

# Maroondah Focus

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



December 2000

11411 NWD 02-03-02 Box 6



## Let the Festivities Begin!

Ushering in our festive period is John Wilson's entry from this year's photo competition. Winners on page 4.

**3** Council is leading the push for the construction and development of the Scoresby Freeway.

**4** Croydon Wetlands - an oasis for waterbirds and a new habitat for wildlife.

**6** Catch the Spirit of Christmas - Carols by Candlelight and a time for community celebration.

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

By Cr Peter Gurr



Welcome to the final edition of the Maroondah Focus for the year 2000.

This is typically a time of year when we become swept up with the excitement of Christmas and life becomes a hectic round of festivities, family and friends.

It is also a good time to consider those around us who need our support. In Maroondah we have a strong sense of community and offer a helping hand to those in need. Presently I am involved with Croydon Rotary organising a Charity Dinner for Friday 9 February 2001. Although it seems a long way off, with Christmas festivities in between it will come around very quickly. The Charity Dinner is a very special fund raiser for Eastern Palliative Care, a group which focuses on the needs of the terminally ill and their families and carers. I extend an invitation to you to attend - your support will be very much appreciated and you will be helping this very worthwhile cause. Contact Croydon Rotary or myself at Council for further details.

This is also a time when we take stock of our year. As I look back and see what the Council and its staff have achieved I am very proud of our efforts. Our Scoresby Freeway advocacy campaign brought together business and community leaders with a common goal, Maroondah Federation Estate was completed on-time and within budget and we have commenced the community workshops for Maroondah 2025 which will set our agenda as we approach the next facet of our growth and development as a community.

So, in our frantic rush towards the festive season, I extend my best wishes and, on behalf of our Council and the staff of Maroondah City Council, we wish you and your family a happy and safe Christmas and prosperous New Year.

# ClockTower revamp

One of Maroondah's best-known landmarks, the Ringwood Memorial Clocktower, is sporting a smart new look, following a detailed renovation at the site.

The renovation involved restoring the chimes and clocks, repaving, and cleaning of the tower.

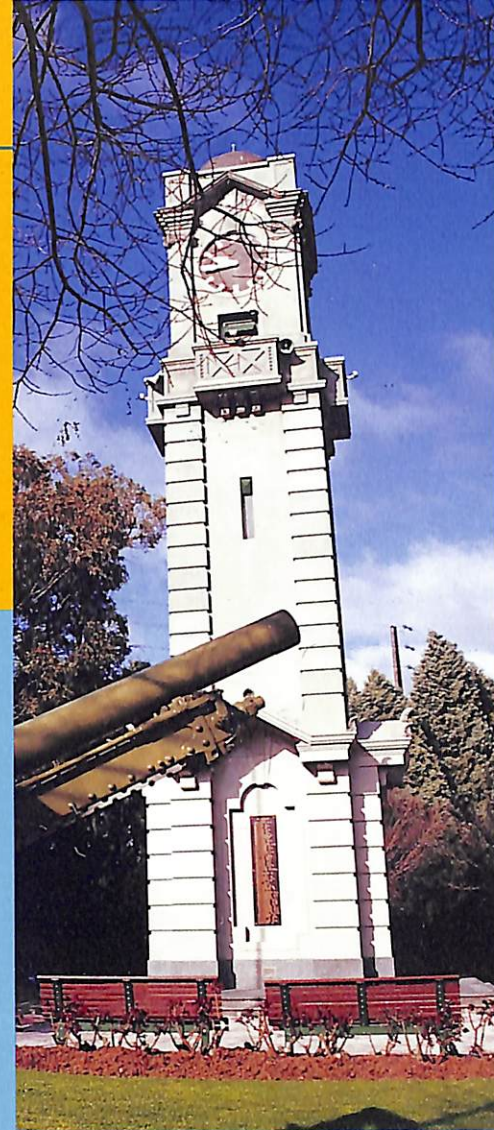
"Many residents would have noticed the hands of the clocks missing as part of the upgrade, and they are now back in place and on time," said Cr Gurr.

"A new dimension is the restoration of the chimes, which have not been heard for a long time," he added.

