The Irish Drovers will perform on 19 October, a remarkable quartet of lively Irish lads who entertain with a mix of song, comedy, music and friendly repartee.

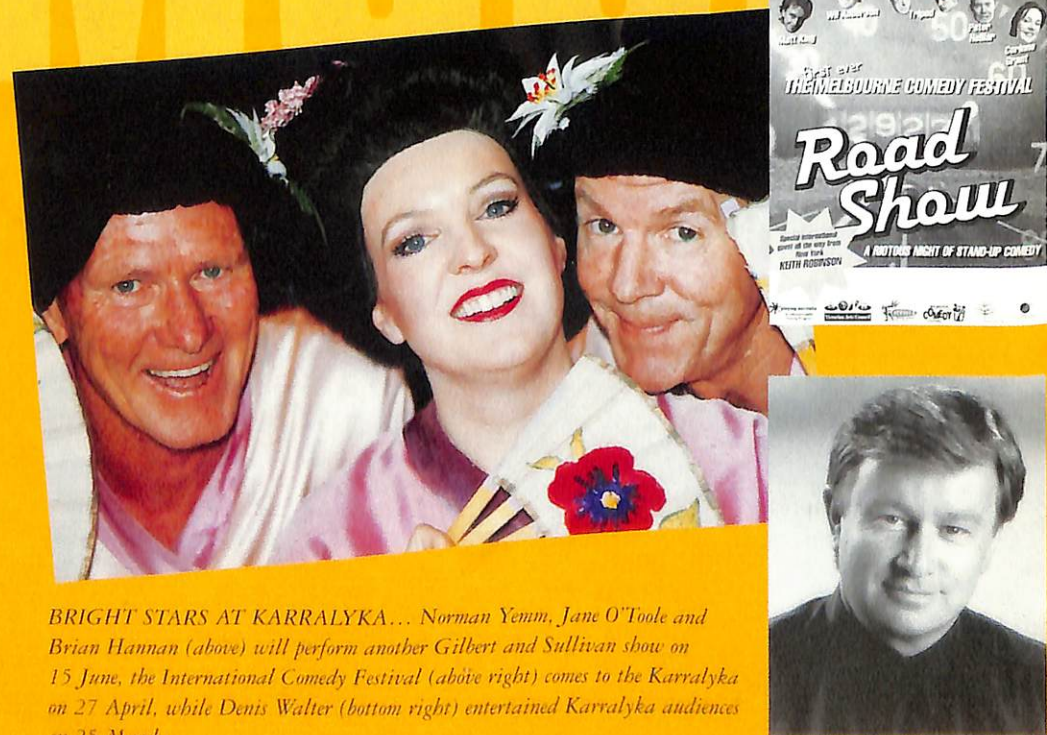
Light refreshments will be served an hour preceding each show.

Tickets to the individual shows cost \$10.50 each, with groups of 10 or more at \$9 per person. Season tickets to all five shows are available for \$9 per show.

A special evening show on April 27, will feature acts from the acclaimed Melbourne International Comedy Festival. This show has already sold out and will feature the best local comics plus the pick of the more established Australian and International artists on a bill which would rarely be seen outside of central Melbourne.

Artists will include Dave O'Neil, a regular on Hey Hey It's Saturday and Triple M; Wil Anderson, regularly appearing on Good News Week; Al Murray the Pub Landlord, who has come all the way from the UK and whose appearance in last year's International Comedy Festival was a hit sell out. And many more.

For further information and bookings for Morning Music at Karralyka, contact the Karralyka Centre on 9870 2888.



BRIGHT STARS AT KARRALYKA... Norman Yemm, Jane O'Toole and Brian Hannan (above) will perform another Gilbert and Sullivan show on 15 June, the International Comedy Festival (above right) comes to the Karralyka on 27 April, while Denis Walter (bottom right) entertained Karralyka audiences on 25 March.

Be wise - Immunise!

Maroondah's Public Health Unit has expanded its free immunisation program to incorporate the latest changes to the National Immunisation Schedule.

