

Maroondah *focus*

Your Community Newsletter

February 2002



2 Find out how Council is working to keep residents informed on issues about the Eastern Freeway and the Ringwood Bypass.



4 Kids love the water. Learn how to make your pool safe and make your kids Water Ready this summer.



5 Show us how marvellous Maroondah really is by becoming involved in the 2002 Photographic Competition, which offers fantastic prizes and new entry categories.

Come join in the fun of the Maroondah Festival on 17 February, with plenty of activities in your backyard!



Mayor's Message by Cr Neil Rose

Welcome to a new year and the February edition of the Maroondah Focus. The last quarter has seen some important milestones, including terrific support for our advocacy campaigns, the most recent for making residents in the immediate vicinity of the Eastern Freeway and Ringwood Bypass aware of the impacts of proposed exit ramps for the area. Residents were more aware of the ramps and were able to make submissions to VicRoads to ensure their voices were heard.

In early December, we also welcomed a new Councillor to our team. Cr Paul Denham is the new representative for Clocktower Ward, replacing previous ward councillor Nick Kirmos, who resigned in September, 2001. We welcome Paul to the Maroondah team and thank him for his contributions thus far.

Now, in a new year, we can enjoy summer and catch up with family and friends, renew acquaintances and take advantage of the many outdoor activities. And, on 17 February, the Maroondah community will renew its acquaintance with the Maroondah Festival – the largest community festival in Melbourne's east.

This year we welcome Etheridge Ford as a major sponsor of the Festival. The Festival is a fantastic community event, with most of the activities free of charge.

As usual, the Festival will feature some of Maroondah's best food, culture and entertainment, with rides, displays, exhibits by Maroondah businesses, street performers, information about Council services, singing, dancing and bands.

The Festival prides itself on having something for everyone, and this year's Festival will be no exception! I'll see you there! =

Your Council - working for your community



Maroondah's City Pride recipients for various projects; Dale Morgan, Lynette While, Ann Murton, Graham Murton, Sue McLeod, Pat Black, Vivienne Fraser, Scott Pittaway, Stacey Pearson, Annette O'Sullivan, Brad Curtis and Keith Roper.

Doing Maroondah proud

Maroondah received nine awards for various community projects at the annual City Pride Awards held in December.

Mayor Cr Neil Rose, said the City Pride awards celebrate the efforts of both Council and community in protecting and preserving the beauty of our natural and built environment.

'Maroondah has a very active and environmentally aware community and Council for which we can be very thankful,' Cr Rose said.

Maroondah Council is continuing to ensure the Maroondah community is kept informed and able to contribute with its call for residents to have their say on the options for ramps to link the Ringwood Bypass with the Eastern Freeway extension and the Scoresby Freeway.

In November, VicRoads proposed a number of options to reduce the impact of the Ringwood Bypass and associated ramps in the vicinity of Poynton Avenue, Ringwood North. These included partial tunnelling and moving Scoresby Freeway ramps further south away from Poynton Avenue.

'VicRoads provided only short notice for community consultation and that is why Council decided to letterbox every household in the immediate vicinity of the ramps to get their opinion about the options,' Mayor Cr Neil Rose said.

He said that after a VicRoads presentation and careful review, Council supported the partial tunnelling of the Ringwood Bypass and relocating access ramps from the Scoresby Freeway as far away from Poynton Avenue as is safely possible.

'We are currently working with VicRoads to ensure our residents' voices are heard, so that we have better access and amenity to the Bypass and the Scoresby and our local environment is protected,' Cr Rose said. =

Mayor Cr Neil Rose and a Maroondah resident look over the ramp options for the Ringwood Bypass and Eastern Freeway.

