

Maroondah Focus

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



April 2001

11412 NWD 02-03-02 Box 6



2 Learn more about the Maroondah 2025 Vision workshops and how our community sees itself in the year 2025.

4 Find out how Maroondah Family Day Care shares the care for families throughout the City.

6 2001 is the International Year of the Volunteer. Learn how you can volunteer your time for worthy causes in Maroondah.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

By Cr Neil Rose



Welcome to the April edition of the Maroondah Focus community newsletter - my first as Mayor of Maroondah.

I am very proud to have been elected by my fellow Councillors and I am looking forward to a fantastic year of leadership and community involvement.

Maroondah has a wealth of community organisations and services, which all contribute to our sense of community. Communities are all about people and how we interact, support each other as neighbours, how we live together and how we involve ourselves in sporting, cultural, school or community activities.

So many Maroondah residents already have such strong community involvement and one of my aims over the next year is to encourage further involvement in our wonderful Maroondah community.

My message is simple - what you put in, you do get back. Your participation in our community helps us to build a strong, vibrant and social community, one of which we can all be proud.

It will also be a year of many initiatives for Maroondah and also one of consolidation for the many services and facilities within the City.

Maroondah 2025 will continue to be a focus for the remainder of the first half of the year, while the Maroondah Arts Festival in July, Active Australia Day in October and our annual Photographic Competition are just some of the activities we have in store.

It is not just our activities which offer opportunities for participation - Council encourages your feedback on local planning issues and any other issues you believe impact on your neighbourhood. Your councillors are here to assist you in any way they can and I encourage you to contact your local ward Councillor if you have any issues you would like to discuss. Contact your Councillor via the Councillor Support Officer on 9298 4462.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who have written, telephoned or spoken to me personally to congratulate me on my election as Mayor. Your kind words of support are very much appreciated by me and my family.

Please enjoy this edition of the Maroondah Focus.

"A Fantastic Project"

Our City's outstanding new community, cultural and arts facility, the Maroondah Federation Estate, was officially opened on 31 January, marking the culmination of an innovative three year joint community and government project.

Speaking at the Estate opening in Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood, The Premier of Victoria, the Hon Steve Bracks MP, described the Federation Estate as a "fantastic project" and "a great example of cooperation between all levels of government".

"The project is a credit to the community. I haven't seen in my term as Premier, a better example of a refurbished school building with community facilities associated with it," The Premier said.

"You couldn't expect better value from \$4.4 million," he added.

The Maroondah Federation Estate was opened by the then Maroondah Mayor Cr Peter Gurr, the Premier of Victoria, The Hon. Steve Bracks MP and Federal Member for Deakin, Mr Phillip Barresi MP.

Cr Gurr said the Maroondah Federation Estate was returning to its intended owners.

"Our local community fought hard for the former Ringwood Primary School site after it was closed as a school and they have been rewarded for their efforts with a new place of community learning, interaction and participation," he said.

The Maroondah Federation Estate was jointly funded by Maroondah City Council (\$1,216,000), the Victorian Government's Community Support Fund (\$1,215,000) and the Federal Government's Federation Cultural and Heritage Projects Program (\$2 million), at a total project cost of \$4.4 million. The work was completed on time and on budget.

"The Maroondah Federation Estate is set to become one of the east's better known arts and cultural facilities, and we're very excited that the facility is now open and ready for community use," said Cr Gurr.

The Estate incorporates a Cultural Centre, which has been developed in the original school buildings and a Lifestyle Centre, which is contained in the extensive modern addition to the building.



The Cultural Centre boasts two professional gallery spaces, artist studios and an outdoor performance space in the courtyard. (see above).

The Lifestyle Centre contains six large community rooms, kitchens and office space, providing venues for a number of local community groups. (see our front cover photo).

"Ultimately, this facility is for the use of the community. We invite Maroondah residents and visitors to the City to experience the many different forms of art and culture available to them," he said.

Maroondah Federation Estate will be available for use seven days per week by arrangement. The Maroondah Art Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday 10 am to 4 pm and Saturday 12 pm to 5 pm.

For further information, telephone 9298 4545.



