

Maroondah Focus

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



February 2000

11408 NWD 02-03-02 Box 6



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Find out how Maroondah's Planning Scheme provides residents and developers with a clear direction for planning issues.

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Interested in becoming a Councillor? Find out more about Council's elections, to be held in March.

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Petition or letter? What gets the best the results and how do you put them together?

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

By Cr Maureen Naylor



Welcome to this very special edition of the Maroondah Focus, which includes your 2000 Maroondah Festival brochure.

The Festival is Maroondah's largest community event, attracting in excess of 100,000 people to our City, also making it one of the most popular community festivals in Victoria.

It has something for everyone. Anyone coming to the Festival can enjoy live entertainment, children's performances, street theatre, art and craft markets, and sample some great foods, made by our very own community groups.

The Maroondah Festival is a break from the everyday. You can jump on a ride, listen to the variety of music playing throughout the day, investigate a new hobby, dance to the beat, search out a new craft or simply have fun with the family.

Look out for "Council Under Canvas" at the Festival, where you can learn about services Council offers, including waste management, leisure activities, customer service, youth services, child care, maternal and child health, and even dog and cat registrations! Come along and have some of your questions answered.

The Maroondah Festival really is a great community celebration, which is family-oriented and best of all, most activities are FREE. I look forward to seeing you there!

Maroondah Planning Scheme adopted

The new Maroondah Planning Scheme was gazetted on 16 December, 1999, effectively enacting the Scheme as law under State Planning Laws.

With the new scheme in place, Maroondah residents and developers have a clear direction for planning issues into the new millennium. It provides a streamlined and strategic direction for planning policy and controls within the City.

The new Maroondah Planning Scheme now contains a Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS). The MSS sets out the strategic directions for land use in Maroondah, covering topics such as environment, image and urban design, protection of ridgelines, residential land use and retail and commercial activity.

The Municipal Strategic Statement establishes a clear framework for the development and maintenance of the unique environment of Maroondah.

Maroondah Mayor Cr Maureen Naylor, explained that the most significant change to arise from the new scheme 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," Cr Naylor said.

Although zones changed, the previous planning framework remains largely intact.



BIG PLANS... Council's Director Strategic and Corporate Services, Steve Kozlowski (second from left) congratulates Strategic Planning Team Leader Sean McNamee, Manager Phil Turner and Strategic Planner Simon Skinner on their effective implementation of the Maroondah Planning Scheme. The Office of Local Government also commended the team for their work.

"The new Maroondah Planning Scheme retains the existing minimum allotment size of 864 square metres in the ridgeline areas of the Wicklow Ridge in Croydon. This was a major feature of the former Croydon Planning Scheme," she said.

"The scheme extends the minimum allotment requirement in ridgeline areas to Ringwood East, Heathmont and the Loughnan Hill area in North Ringwood," she said.

"The new Scheme contains a number of highlights including Canopy Tree Controls throughout parts of Maroondah, recognition and protection of sites of biological significance throughout the City and the inclusion of heritage overlays," she said.

"The result of the implementation of this Scheme means that Maroondah has a very clear direction for its planning future, which recognises our local neighbourhood and environmental amenity, but which also encourages further development in many areas of the City," she said.

For further information about the new Maroondah Planning Scheme, contact Council's Strategic Planning Unit on 9871 0459.

Get registered!

Owners of dogs and cats previously registered with Maroondah City Council will receive pre-paid return envelopes with their registration forms to make this year's registrations much easier.

"Owners can simply place a cheque or postal order in the envelope along with the registration details and any changes required, and post it back to Council," Maroondah Councillor Marj Munro said.

"If you have recently welcomed a new pet to the family, you can register your pet and pay directly at any of Council's Service Centres," she said.

Registration is the best way to ensure the fast return and easy identification of a beloved dog or cat that goes missing.

All dogs and cats in Maroondah are required to be registered by 10 April each year. Failure to register will incur a \$200 fine.

The registration fee is \$15 for dogs or cats that are either desexed, over 10 years old, pets identified by micro chip or those registered

with the Victorian Canine Association or Feline Control Council.

