

Maroondah *focus*

Your Community Newsletter

December 2002



3 Maroondah's Youth Advisory Group helps put on gigs for other young people.



4 Maroondah's diverse profile revealed in 2001 Census figures.



6 Council's new Eastland Service Centre officially opens on 2 December.



7 Discover Wyreena Community Arts Centre and all it has to offer.

Mayor's Message

Welcome to the November edition of the Maroondah Focus magazine.

It's been a very busy couple of months for our community and I have been delighted to be involved in the many activities conducted by so many clubs and groups within our community.

I recently attended the launch of a new website for Donwood Community Aged Care Services, where their new corporate identity was also launched (below). The logo and website were created with the assistance of some Deakin University students, who set up the website and developed the new logo. What a fantastic website – put together with very little money, with the students volunteering their time to create it. I encourage you to visit the site at www.donwood.com.au and congratulate all those involved in putting it together.

I also encourage you to visit Council's website at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au, which has been recently updated and has a whole new look. We are constantly looking for ways to give our community the best on-line Council service available.

Maroondah is one of five Councils participating in a pilot Local Government Online Services Web and Intranet Enablement Project, coordinated by the Municipal Association of Victoria.

The aim of the Project is to develop web sites that are effective and user-friendly and which can be applied quickly and economically to other councils.

You will also find on the back page of this Focus newsletter an article and return form regarding Croydon Rotary Club's efforts to raise money to eradicate polio. Croydon Rotary has a long history of providing assistance to many local groups and the focus for this fundraising effort is overseas aid. If you can help by providing a donation, or perhaps you are able to attend our joint golf day, we will welcome your involvement.

I'd like to remind you of some dates for your diary over summer:

14 December, Carols by Candlelight, Ainslie Park, Brentnall Road, Croydon from 8pm.

26 January, Australia Day, Ringwood Lake, Maroondah Highway, Ringwood from 10am.

16 February, Maroondah Festival, Town Park, Mt Dandenong Road, Croydon from 10am.

And finally, may I take this opportunity, on behalf of my fellow Councillors, to wish you and your families a very happy and safe festive season. See you in the new year!



Councillor Frank Corr

Morning Music 2003

The program for the 2003 Maroondah Morning Music Series has been confirmed with a smorgasbord of stars due to tread the boards at the Karralyka Theatre.

The Gaslight Company's performance of 'HMS Pinafore' will start off the Morning Music Series on 11 March, to be followed by Australian music legend Barry Crocker on 6 May.

Denis Walter will showcase his singing prowess on 22 July, while Ivan Richardson will present his interactive 'The Silent Picture Show' on 26 August.

Audience favourite Denise Drysdale will appear on 7 October while 60's rocker and Young Talent Time legend Johnny Young and his band will perform on 2 December.



Morning Music is made possible by the generous sponsorship of Bernies Musicland, Primelife, Young at Heart holidays, Maroondah Home Healthcare and Maroondah Leisure.

Morning Music ticket prices, which include refreshments, are available at a cost of \$14.50 single and concession, or \$12.50 for groups of 10 or more.

For further information about the Karralyka's Morning Music Series or to make enquiries about next year's program, please telephone 9870 2888.

Morning Music favourite Denis Walter during this year's performance.

New Ringwood Blood Donor Centre

Due to the overwhelming community support for blood donation in the Eastern suburbs, Australian Red Cross Blood Service - Victoria will be replacing the monthly mobile unit visits to Forest Hill, Heathmont and Mitcham with a permanent Blood Donation Centre in Ringwood

Opening in December 2002, the centre will be located at unit 1, 38 Charter Street Ringwood and will be open five days a week. The centre is located close to public transport and car parking is available on site.

The Blood Service needs approximately 50 donors to the new site on a daily basis to help sustain healthy blood stock levels for Victoria's hospitals. To make your donation, call 13 14 95 to make an appointment to save lives today!

Disappointment at Scoresby decision

A further 18 month delay in the construction of the Eastern Freeway, which will see the merging of the Eastern and Scoresby Freeways to become the Mitcham-Frankston Freeway, is disappointing, according to Maroondah Mayor Cr Frank Corr.

