

# Maroondah focus

Your Community Newsletter

11418 NWD 02-03-02 Box 6

May  
2003



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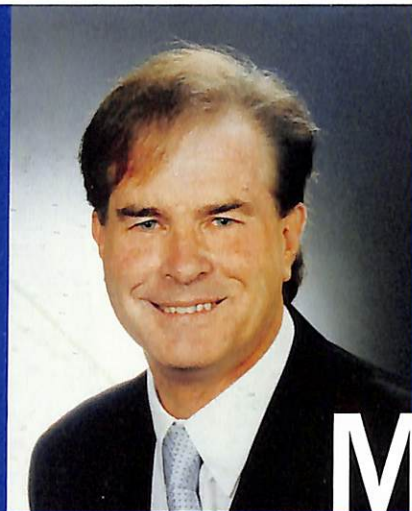


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Warm up with

# Winter Arts

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# Mayor's Message

by Les Willmott

Welcome to the May edition of *Focus*, and my first as your new Mayor.

I am very honoured to be representing my community again as a Councillor and to also be serving as Mayor this year. I am looking forward to a busy and productive term.

The year ahead will certainly present many challenges to Council. Of major concern is the recent State Government announcement to impose a toll on the Mitcham to Frankston Freeway. Council is outraged at this decision. Maroondah fought strongly for the designation of the Freeway as a road of national importance (RONI) in order to attract federal funding which may now be lost. Tolling the freeway will also lead to obvious congestion in Maroondah and may also impact on attracting businesses and residential investment. On-going canvassing and advocacy on the freeway issues will be high on Council's agenda and we will be calling on our community to lend their support.

Also of tremendous importance is our recent submission to the Planning Minister Mary Delahunty to limit high rise in Maroondah. The submission seeks to retain our particular neighbourhood character alongside the Government's planning blueprint. This is particularly important at this time with the recent release of the key planning document "2030" where the Government planners have identified activity centres for high density living precincts.

Equally important are the Croydon Civic Precinct and the Ringwood Town Centre projects. Both of these will affect the character and life of our municipality and consultation is continuing, to ensure further community involvement.

Aside from important planning issues, there are the numerous initiatives and activities that contribute to the fabric of our community. Again we will be actively encouraging our volunteers and seeking to recognise their extremely valuable contribution along the way. Our arts and leisure precincts are always popular and active, especially now with the Winter Arts Festival approaching and our groups and clubs have a year long calendar of activities and services that deserve to have the support of Council.

With the myriad of wonderful activities ahead and with such a supportive community it is a pleasure to serve as a Councillor and as Mayor, and I look forward to the many community gatherings and celebrations.

## Council - advocating for our community

### Accolades for Council's Home Care Campaign

Maroondah City Council's Home & Community Care Advocacy Campaign has been awarded the Local Government Professionals 2003 Excellence Award.

"This is a tremendous honour for Maroondah. It acknowledges the high standards and professionalism of our staff and also the involvement of our community," Mayor Cr Les Willmott said.

"The award recognised the success of our campaign and that kind of success is only possible when a community and Council work closely on an issue."

The award was given in recognition of Council's efforts to raise awareness, especially at State and Federal Government level, of the serious lack of government funding for vital community home care services through its Home & Community Care Advocacy Campaign.

"Our advocacy campaign sought to simply and clearly explain this very complex issue and the impact reduced government funding was having on Council's ability to continue to provide the existing levels of service," he said.

"Council's Community Service staff regularly deal with the human face of HACC services and Council is well aware of those in our community in need of support. It's a tribute to Council staff that they manage to help so many. In line with our firm commitment to community support, Council provides significant funding to bridge the gap and provide services well above what is attainable with government funding alone," Cr Willmott said.

The campaign highlighted that individuals eligible for home or community care are assessed on an as needs basis and that services can often be restricted due to the funding formula applied by Federal Government.

"There is just not enough to go around without significant input of



Maroondah Chief Executive Officer Mike Marasco and Mayor Cr Les Willmott proudly display the LGPro Excellence Award for Advocacy.