MAKING IT OFFICIAL...Cutting the ribbon at the opening were Federal Member for Deakin, Mr Phillip Barresi MP, the Premier of Victoria, The Hon. Steve Bracks MP and the then Mayor Cr Peter Gurr.

Maroondah 2025 Vision Workshops

Hundreds of local residents have participated in the Maroondah 2025 vision planning process over the past few months.

Through community consultations and workshops on specific issues, participants have had the opportunity to say what sort of community they want to see for Maroondah in the year 2025.

Part of the process in developing a vision for the City involves a review of the existing Maroondah 2020 plan, drafted in 1996. The review process ensures that the vision stays relevant and is representative of the wider views of the community.

The involvement of residents in such a process is greatly valued in Maroondah. Participants represented an amazing range of Maroondah's community - sporting groups, business people, agencies and individuals, young and old from right across the City.

Around 100 people attended the first general workshop held in November, and a total of 150 participated in the specific focus workshops run during February and March covering:

- urban design and development
- leisure, culture and recreation
- transport - infrastructure and services
- community services
- youth issues and services
- local economy and employment
- environment

Information and comment gathered will become the Draft Strategic Vision. This draft will be made available for public viewing and comment to ensure that it truly reflects our community's feeling.

Further comments and contributions can be made by contacting Corporate Planning on 9298 4218.

It's on again - the Fabulous Winter Arts Fest!

Grab your woollen coat, umbrella and scarf and start preparing for the 2001 Winter Arts Fest.

The Maroondah Winter Arts Fest offers Maroondah residents and artists of all varieties the opportunity to provide or experience a range of arts and cultural events. Performing and visual arts groups are currently being invited to register their interest in presenting a cultural activity or performance during the coming July program.

"Over 30 activities or events were offered during last year's Winter Arts Fest and this year's program promises to be even bigger and better. The program offers something for all ages, with a blend of art exhibitions, performances by choirs, orchestras, bands, popular entertainers, art workshops and interactive sessions," Maroondah Councillor Nick Kirmos said.

This year's program will be advised in local newspapers throughout the month of June. Artists and performers who are interested in being part of this year's program should contact Council's Arts and Cultural Unit on 9298 4537.

At Your Service on 1300 88 22 33

Council has a new centralised telephone number 1300 88 22 33. Council Service staff who answer your call are now able to put you through to any Council area. The introduction of a new telephone system, which will see significant savings for Council, has the additional capability to connect you with other Council sites. These include the Maroondah Federation Estate, the Wyreana Community Arts Centre, Ringwood Aquatic Centre, Croydon Leisure Centre, Croydon Entertainment Centre ('EV's'), Maternal and Child Health Centres and the Karralyka Centre.

Council's main fax number has also changed to 9298 4345. Council's old telephone number will automatically divert to the new 1300 number for a few months. All Council documents will reflect the change to the new number.

Master Plan Brings results

Work is currently underway to implement the Yarrunga Reserve Master Plan, prepared with community consultation last year. In March, work was completed on the construction of a large pond and the installation of large underground drains to control the flow of water into the two creeks within the Reserve.

The building of a new path, which crosses one of the creeks, allows safe access from one end of the parkland to the other. The path will run through a new bridge to be built this month.

Work will continue in the Reserve to construct further ponds to filter the water before it enters the Lake near the Yarrunga Community Centre on Croydon Hills Drive.

For further information, telephone Council on 9294 5674.

A Changing of the guard

The handshake and changeover of Mayor took place at a special Council Meeting to elect the new Mayor on 21 March.

Outgoing Mayor Cr Peter Gurr wished Cr Rose well in the position.

"I wish Cr Rose every success in his year as Mayor and I know that he will do Maroondah proud. While it is a hectic year of engagements and meetings, Neil, like all our Councillors, is there for his community and I congratulate him on his election," Cr Gurr said.

"I know that I enjoyed the year enormously and while it was very busy, it was extremely rewarding and very challenging," he added.

Cr Neil Rose is looking forward to his year as Mayor.