"Now one of Maroondah's icons is running to time, standing tall and proud, and returned to its former glory," he said.

Council has also completed lighting works to showcase the Clocktower at night with a range of lighting colours.

Maroondah City Council received a Centenary of Federation grant of \$24,500 for the upgrade of the heritage listed site. The restoration work was completed in consultation with the Ringwood RSL.



# Maroondah Federation Estate

Maroondah City Council is proud to announce that the construction of Maroondah Federation Estate is now complete, with council staff already located on site.

Although many community groups are already using the facility for meetings, workshops and leisure activities, the facility will not be officially opened until February 2001.

Maroondah Federation Estate is located at 32 Greenwood Ave on the site of the former Ringwood Primary School. Two separate buildings are joined by a single entrance to create this outstanding community facility.

The Cultural Centre comprises two gallery spaces and a range of artist studios. The adjoining Lifestyle Centre, which was purpose built for community group use, has a range of multi purpose spaces available for hire.

The facility also has an outdoor performance area which features an amphitheatre, and a community arts project depicting places, people and events of significance to Maroondah over the past 100 years.

Maroondah City Council endorsed the development of the Maroondah Federation Estate in October 1998. The facility was funded by a unique partnership between the three tiers of government, with \$2 million from the Federal Government, \$1.2 million from the State Government's Community Support Fund and another \$1.2 million from Council.

A Gallery Curator has recently been appointed and the first exhibition will be held in February 2001, featuring 'Still Action: the war photography of Damien Parer'. This exhibition has been loaned to the City of Maroondah by the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Council is developing a volunteer program for the gallery at Maroondah Federation Estate and is keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in becoming a part of this exciting new program.

For more information regarding Maroondah Federation Estate including bookings for the facility and the gallery volunteer program please call 9298 4545.



LEADING THE CHARGE - Russell Pettis (AAA), Mayor Peter Gurr, Joe Pulitano (US Bus Lines), Keith Carr (Patterson Cheney) and Kenneth Baker (Kenworth)

# Jam-packed with Entertainment

Wyreena Community Arts Centre in Hull Road, Croydon, has a jam-packed program throughout the summer. On Friday 15th December from 7.30pm, you have a chance to get into the spirit of Christmas with Femme Musique, which features four members of the Australian Girls Choir. They will delight you with carols and traditional hymns. Tickets are only \$15 each including supper.

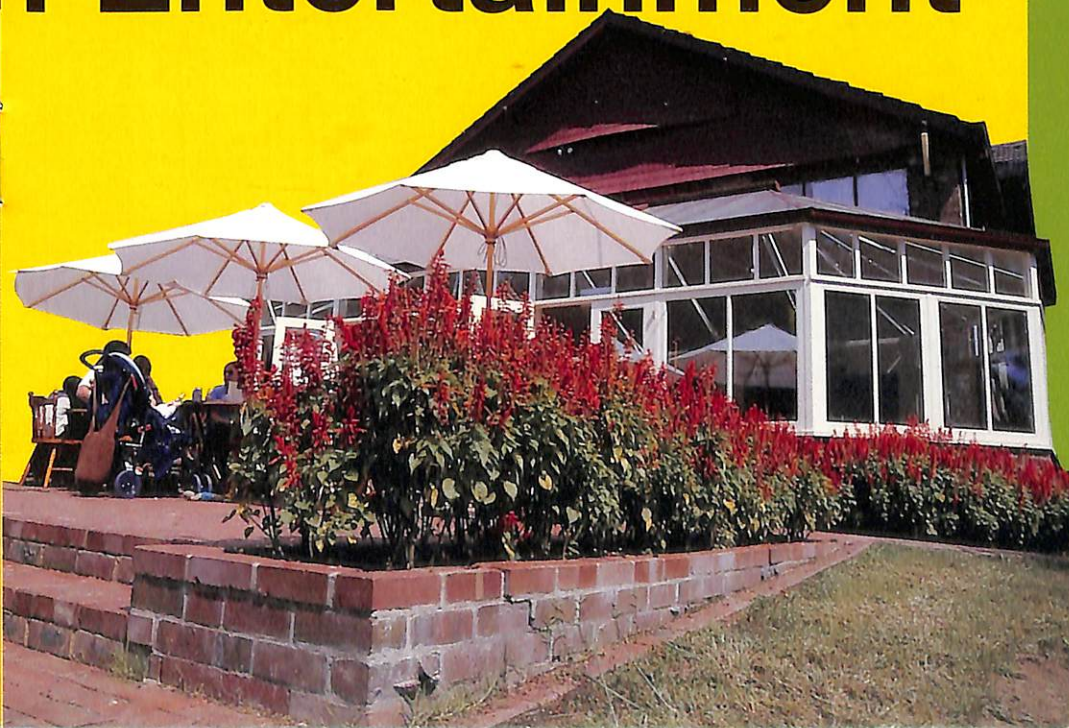
Coming up in January is a Youth Music Cafe and in February the exhibition season recommences. There will also be a summer evening movies program scheduled for 12th December and 9th February. Keep an eye on your local papers for the dates. For further information about these and other activities at Wyreena, contact 9725 4611.