Council funds and it is an issue that affects all municipalities. Our advocacy campaign sent a very strong message to the Minister for Aged Care and the responsible agencies," Cr Willmott said.

"Making sure the Minister was aware of the seriousness of the issue was the outcome of our advocacy campaign and a petition, with more than 3,000 signatures was sent off to the Minister to demonstrate how serious we considered this issue to be in Maroondah."

"Congratulations to the staff of Community Services and Public Affairs and Communication for their hard work, and thank you to the community for their support."

## Dorset Golf Course returns to Council management

In March, Council announced the return of Dorset Golf Course to internal management. The golf course, in Trawalla Road, Croydon, is a public golfing facility owned by Council.

Following a Best Value golf review, the course became part of Council's Maroondah Leisure Facilities and joined five other leisure facilities offering a range of multi-facility membership packages.

Cr Maureen Naylor said: "This move was great news for Maroondah Leisure members and all of the Maroondah community who use this service. It will see a refurbishment of the golf shop and services areas, offering a new lease of life to the buildings."

"Public golf courses are significant community assets which play a role in maintaining the health and wellbeing of the community. It is important they be used at an optimum level and we believe this move will enable Council to best achieve that," Cr Naylor said.

Dorset Golf Course is an 18 hole, par 70 public golf course of 5,296 metres, offering views across to the Dandenong Ranges and providing an enjoyable social golfing experience.

Council will now integrate into its range of services and programs all six of Council's major leisure facilities — Ringwood Golf Course, Ringwood Aquatic Centre, Maroondah Indoor Sports Centre, Croydon Memorial Pool, Croydon Leisure Centre, and with Dorset Golf Course.



At play on Dorset Golf Course.

## Changing our rating system

By now residents, businesses and ratepayers of Maroondah should have received information on the proposed change from the current Site Value rating system to a new Capital Improved Value rating system.

At its meeting on 5 May, Council considered a proposal to move to a Capital Improved Value rating system. An information leaflet *Important Community Information — Proposed Changes to the Rating System for Maroondah* was delivered to all residents and businesses, setting out the proposed changes.

The present Site Value Rating no longer serves the interests of the Maroondah community. It is causing inequity between different sectors of the community by distributing rates on a land value only. It assumes no improvements have been made to the land, such as houses, shops or factories. Site Value was suitable to the municipality while it was developing, but it is no longer appropriate as Maroondah is now well established.

Site Value does not distinguish between a simple dwelling, a block of units or substantially developed properties on a same size block. Site Value is not a fair system as it only considers land value. Those who live in an average home are Site Value rated the same as a same sized property with a number of units on a single site.

Maroondah is one of only three Councils throughout Victoria now using the Site Value system.

A Capital Improved Value system takes into account the total value of the property including all land, buildings and improvements. It is easily understood because values relate to market value. It is a fairer approach as properties are rated on their true use — whether modest dwellings, block of flats or units, or substantially up-graded or developed properties.

Based solely on the proposed change from Site Value to Capital Improved Value, 55.3 per cent of Maroondah ratepayers will pay less. Council is proposing to extend the relief it provides, particularly to eligible pensioners, and to those for whom the change of rating system may cause financial hardship.

A change to CIV rating will not of itself increase the revenue from rates to Council. The change from one system to the other will be set to be revenue neutral.

Council is receiving submissions on the proposed change until Friday 6 June 2003. Submissions can be mailed to Maroondah City Council, PO Box 156, Ringwood 3134, hand delivered to any of Council's Service Centres or emailed to [maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au)

If you would like to discuss the proposed changes, or would like to ask for an additional copy of the information leaflet, the Service Centre staff can help. Contact details are on the back of *Focus*. If you have specific technical queries, the Service Centre staff can refer you to appropriate officers in Revenue Services.

## Are you pet owner of the year?

Cr Paul Denham recently met one of Maroondah's responsible pet owners, Elsbeth Wasiak, and her dog Pixie to congratulate her on being the first monthly winner of Council's Responsible Pet Ownership Competition.