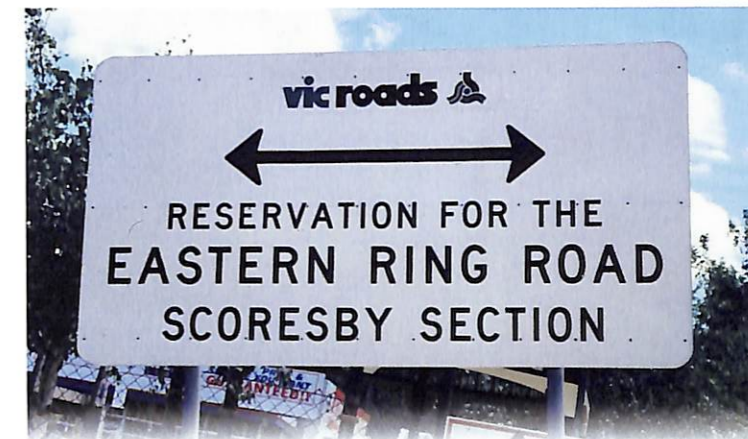
'We're very disappointed with the decision to delay construction of the Eastern Freeway, which effectively means more traffic congestion in Maroondah,' Cr Corr said.

'The estimated 18 month delay will result in increased traffic congestion, particularly on Springvale Road, Maroondah Highway through Ringwood and local roads, congestion residents and drivers are now having to put up with for longer than the original time frame for completion, which was mid to late 2005,' Cr Corr said.

Cr Corr said the delay also raises issues associated with the development of both the Scoresby and Eastern Freeways, including decisions on northerly off-ramps at Maroondah Highway, the form of the connection of the Freeway to the Ringwood Bypass, the location of the proposed ventilation stacks for the tunnel and the need for ramps at Park Road.

'Obviously we're looking for answers on all of those issues because our rate payers demand it and have been very supportive of the development of both freeways,' he said.

'We wanted to ensure that the opening of the freeway can be managed so that traffic will flow beyond Ringwood, as was Council's original preference. It will just take longer to achieve that now, it seems,' Cr Corr said.



Doin' it for themselves

EV's Youth Centre, Maroondah City Council's youth venue has recruited its new Youth Advisory Group (YAG) members for 2002/03.

The YAG is made up of 12 young people aged between 15 and 20 years. All members of the YAG are musicians, who are highly enthusiastic about music and putting on all-ages drug and alcohol free music events at EV's Youth Centre in Croydon.

Participating in the Group allows them an opportunity to meet new friends and get invaluable hands-on experience in the music industry.

A Council Youth Programs Worker facilitates the work of the YAG, which is jointly funded by Council and FReeZA, a State Government program aimed at providing drug and alcohol free events for young people.

Maroondah Councillor Peter Gurr said members of the YAG had undergone extensive training for their roles.

'All YAG members also receive compulsory training in PA system use, lighting, event management, budgeting, promotions and communication skills,' Cr Gurr said.

'The whole experience gives these young people an excellent work experience opportunity where they get to implement their ideas and use new skills,' he added.

'The group will stage around 15 events for up to 4,000 other young people throughout their one-year term,' he said.

EV's Youth Centre is located at 212 Mt Dandenong Road, Croydon. For more information regarding the YAG, telephone 9298 4252.



Just some of the musical members of this year's Youth Advisory Group who conduct gigs at EV's Youth Centre.



A Snapshot of Maroondah

Recent numbers released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics following the 2001 Census reveal a diverse profile of Maroondah.

The amount of people living in Maroondah on census night (7 August 2001) was 96,461, comprising 49,727 females and 46,734 males.

You may be surprised to learn that Maroondah has 14 people over the age of 100 years! There are also 123 people between the age of 95 and 99 years.

We have 15.7 per cent of the population over the age of 60, whilst almost 14 per cent are under the age of 10 years. Just under 16 per cent of our population are aged between 30 and 39 years and the median age of Maroondah residents was 35 years.

People over the age of 15 years in Maroondah are more likely to be married (52.2%), however, there is another 30.4% who are single or who have never married.

Other key facts about the lifestyles of Maroondah residents are that one quarter attend some form of educational institution full or part-time and that 50 per cent of residents state they use a computer at home.

Almost 77% of Maroondah residents were born in Australia, followed by 7.2% from the United Kingdom and 1.2% from New Zealand. All other countries nominated, including Netherlands, Germany, South Africa, India, China, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, were each represented by less than 1,000 people.