## Book Early FOR TEENAGE HOLIDAY FUN

A booking night will be held on Tuesday 12 December from 5:00-6:00pm at the Croydon Entertainment Centre, for the popular Teenage Holiday Program run in January.

The program will be filled with fun activities and is open to young people between the ages of 12 and 15 years, who are connected to the City of Maroondah in some way.

For further information contact Melissa Nossack, at Maroondah Youth Services on 9871 0379.



Signatories to the petition include Kenworth Trucks, Australian Automotive Air, Confoil Pty Ltd, Eastland Shopping Centre, Patterson Cheney Pty Ltd, the RACV, US Bus Lines, Mt Dandenong Passenger Service Pty Ltd, National Bus Company as well as local Chambers of Commerce and other business interests.

"More than 40 per cent of Melbourne's manufacturing and production activity is located in the Scoresby corridor, providing a major source of export for Victoria and Australia with an estimated turnover of some \$35 billion," said Cr Gurr.

"By declaring the Scoresby Freeway a Road of National Importance, the \$960 million project would be jointly funded by the State and Federal Governments," he said.

"The full-length Scoresby Freeway will provide the vital link between key routes like the Eastern Freeway, Burwood Highway, Monash Freeway and so on down to the Mornington Peninsula Freeway," said Cr Gurr.

# SNAP Happy

Entries in Maroondah City Council's 2000 Photographic Competition, "Marvellous Maroondah - People and Places" captured some of the best shots of the City's people, beauty and its many distinguishing landmarks.

Twenty-three photographers provided 115 photographs for the judges to select just three photos as prize winners. The quality of the shots made choosing a winner and runners-up a difficult task for judges, Mayor Cr Peter Gurr, Nigel Roper of Croydon Camera House and Leanne Smith of Fairfax Community Newspapers.

"This year's entries reflected the diversity of locations throughout Maroondah," Maroondah Councillor Maureen Naylor said.

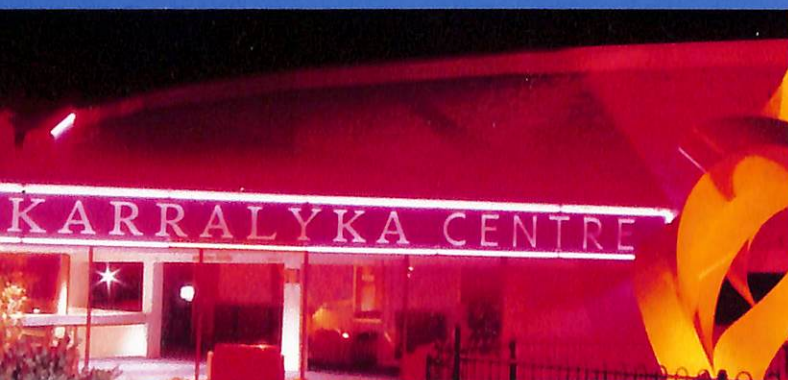
"Judges again had a tough and difficult task in deciding the winners and they were delighted by the quality of many of the entries," she added.