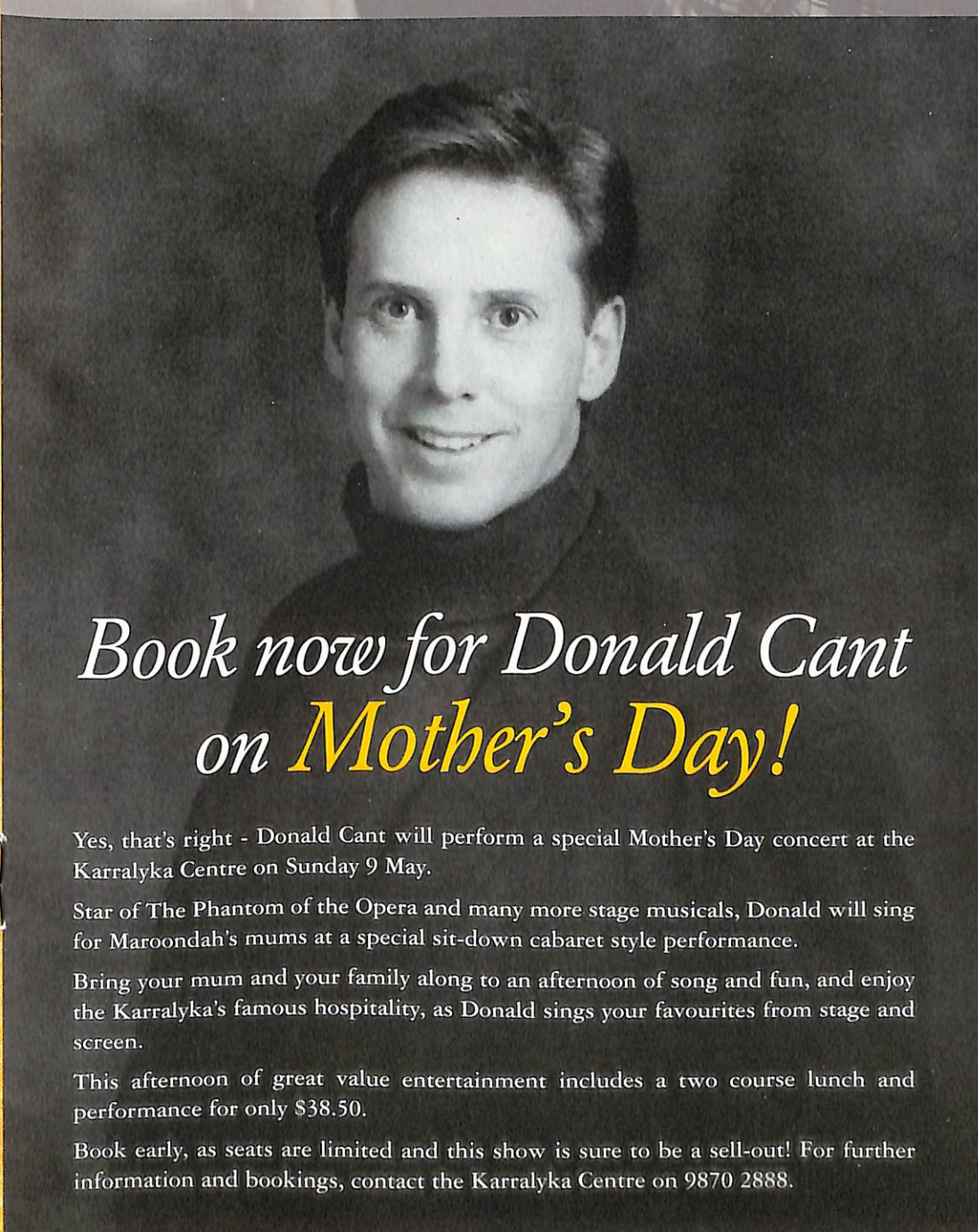
Immunisation Sessions are no longer conducted at Primary Schools.