Of all residents surveyed, 88% speak English at home. The next most common languages spoken at home were Chinese (1.1%) and Italian (1%).

The results of the Census are used for future planning by Maroondah City Council. For further detailed information, contact Community Planning on 9298 4324.



Councillor Marj Munro advises that you turn off taps where possible and fix leaks.

Reduce your

We in Maroondah now have to be even more water aware since the introduction of level 1 water restrictions.

Water is one of the most important natural resources on earth. It is also one that is most often taken for granted.

'An average home uses 240,000 litres of water a year and surprisingly, 36% of this is used on the garden,' Maroondah Councillor and member of the Maroondah Environmental Consultative Committee, Marj Munro said.

'Other areas of high use are 24% litres in the bathroom, 19% in the toilet, 5% in the kitchen and 16% in the laundry,' she said.

Summer events

Three Free Opus 21 Big Band Concerts

Grab your picnic rug, some sunscreen and some cool drinks and head down to the Ringwood Lake Soundshell on Sundays 19 January, 23 February and 16 March, 2003 to hear three free performances by the Opus 21 Big Band.

The performances of big band classics will run from 1.00pm to 4.30pm. For further information, contact 9894 1511.

Carols by Candlelight 2002

Saturday 14 December is the date for this year's Maroondah Carols by Candlelight celebrations.

This free evening of family entertainment will be packed with local talent and will also feature the Australian Children's Choir, the Maroondah Singers and a special guest from the North Pole!

This free family event will be held from 8pm, at Ainslie Park, located next to Maroondah Secondary College, Brentnall Road, off Maroondah Highway, Croydon. For more information, contact Leisure Services on 9298 4380.



Our Youth Advisory Group, where members of the group stage events at EV's Youth Centre, was again a popular and successful activity providing training in event management, audio-visual, promotion and 'hands on' involvement in all aspects of planning and management of all-ages drug and alcohol free events.

Maroondah is committed to assisting our business community and won major Federal funding to develop a program to address skills shortages in the local automotive manufacturing industry. The program will create a strategy to attract younger people into the automotive sector and we hope it will be used as a model for other regions.

During the year, Council worked with businesses to strengthen business in Maroondah by providing opportunities for networking, training and business growth.

2001 was a special year for volunteers in Maroondah. To mark 2001 as the United Nations' International Year of Volunteers, a sundial was constructed in honour of our volunteers' valuable work.

We were pleased to celebrate the first birthday of Maroondah Federation Estate. There were around 40,000 visits in its first year and a number of community groups are now permanently based there.

The complete Annual Report is available on Maroondah City Council Web Site at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au or at any of Council's Service Centres.

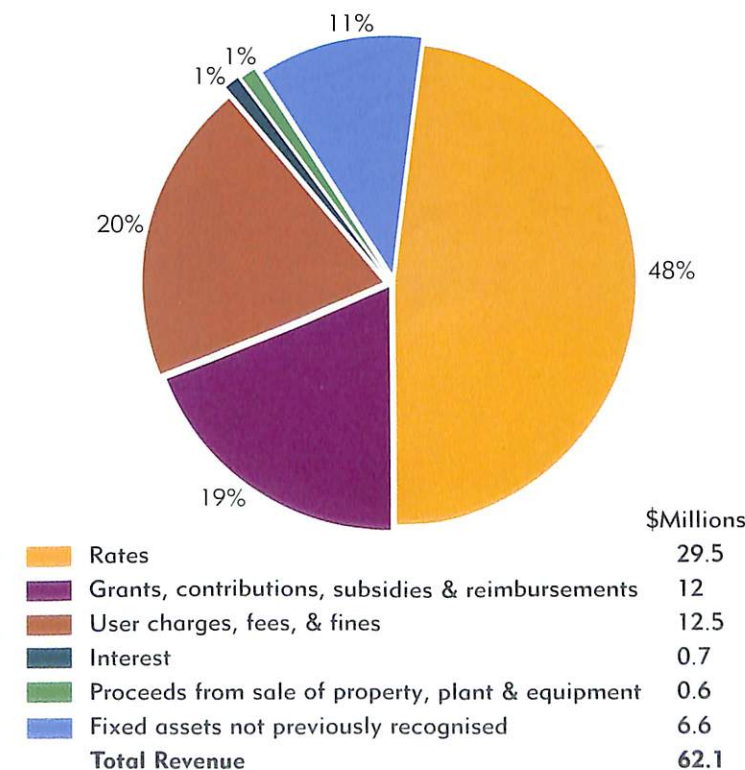
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Maroondah's Financial Performance