Mrs Wasiak was nominated by Council's rangers for meeting all the criteria on the rangers' checklist of responsible pet owner actions when she was spotted out walking Pixie in Warranwood.

Cr Denham congratulated Mrs Wasiak and said being a pet owner was a big responsibility.

"Mrs Wasiak has shown she was taking this commitment seriously by walking her dog on a lead, having a current registration tag on Pixie's collar, carrying bags to clean up after her, actually using the bag to clean up, and having Pixie under effective control," he said.

"The competition aims to raise awareness of the issues of owning a pet and being responsible for it at all times. Dogs should always be contained within the owner's property and owners are actually responsible for their pets' actions even when they are not with them," Cr Denham said.

The competition continues until the end of the year. Weekly winners will be selected, to win prizes such as leashes, pet food vouchers, vet vouchers and free micro-chipping and monthly winners will be selected to receive a \$100 voucher. The overall pet owner of the year will be selected from the monthly winners to receive a \$500 voucher for pet-related goods and services.



Cr Paul Denham presents Pixie and Elsbeth Wasiak with a \$100 gift voucher.

## Setting goals by our Corporate Plan

Each year, Maroondah City Council produces a Corporate Plan which sets clear directions and goals for the City's future.

To ensure the goals and objectives outlined in the Corporate Plan are relevant and responsive to community needs and aspirations, Council is calling for community input into the development of the draft document.

Community consultation began at a public forum held earlier this month, at which individuals and representatives of community groups were invited to make comments on the draft document.

Further input into the Plan is encouraged, so have your say in the future direction of our City by submitting written comments and submissions on the draft by 6 June.

For a copy of the Draft Plan, contact Council's Corporate Planner Karen Crook on 9298 4218, call at one of Council's Service Centres or visit Council's website at [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au)

## Taking care of business in Maroondah

Through its Business Development Unit, Maroondah City Council offers business owners and managers in Maroondah a range of opportunities to develop their businesses and operate more efficiently and effectively.

### Maroondah Business Week

8 to 17 October

Maroondah Business Week 2003 promises a wide range of activities and events for Maroondah business owners and will again be based around the Maroondah Business Breakfast Series and the Maroondah Business Excellence Awards.

The week will kick off with the final of the Maroondah Business Breakfast series, including a high profile guest speaker.

A highlight of the week will also be the appearance of Christine Nixon, Chief Commissioner of the Victoria Police who will speak at the Women in Business Luncheon.

This year's event also offers a series of business-focused workshops which will be conducted over the course of the week and will include speakers on topics such as:

- Marketing Your Business
- Retailing
- Running a Home-based Business.

For further information on Maroondah Business Week contact Council's Business Development Unit on 9298 4320.

### Celebrate the success of your business!

#### Maroondah Business Excellence Awards

Friday 17 October

Now in their ninth year, the Maroondah Business Excellence Awards have played a key role in promoting and celebrating the success of businesses within Maroondah.

The Maroondah Business Excellence Awards will be presented at the Maroondah Business Dinner on Friday 17 October.

All businesses operating in the City of Maroondah are eligible for nomination for an award in one of the following categories:

- Best Micro Business
- Best Small-Medium Business
- Best Large Business
- Women in Business
- Encouragement Award
- Best Maroondah Business

Nominees are encouraged to consider the elements that make their business unique and successful and use this program as a means to promote their product or service to a broader market. The 2003 program has been reviewed to simplify the process for

eligible businesses, and to encourage more local firms to nominate.

Previous years' winners have been able to market their success, and use this honour as a means of distinguishing their firm from other local businesses. Notably, all successful nominees receive extensive publicity including: a profile in Council's *Business Matters* newsletter (which is distributed to more than 4,500 local businesses), recognition at Council's bi-monthly business breakfasts and local press coverage.

For further information or to receive a nomination form please contact Leanne Anderson on 9298 4335 or email [landerso@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:landerso@maroondah.vic.gov.au)

### Support for home-based businesses

For business owners currently operating a home-based business, and for people looking to establish a new home-based business in Maroondah, Council offers a number of opportunities for support.

