

Maroondah *focus*

Your Community Newsletter

September 2002



1st prize in the Junior Category of the Maroondah Photo Competition by Chloe Foster - "Look at the ducks".



2 Croydon Leisure Centre celebrates 25 years of service



5 A new Amendment to the Planning Scheme promotes character and protects neighbourhoods



5 Funding assistance helps community groups



7 Discover some of the sporting and community activities Maroondah has to offer

Mayor's Message

by Cr Frank Corr



Welcome to the August edition of the Maroondah Focus magazine.

The cold weather is still with us and this reminds me of how much we manage to do during the colder months of the year. Our recent Winter ArtsFest, held throughout July at a number of community and Council venues, was a fabulous success with strong participation and cultural and arts activities for all ages and needs.

I would like to say how pleased I was to be invited to the commencement of the geotechnical investigations for the Scoresby Integrated Transport Corridor, which occurred in late July. The Scoresby, which will be finished by 2008, will provide residents with access to the South Eastern, the Eastern and the Peninsula Freeways, and will see many benefits for our community.

Our sporting groups have been hitting the turf, and courts, ovals and reserves during the winter months. Our City's sporting clubs are an important part of our lives, providing fitness opportunities, social activities and adding to our spirit of community. These clubs contribute to our community – most of us without even thinking about it.

The people who run these clubs – usually mums, dads, those interested in the sport – are the lifeblood of the team. They run their clubs and teams without wanting any acknowledgement and by donating their own time and very often their own money to make sure it is a success.

One such person is Frank Sullivan from the Ringwood Blues, a team for people with physical or intellectual disabilities. Frank has run the club for the last 12 years, where participants play both competitive footy and indoor cricket, providing his charges with a valuable social and sporting outlet. Frank is looking for assistance to help him with the teams. If you have interest in either sport, helping other people and want to really enjoy yourself, give Frank a call to discuss the opportunities available on 9801 1350.

I congratulate all our sporting and recreation clubs on their commitment to their members and for their part in such a worthy community contribution.

Maroondah Mayor Cr Frank Corr (third from right) with current and former staff and Croydon Leisure Centre members at the 25th anniversary celebrations.

The Croydon Leisure Centre has been officially helping people become fitter and healthier for 25 years!

25 years at Croydon Leisure Centre

The Croydon Leisure Centre officially opened its doors to the people of Croydon for the first time on 9 July, 1977.

Since that day there have been many changes to both the Centre and to the City of Croydon, which is now of course part of the City of Maroondah.

Maroondah Councillor Frank Corr said one of the best things about the Centre was its versatility.

'Some of the events held here have included international volleyball and table tennis. We have held international, national, and state gymnastics, state hockey, national roller skating and speed skating,' Cr Corr said.



'The Centre has also been the home to local netball and basketball for over 20 years,' he said.

The Centre is also very proud to host sports such as hockey, balloon soccer and touch football for the Victorian Electric Wheelchair Sports Association at the Centre. The Association has named the Centre 'The Official Home of Victorian Electric Wheelchair Sports'. Cr Corr said Council's 2002/ 2003 budget would include funding for further improvements at the Centre.

'Council's budget provides for the construction of a \$250,000 extension to the Leisure Centre's gym, new equipment and the resurfacing of two of the tennis courts. All going well, this will occur in October this year,' he said.

Revaluation

With the Council's budget for 2002/ 2003 now adopted, the total rate revenue for the municipality increases by 6.2 per cent. This revenue will now be redistributed on the basis of the General Property Valuation.

A General Valuation is an important part of determining rates and it is now a State Government requirement that all properties in Victoria are revalued every two years.

Independent valuers spend countless hours preparing valuations on properties throughout the City to ensure ratepayers pay equitable rates, based on the value of their properties.

This two-year revaluation cycle means that valuations are now more closely linked to market value, and enables ratepayers to better relate to their valuations. All rateable properties across the State are revalued as of 1 January 2002 for use in assessing the 2002/3 and 2003/4 rates.

With rates notices delivered recently, residents and commercial business owners will know the new value of the property and the amount due in rates.

An increase in a property's value does not translate to a corresponding increase in rates. Rather, individual valuations provide the basis upon which the total revenue raised by Council is distributed between ratepayers.

The total income Council receives from rates is spread across all properties and areas and, as a result, some will pay more in rates, some will pay less.