Maroondah won awards for:

- Tourism – the Ringwood Highland Games won this award, which attracted 16,000 participants in 2001.
- Individual Community Service – Graham Murton received this award for his contribution of 800 hours for improvements at Adams Reserve and Barnegeong Reserve.
- Adopt a Spot – Heathmont Bushlinks won this award for their work in removing environmental weeds from HE Parker Reserve

In addition, Maroondah also received Special Commendations and Commendations for:

- Heritage Preservation – Council was acknowledged for its preservation works at Ringwood Lake Park.
- Outstanding Beautification – Council was also commended for its beautification works, landscaping and community art projects at Maroondah Federation Estate.
- Landcare Project – the Warrien Reserve Committee of Management received recognition for its development of a frog habitat to save a local frog species.
- Adopt a Highway – Old Lilydale Road has seen extensive weeding and plantings since 1999 and this work was acknowledged with a commendation.
- Proud Primary School - Warranwood Primary School received a commendation for its environment, recycling and conservation programs.
- Waterways Preservation – the Warranwood Committee of Management received recognition for its rehabilitation works at Kardinia Creek.

Cr Rose said the awards were used to highlight the joint contributions of the community and local government through year-long projects creating and maintaining beautiful environs in their towns and cities across Victoria.

Anyone wishing to suggest projects for the 2002 Awards can do so by contacting Stacey Pearson on 9298 4360. =

New Clocktower Councillor

Maroondah resident Paul Denham, 29, is the new Clocktower Ward Representative, replacing Nick Kirmos who resigned in September.

Maroondah City Council Mayor, Cr Neil Rose, said he and the other Councillors welcomed Cr Denham along with the particular skills and experience he would bring to Council.

Cr Denham lives in Ringwood with his wife, Melinda, and three young children. A member of the Victoria Police for eight years, he is now area manager with a Ringwood based leather furniture and automotive trim repairs firm. In his leisure time, Paul enjoys spending time with his family and gardening.

A first-time Councillor, Cr Denham is looking forward to becoming more deeply involved in Maroondah.

'I'm very honoured to have been elected by Clocktower Ward residents and they can be assured that I will represent their interests in my new role,' he said.

'I'm looking forward to meeting the challenges of the position and I am keen to bring a new voice to the Council,' he said.

'I believe that my election adds further diversity to the range of backgrounds we already enjoy in our councillors; a diversity that is invaluable in providing good representation to every section of our community,' he added.

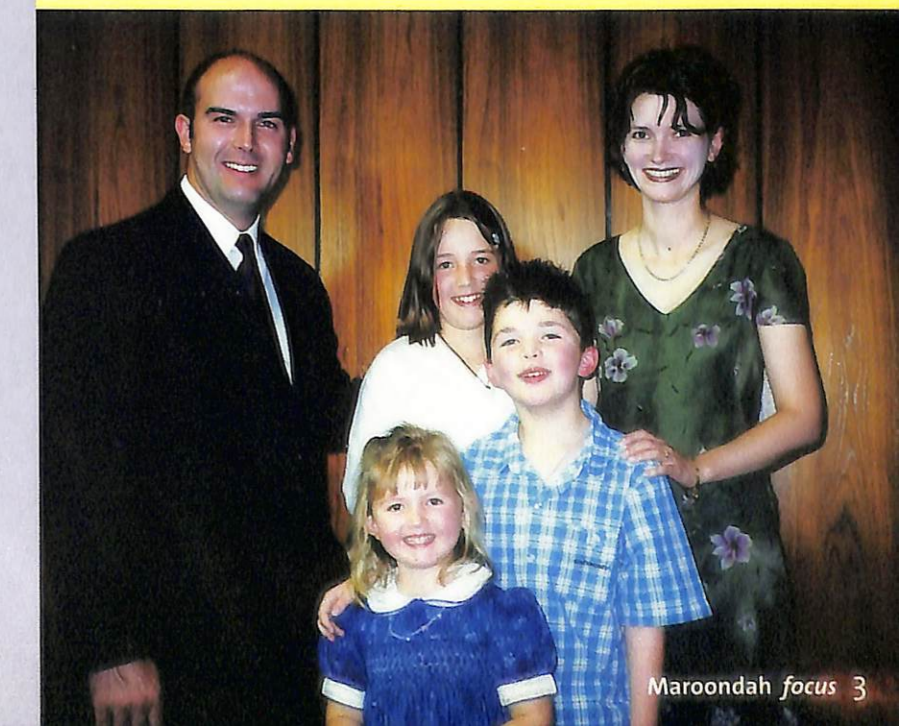
Maroondah Mayor Cr Neil Rose welcomed Cr Denham to the Council team.