Maroondah Homebiz, the highly successful Maroondah home-based business network, offers new strategies, novel business ideas, and the professional support of other members of the network.

The group meets regularly and offers avenues for people who might be working in relative isolation at their home offices, to meet other home-based business operators in their area. Visit the Maroondah Homebiz website at [www.homebiz.org.au](http://www.homebiz.org.au)

The *Better Business Kit* is a practical resource that guides existing business owners and beginners through the maze of information and requirements for running a business from home. Developed as a tool for use in any stage of business development and especially geared to starting a business from scratch, the Kit includes information on:

- Business Networks
- Business Statistics
- Training Programs; and
- Occupational Health & Safety

For information on Maroondah Homebiz or for a copy of the *Better Business Kit*, contact Council's Business Liaison Officer Josephine Lo Presti on 9298 4278 or email [jpresti@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:jpresti@maroondah.vic.gov.au)

## Keep our streets safe

Maroondah City Council's *Not So Fast* program, which will run from May until August, aims to raise awareness of the 50km/h speed limit in residential streets and encourage drivers to reduce their speed.

As part of the campaign, motorists will be able to check their speed at a number of locations over the next few months. A speed detector trailer, placed at problem spots throughout the City, will register the speed of passing cars and indicate to the driver the speed at which they are actually driving.

Cr Joe Cossari said: "We all have a responsibility to adhere to the speed limits and not only reduce the risk of accidents, but, also reduce the impact of an accident should it unfortunately occur."

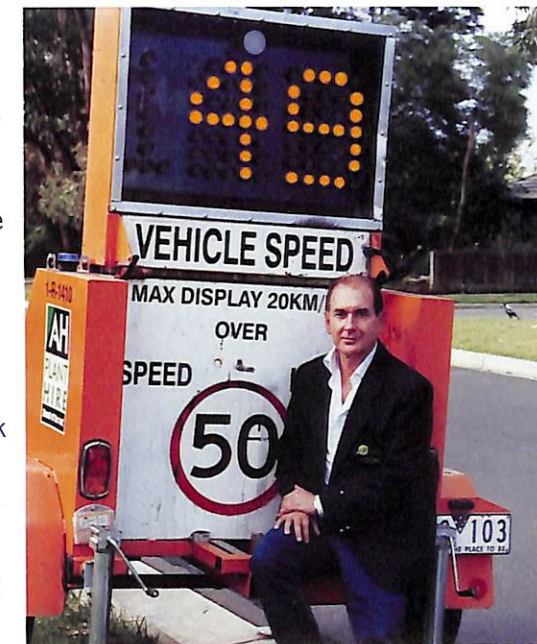
"While the main message is to slow down to avoid crashes, speed reduction is also directly linked to the survival of crash victims. For example, VicRoads studies show the level of injury in a 60km/h crash is four times the level of a 30 km/h crash."

"If a pedestrian is hit by a vehicle at 30 km/h, there's a 90 per cent chance of survival. This survival rate diminishes with increases in speed so that a pedestrian hit at 50km/h, has only a 20 per cent chance of survival, while at 60km/h, there is virtually no chance of survival," Cr Cossari said.