This year, the rate in the dollar set for Maroondah has dropped, meaning that a house which has increased in site value may be partly off set by a decrease in the rate in the dollar.

For further information about revaluation or your rates notice, contact Revenue Services on 9298 4234.

Snapped up!

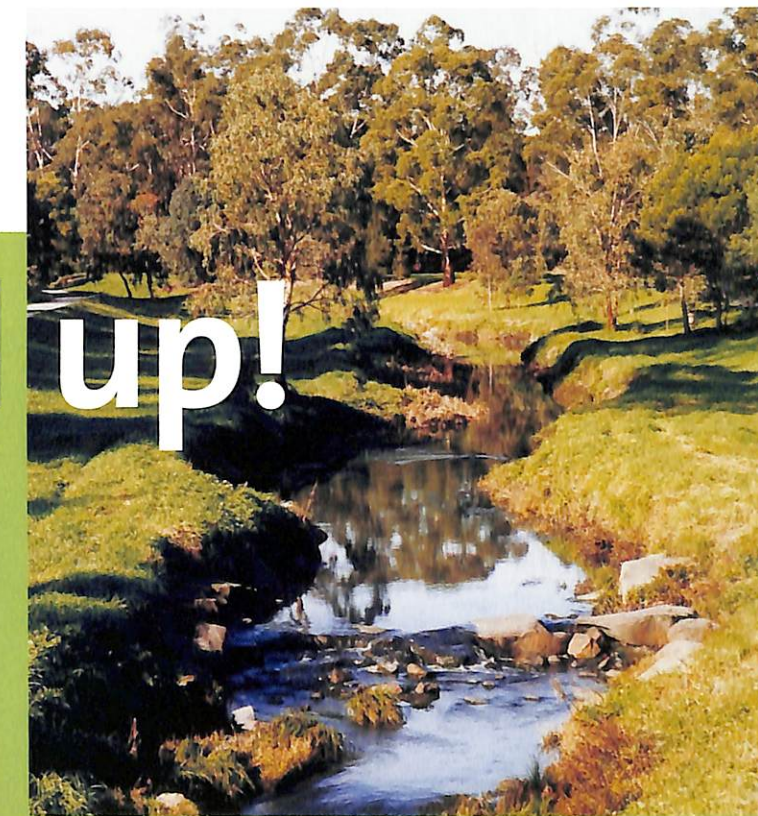
Entries in Council's 2002 Photographic Competition, 'Marvellous Maroondah' captured some fantastic shots of the City's people, beauty and its many distinguishing landmarks.

Over 74 photographers provided 258 photographs for the judges to select just three photos as prize winners.

After much deliberation, the judges awarded first prize in the Junior Category of a Pentax camera (value \$80 plus \$20 in film and processing), courtesy of Croydon Camera House, to Chloe Foster for her work - 'Look at the ducks'.

Sally Young's 'A Walk in the Park'.

Mrs Peake's 'Dandenong Creek'.



Second prize in the Junior Category of a \$50 shopping voucher from Eastland Shopping Centre went to Katharine Brown for her work entitled 'Light on History'. First prize in the Intermediate Category (a Pentax camera valued at \$150 plus \$50 in film and processing) was awarded to Sally Young for her work 'A Walk in the Park'. Second prize in the Intermediate Category (a \$100 Eastland voucher) went to Nicole Blair, for her untitled black and white work.

The Open Category received the most amount of entries and first prize of a \$500 Pentax camera and \$50 in film and processing was awarded to Mrs Peake for her work entitled 'Dandenong Creek', while the second prize in the Open Category (a \$200 Eastland voucher) went to Tom Donovan for his work 'Ringwood Lake'.

'Congratulations to all who entered and we look forward to seeing even more entries next year,' Maroondah Mayor Cr Frank Corr said.





Cr Neil Rose discusses the results with one of Council's Customer Service staff members.

Maroondah City Councillor Neil Rose has applauded Council's Customer Service Team for its outstanding results in a recent Customer Service survey.

Satisfying Service

The survey, conducted in May, is part of a Council's Best Value program to ensure we meet the needs of our residents and ratepayers.

'The results were excellent with 98 per cent of customers surveyed indicating they were satisfied with Council's service in this area,' said Cr Rose.

'An amazing 33.9 per cent of customers said the service 'exceeded expectation' and a further 51 per cent said they were 'very satisfied', which is a very gratifying result,' he said.