'On behalf of my fellow Councillors, I welcome Paul Denham as Maroondah's newest Councillor and representative for Clocktower Ward,' Cr Rose said.

'All seven Councillors of the City of Maroondah are individuals, who come together from a wide range of backgrounds. Collectively, we bring many years experience in business and local government to our roles as Councillors. We are a Council who debate issues, generate ideas and have the best interests of the Maroondah community at heart. We look forward to Paul's contribution,' the Mayor said.

'In the short time Paul has been with us, he has shown a great understanding of local issues and I am sure we will all make a great team, for the benefit of all residents of the City of Maroondah,' he said. =

Cr Paul Denham, wife Melinda and their children at the announcement of his electoral win.





(Left) Gated entries and barriers around your pool make them safe for all.
(Right) Supervision at all times is important in keeping children safe in the pool.

Making your swimming pool safe this summer

Kids love the water. But the question is, with summer here, are they Water Ready? And are you?

'Young children can fall into a pool or spa and drown very quickly, so properly maintained safety barriers around pools are a vital measure in helping to secure the safety of toddlers, neighbours' children and their little friends,' Maroondah Councillor Les Willmott said.

'It is law that protective safety barriers be installed to restrict access to swimming pools and spas on private residential property in Victoria. The responsibility for installation rests with all home-owners with a pool or spa, regardless of whether they have children living there or not,' he added.

If you have a pool or spa, make sure barriers restrict toddlers from entering the pool area. When children are in the pool area, make sure there is constant adult supervision – not just the occasional glance. If that adult needs to leave the pool area, they should take the child with them.

Once suitable and compliant safety barriers have been installed, it is imperative that owners ensure the barriers are maintained, so they continue to work properly. There is no point having a fence if children can climb it or if the gate has been left propped open.

Remember, a fence is no substitute for adequate supervision, and supervision means constant visual contact.

Never take your eyes off children playing in or around the swimming pool or spa.

In order to be Water Ready, remember:

- Supervision means constant visual contact – 'Never take your eyes off'
- Supervision means taking children from a swimming pool/spa with you if you have to leave the area, even if only for a moment
- Supervision includes ensuring that safety barriers such as gates and doors are not left open by children, in poor maintenance, or propped open
- Pool fences, fences, gates, doors and windows that form the barrier must be fitted and operating correctly
- Ensure the barrier area is maintained and landscaped so that children can't climb tree branches, pot plants, boxes, play equipment or any other nearby objects to gain access to the swimming pool/spa
- Consider adjoining properties to ensure there are no potential hazards or objects that may allow young children access to the swimming pool/spa.

This summer, don't risk increased fines or worse still, a tragedy at your home. Make sure you and your pool are Water Ready and that your backyard is a safe and enjoyable place. ≈



Summer activities at Maroondah Federation Estate

Maroondah's Summer Music Series continues this month with the second of three performances at the Maroondah Federation Estate, located at 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood.

On Wednesday 20 February, the Melbourne Welsh Male Voice Choir will take you on an eclectic choral journey of traditional Welsh songs, open choruses, ballads, African chants and rock songs. The performance begins at 7.30pm and will run until 9.30pm.

The third Summer Music Series concert will be held on Wednesday 19 March and will feature the Maroondah Symphony Orchestra playing a range of styles, to match a variety of musical tastes. Again, the performance begins at 7.30pm and continues until 9pm.

For further information about other activities at Maroondah Federation Estate, telephone 9298 4545. ≈

Weeding them out

Weeds cost Victorian agriculture around \$360 million each year and cause significant environmental and ecological damage.