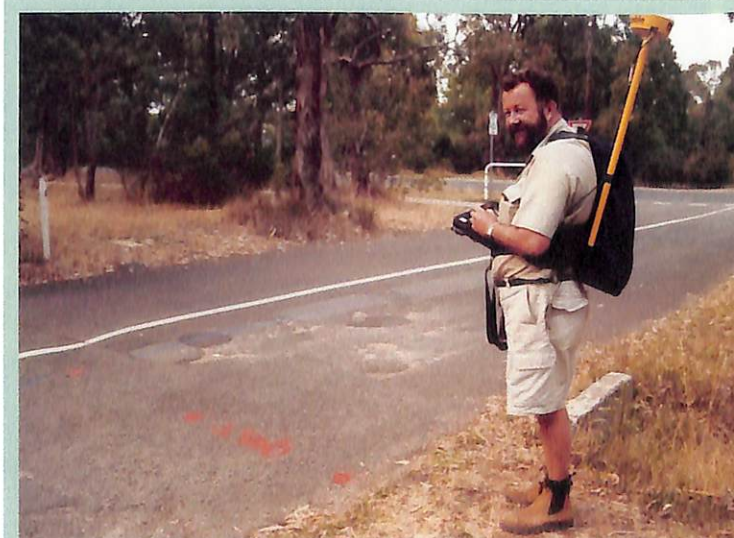
He said the *Not So Fast* campaign is a jointly funded initiative by Council and VicRoads and would be implemented across a number of municipalities. It is being supported by visible police enforcement and is designed to also encourage motorists to be aware of areas where pedestrians are particularly vulnerable.

"Drivers need to take extra care around schools, kindergartens, retirement villages and shopping strips, where more pedestrians are inclined to be unpredictable when crossing roads."

Ideally, the results of the *Not So Fast* initiative will show a reduction in the incidence of local accidents, reflecting a change in driver attitude towards speed in built up areas.



Cr Joe Cossari with the speed detector trailer.



## Mapping system to speed infrastructure repair

Assessing and identifying hazards and repair works in the City of Maroondah has been streamlined with the implementation of a handheld mapping system.

Cr Peter Gurr said the Asset Condition Monitoring System, which operates with a pen top computer and satellite positioning equipment, enables the better location, monitoring and programming of repairs and reinstatements to footpaths and road pavements.

"Ageing infrastructure has become an issue for many local government areas, and Maroondah City Council is leading the way with its proactive approach to hazard minimisation."

Street Furniture and Linemarking Officer Ron Terrill — meeting challenges with new skills and new equipment.

"This system will mean the City's roads and pavements are inspected more frequently and more accurately and will enable Council to take a more proactive approach to its maintenance programs — reducing the need for residents to call," Cr Gurr said.

"Using the information keyed into the database in the field, our trained officers can assess and interpret the information in a more global light — checking trends and patterns City-wide. This more integrated approach will mean more comprehensive data and thus better forward planning and strategies," he said.

"The system is now being used to audit the City's roads and footpaths, but it has many more applications for use in parks and gardens to assess the condition of trees and facilities," Cr Gurr said.

# Introducing your Maroondah Councillors

Following the Council elections on 15 March, Maroondah has a new Council and we are pleased to introduce them to you in their wards.

## Peter Gurr — Arrabri

A Maroondah resident for over 30 years, Peter has extensive experience in senior management plus 13 years experience operating his own business. Cr Gurr is a member of Council's Audit Committee, the Maroondah Tourism Advisory Board, the Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation, the Leisure and Culture Panel, the Ringwood Town Centre Working Group, the Arrabri Community Centre Special Committee, and the Maroondah Partners in Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee. Peter is married to Helen, and has a son currently serving in the police force. He has served on Council for six years. Peter can be contacted on mobile 0417 377 145.



Peter Gurr often takes time out to visit Arrabri where community groups and individuals can take up hobby and educational classes. "It's always a-buzz with activity and such a popular centre."

## Paul Denham — Clocktower

After eight years as a member of the Victoria Police Force, Paul joined a Ringwood-based leather furniture and automotive trim repairs firm as area manager in 1999.

As a Councillor, Paul is also a member of the Grants Panel, the Maroondah Environmental Consultative Committee, and is a Council delegate to the Melbourne 2030 Committee. Paul, wife Melinda and their three children live in Ringwood. In his leisure time, he enjoys gardening and spending time with his young family. Cr Denham joined Maroondah Council in 2002 at a by-election and was re-elected as Clocktower Ward Councillor for a

new three-year term. Paul's contact number is mobile 0417 106 016.



Paul Denham's Clocktower Ward has the impressive clock tower and war memorial at its heart. "The memorial is a focal point, especially on ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day."