"I am very proud to have been elected as Mayor of this great City and I am very lucky to have learned from exceptional, professional Councillors, what it is to be Mayor, and the accompanying responsibilities and duties," Cr Rose said.

"I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their confidence in me and I look forward to the many challenges the role will present," Cr Rose said.

"I follow in the footsteps of Peter Gurr, Maureen Naylor, former Councillor Joe Cossari and Les Willmott, who have all set the benchmark very high. But high standards are what Maroondah Councillors bring to office, including quality leadership and high level community consultation," Cr Rose said.

Cr Rose was a member of the former Croydon Council from 1990 to 1994 and was elected to the first Maroondah City Council in March 1997, which makes Cr Rose the second-longest serving Councillor after Cr Les Willmott.



HANDING OVER THE REINS...The former Mayor Cr Peter Gurr congratulates and welcomes the new Mayor Cr Neil Rose.

The Mayor's term is for one year only. The Mayor is elected annually by the Councillors of Maroondah City Council, with a new election of Mayor due in March 2002.

All Councillors are able to nominate for the position, including the Mayor in office, allowing for the Mayor to have continuing terms in office.

The next municipal elections for Maroondah will be held in March, 2003.

Roll-out of new waste service

Maroondah's new easy-to-use waste service will be in full swing by July.

Most areas will have already received their Garden Organics bin and information on the three wheelie bin service.

The existing 120 litre bin weekly garbage collection will continue, with the option of changing to an 80 litre bin. The 80 litre bin is only suitable for a residence with one or two occupants.

The old crate for recyclables is being replaced with a 240 litre Split Bin with a blue lid - one side for paper and cardboard and the other for bottles, drink containers, cans and jars. This will



ROLL-OUT OF NEW WASTE SERVICE...Our new rubbish collection trucks.

be collected fortnightly. The old crate won't be collected, so residents may use it as a storage container, plant pot, or put it out for the Clean Out Collection (see below).

A third bin with a maroon lid will be for the alternate fortnightly collection of Garden Organics.

The bin roll-out will continue over the next month or so.

The current four weekly collection for paper, cardboard and garden waste will continue until commencement date of the new services, clearly indicated on your new bin lids.

Council also offers a twice-yearly Clean Out Collection of unwanted household utensils and appliances, furniture, scrap metal, etc.

As well, residents can arrange for extra pick-ups for 'hard' garbage, or bundled prunings by contacting Council's Waste Management Services on 9294 5666.

A fee for service applies for these extra pick-ups.

For any enquiries regarding the new service, call 1300 88 22 33 or contact the Waste Management Team for specific enquiries on 9294 5666.

Sharing the Care

For parents who prefer a home-based environment when placing their children in a child care program, Maroondah Family Day Care is a great choice.

The service offers high quality, flexible and affordable home based child care which is responsive to the needs of children and families. It is open to parents who are working, studying or in need of respite care.

Family Day Care is aimed primarily at children from birth to five years but also caters for school aged children up to the age of 12 years (and beyond in special situations). Care offered includes full-time or part-time, before and after school, occasional, respite, school holiday and weekend care.

The emphasis is on security, warmth, learning and fun in a small group, family environment. Careproviders provide experiences and activities for children that are developmentally appropriate, are relevant to children's interests and skills and cater for diverse cultural backgrounds and additional needs.

Maroondah Family Day Care also conducts weekly playgroups in the Bayswater Nth and Ringwood areas. These programs focus on creative, stimulating and developmentally appropriate activities.

The service operates 7 days a week, 52 weeks of the year, making it easy for families to meet their child care needs. It is particularly suitable for parents who have unusual working hours or need extended hours of care for their children.

"Careproviders are selected, trained and resourced by Council's Children's Services Unit, who also provide emergency back-up if needed.

They provide an excellent family-oriented, family to family service for many families within Maroondah," Councillor Marj Munro said.

Families may be eligible for the Child Care Benefit from the Federal Government.

For more information on the service contact Maroondah Family Day Care on 9298 4254.

SHARING THE CARE...Careproviders and the children in their care get together at local parks for fun.



Building a Bridge

It's full steam ahead on the construction of a new bridge across the Ringwood Lake.