Dogs that have undergone obedience training that complies with the Domestic (Feral & Nuisance) Animal Act also attract a \$15 fee.

All other dogs and cats have a registration fee of \$60. Pension card holders are entitled to a 50% reduction in fees.

For more information on pet registration, contact the Neighbourhood Services Unit on 9724 3253.



Our Valuable Volunteers

Council's Community Services Unit provides an ideal opportunity for local volunteers to become more involved in the Maroondah community, according to Maroondah Councillor Les Willmott. "I'm sure there are many caring people out there in the community who would enjoy the opportunity to assist others in the community," said Cr Willmott.

"Volunteers are the backbone of many of the services at Council, including the Kerrabee Club for frail elderly and adults with disabilities, for Meals on Wheels and for shopping tours and library visits for the elderly. Without our volunteers, many of the activities provided would have to cease," he said.

"One of the benefits of getting involved in community work is that volunteers themselves tend to be healthier, happier and more active than the general community," said Cr Willmott.

"And best of all, no experience is necessary!" he added.

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

VITAL VOLUNTEERS... Mayor Cr Maureen Naylor celebrated with volunteers at the annual Civic Reception for volunteers in December.

Council elections 2000

Council elections will be conducted in March, 2000.

All Maroondah residents who are entitled to vote at State and Federal elections are also entitled to vote at Council elections.

You may apply on a special Council form to enrol if you are a non-resident who owns or occupies property in the municipality and you are not the first named or second named person on the Council's rate records; ie more than two people own the property. you are a resident who is not an Australian citizen.

A corporation which owns or occupies property in the City of Maroondah may appoint a person to represent it on the voters' roll. Please contact the Maroondah City Offices Service Centre on 9871 0350 if you want a special Council enrolment form.

The election will be conducted entirely by post, with every person on the voters' roll sent a ballot paper in late February. The ballots are required to be returned to the Returning Officer by no later than Friday 17 March at 6pm. Votes received after this time will be informal.

A special information night for prospective candidates will be held on Tuesday 8 February at the Maroondah City Offices, Braeside Avenue, Ringwood at 7pm.

Nominations for prospective candidates will open on Thursday 10 February and close at 4pm on Tuesday 15 February.

"Attending one of these sessions, prospective councillors will receive invaluable insights into Local Government. It is absolutely vital they acknowledge, understand, and appreciate the system and how they, as members of Council, can best represent the interests of their local community," Maroondah City Council Chief Executive Officer Mr Michael Marasco said.

For further information, contact the Returning Officer from 2 February, 2000, located at 1 Railway Crescent, Croydon on 9723 5956.

Scottish Gala Dinner

As a new and exciting additional attraction to the Ringwood Highland Games, the Maroondah Tourism Advisory Board and Maroondah City Council invite you to enjoy all things Scottish at a Gala Banquet Dinner on Friday 7 April.

The dinner includes a three course banquet, with starter drinks and Scottish entertainment including Scottish Decorations of Tartans, candles and scenery, piping, Exhibition Highland dancing, scottish songs and dancing for everyone.

To be held at the Karralyka Centre, Mines Road, Ringwood East, the Scottish Gala Dinner is great value at just \$35 per person.

For further information, contact Judith Murphy at the Karralyka Centre on 9870 2888.

FOR A WEE TASTE OF SCOTLAND... sample the menu and enjoy the atmosphere at the Scottish Gala Dinner in April!



Petition or letter?

From time to time people living, working, studying or visiting the City of Maroondah may have concerns about a particular issue or situation.

Maybe the issue affects a number of people and you get together to talk about it. You agree about the issue, and maybe have some suggestions as to how to fix it.

You decide that you need to approach Council to get something done!

But how? Do you need to gather a formal petition, or can you just send a letter and all sign at the bottom?

Maroondah Councillors Neil Rose and Peter Gurr, said procedures for communicating concerns to local government had been dramatically simplified in recent years.

"Council accepts either formal petitions or signed letters. Either way, the issues raised in letters or petitions are given equal consideration by Council," Cr Rose said.

"Residents and others no longer need to worry about the formality and wording of a petition to ensure it is presented at Council meetings," said Cr Gurr.