Customers were surveyed when they attended a Council Service Centre, or phoned Council.

'The staff at our four Service Centres assisted a total of 7,555 customers during the month of May, so those numbers over a year are significant,' said Cr Rose.

'Council's Customer Service Team members are equipped to help with most enquiries and can refer you to the appropriate Council area if you need something more specific,' said Cr Rose.

'They have a wide range of information brochures available and are more than happy to assist you and explain Council services and processes,' he said.

Council's four Service Centres are listed on the back page of this Focus magazine. To contact Maroondah City Council, telephone 1300 88 22 33.

Flora Reserve seeks new Committee

Maroondah Council has called for expressions of interest from the Maroondah Bushlinks group, a collective of the bushland Committees of Management and Friends Groups, to form a community based Committee of Management at Hochkins Ridge Flora Reserve.

Maroondah Mayor, Cr Frank Corr said Council Officers had been discussing management options for Hochkins Ridge with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE).

'We want to ensure continued community, Council and DNRE involvement in this Crown Land Reserve,' Cr Corr said.

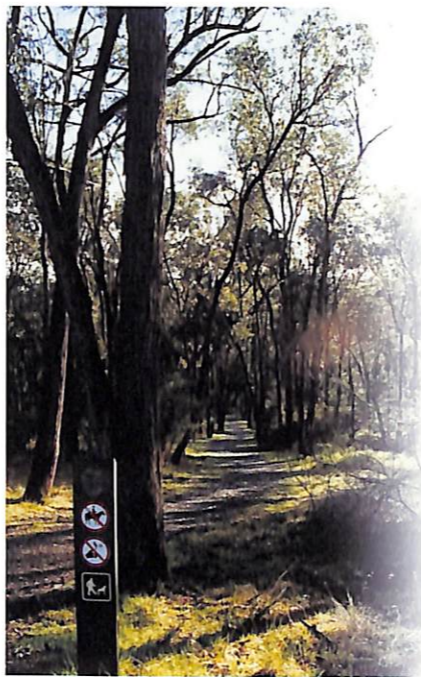
'A new committee would be made up of at least three representatives from the community, in addition to a Council representative. It will require people who are interested in the reserve's ongoing management rather than physical works,' he said.

Cr Corr said the physical works would be carried out by community volunteers with other resources provided by Council's Parks and Works teams.

'Council is committed to conservation work within the reserve and is actively seeking external grants to further supplement Council funds and maintenance works,' he said.

'Council will continue to work closely with DNRE and the community to ensure the reserve is protected,' Cr Corr finished.

For further information about the Hochkins Ridge Flora Reserve Committee of Management, contact Council's Open Spaces Unit on 9298 4432.



Maroondah City Council is now seeking the Minister for Planning's approval for the revised Amendment C16 to the Maroondah Planning Scheme.

Respecting neighbourhood character, promoting housing diversity

Amendment C16 seeks to introduce a series of policy statements designed to ensure that residential development occurs in a manner that is consistent with the character of Maroondah, the expectations and needs of the community and to provide for a diverse range of dwellings types.

It also aims to provide for the development of apartment style dwellings in the Ringwood Town Centre and Croydon Town Centre.

'The intent of the Amendment is to respond to the emerging and envisaged housing needs of the municipality for the medium to long term,' said Maroondah Councillor Les Willmott.

'Public interest in and consultation on the ongoing development of the Amendment has been very high and we have taken into consideration the concerns of both residents and developers in this final document,' he said.

The revised C16 Amendment includes a number of policies relating to the neighbourhood character of Maroondah's leafy suburbs, open space needs, setbacks from boundaries and front fence heights.

'Maroondah has consistently valued dwellings in garden settings set back from boundaries with canopy trees softening development. These neighbourhood characteristics are identified and protected in this Amendment,' he said.

'The end result will be development that respects the treed character of Maroondah and increases housing choice through conveniently located apartment style dwellings,' he finished.

For further information on the C16 Amendment, contact Council's Integrated Planning Unit on 9298 4326.

Community group help

Fifty-eight local community groups have been allocated funding for programs and projects through the 2002/2003 Maroondah Community Grants Scheme.

Member of the Grants Panel, Cr Maureen Naylor, said Council acknowledged the massive contribution made by community groups.

'There are exciting projects happening in our community and other programs which will benefit' Cr Naylor said.