There is also significant damage done by weeds in Maroondah, which are introduced into our home gardens and eventually spread to our parks and reserves, putting at risk our indigenous species.



The Japanese Honeysuckle, despite its charming name, is a particularly hardy and damaging weed. As the name suggests, its origins are Japanese and this twining evergreen climber, which has creamy yellow flowers in spring-summer and small black berries in summer-autumn, is vine-like.

To combat the spread of this weed, cut the stems and remove the shallow root system. Dry out the vines before composting. ≈

It's in the BAG!

The Maroondah Business Advisory Group (BAG) is in full swing for a busy 2002.

The Group aims to provide feedback and practical advice to Council in areas that assist members of the business community, provide new suggestions for Council initiatives and act as a sounding board for future Council funded projects/programs.

'The Group gives Maroondah's businesses the opportunity to have greater input into business issues, and provides a business perspective on many of the decisions of Council and the State and Federal governments,' Maroondah Councillor Peter Gurr said.

Business Advisory Group members are Andrew Lannen - Queensland Investment Corporation (owners of Eastland Shopping Centre), Jacqueline Wood - Croydon's English Bed and Breakfast, Gail Woods - Croydon Chamber of Commerce, Phil Munday - Phil Munday's Panel Works, Brian Cooper-Smith - Brian Coopersmith Pty Ltd, Shirley Smith - Swinburne Business Enterprise Centre, Glen Walker - Kenworth Trucks, Joe Cossari - Ringwood Chamber of Commerce, Jim Bushby - Australian Automotive Air, Tony Wright - Remington Wright and Co, Trung Le - Department of State and Regional Development, Mayor Cr Neil Rose and Maroondah CEO, Michael Marasco.

For further information on the BAG, telephone Mark Johnston on 9298 4320. ≈

Looking for a summer escape?

Maroondah's two outdoor municipal pools are currently open for the summer season.

The Croydon Memorial Pool is heated and 50 metres in length. It will be open from 6am to 7pm Monday to Friday, and from 10am to 7pm on Saturdays and Sundays. The pool has an extended hours policy during periods of hot weather.

The Memorial Pool is located in Springfield Road, Croydon and features extensive lawns, making it an ideal place for families to cool off in the summer heat.

The Ringwood Aquatic Centre's outdoor pool, located in Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood, is also open from 6am to 9pm Monday to Friday, and from 8am to 9pm on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.

The Centre's outdoor pool is 25 metres in length and is set amongst landscaped gardens. In addition to the outdoor pool, the Centre also boasts the eastern suburbs' finest diving and swimming facilities, a health and activity pool for light hydrotherapy and exercise, and a 50 metre heated indoor pool. ≈

Get out and get snapping!

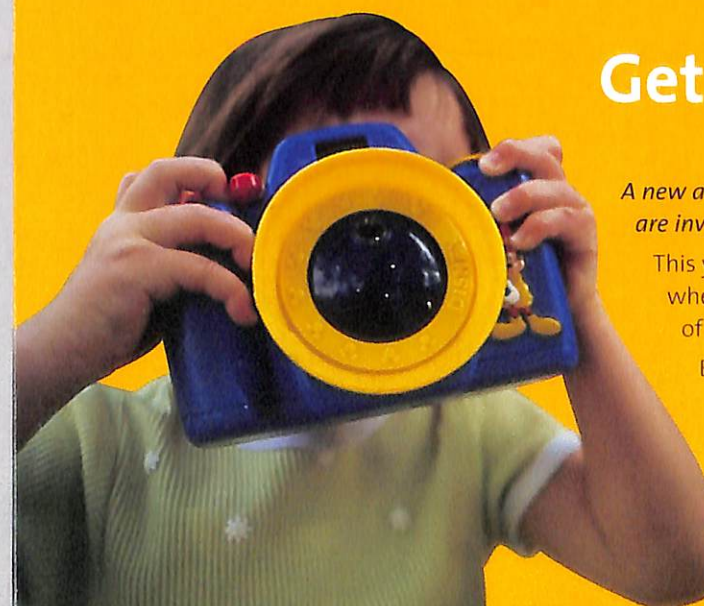
A new and improved Photographic Competition is now underway and all Maroondah residents are invited to join in the fun of photography!