After much deliberation, the judges awarded first prize of a new Pentax camera (value \$600) and film and processing (value \$150) to Judy James for her shot at the Maroondah Federation Estate - "Primary to Senior - A Tribute to the Years".

Second prize of a \$200 shopping voucher from Ringwood Square Shopping Centre went to Dean Jones for the colourful night time work entitled "Karralyka - A Painting in Light", and John Wilson took third prize of a \$100 shopping voucher from the Ringwood Square Shopping Centre for his entry "Croydon Carnival fun".

The judges also awarded special encouragement certificates to two entrants, Dianne Cutting for her shot of a cannon at the Ringwood Clocktower titled "Winter Shadows Across a Silent Gun" and Linda Bester for her exquisite shot at Ringwood Lake titled "The Colours of a Ringwood Lake Sunset".

"A special congratulations to all who entered and we look forward to seeing even more entries next year," Cr Naylor said.



WINNING ENTRIES above: Dean Jones' second prize entry, *Karralyka - A Painting in Light*, and right: Judy James' winning entry, *Primary to Senior - A Tribute to the Years*.



# Croydon WETLANDS

The Croydon Wetlands has transformed the site of the Croydon Main Drain into an oasis for waterbirds and other wildlife and a peaceful place for residents to visit.

Featuring a new bridge, walking track and landscaping, the Wetlands have been developed to assist in minimising flooding in the old Main Drain area and on surrounding roads.

As part of the works, a filtration facility and indigenous water plants have been installed, to enable the Wetlands to remain a viable and healthy part of Maroondah's series of waterways.

A benefit of the development of the wetlands has been the influx of wildlife to the area, who have been keen to make it their home.



"Our aim, together with Melbourne Water, was to establish a water park which established new habitats for wildlife in the area and also helped to reduce the chances of flooding," Maroondah Councillor Neil Rose said.

"I think we've achieved more than that - we also have a fantastic facility which is a great place to visit as well," he said.

*IDEAL FOR FAMILIES* The Croydon wetlands are an ideal place to visit with family

# International Business Showcase Success

Maroondah's second International Business Showcase held on 10 October was an outstanding success according to Maroondah Mayor Cr Peter Gurr.

"This initiative of the Maroondah Business Advisory Board has provided a vital forum for the promotion of international trade and business partnerships," said Cr Gurr.

"The Showcase builds on the region's business strengths, and by providing information and networking opportunities at an international level, it assists in the continued economic growth and sustainability of our region," said Cr Gurr.

"We look forward to hosting another exciting event next year," he said.

Major sponsors of this year's Showcase were the Queensland Investment Corporation and Eastland Shopping Centre.

The Showcase was held at The Karralyka Centre, Ringwood and included a business breakfast, a Trade Expo with 32 exhibitors, seminars by export facilitators focussing on Europe and the Asia-Pacific Rim, e-commerce information and an evening cocktail and networking function. More than 700 participants attended the various sessions throughout the day.

*GOOD ADVICE* Hundreds were on hand at the Showcase, gaining advice and expertise from leaders in the field



# Top MARKS IN COUNCIL BUILDING SERVICES AUDIT

Maroondah City Council's Building Services Unit has come out with flying colours in a recent external audit conducted by the Building Control Commission, which looked at the implementation of Victorian Building Regulations.

The Building Services Unit is responsible for ensuring safety and compliance of buildings, both existing and proposed. Services include building permits and approvals, checking documents for compliance, protection works and modifications. Inspections may be conducted regarding smoke alarms and safety barriers for private swimming pools and spas.

The Building Services Unit may be contacted on 9871 0327.

# 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 in Maroondah 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 the aged 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," said Cr Willmott.

"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.

Many of Maroondah's volunteers will be honoured at a special annual recognition function in December.

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

# Australia Day festivities

Bring your family, friends a picnic and join the festivities as the Maroondah community proudly celebrates being Australian.

Maroondah Australia Day festivities will feature an exciting range of entertainment for all ages, a free sausage sizzle, a flag raising and citizenship ceremony and the presentation of Maroondah's Australia Day Awards.