Successful applicants included:

- Croydon Stroke Support Group for member support (\$1,200)

- Maroondah Prostate Cancer Support Group for an awareness program (\$700)

- North Ringwood Community House for a Dads Only Parenting Program (\$1,200)

- Young Life Australia to assist disadvantaged young people (\$2,000)

For further information contact Leisure Services on 9298 4373.

Cr Maureen Naylor (second from right) meets with some of the recipients of the grants; Brett Kirkwood from Young Life Australia, Bill Port from North Ringwood Community House and Gillian Southam from Outer Eastern Citizens Advocacy.



Weeding them out

Significant damage is done by environmental weeds in Maroondah, which are planted in our home gardens and eventually spread to our parks and reserves, putting at risk indigenous habitats.

The Blue Periwinkle (vinca major), a species more at home in mainland Europe than Maroondah, is a particularly hardy and damaging weed. This creeping plant has trailing stems to 1 metre long, shiny oval leaves and showy blue flowers in Spring.

To combat the spread of this weed, pull out all stems, dry out in a sunny area and destroy. Chemical treatments are available.

The majority of environmental weeds are spread by birds dispersing seed, wind or garden waste being dumped in bushland parks.

Tarralla Creek comes of age

Tarralla Creek is the new name of the Croydon Main Drain.

Maroondah City Council has confirmed the change of name with the Department of Natural Resources and the Office of Place Names. The name has been officially registered with the Register of Geographic Names.

Maroondah Mayor Cr Frank Corr said Maroondah City Council had taken the lead in changing the name of the waterway, following suggestions from residents and community groups, such as the Croydon Conservation Society.

Tarralla Creek offers wonderful vistas and enjoyable walks.

'Apart from sounding a lot better, Tarralla Creek better reflects the history of the area and the waterway. Feedback from local residents has been very positive,' Cr Corr said.

The newly named Tarralla Creek runs from Colchester Road in the east and generally flows south-west to meet Bungalook Creek near Canterbury Road.

'Tarralla also better reflects the environment of the waterway corridor which contains canopy trees, shrubs and grasses as well as containing a shared pathway for recreational use,' Cr Corr said.



Maroondah Business Week 16 to 25 October, 2002

Maroondah Business Week for 2002 is set to help build bigger and better business opportunities, according to Maroondah Councillor Peter Gurr.

With the line-up of speakers and special seminars recently confirmed, Cr Gurr said this year's Maroondah Business Week, which runs from 16 to 25 October, would be great for business in Maroondah and the eastern region.

'We have a great line-up of industry experts and business leaders to provide the most up-to-date and enlightening insights for our local business community,' Cr Gurr said.

'When you consider how much business contributes to the wider Maroondah community, both in employment opportunities and

economic growth, it's important then that we can provide them with further opportunities to learn and grow their businesses,' he said.

Cr Gurr said Maroondah Business Week, now in its fourth year and an initiative of the Maroondah Business Advisory Board, was important for the future of Maroondah.

'All businesses in Maroondah are welcome to participate and we have some specially targeted workshops for different business sectors, so there should be something of interest for everyone,' he said.

'The Week is also an ideal opportunity for businesses to build new networks and develop business to business relationships,' he said.

For further information about Maroondah Business Week, contact Council's Business Development and Major Projects Unit on 9298 4469.

Recognising and rewarding local excellence



The Maroondah Business Dinner, to be held at the Karralyka Centre, Mines Road, Ringwood East on Friday 25 October, promises to be a night of fun and relaxation with political satirist Sir Murray Rivers (aka comedian Brian Dawes, left) and live music from Max and the Blue Royale.

Australian Automotive Air is proudly sponsoring the evening in celebration of their 10 year anniversary.

The Business Excellence Awards will feature on the night. The Awards recognise business excellence in Maroondah. Businesses nominated throughout the year are in the running for coveted awards in each of the following categories:

Category	Sponsor
Manufacturing	Kenworth
Retail	The Journal
Small Business	Sarina Russo
Professional Services	Maroondah City Council
Encouragement Award	Swinburne TAFE
Women in Business	Department of Innovation and Industry
Best Maroondah Business	Remington Wright & Co.

The Dinner will also feature the presentation of the inaugural Maroondah Urban Design Awards. The MUDA acknowledge quality urban design within Maroondah.