## Joe Cossari — Loughnan's Hill

Having lived and worked in Maroondah for most of his adult life, Cr Cossari has been an active member for the local business community and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for over 35 years. Of Italian heritage, Joe has served as a delegate for the Italian Social Cultural Organisation and has represented Australia at immigration conferences and on delegations to Italy. He represents Council on the Eastern Ring Road Steering Committee, the Maroondah Tourism Advisory Board, and the Mitcham-Frankston Freeway Community Advisory Group. Joe is married to Rose and has two adult children. This will be Joe's second term as a Councillor after a three year absence. Joe can be contacted on mobile 0417 377 683.

## Les Willmott JP — Wyreena Mayor



With his wife Lorna and five children, Les has lived in the Maroondah area for over 35 years. He was a Councillor with the former Croydon Council for over nine years, four of which he served as Mayor. Cr Willmott represents Council on

the Business Advisory Board, the Audit Committee, the Don-Wood Nursing Home and Day Care Group, the Grants Panel, the Leisure & Culture Panel, the Ringwood Town Centre Working Group and Ringwood-Lionsbrae Aged Persons Hostel (Society) Management Committee. Les is also the publicity officer for the Croydon Branch of the Bone Marrow Donor Registry and a Director of the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Institute. This is his third term as a Maroondah Councillor and his second term as Mayor. Les may be contacted on mobile 0417 391 743.

## Jo-anne Taylor — Mullum

Jo-anne has lived in Maroondah for 13 years and has been an active participant in many local groups including Neighbourhood Watch, the Safety House program, Maroondah Residents and Ratepayers Association and ANTaR (Australians for Native Title & Reconciliation). She represents Council on the Grants Panel, the Leisure & Culture Panel, the Maroondah Municipal Emergency Management Plan Committee, the Melbourne 2030 Committee and the Municipal Association of Victoria

"There's a great range of facilities in Mullum Ward — starting with its lovely bush areas and of course the Mullum Creek, which is quite unique in an urban area. The Karralyka Centre is also in my ward and there is always something of interest on there," says Jo-anne Taylor.

Human Services Portfolio Committee. A bookkeeper by profession, Jo-anne also completed a Diploma of Social Science at Swinburne TAFE in Croydon. She has three small children and is very involved with school programs. This will be Jo-anne's first term as a Councillor and she can be contacted on mobile 0409 003 048.



## Maureen Naylor — Yarrunga

Maureen has lived in the area for more than 35 years and has three adult children and four grandchildren.

Cr Naylor is a member of the Wyreena Arts Centre Committee of Management and was heavily involved in the concept and development of the Yarrunga Community Centre in Croydon Hills where she is on the Committee of Management. Maureen is a member of Council's Maroondah Tourism Advisory Board and the Ringwood Eisteddfod Committee and is studying to become a civil celebrant. This is her third term of office and prior to being elected to Maroondah Council she served a term of office with the former Croydon Council.

Maureen can be contacted on mobile 0417 371 017.

## Neil Rose — Eastfield

Married to Alison and the father of two adult children, Neil has lived in South Croydon for over 20 years. On retiring from the Victoria Police Force after 16 years, Neil established his own business. His Council Committee representation includes the Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation, the Eastern Regional Waste Management Group (Least Waste), the Maroondah Partners in Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee, the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Ringwood Town Centre Working Group. Cr Rose enjoys spending time with his family in his leisure time and this will be his third term as a Maroondah Councillor. Neil can be contacted on mobile 0417 375 798.



"The picturesque lake at the Croydon Library is a great venue for a relaxing outing and, with the library next door, is a convenient stop to visit for library activities," says Neil Rose.



Maureen Naylor has a very strong affinity with Yarrunga Community Centre and remains a key supporter. "I was involved from the very beginning and it is a wonderful community centre — it's a very welcoming place and there's always something for everyone."

# Warming up with Winter Arts

Winter doesn't have to be bleak and cold... In Maroondah, you can leave the winter blues behind and come out into the sunshine of one of the many exciting performances and exhibitions offered by the Winter ArtsFest.