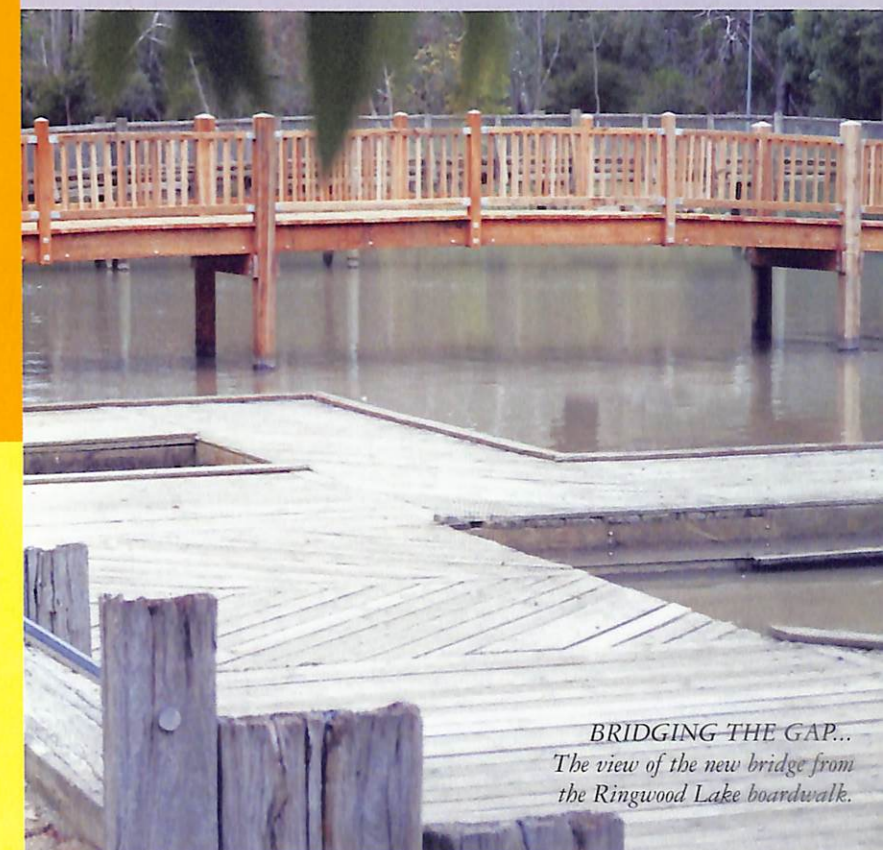
The bridge has been designed with three sections, which are accessible to all. A feature of the bridge is a low boardwalk section, which creates the experience of being on the water, while a roofed shelter provides a rest area and viewing point for the rest of the Lake.

A gently curved section of the bridge connects to the bank, close to picnic and play facilities.

The bridge is constructed of Spotted Gum - a durable Australian timber.

This is an exciting project for Maroondah as the Ringwood Lake Park is a local favourite, and is the home of many varieties of bird and marine life.

The old bridge has been demolished as part of the works.



BRIDGING THE GAP... The view of the new bridge from the Ringwood Lake boardwalk.

Colchester roadworks

Work is now complete on the Colchester Road roadworks, which have been carried out in stages over the past three years.

The project to upgrade the road has been funded by Council to the tune of \$640,000.

The project began in 1998 with a detailed survey and design carried out, followed by construction of the section from Canterbury Road to just south of Club Kilsyth.

The next stage involved the further construction from Club Kilsyth to Sky Court, which was followed by pavement construction using Foam Bitumen.

Foam Bitumen provides a flexible pavement, cost savings, reduced construction times and minimal traffic disturbance. It also has associated community and environment benefits due to the road pavement being recycled.

Youth Week 2001

National Youth Week (2-6 April) was celebrated locally with activities for young people and providers of youth services in Maroondah. As well, displays highlighting youth services and programs were featured in the windows of Council's Service Centres.

Young people gathered for an End of School Bash at EV's, Council's youth space at 212 Mount Dandenong Road, Croydon. The Youth Services team provided fun activities and a sausage sizzle for enthusiastic participants.