Awards will be presented in each of the following categories: Best Sustainable Development, Best Landscape Design, Best Residential Development and Best Non-Residential Development.

Book for the Dinner on 9298 4469.



A focus on building better business

One of the highlights of the 2002 Maroondah Business Week will be a presentation by guest speaker, former Premier of Victoria, The Hon Jeff Kennett (left), at the October Business Breakfast on Wednesday 16 October.

Mr Kennett, who resigned from politics in 2000, was a formidable force in the Australian political scene and lead the State Government which helped to reshape Victoria's economy throughout the 1990s.

His commitment to the business community is well known and Mr Kennett will have much to offer in this very special Business Breakfast presentation.

The October Business Breakfast is proudly sponsored by the Queensland Investment Corporation, operators of Eastland Shopping Centre.

It will be held at the Karralyka Centre, Mines Road, East Ringwood and starts at 7am. Book early on 9298 4469.

Program of events

Wednesday 16 October

Business Breakfast - from 7am.
Guest speaker: Jeff Kennett
Karralyka Centre, Mines Road, East Ringwood. Proudly sponsored by Queensland Investment Corporation.

Business to Business Expo 6.30pm - 9.30pm.
Karralyka Centre, Mines Road, East Ringwood. Presented by the Business Enterprise Centre, Maroondah HomeBiz and Maroondah City Council.
For further details telephone 9298 4278.

Thursday 17 October

Is there a place for ethics in business? 6.30pm - 8.30pm.
Ethics in Business Workshop, Maroondah Federation Estate, Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood.

Friday 18 October

Nurturing and maintaining talented employees so your business can grow - 12pm - 2pm.
Workshop with Craig Winkler from MYOB and Professor Rolland from Swinburne University at Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood.

Monday 21 October

Expand or Expire - Extending your distribution networks - 10am - 3pm
With Alan Marion from Trainex Systems, Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood.

Just In Time; the implications for suppliers in the Automotive Industry 6.30pm - 8.30pm.
Manufacturers Workshop - AAA and Toyota Case Studies. At Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood.



Tuesday 22 October

Strategic Risk - Is your business sustainable? - 12pm - 2pm.
Environmental workshop; Chris Jacka from Jcon and EBA presents case studies from Nissan and BP at Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood.

Understanding marketing and having it work for your business 6.30pm - 8.30pm.
At Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood.

Wednesday 23 October

Catching Fussy Customers 6.30pm - 8.30pm.
With Michael Sklovsky from Ishka Pty Ltd. Retail workshop. At Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood. Proudly sponsored by The Maroondah Journal newspaper.

Ringwood 2010 - The Transit City 9am - 12pm.
Business opportunities in the new metropolitan Melbourne. Sponsored by QIC, at the Karralyka Centre, Mines Road, Ringwood.

Thursday 24 October

Innovation, creativity and partnership - a strategic approach for women 12pm - 2pm.
With DI Fleming from Accelerated Knowledge Technologies, at Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood.

Friday 25 October

Maroondah Business Dinner
Presenting the Maroondah Business Excellence Awards and the Maroondah Urban Design Awards. Special guests Sir Murray Rivers and Max and the Blue Royale. Proudly sponsored by Australian Automotive Air.

For further information, to register or enrol in any of the workshops please call Vicki at Council's Business Development Unit on 9298 4469.

Golfing to a tee!

Fancy a quick drive? Like to go clubbing? Well, here's the answer to all your needs at the Ringwood Public Golf Course!

The Ringwood Public Golf Course is one of Melbourne's finest golf courses. With a stunning 18 hole par 70 course and public facilities normally available on private courses, Ringwood offers an experience for golfers and non golfers alike. Its Café offers a pleasant informal setting for lunches and dinners. Weddings, parties, corporate launches and golf days are well catered for with pricing to suit. The Café is 'poker machine free' and smoke free and offers a special ambience often lacking in many venues. A fully stocked Golf shop and superb teaching facilities makes Ringwood one of the best places for a stop off. The Ringwood Public Golf Course is located at 352 Canterbury Road, Ringwood. Telephone 9298 4500.



Maroondah discovered

Life a bore? Go indoor!

Council's Maroondah Indoor Sports Centre (MISC), next to the Ringwood Public Golf Course in Canterbury Road, Ringwood, is another option for your sporting and recreational needs.