This year, budding photographers are encouraged to take photos from February through to July, when the competition will close. Entries will be accepted throughout this time including photos of Council or community events. Only those photos taken in Maroondah are eligible for entry.

Entry is open to all residents and visitors to the City, and this year there is a special category and prize for young people to enter their photos.

The Competition would not take place without the generous support of Croydon Camera House, Eastland Shopping Centre and the Maroondah Journal newspaper.

For further information about the Photographic Competition, telephone 9298 4390. ≈



Karralyka awards on show

The Karralyka Centre – the Performing Arts Centre in the Outer East – has seen a tremendous amount of talent tread its boards as part of new awards for groups performing at the Centre.

Though half way through the judging process, with six months worth of productions still to come, the focus of the awards has been on not just excellence of performance but excellence related to the standard of ability.

The awards are in two categories - Educational and Creative Movement.

All performances held at the Karralyka Centre's Theatre from July 2001 to June 2002, and fitting within the two categories, are eligible for the awards.

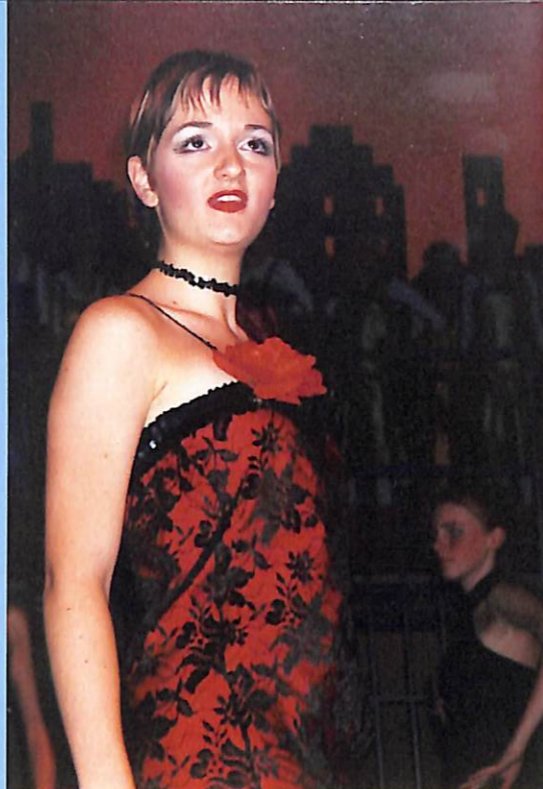
The Educational award, will include primary and secondary State and Private schools.

The Creative Movement award, will be awarded to performances involving Dance Schools, Callisthenics schools and Physical Culture.

The criteria for the Awards includes theatre etiquette, student involvement in all areas, costumes, sets, organisation, volunteer support, stage management, performance - voice, stagecraft, creativity, innovation and communication.

For further information, contact the Karralyka on 9870 2888. ≈

Tintern's production of Cabaret is one many productions up for the Karralyka Awards this year.



Star in our recycling campaign!

Residents in Maroondah and the eastern region are being encouraged to recycle their old televisions (TVs) and video recorders (VCRs) in an innovative trial program, supported by Leastwaste and EcoRecycle.

The idea behind the trial is for residents to take their old TVs and VCRs to local transfer and waste stations, where they will be collected

Kon Vassiliadis from Eastern Recycling and Waste Transfer Station, one of many recycling stations accepting old TVs and VCR's for free until 31 March, 2002.

by Australian company MRI, which will pull the appliances apart and recover the raw materials that can be used again in a variety of new products.

The trial will run until 31 March, 2002 and is FREE.

Electronics companies, including Sony, Sanyo, NEC, Sharp, Hitachi and LG and RMIT University are funding the trial and the associated research.