Instead, at evening sessions throughout the year, all pre-school children are offered injections of Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine, Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis vaccine, plus an oral dose of Sabin vaccine to protect against Poliomyelitis.

The Hepatitis B vaccine program was extended last year to include all year 7 school children. The Hepatitis B program is very popular and requires three doses over a six-month period to complete the course.

Each month, Council's Public Health Unit conducts immunisation sessions for infants at four different locations throughout the municipality. It also conducts one evening session per month for all age groups, alternating between Croydon and Ringwood locations.

For further information about Maroondah's Immunisation Program, contact the Public Health Unit on 9724 3227.



Book now for Donald Cant on Mother's Day!

Yes, that's right - Donald Cant will perform a special Mother's Day concert at the Karralyka Centre on Sunday 9 May.

Star of The Phantom of the Opera and many more stage musicals, Donald will sing for Maroondah's mums at a special sit-down cabaret style performance.

Bring your mum and your family along to an afternoon of song and fun, and enjoy the Karralyka's famous hospitality, as Donald sings your favourites from stage and screen.

This afternoon of great value entertainment includes a two course lunch and performance for only \$38.50.

Book early, as seats are limited and this show is sure to be a sell-out! For further information and bookings, contact the Karralyka Centre on 9870 2888.

What's in a name?

The Maroondah Heritage Estate, for which Maroondah City Council has received \$2 million in funding for a Federation project, has a new name.

The Estate and the Project will now be known as the Maroondah Federation Estate. The name clearly identifies it as a Federation project, for which its initial funding was received.

"The Maroondah Federation Estate will house two facilities on the one site; a lifestyle centre and a cultural arts centre, which it proposes will be based at the former Ringwood Primary School site, in Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood," Clocktower Ward Councillor Nick Kirmos said.

"We have had a number of letters and calls of support for the Federation Estate. One in particular was from a former principal of the former Ringwood Primary School, who applauded Council's decision to use the School site for the community," he added.

For further information, contact Pia Borghesi on 9871 0324.

Access for all

Maroondah City Council is committed to providing access for all members of the community.

Forums that provide disabled people and their carers with the opportunity to raise issues that impact on their ability to have equal opportunity in the community are held quarterly by Council's Community Services Unit.

Issues discussed at past forums range from general access issues for people in wheelchairs, better physical access to buses, and improving response times for multi-purpose taxis.

Three forums will be held throughout the year; 16 June, 15 September and 15 December 1999 at the Maroondah City Offices, Braeside Avenue, Ringwood, from 2pm. For further information or to be involved in the forums, contact Maureen Borghesi on 9871 0206.

PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE

A recent workshop for members of the Maroondah community to discuss heritage sites was a great success.

Held on 31 March at Council's Civic Square offices, the workshop gathered both written and anecdotal evidence on heritage buildings, natural heritage sites, archaeological sites, and landscape elements from both the pre-European and post contact settlement periods.

Maroondah Mayor Cr Maureen Naylor said Council was seeking the extensive input of the local community.

"The meeting was a unique opportunity for members of the public to be involved in the identification and preservation of Maroondah's heritage," she said.

Council has already produced a Heritage Identification Study to identify the more obvious heritage buildings. These sites are proposed to have statutory protection (using the Heritage Overlay provision) in the new Maroondah Planning Scheme.

The State Government has provided 50 per cent funding to enable a qualified Heritage consultant to prepare the environmental history and undertake fieldwork required in this current stage of the Heritage Study.

For more information on the Heritage Study, contact Simon Skinner on 9871 0459.

A Safer Maroondah

Maroondah City Council is taking the lead in a new program which addresses safety and crime issues of most concern to the Maroondah community, titled "Maroondah Partners in Safety".

Council received \$70 000 from the Department of Justice's Vicsafe Program to implement Phase One of this Safer Cities & Shires project.

The three principal outputs of Phase One are to conduct research into community safety and crime issues for the municipality, develop a local community safety plan and to have a team of senior representatives to guide and coordinate the development, implementation and on-going evaluation of the project.