"All you need to do is write a letter, preferably typed or neatly hand-written, briefly and clearly expressing your concerns, and any suggestions for improvement," he said.

"It is also quite acceptable to send a letter with many signatories, but just make sure you have the full names and addresses of those signing," and "keep copies for all signatories," Cr Rose added.

"Town planning issues still have to follow statutory procedures, of course, but for other matters the process is now quite easy," he said.

Cr Gurr said the letter, once received, is acknowledged by Council and forwarded to the appropriate Council department which investigates and prepares a written report.

"You will always be notified in writing of Council's response, and any action to be taken," said Cr Gurr.

"We encourage people to communicate their concerns to us - often there are situations about which we are unaware and we do appreciate being advised of them," Cr Gurr said.

"We often receive ingenious solutions to some very difficult situations," Cr Rose added.

Go on, be game

Continuing Maroondah's love of festivals is the 2000 Ringwood Highland Games on Sunday, 9 April, 2000.

Jubilee Park in Ringwood will again come alive to the sights and sounds of Scottish culture in a day of non-stop entertainment for the family, from 8am.

The Games, in their 33rd year, are a wonderful spectacle with Pipe Bands, Highland and Scottish Country Dancers and the Heavy Games. The Heavy Games include the traditional tossing of the caber, shot putt and the ancient sport of hammer throwing. More informal Welly boot throwing and haggis hurling competitions, with great prizes, will be held throughout the day.

Entry to the Games is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children and pensioners, or a family ticket for \$18 (2 adults and three children).

For further information on the Games, contact Sue Macleod on 9876 4140.

Small Business Training for 2000

Maroondah Councillor Joe Cossari is encouraging small business owners and operators to undertake training this year.

"Council will host a series of subsidised training courses for small business owners and operators in 2000. Any first module costs \$59, with following modules priced at just \$20," Cr Cossari said.

All courses will be held at Maroondah City Council Offices, Braeside Avenue, Ringwood.

Financial Record Keeping

Each Thursday 10 February - 23 March, 6.30pm - 9.30pm

Human Resource Management

Each Wednesday 3 May - 7 June, 6.30pm to 9.30pm

Marketing

Each Wednesday 19 July - 23 August, 6.30pm - 9.30pm

Business Planning

Each Thursday 5 October - 9 November, 6.30pm - 9.30pm

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

Reading Writing Hotline

Do you know someone who needs help with reading and writing? Lots of adults can't read or write as well as they would like to, but it's never too late to learn. And for many, it's easier than they think. For confidential advice and information, contact the Reading Writing Hotline on 1300 655 506.

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

Civic Square Service Centre

Civic Square, Croydon 3136

Tel: (03) 9724 3222

Fax: (03) 9723 2615

Maroondah On Line

Visit us on line at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au

This edition of Maroondah Focus is delivered with the 2000 Maroondah Festival brochure.

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Halls for Hire

Maroondah residents and organisations looking to book a hall for meetings, birthday parties or other social occasions can obtain a listing of halls for hire from Maroondah City Council.

"An up-to-date booklet lists available halls for hire throughout the City and contains relevant information, such as costs of hire, venue location, contact details, seating capacity and number of tables," Maroondah Councillor Nick Kirmos said.

"The booklet also details whether the venue has kitchen facilities and information on parking, disabled access and any restrictions for hall users," he added. The Hall and Facilities for Hire listing is available from all of Council's Service Centres, opposite.

Free Chemical Collection

Maroondah residents are encouraged to safely dispose of their hazardous household chemicals on Saturday 18 March 2000 between 8am and 4pm, as part of EcoRecycle Victoria's free Household Chemical Collection Day.

Household chemicals may include pharmaceuticals, bathroom cleaners, aerosol cans, insect sprays, floor care products, furniture polish, paint strippers, solvent-based glues, oil based paint, paint thinner, acetone, turpentine, varnish, wood preservative, fertiliser, fungicide, herbicides, and weed killers, insecticides, rat poison, transmission fluid, batteries, battery acid and brake fluid.

The location of the collection is the Maroondah Council Depot, Lincoln Road, Croydon, Melways reference 37 A 12.

For the full program, contact EcoRecycle on 1800 35 32 33.