Managed by Council's Major Leisure Facilities Unit, which also manages the Ringwood Golf Course, Ringwood Aquatic Centre, Croydon Memorial Pool and the Croydon Leisure Centre, MISC offers four multipurpose courts for netball, basketball, volleyball and other sporting/ recreational opportunities and also provides creche facilities.

Almost 3000 people a week play men's and women's basketball at MISC. It also hosts Bidy Ball and Oz Ball for aspiring youngsters.

For further information about activities and programs offered by MISC, telephone 9876 8399.



Discover our community centres

Did you know that Maroondah has five community centres?

Located throughout the City, community centres offer opportunities to learn, share, grow, meet others, have fun and provide a focal point for community involvement. They are located at:

- Arrabri - Allambanan Drive, Bayswater North. Telephone 9294 7530
- Glen Park - Glen Park Road, Bayswater. Telephone 9294 7525
- Central Ringwood - Bedford Rd, Ringwood. Telephone 9870 2602
- North Ringwood - Oban Road, Ringwood North. Telephone 9876 3421
- Yarrunga - Croydon Hills Drive, Croydon Hills. Telephone 9722 8942

Some of the courses and services offered at our Community Centres are computer courses, writing, arts and crafts, pottery, meditation, child care, sporting activities, hall hire, leisure programs and self development courses.

Discover the courses available at Maroondah's Community Centres by contacting your local venue directly.



Enjoy what Maroondah has to offer! Check out the recreation and leisure activities available throughout the City.

Heritage can mean development

Heritage listing does not mean the property will become a museum, according to Maroondah Councillor Marj Munro.

‘Just because a property is heritage listed does not mean the property cannot be updated or used for other purposes,’ Cr Munro said.

‘Heritage listing can mean a new lease of life for properties which have remained vacant or unused for many years,’ she said.

‘The old Ringwood Fire Station is a terrific example of what can be achieved with a little bit of imagination and creativity. The integrity of the building is intact and that is a major bonus for the owners and for the City,’ Cr Munro said.

For further information about heritage listing, contact Council’s Integrated Planning Unit on 9298 4362.

Maroondah walking to fitness

Get ready to get fit Maroondah, with the Maroondah Walking to Fitness Challenge!

Run by Leisure Services as part of Active Australia Day, the Maroondah Walking to fitness programme starts on Sunday 20 October.

The aim of the programme is to get out and get fit in your own neighbourhood, while also counting how many kilometres Maroondah can walk collectively as a municipality.

The week of walking activities will conclude on Sunday 27 October, Active Australia Day with the Mayoral Community Walk from the Croydon Leisure Centre, Civic Square Croydon from 10am. For more information about the Maroondah Walking to Fitness Challenge, telephone Leisure Services on 9298 4373.



Do you have some spare time?

The Eastern Regional Volunteer Centre (ERVC), based at the Maroondah Federation Estate, services the areas covered by the Cities of Maroondah, and Whitehorse and parts of the Shire of Yarra Ranges.

One of its major roles is in providing transport assistance to the frail, elderly and disabled members of our community and this service is provided in line with the Department of Human Services’ Home and Community Care guidelines. Volunteer drivers are always needed for this service. Drivers may use their own vehicle or consider the option of driving an agency vehicle.

In addition, ERVC provides free training workshops for volunteers and agency staff for anything from an introduction to volunteering, using wheelchair hoists and dealing with depression to basic first aid and working in conservation.

ERVC is the central agency in Maroondah where volunteers are provided with essential information and where their interests and expertise are then matched up with the various agencies requiring the services of volunteers.

If you would like to contribute something more to your community, contact the Eastern Regional Volunteer Centre at the Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood. Telephone 9870 7822.

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.

Cutting use of chemicals in Maroondah

Council’s Chemical Use Policy, adopted in 2001, has seen a reduction in the use of chemicals throughout Maroondah.

As part of the Policy, the Council aims to reduce the use of chemicals which, until recently, were used to remove weeds in public areas.

‘The policy has seen the elimination of the use of chemicals in playgrounds and barbecue areas for weed control. In these cases, herbicides have been replaced with mechanical weed removal or the use of gas burners. Maroondah is the first council in Australia to do this,’ Maroondah Councillor Paul Denham said.

In addition, regular spraying of kerbside weeds has been curtailed to a ‘needs-only’ program, with most edging now mechanically managed.

For further information about the Chemical Use Policy, contact Council on 9294 5680.

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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