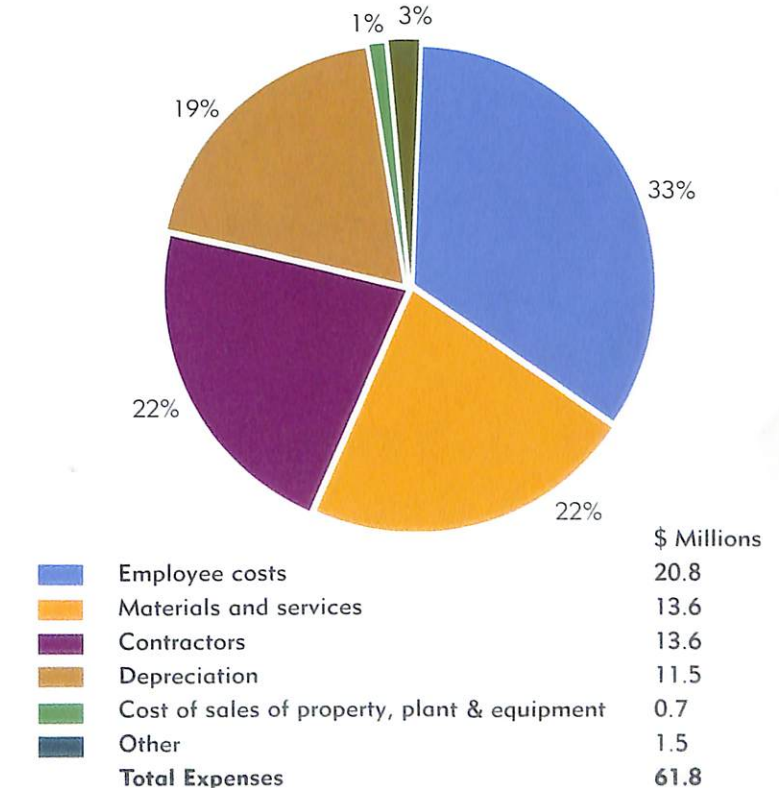
TOTAL REVENUE

The following graph displays the income related to operating all Council activities during the year.



TOTAL EXPENDITURE

The following graph displays the costs associated with Council operations and activities during the year – but excluding the costs of construction and purchase of assets such as land, buildings, roads and equipment.



Maroondah's 2002 - 2005 Corporate Plan

Maroondah's Corporate Plan outlines the directions that Council will follow to achieve the community's vision as detailed in the Strategic Plan, Maroondah 2025: A Community Planning Together.

The Corporate Plan sets out Council's strategies for the next three years and takes into account what Council needs to undertake in these three years to achieve our long-term vision. The Corporate Plan is reviewed every year to ensure it reflects changing times and needs.

The Corporate Plan and Maroondah 2025 documents are based on our community-created vision that Maroondah will be a vibrant city. It will have an active community, a strong local economy and a diverse cultural life in a prosperous and sustainable environment.

In creating this vision, the community developed a framework of key issues facing the municipality and distilled these into six key community themes:

Community:

Maroondah will have a network of agencies committed to the provision of a comprehensive range of high quality, accessible and cost effective services and facilities which meet community needs, promote community wellbeing and respect individual dignity.

Natural Environment:

Maroondah will be a leading advocate in the provision of a sustainable environment that enriches the community's quality of life by conserving, managing and enhancing our natural environment through innovative approaches and education.

Urban Design and Development:

Maroondah will foster development of distinct urban forms with a variety of land uses, visual designs and housing types which offer an attractive environment, value the municipality's diverse heritage and assist in creating the community's sense of place.

Leisure & Culture:

Maroondah will maximise opportunities for choice, involvement in and access to quality culture and leisure experiences.

Economic Development and Employment:

Maroondah will have a vigorous local economy based on environmentally sustainable and socially responsible practices that attract business investment, support growth and promote employment within the municipality.