Diane Childs has taken a secondment from Council's Youth Services Unit to coordinate the program for Maroondah. Her main priority is to conduct research into community safety and crime issues and to develop a Community Safety Plan.

"The research will involve broad consultation with residents, community groups, Victoria Police and the business community, all who have their own crime and safety issues," Ms Childs said.

"The Community Safety Plan will be focused on issues specific to Maroondah and will detail strategies to address these issues and complement existing municipal strategies such as the Municipal Health Plan and the Emergency Management Plan," Diane added.

"A key to the success of this program is about building relationships between different sectors in the community. We are all partners in trying to reduce crime and increase safety within Maroondah," she said.

For further information about the Safer Cities program, contact Diane Childs on 9876 9894.

WORKING FOR A SAFER MAROONDAH... Members of the Maroondah Partners in Safety Committee, which will guide the development of the Program in Maroondah.



Leaders of the future

The newest batch of participants in Maroondah's own community leadership program - Leadership Maroondah - was welcomed as part of the launch of the 1999 program on Wednesday 24 February, at the Wyreena Community Arts Centre.

Beginning its fifth year, the highly successful Leadership Maroondah program boasts thirteen new recruits for 1999, and an exciting program of events and speakers.

Participants from the local community are chosen to participate in the nine month program, which involves over 20 informative and stimulating sessions, events and excursions throughout the year, as well as involvement in community project work.

The Leadership Maroondah program is aimed at encouraging, nurturing and developing Maroondah's potential community leaders.

Outgoing Mayor Maroondah City Councillor Joe Cossari, said the program aims to create a bank of "enthusiastic and able people who can take on leadership roles in volunteer projects and in the workforce".

"During the year, participants will undertake projects of their choosing. In previous years, these projects

have included organising community consultations, recycling support equipment for people with special needs, developing economic and cultural relationships with an overseas city, and conducting a family activities day," Cr Cossari said.

"Most recently, our Leadership Maroondah graduates coordinated the Unity in the Community Trail at the 1999 Maroondah Festival in the Foothills, which proved a great success".

"It helped to showcase the various community groups on show at the Festival, and

provided a fantastic focus for some of our lesser known community groups," he added.

"This was an excellent and very public way of leading by example," he said.

Cr Cossari said the ages of the 1999 program's participants range from their early twenties to their fifties and come from a variety of walks of life.

The program, which is sponsored Maroondah City Council, hopes to see such successful leadership programs developed by other Councils.



LEADING BY EXAMPLE... Participants in the 1999 Leadership Maroondah program were welcomed by former Mayor, Cr Joe Cossari (standing, fourth from left) and local identity Dame Pbyllis Frost (front row, seated, far right).

Kits for control

Elm leaf beetles will have less of a chance of survival, with the release of Maroondah City Council's new Elm Leaf Beetle Control Kit.

The kits are available FREE OF CHARGE to Maroondah residents.

They include information sheets about how to protect your elm from the beetle and to limit its potential to damage your elm trees, a registration form to register your elm(s) with the Friends of the Elms organisation, and a roll of barrier tape - just one of the ways to control elm leaf beetles on your elms.

The kits are available from Council's Service Centres, listed on page 8 of this Focus, and also at the Council Depot, 28 Lincoln Road, Croydon.

Celebrating Business Success!

Get free publicity for your business by nominating in Maroondah's Business Excellence Awards. Nominations are now open!

This program encourages the community to congratulate and recognise local business success in six key categories: Export Performance, Best New Business Venture, Innovative Products & Quality Management, Local Sustainable Development, Employment Development and Home Based Business.

Successful nominees will be announced at Business Breakfasts throughout the year and will also receive a plaque recognising their nomination, publicity, networking opportunities, and the possibility of being an Award winner. The Awards are announced at a special presentation in December.

Applications may be received from the businesses themselves, or from members of the public. If you would like more information and/ or a nomination form, please contact Leanne Anderson on 9871 0362.

Charity begins here!