A National Youth Week Forum provided information and networking opportunities for youth service providers. Keynote speaker was Associate Professor John Toumbourou of the Centre for Adolescent Health, who presented the Maroondah findings of recent research entitled 'Improving the Lives of Young Victorians'. Other speakers discussed State Government youth initiatives, whole community planning, and demographics of youth in Maroondah. A gourmet barbecue lunch was provided by young people participating in the Anglicare Shrublands Program.

A Great Year to Volunteer

Volunteers are the lifeblood of many community programs - without their contribution some Council and community organisations would not be able to provide the services they do.

This is The International Year of the Volunteer, and the benefits to the community of volunteering are in focus. As well as obvious benefits for the recipients of volunteer care and support, government and community based agencies can expand programs and services to meet needs which would be financially impossible any other way. Volunteers also enable full-time carers to have respite from their very demanding roles.

"Research shows that volunteers are generally healthier and happier people, so there are benefits all round," Maroondah Councillor Maureen Naylor said.

Council has a number of areas which need volunteers such as Meals on Wheels, The Kerrabee Club, or Social Support Programs. This may involve delivering meals to private homes, transporting frail, elderly people and those with a disability to shopping centres or local libraries, or providing assistance and support during social and recreation activities.

Caring people with a few hours to spare can join the volunteers working in these areas. Council can help find the right placement to suit the time and capacities a volunteer has available. For further information contact Council's Community Services Unit, phone 9298 4275.



A GREAT YEAR TO VOLUNTEER...Volunteers not only provide a valuable community service, they also provide friendly contact for their clients.

An Alluring Gallery

The Maroondah Art Gallery features two exhibition spaces and together with artists' studios and an outdoor performance space, forms a cultural focus of Maroondah Federation Estate.

An outstanding new exhibition features the work of five Victorian women artists and will continue until 13 May.

Allure - The Feminine in Print displays contemporary printmaking by artists Wendy Hutchison, Deborah Klein, Marion Manifold and Heather Shemmen; and

Memoryware - Ceramics by Pamela Irving reveals the use of discarded objects in playful juxtaposition to challenge and surprise the viewer

Other exhibitions coming up at the Maroondah Art Gallery include:

Here, There, Elsewhere: Suburban Themes (17 May to 17 June) featuring artists Darren Wardle, Stephen Haley, Many Gunn, Jon Campbell and others.

Ordinary Women Extraordinary Lives (12 June to 7 July) will include the works and photographic archives and sculpture in an exhibition celebrating the unsung achievements and contributions of women from the period 1901 to 2001;

Master Printmakers 1493 - 1910 (12 July to 12 August) featuring 40 prints of the European greats - Durer, Van Dyk, Rembrandt, Hogarth, Goya, Daumier, Kollwitz and others on loan from a private collection.

Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday 10 am to 4 pm and Saturday 12 pm to 5 pm.

For further information, contact the Gallery on 9298 4545.

Small Business Expo 2001 is calling you!

The annual Small Business Expo at Eastland will be held on Saturday 22 September this year, and expressions of interest are being sought from local small businesses. Last year over 20 local businesses had displays in the Expo, giving valuable community exposure to their products and services. Eastland is a great venue for the Expo, which is supported by Council and run in conjunction with the Business Enterprise Centre of Swinburne TAFE. To secure a place for your small business at the Expo contact Council's Economic Development Unit, phone 9298 4335.

How to grow your business

An exciting new joint initiative will provide a training program to help local businesses grow. The Business Grow Program is run jointly by Maroondah Council and the Swinburne Business Enterprise Centre. Topics covered over the seven week program include how to plan for growth, how to finance business growth, the do's and don'ts of hiring staff, and managing people. The program will run from Tuesday 15 May until 26 June and places are limited to 15. The course is subsidised by Council, reducing the normal cost of \$100 to only \$50 per participant. For bookings contact Council's Economic Development Unit, phone 9298 4335.