Transport:

Maroondah will facilitate the safe, effective and efficient movement of people and goods using all modes of transport as appropriate whilst achieving a balance between the costs and benefits of travel in a manner, which addresses the community's social, environmental and economic values.

To move the vision to reality, each of these themes must have a number of strategies to achieve our community's vision. Maroondah City Council's Corporate Plan is the tool to achieve our community vision. The Corporate Plan also includes Council's commitment to the Best Value Program, our Annual Business Plan and a summary of Council's Long Term Financial Strategy.

The complete Corporate Plan is available at Council Service Centres and on Council's website at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au

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

Main Street Service Centre
50 Main Street, Croydon

Eastland Service Centre
Level 2, Shop G104, Eastland Shopping Centre,
Maroondah Highway, Ringwood

Civic Square Service Centre
Civic Square, Croydon

Maroondah On Line
Visit us on line at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au

Published by Maroondah City Council.
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Our water use

'You can cut your water use and reduce your water bills by improving your water efficiency,' she said.

In the garden:

- only water lawn twice a week to encourage its roots to spread deeper
- don't cut grass shorter than 2cm
- don't wash down your driveway and footpaths with a water hose
- install water timers on taps
- water at cool times.

In the bathroom:

- use a glass of water to rinse your mouth after brushing teeth
- install a 'AAA' rated shower head
- take shorter showers
- repair leaks to toilets and taps
- replace single flush toilets with a dual flush toilet.

In the kitchen and laundry:

- avoid leaving taps running (use a half-filled sink if you need to clean food or clothes)
- don't rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher
- ensure you have full loads when using your washing machine and dishwasher.

'All these options not only save you water, but in the long run, they save you money too,' Cr Munro said.

For further information about saving water, contact Yarra Valley Water on 131 721.

Protecting your privacy

Victoria's Information Privacy Act came in to force in September, regulating the way Victorian government agencies, local councils and their contracted service providers collect and handle personal information.

Maroondah City Councillor, Les Willmott, said the Privacy Act was part of a trend towards clearer privacy protection in the face of technologies which brought both benefits and risks.

'These technologies, as well as the increasing need for general security, means that we are constantly being asked for personal information, and we need to be sure that it is stored safely and used ethically, without invading our privacy,' said Cr Willmott.

'The Information Privacy Act gives Victorians new privacy rights, and now requires local councils to protect the use and disclosure of personal information,' he said.

'It puts processes in place for things like property information, building permit applications, and health information – what can be recorded and who has access to that information,' said Cr Willmott.

'It also means, for instance, that you can access information about yourself or your property to determine what that information is and if that information is correct,' he said.

'The core of the Information Privacy Act is the 10 Information Privacy Principles,' he said. 'Basically they can be summarised as: 'the right information, to the right people, for the right reason, in the right way, at the right time', Cr Willmott said.

A Victorian government website is available to provide information about the Information Privacy Act. Access it at www.privacy.vic.gov.au.

For further information contact Council's Privacy Officer on 9298 4211.

Child's Play

Barbara Davidson was recently surprised and delighted to realise that she has looked after over 400 children in her career as a Maroondah Family Day Care provider.

'Eighteen years is a long time in any job, but over 400 children in my care sounds about right,' Barbara said.

'I've loved my time as a Family Day Care provider – I've met so many families and made so many friends and the children are great to spend time with,' Barbara said.

On a recent visit to thank Barbara for her service prior to her retirement, Maroondah Mayor Cr Frank Corr heard first hand how well organised and vital the role of Careprovider with Maroondah Family Day Care is to the community.

The Mayor also learned that Barbara was one of Maroondah's very first child carers, starting her work in 1984. She is currently caring for twin boys, four days a week.

The role of Careprovider is one that involves the whole family as the children are cared for in private homes and can be there from early morning into late afternoon, depending on the needs of the parents. Barbara, like most Careproviders provides a range of appropriate activities and even takes the children on occasional excursions to parks, libraries or the local shop as part of a day's activities.



Maroondah Mayor Cr Frank Corr with Barbara Davidson and Trent, one of the many children Barbara has cared for over the past 18 years.

'Congratulations to Barbara on her impending retirement and thank you for your years of service to the Maroondah community,' Cr Corr said.

Maroondah Family Day Care operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, though most of the care operates around parents' busy schedules.