Telephone 1800 35 32 33 for participating local waste transfer and recycling stations. ≈

Maroondah Mayor, Neil Rose would like to thank all those who contributed to the recent Eastland Shopping Centre, Maroondah Journal and Council Christmas appeal to raise funds for the Maroondah Salvation Army.

With the help of sponsors and our community, we raised over \$30,000 in goods and gift contributions, with another \$7,000 in cash coming directly from donations to Eastland's Christmas gift wrapping booth.

'The donations exceeded our expectations and we thank Eastland and the Maroondah Journal for putting together such a terrific campaign,' the Mayor said. ≈

Mayor Cr Neil Rose, Salvation Army's Angela Noble, the Maroondah Journal's Georgie McLeod, Eastland Shopping Centre's Deanna Hitchman and the Salvation Army's Peter Noble show off the Christmas Appeal bags.



A big thank you!

Maroondah's Waste Service - working well but we need your help

With already one of the highest rates of recycling in Victoria, Maroondah residents have taken to the new waste system like worms to a compost heap!

However, we do need to take more care when recycling, as our efforts are being a little watered down by a lack of awareness on some important recycling issues.

Ins for recycling

Loose papers and cardboard

Loose bottles

Keeping bottles separate from paper and cardboard

Outs for recycling

Plastic bags

Nappies and ceramics

Food scraps

'Our contractors tell us that they get a lot of non-recyclable material in recycling bins. This includes food, as well as nappies, ceramics and clothes, none of which are recyclable,' Maroondah Councillor Marj Munro said.

'These items don't belong in recycling bins and if residents put them in by mistake, they are contaminating the bin, which ends up costing Council extra because the waste from the bins ends up having to go to landfill instead of being recycled,' she said.

'It really does pay to keep the recyclables in the recycling bin and the rubbish in the rubbish bin – in fact, it is a saving!' she said. ≈

Gotta keep 'em separated

It really is very important to keep recyclable containers separate from paper and cardboard. If they are mixed, it means the bin is contaminated. This may end up costing council extra because the waste from the bins ends up having to go to landfill instead of being recycled

'When the truck picks up your bin, the divider in your bin matches a divided chute in the truck, so it is important that you keep these items separated,' Cr Munro said.

'If you're ever concerned, just look on the inside of your bin lid – it should have a sticker which says glass and plastics on the left and paper products on the right,' she said, 'And keep the recyclables loose – not in plastic bags, please.'



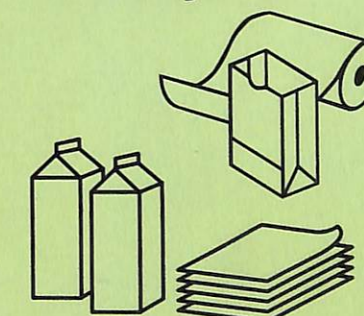
The Recycling Process

The specially designed truck has separated compartments for recyclables and paper. As the truck picks up your Recycling Bin, the divider in your bin matches a divide chute on the truck.

What happens to the materials?



- Glass is made into new glass bottles.



- Paper and cardboard is recycled back into newspapers, packaging, insulation and building products.



- Milk and juice cartons are recycled into writing and photocopy paper.



- Plastic bottles (codes 1, 2, 3) are used in textiles, trays, garbage bins, pipes and plant pots.

Business Grow Program

Following the successful trial of the Business Grow program in 2001, Maroondah Council and the Swinburne Business Enterprise Centre will conduct two programs in 2002.

'Business Grow is a training program designed to help local business people grow their business performance and opportunity,' Maroondah Councillor Frank Corr said.

It aims to empower small business owners to make informed decisions about how best to grow their business and employ staff, particularly for those owner/operators who have been in business for between 2 to 6 years.

The first Grow program for 2002 will run for 7 weeks every Wednesday evening from 1 May to 12 June, from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. The second course will begin on 16 October and finish on 27 November, 2002.