Freedom of Entry



Maroondah City Council recently granted Freedom of Entry to the City to the 4th Combat Engineer Regiment, Royal Australian Engineers. The Freedom of Entry honour was marked with a full military parade through Ringwood on 18 March, 2001.

Freedom of Entry is an historic ceremonial privilege which a City may bestow upon a military regiment. Whilst the granting of "Freedom of Entry" gives no real rights or privileges to the regiment, it is a recognition of outstanding achievement and an honour granted by the Council.

"It was a colourful march, with troops in full uniform, drums beating, bands playing and colours flying," former Mayor Cr Peter Gurr said.

"As an ex-serviceman, I was very proud to see such an exciting community spectacle for our City. It was yet another fantastic display of community involvement," Cr Gurr said.

The 4th Combat Engineer Regiment, Royal Australian Engineers, have been located in Ringwood since 1956, and have always had close ties with the City.

The Regiment marched through several Ringwood streets and completed its parade finishing at the Ringwood RSL.

"It was a community event to be remembered for many years," Cr Gurr said.

FREEDOM OF ENTRY...The Freedom of Entry Parade was a fantastic community spectacle.

International Women's Day - Part of Federation

Maroondah's International Women's Day celebrations saw more than 150 local women from all walks of life participating in a State-wide project.

At a special breakfast, local women were part of a project to identify issues to be put forward in a petition to the State Parliament. The petition is likely to be tabled in May.

The idea for the Petition titled 'Women Shaping the Nation' has a strong and exciting history, with the Victorian Women's Suffrage Society and The Christian Women's Temperance Union working tirelessly to effect the female vote.

In 1891 the women of Victoria championed the cause of women's right to be heard by collecting a petition of 30,000 signatures across the Colony calling for the right to vote.

The Breakfast was Maroondah's opportunity for local women to contribute to the new petition on other vitally important issues which women may feel are not being addressed at present.

Maroondah's top six issues were: caring for disadvantaged peoples including the elderly, children and youth; equal pay for equal work (and just attitudes towards women in the workforce); equity in representation in all areas; increased recognition on health issues and health policy development; environmental sustainability, and Australia to acknowledge the real role of women and indigenous people.

Occupational Health and Safety for Small Businesses

Getting started on improved health and safety in the workplace is not difficult with a workshop being offered for small business owners.

The free workshop is hosted by Council and will explore the key features of effective health and safety for management and employees. It will give small businesses an understanding of WorkCover and Victorian workplace legislation, help establish a management program and provide practical guidance in identifying workplace hazards and reducing and preventing injuries.

The workshop is FREE and will be held on Tuesday 1 May from 6.30 pm to 9.30 pm at the Council Offices, Braeside Avenue, Ringwood. For bookings contact Council's Economic Development Unit, phone 9298 4335.

What's On at Wyreena

Autumn activities at the Wyreena Community Centre make enjoying the indoors a pleasure.

"You can currently enjoy the pastel tones of artwork by Grace Rainey whose exhibition runs until 29 April," Maroondah Councillor Les Willmott said.

Exhibitions throughout the next few months include Aboriginal art works featuring dot paintings, woodwork, and slumped glass from 2 May until 3 June, photographer Ani Heart from 6 June until 1 July and contemporary landscapes by Cheryl Ashley and Jane Howe from 4 July until 29 July, along with an exhibition of Lynne Jessop's contemporary and unique sculptural pieces in leather and collage work.

Wyreena's Short Courses commence on Monday 30 April, with opportunities to

develop new skills or improve current ones. Classes in arts and crafts and Lifestyle Programs are offered, with day, after school, evening and weekend workshops available.

Wyreena's popular monthly Conservatory Music Cafe offers a variety of delights:

Friday 27 April - Cabernet, an A'Capella group will perform dynamic cabaret music;

Friday 25 May - Blue Pearl Vibrations, a madrigal group performing A'Capella harmonies;

Friday 29 June - Eve Speak will perform beautifully sung tribal and contemporary music, also in A'Capella style. All the Music Cafés feature a sumptuous supper included in the price. Bookings are essential. For further information about these and other Wyreena events contact the Wyreena Community Arts Centre, 13-21 Hull Rd, Croydon, phone 9294 5590.