You may also have an interest in becoming a carer yourself – Family Day Care would be pleased to hear from you – or you may need to use our service, call Maroondah Family Day Care on 9298 4301.

Closing the loop

Maroondah's commitment to the environment is stronger than ever with the introduction of the sale of mulch to residents.

Soilpower currently collects green organics from 20 municipalities throughout Victoria, including Maroondah. Once collected, Soilpower grinds and composts the green organics and transforms this valuable resource into value-added mulch, compost and soil.

Maroondah City Council has joined with Soilpower to provide this mulch for sale at the Council's Depot in Croydon.

Maroondah Councillor and member of the Maroondah Environmental Consultative Committee Paul Denham encouraged residents to take up the recycling message.

'This program is effectively closing the loop in the recycling process and our residents are actively contributing to it. Their garden organics end up being the mulch which is used on local gardens. It really is about acting locally and having a global impact,' Cr Denham said.

'Getting behind mulching is really a fantastic way to help the environment. Mulching will protect your garden, revive your soil and help your garden survive the drought,' he said.

The Soilpower Mulch is available in 30 litre bags for just \$6. Powermulch – mulch with added manure – is also available in 30 litre bags for just \$8. The mulch is on sale at Council's Depot, 28 Lincoln Road, Croydon, open 8.30am to 5pm, weekdays.

For further information, contact Council's Waste Management Service on 9294 5666.



Maroondah Councillor Paul Denham mulches his garden with the Soilpower mulch.

Australia Day 2003

Arrangements for Australia Day are well underway with plans for community involvement at Ringwood Lake on Australia's big day.

Celebrations for 26 January, 2003 will include the annual Australia Day Awards which include the Citizen of the Year, the Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year.

'It will also include a citizenship presentation, a flag raising ceremony, musical entertainment and activities for the whole family,' said Maroondah Councillor Maureen Naylor.

'So bring along your picnic from 10am on 26 January and join in the celebrations for Australia Day 2003,' she added.

For further information, please contact Leisure Services on 9298 4380.

At your service at Eastland office

Council's Ringwood Mall Service Centre will officially move to new premises from Monday 2 December, 2003.

The Service Centre is moving to Eastland Shopping Centre, and will be located at Level 2, Shop G104, just opposite Medicare.

You'll notice the same friendly faces and helpful staff, who are more than willing to assist you with your Council business.

Along with our new Service Centre at Eastland, at all our Service Centres you may pay your rates, get information on Council activities and services and lodge questions for Council question time.

Our Service Centres also have a wide variety of community information available for residents.

Council's four Service Centres are listed on page 8 of this Focus magazine. To telephone Customer Service or any Council service area, telephone 1300 88 22 33.



Maroondah discovered

Wyreena Community Arts Centre

Come along and experience all that Wyreena has to offer.

Wyreena Community Arts Centre is one of Maroondah's well-known treasures.

Set in five acres of elegant gardens, the historic buildings of the Centre feature a gallery and art shop that exhibit works by emerging and established artists.

Adjoining the gallery is a stunning classic English-style glass conservatory which operates as a café and is also available for private and public functions.

The Centre has a long established arts program offering classes in many mediums and is home to a range of community groups including the Croydon School of Dance and Eastern FM.

Wyreena has a range of fun and interesting activities running over the summer. Here is just a sample:



Community radio station Eastern FM produces shows and transmits from Wyreena.

'Movies under the stars'

Wyreena will once again feature movies in the gardens in the months of January and March. For session details, contact Wyreena on 9294 5590.



Wyreena offers all types of craft classes.

Christmas Gift Exhibition 4 - 18 December

Wyreena Gallery

Hours - 10am - 4pm Weekdays & 12-5pm Saturdays

Christmas shopping is a pleasure when you visit Wyreena's Gallery. All gifts are unique as they have been created by local artists.



Painting is just one of the many pursuits on offer at Wyreena.

Music Cafe - 28 February

Jerome Smith (Blues, Reggae and Country Musician)

Wyreena features a diverse array of musicians on the last Friday of each month. Be a part of the relaxing music environment in The Conservatory Café. \$18 per person includes a light supper. More artists will feature throughout 2003. Bookings Essential: Phone 9294 5590.

Wyreena Community Arts Centre is located at 13-23 Hull Road, Croydon. For bookings or further information about any of the activities, phone 9294 5590.