Maroondah Council is providing a 50 per cent subsidy to local business. The cost of the program including a light supper is \$50. It will be held at Maroondah City Council Offices, Braeside Avenue, Ringwood.

For bookings and further information telephone 9298 4278 but be quick because places are limited to 15 people. ≈

Plastic not so fantastic!

Although it seems convenient to 'grab a bag', it is better to 'leave it loose' when it comes to your Recycling and Garden Organics Bins.

Plastic bags are not welcome in your Recycling and Garden Organics bins and even just a few plastic bags can contaminate a load of recycling or garden organics, causing problems with manual sorting, adding extra costs to recycling or even destroying the truckload collected. All material within your Recycling and Garden Organics Bins should be loose and not in plastic bags. .

Interested in buying recycled products?

Buying recycled closes the 'reduce, re-use, recycle' loop by reducing waste to landfill and minimising the use of virgin materials.

Help close the loop by coming along to the Eastern Region Buy Recycled Products Expo on Wednesday 6 March, 2002 at the Whitehorse Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading (Melways 48 G9) from 10am to 2pm.

On display will be a variety of products made from timber, rubber, plastic, compost/ mulch, paper, furniture and construction materials. ≈

Sunday 17 February

The Maroondah Festival is on its way and happening in your backyard and everyone is invited to join in Maroondah's biggest party.

It's our Festival in our backyard and that's our theme for this year – Your Backyard. Activities throughout the Festival on 17 February will incorporate this theme, including children's activities in Kids Korner and an interactive display on the cricket pitch at Croydon Park' Maroondah Councillor Maureen Naylor said.

'Our headline act will be Australian icon Paul Kelly who of course will be supported by many community groups and local artists throughout the day,' she added.

Festival favourites including lifestyle, health and sport expos, as well as our community cuisine will also be back this year.

Festival-goers can enjoy art and craft markets, street theatre, foods from around the world (brought to you by Maroondah's community groups), children's performances, stages packed with live entertainment - all for free.

The Festival will also feature a variety of roaming street entertainers, children's rides, performances by exciting artists and local secondary college bands.

We also welcome Etheridge Ford as our major sponsor for this year's Festival.

All in all a fabulous line-up for the 2002 Maroondah Festival! See you there!

For further information about the Festival, telephone 9294 5630 ≈

Street performers will be part of the action and fun of the 2002 Maroondah Festival.

Our Fabulous Festival in your backyard!



Wonderful anytime of the year, but particularly during Summer – Wyreena Community Arts Centre.

Sensational Summer at Wyreena

Get set for some fun family activities in February and March at Wyreena Community Arts Centre.

Located at 13 Hull Road, Croydon, Wyreena is the setting for Music Café on 22 February, an opportunity to see local and regional performers bring the English-style conservatory alive! Bookings are essential with tickets only \$15, which includes a delicious supper.

On 1 March, Wyreena will also host the last of this summer's Movies Under the Stars. This is your chance to see *Moulin Rouge*, starring Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor, on Wyreena's lovely lawns, under the stars. The movie starts at sunset, so bring along your blanket and settle in for a night of can-canning! Tickets are just \$5 for adults, \$2 for children or \$12 for families.

For further information, telephone Wyreena on 9294 5590.≈



A commitment to equity

Maroondah City Council is committed to providing equitable service to all in the community.

If you live in Maroondah and would like to receive this community newsletter in a format better suited to the needs of the visually impaired, please contact us to register your interest.

We will endeavour to provide you with a range of material suited to your particular requirements.

Telephone 1300 88 22 33. ≈

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.

Maroondah On Line

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

City Offices Service Centre
Braeside Avenue, (PO Box 156) Ringwood, 3134
8.30am to 8.00pm every Monday
8.30am to 5.00pm Tuesday to Friday

Main Street Service Centre
50 Main Street, Croydon
8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

Ringwood Mall Service Centre
12 Civic Mall, Ringwood
8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

Civic Square Service Centre
Civic Square, Croydon
8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

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