Maroondah residents may have noticed a few less charity bins at parks, reserves and car parks throughout Maroondah over the past couple of years.

Fewer charity bins have been the result of a Council effort to reduce the number of bins placed on Council land without the permission of Council. A total of 96 bins existed in early 1996.

At the same time, Council's Neighbourhood Services Unit prepared a policy report, since simulated by the Municipal Association of Victoria as a general code of practice for Councils throughout the State, to nominate and allocate sites for the bins, based on an equitable formula.

After negotiations with the charities and recycled clothing bin users, the number of allocated bins has reduced to just 36.

The bin permit holders now have a responsibility to clean up the area around the bins within 24 hours of being notified. The bins must also be kept clean at all times.

Council encourages the use of the clothing bins for the express purpose of depositing recyclable clothing. Furniture is generally collected by individual charities at no cost from the owner's home; residents are encouraged to contact the charities direct for furniture collection information.



Vital Volunteers



VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION... These Meals on Wheels volunteers were rewarded for their contribution to the Maroondah community at Council's annual Volunteer Thank you function.

Volunteers are vital to many of the operations of Council and community organisations throughout Maroondah.

Most volunteers do not want anything in return, happy in the knowledge they are assisting others in need.

Maroondah Councillor Joe Cossari, recently stressed the importance of volunteers in the community.

"We have volunteers who help with the Meals on Wheels program, those who take our senior citizens to local shopping centres and also to the libraries. These volunteers help people to live independently and offer a valuable community service. They deserve our thanks and recognition," Cr Cossari said.

"Many of Council's services are in need of volunteers and we welcome them with open arms, as do our service users who appreciate their skills and company," he said.

To become a volunteer, contact Gail McDaniel on 9871 0275.

Support Maroondah Businesses - Buy Locally

The 1999 Maroondah Business Directory will soon be available to businesses and residents.

Produced by Maroondah City Council's Economic Development Unit, the new Directory lists Maroondah's commercial, industrial, retail and home-based businesses and contains more business information than in any other directory.

The Business Directory is a Council initiative to encourage residents and indeed other

businesses to Support Maroondah Businesses - Buy Locally. The Directory, which includes 4,500 entries, promotes the range and high standard of goods and services available within the City.

For the first time, the Business Directory will be available for use to businesses and individuals in both hard copy (\$20) and CD-ROM (\$30) formats.

"The Maroondah Business Directory will help

Maroondah businesses forge closer links with suppliers, customers and even competitors by exposing them to new markets," Maroondah Councillor Neil Rose said.

To order your Business Directory (hard copy or CD-ROM) over the phone, contact Jo Lo Presti on 9871 0278.

Alternatively, purchase a directory at one of Council's Service Centres listed below.

Council meeting dates for 1999/2000

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:

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 19 April, 1999 | 20 September |
| 3 May | 4 October |
| 24 May | 18 October |
| 7 June | 3 November |
| 21 June | 15 November |
| 5 July | 6 December |
| 19 July | 13 December |
| 2 August | 7 February, 2000 |
| 16 August | 21 February |
| 6 September | 6 March |

Elections for a new Maroondah City Council are due on 17 and 18 March, 2000. The new Mayor will be elected on 21 March, 2000.

AT YOUR SERVICE...

The staff at each of Council's Service Centres will be happy to assist you with your Council business.

City Offices Service Centre

Braeside Avenue, Ringwood 3134
PO Box 156, Ringwood 3134

Tel: (03) 9871 0222
Fax: (03) 9879 3534

Main Street Service Centre

50 Main Street, Croydon 3136
Tel: (03) 9722 9529
Fax: (03) 9722 9441

Ringwood Mall Service Centre

12 Civic Mall, Ringwood 3134
Tel: (03) 9876 9899
Fax: (03) 9876 8966

Council On-Line

Look out for the launch of Council's website at the end of April, 1999.
Visit us on-line at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au

*(Front page image) SILVER SERVICE...
The Kavalalyka Centre - the events centre in the east.
Photograph courtesy of Cathryn Anne.*

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