If there's no sign, it's **50** kmh!

Maroondah motorists and residents should be aware that there is a new reduced speed limit of 50kmh for residential streets here and throughout Victoria. The new limit became law on 22 January.

"Under the new regulations this is the 'default' speed limit, so if there are no signs, assume the speed limit is 50 kmh," said Cr Frank Corr.

"Roads that will retain the 60 kmh limit are being progressively marked with 60 kmh signs, but this will take time. Again, if there are no signs, play it safe and drive at 50 kmh," said Cr Corr.

"This reduced speed limit has been introduced in the interests of the safety of all road users. NSW trials have shown that even a small reduction in vehicle speeds produced a 16 per cent drop in crash numbers and severity of crashes," he said.

"The reduction in speed limit is supported by Council because each year in Victoria around 2000 casualty crashes occur in residential streets at a cost to the community in excess of \$170 million. These often involve pedestrians and cyclists," he said.

"These local neighbourhood suburban streets are where most of us live, and where our children and grandchildren often play and where our neighbours walk - they are not just roads, they are living environments and we need to respect that," he said.

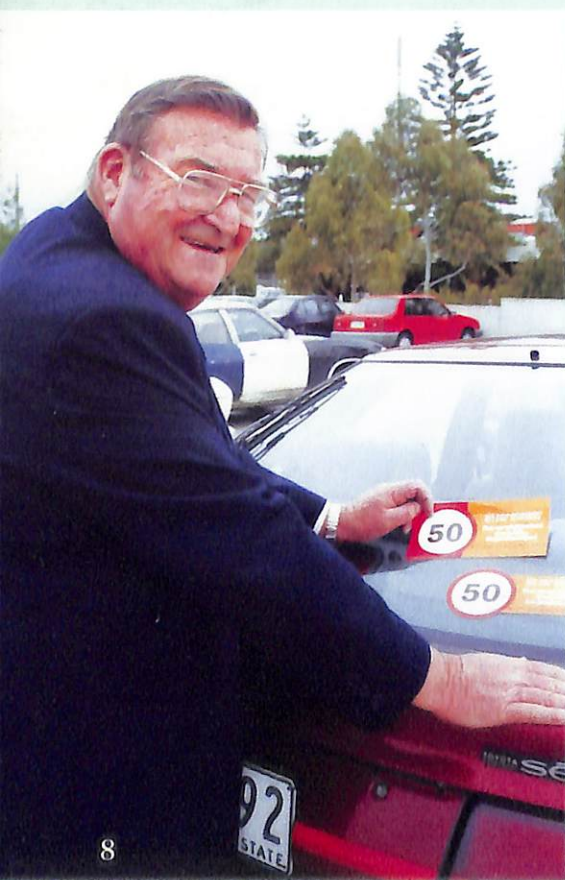
Cr Corr advised that the new limit is supported by the Victoria Police and will be enforced with warnings and fines.

"Hopefully this new speed strategy will see a significant drop in the number of crashes and casualties on Maroondah's residential streets, making this an even safer City in which to live," concluded Cr Corr.

Council has also introduced a Trafficalm radar device which advises motorists of the road speed limits and the motorist's speed. It is not a speed camera and is intended to change people's behaviors on the road. They will be located around the City.

Any inquiries about the new speed limit may be made to Council, phone 1300 88 22 33.

*IF THERE'S NO SIGN, IT'S 50 KMH!...
Cr Frank Corr placing one of Council's 50kmh stickers, available from Council Service Centres.*



At Your Service

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

Contact Council on 1300 88 22 33.

City Offices Service Centre

Braeside Avenue, (PO Box 156) Ringwood, 3134

Hours of operation:

8.30am to 8.00pm every Monday

8.30am to 5.00pm Tuesday to Friday

Main Street Service Centre

50 Main Street, Croydon, 3136

Hours of operation:

8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

Ringwood Mall Service Centre

12 Civic Mall, Ringwood, 3134

Hours of operation:

8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

Civic Square Service Centre

Civic Square, Croydon, 3136

Hours of operation:

8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

Maroondah On Line

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

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