Activities will be held on Friday 26 January, 2001 at Ringwood Lake. They will begin at 10am and run through to 2pm.

For further information on Australia Day activities, contact Leisure Services on 9871 0380.

## enhance Service

Maroondah's Maternal and Child Health (MCH) service has received additional funding from the State Government to provide an Enhanced Home Visiting Service for new parents.

Funding for the Enhanced Home Visiting Service was received from the Department of Human Services, which will resource the project over the next three years.

Maroondah Councillor Marj Munro said the new service aimed to support mothers in difficult circumstances.

"This new Enhanced Home Visiting Service is aimed at assisting mothers trying to cope with post natal depression or who are experiencing difficulties parenting their young children (0 - 1 year olds)," Cr Munro said.

"All mothers and their families need support systems and our Maternal and Child Health nurses are an important link in the chain," she said.

"Providing home visits for those families who need them can provide much needed support. Sometimes, parents can't make their appointments because of a number of 'bigger' issues affecting them and this enhanced service provides necessary support for families facing crises," she said.

The Maternal and Child Health service's major role in Maroondah is to assist in educating parents on the needs of their new arrivals. Maroondah operates nine centres throughout the municipality, and employs 10 vocationally-trained nurses.

Vikki Middleton, who is coordinating the enhanced service, will be based at the Croydon MCH Centre and may be contacted on 9722 9013.

# A time of Communication Celebration

## Catch the spirit of Christmas

Bring along your picnic rugs and your best singing voice for one of Maroondah's most popular events of the year, the 2000 Carols by Candlelight celebrations, and catch the spirit of Christmas!

Council is again conducting two Carols by Candlelight events in Maroondah.

The first is at Town Park on Sunday 10 December from 7.30pm, featuring the Croydon Wind Symphony, the Maroondah Singers and other local performers.

The second is at Ringwood Lake Soundshell on Saturday 16 December from 8.00pm and features the Ringwood Band, Betty Opitz from the Victoria State Opera and the Heathmont District Guides.

"Of course, Santa will be visiting both events, taking time out from his busy schedule to be with Maroondah families," Maroondah Councillor Nick Kirmos said.

"These will be great nights of fun for the whole family," he added.

For more information about the Carols by Candlelight festivities, call Leisure Services on 9871 0380.



## Maroondah Festival 2001

Get set for the one of east's biggest events - the 2001 Maroondah Festival!

To be held on Sunday 18 February, this year's Festival will once again be jam packed full of entertainment offering craft markets, international cuisine, a youth component known as D-Rail, inline skating displays and competitions, live bands and entertainment, circus skills workshops, street performers, expos, children's rides and activities and plenty more to keep the entire family entertained.

The most important thing of all is that the majority of attractions are FREE!

A major focus of the Maroondah Festival is the involvement of community organisations in various interactive displays and in the Community Marquee. The marquee will be used for community groups to "showcase" their organisation to a very captive Festival audience.

If your community organisation would like to be involved, call the Festival Office on 9724 3204.

Look out for your free Festival program, listing all the activities, with the next edition of the Maroondah Focus in February, 2001.



Another great entry in this year's photo competition by John Wilson

## Highland Games

The 2001 Ringwood Highland Games brings an even bigger taste of Scotland to the City of Maroondah, on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 April, 2001.

Not only will the Games provide its usual Scottish fun and tradition, next year they will host the biggest ever gathering of pipe bands in Australia, staging the Australian Pipe Band Championships over the two days. Importantly though, the Maroondah community is welcome to attend most of the activities. Prices for the Games will be available closer to the event. Stall sites are available for community groups and businesses.

Accommodation is likely to be booked out throughout the event, providing a significant boost to the local economy throughout the Games and for the other events in the lead-up.

Special Scottish Week activities have already been planned, including a Scottish Gala Dinner and a special "St Andrews Golf Day", to be held at the Ringwood Public Golf Course.

For further information about the Ringwood Highland Games, contact Games organiser Sue Macleod on 9876 4140 or for more information about Scottish Week, contact Council on 9871 0348.

FOR A WEE TASTE OF SCOTLAND  
Enjoying the flavours and colours of Scottish life. Photo courtesy: Pauline Renkema.



## An Environmental Christmas

Council has a "Waste Wise Shopping Guide" that can help you to make choices for presents, packaging and lots of things for the garden and home.

Telephone or call at a Council Office or Service Centre for a FREE copy.

Compost bins and worm farms are also great 'interactive' gifts and can be purchased at Council's Parks and Works depot in Croydon. Telephone Council's Waste Management line on 9724 3365. You can also receive a copy of the new information leaflet, 'How to Home Compost'. This four step guide gives advice on how to start and hopefully be successful at composting from any of our Customer Service Centres.



## Australia Day Awards

Do you know someone special who deserves recognition for making a significant contribution to the Maroondah community?

Maroondah City Council has announced that nominations are now open for the January 2001 Australia Day Awards.

## Dining Out Made Easy in Maroondah

Whether you are looking for a romantic dinner setting, a family meal outing or a business luncheon venue, Maroondah's latest edition of Dining Out Made Easy can assist you.

This is the fourth edition of the guide to food and wine, accommodation and entertainment in the City of Maroondah, and promises to surprise you.

The Guide lists restaurants by style of cuisine, casual dining and café locations, hotels, bars and clubs, accommodation, bed and breakfasts, reception and conference venues and theatres and cinemas and nightspots.

"You do not need to leave Maroondah to find the best of Melbourne's dining, and we are just as cosmopolitan as the inner suburbs," said Loughnan's Hill Councillor Frank Corr.

Conducted by Maroondah City Council in conjunction with the National Australia Day Council, the Awards comprise three categories: Citizen of the Year Award; Young Citizen of the Year Award; and Community Event of the Year Award.

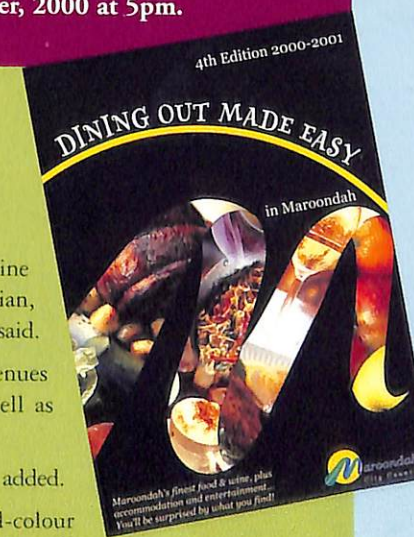
Nomination forms are available from Council's Service Centres or by contacting Council's Public Affairs and Communication Unit on 9871 0390. Nominations close on 15 December, 2000 at 5pm.

"For example, we offer a variety of international cuisine such as Chinese, Japanese, Malaysian, Greek, Indian, Italian, Swiss, Mongolian, Thai, Mexican and Texan," he said.

"And importantly, the Guide also identifies dining venues which offer a totally smoke free environment, as well as those which offer smoke-free areas," he said.

"Visitors to our city will also find this Guide useful," he added.

Maroondah's Dining Out Made Easy comes in full-colour glossy format and is available free of charge through Council's Service Centres, listed on the back page of this Focus.



## Small Business Training 2001

The Swinburne Business Enterprise Centre will once again be offering the nationally accredited Certificate III in Small Business Management at the Croydon Campus in 2001. It is possible to enrol in one subject or the entire course using a range of flexible learning options.

During the past ten years, many small business people have gained invaluable knowledge to assist them in their businesses with subjects like Financial Record Keeping for Small Business, Marketing Your Small Business, Customer Service and the Business Plan.

An exciting new Swinburne TAFE accredited eCommerce for Small Business Course will be offered at the Lilydale Campus on Wednesday evenings. The course has been designed to assist small business operators considering introducing eCommerce into their businesses.

For full details about either of these courses, please contact the Swinburne BEC on 9213 6710.

# Community News

## Maroondah Homebiz

Maroondah HomeBiz is a supportive, non-profit network formed to foster the development and growth of home-based business in the City of Maroondah.

It has a growing number of home operators who regularly take part in meetings, seminars and networking events. Those attending receive important information and have the opportunity to promote their businesses and participate in open forums.

For a copy of the current newsletter or for more information, contact Felicity on 9879 1596.

## Olympic Recognition presentation

Following the Olympics, Australians heard what a fantastic contribution our volunteers made to the Games in Sydney. In appreciation of their success and the success of our local athletes, Council will honour the commitment of local Olympians and volunteers with a special presentation following a Council meeting in the new year.

## EnviroEnergy - what's in it for you?

Local energy company TXU has launched a new campaign encouraging residential customers to protect the environment by joining its EnviroEnergy green energy scheme.

When TXU customers join the EnviroEnergy scheme, an amount of renewable electricity equivalent to their consumption is fed back into the grid. Customers may elect to buy 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% EnviroEnergy.

Based on their selection, EnviroEnergy customers pay a premium on their electricity bill.

As TXU customers buy more green energy, it will make the introduction of further renewable energy sources possible and reduce TXU's reliance on fossil fuel generation.

Every customer who signs up for the 100 per cent EnviroEnergy option will remove about 8.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide from the environment each year, which is equivalent to taking three cars off the road annually.

For further information, contact TXU on 133 466.

## Maroondah 2025 - off to a great start

The first community workshop on 15 November was a resounding success, with around 100 people attending.

"There was a wonderful spirit of communication, a fantastic flow of ideas and tremendous enthusiasm for the whole Maroondah 2025 process," Maroondah Mayor Cr Peter Gurr said.

"Maroondah 2025 is a plan and a vision for how the community wants Maroondah to be in the year 2025," he said.

This first Maroondah 2025 community workshop, held at the Maroondah Federation Estate, discussed ideas, themes and goals for the community and Council to aim for and looked at developing a revised vision for the community.

"Part of the process is a review of the existing Maroondah 2020 plan, drafted in 1996, and an extensive community consultation period to ensure the new vision reflects the community's needs and expectations," he said.

The first forum provided four points for discussion:

**Positives** - what needs to be reinforced, maintained and/ or improved?

**Vision** - what do we want to see/ experiences into the future? What would indicate success?

**Challenges** - What barriers/ issues must be addressed in order to move forward?

**Strategies** - What actions/ strategies would you suggest?

In the new year, a number of issue specific workshops will take place to discuss the issues raised at the forum. A series of short discussion papers has been prepared by Council to start the ball rolling and these will be available at Council Service Centres for consultation and feedback.

Details of the workshops and any further forums will be advertised regularly throughout the development of 2025 and all are welcome to attend. Keep an eye on local newspapers for information about planned forums and discussions.

For further information about Maroondah 2025 and how to be involved, contact Integrated Planning on 9871 0218.



# Playground Upgrade

Council's Playground Improvement Programme is underway and is expected to be complete in time for use over the Christmas and summer school holidays.

Play equipment is being installed in the following locations:

- Leeds Drive, Kilsyth South
- Packham Place, Croydon Hills
- Quambee Road Reserve, Ringwood North
- Jull Parade, Ringwood North

A new junior swing will be installed in McAlpin Reserve, Ringwood and a bridge will be installed between the two play areas at Daniel Crescent, Ringwood North.

In addition, old steel slides in a number of playgrounds will be removed and replaced with new equipment.

This program will ensure that the playgrounds are maintained to Australian Safety Standards.

## 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](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au)

### Council Opening Hours for Christmas and New Year

All offices close at 12.00 noon, Friday 22 December, 2000 and reopen on Wednesday 27 December, 2000 at 8.30am. The offices will again be closed on Monday 1 January, 2001 and reopen 2 January at 8.30am. The Australia Day holiday will be observed on Friday 26 January, 2001, when all offices will again be closed.

### Late Night Opening

The last late night opening at the City Offices for this year will be on Monday 18 December, 2000 and will resume for 2001 on Monday 5 February.

### Council Meetings 2001

The first Council meeting for 2001 will be held on Monday 5 February.

### After Hours Emergency

An emergency After Hours Service is provided for residents should an emergency situation require immediate action. Telephone 9625 0388.

The Mayor, Councillors and Staff of Maroondah City Council extend their best wishes to all residents for the festive season.