## 2003 Maroondah Winter ArtsFest 1-31 July

Maroondah's Annual Winter ArtsFest is on again providing a range of artistic and cultural opportunities for residents and visitors to the City. The Winter ArtsFest is in its fifth year and features a dynamic program of arts and cultural experiences including youth workshops, children's activities, art exhibitions, craft workshops, musical presentations, dance and professional development opportunities.

For more information on the Winter ArtsFest call Arts and Cultural Services on 9298 4545.

## Free community event

## Winter Wonderland — Winter ArtsFest Friday 27 June

This year's Winter ArtsFest will be launched on Friday 27 June at 6.30pm with a free community event at the Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood.

All are welcome to enjoy a colourful cultural evening. Designed around the theme of "Winter Wonderland", the diverse program includes a variety of cultural activities including performances by community groups, interactive art workshops, displays and a free sausage sizzle.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

## Maroondah One Act Play Festival

Friday 11 and Saturday 12 July  
Karralyka Theatre, Mines Rd, Ringwood East

Following the huge success of last year's Maroondah One Act Play Festival, the festival will run again this year.

Don't miss out on booking your seat to see some of Victoria's finest theatre companies strut their stuff. Over two nights and a matinee session, 12 plays will be performed, with both mainstream and youth productions vying for a range of awards including the Maroondah Best Production Award.

If you have never been to a live theatre performance, the Maroondah One Act Play Festival offers a wonderful introduction to theatre. In each of the three sessions Theatre groups from throughout Victoria will perform a minimum of four plays. You will find lots to make you laugh and perhaps something to move you to tears.

Tickets go on sale in June. Be quick, we expect a "sell out" audience.

The One Act Play Festival is supported by Eastland Shopping Centre, Croydon Camera House and the Karralyka Centre.

## Colouring-in Competition

A "Winter Wonderland" colouring-in competition for children 12 years and under is being run in conjunction with the launch. Great prizes include free passes to Hoyts Cinema, Blockbuster Video and Ringwood Aquatic Centre. Colouring-in competition forms will be available at Council Services Centres and libraries in Croydon and Ringwood from the end of May. Competition closes Friday 20 June. Submit your entry to "Winter Wonderland Competition", Arts and Cultural Services, Maroondah City Council, PO Box 156, Ringwood 3134.

## Conducting Workshops

Music Director and Chief Conductor of the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Andrew Wailes will lead workshops in conducting. Andrew is Principal Conductor of the Melbourne University Choral Society, and is also Artistic Director and Conductor of the Australian Children's Choir.

Workshops will run from 25 to 27 July and are designed for music teachers, church musicians, school conductors, tertiary music students and conductors of community choir ensembles.

Areas covered will include: beat patterns, gesture, conducting technique, communication skills for the conductor, score preparation and analysis, left and right hand interaction, mixed meter conducting, stage etiquette, important resources for the conductor, orchestral techniques and issues, choral conducting skills (optional stream), vocal pedagogy (optional stream). To book a place call Arts and Cultural Services on 9298 4545.

## Winter ArtsFest Program highlights

Wed 9 July — School Holiday Panto' Peter Pan  
This classic children's tale is presented by Adlib Children's Theatre at Karralyka Theatre at 11am and 2pm. Enquiries: 9870 2888

Sat 19 July — Croydon Citizens' Bands present *Magical Maroondah*

Maroondah truly is a magical place to live! Come along for a night of magical music (and a bit of magic) and see what Maroondah has to offer! Luther College Chapel, Croydon at 7.30pm. Enquiries: 9733 3085

Tues 22 July — *Morning Music Concert* with Denis Walter

Australian Star Bass-Baritone Denis Walter will perform his new show at Karralyka Theatre at 11am and 2pm. Enquiries: 9870 2888

Wed 23 July — *Creative Card Craft*

Create a beautiful card to take home and view Catherine's amazing collection at North Ringwood Community House from 9.30 to 11.30am. Enquiries: 9876 3421

\* Maroondah City Council gratefully acknowledges the support of Cadbury Schweppes for Winter Arts.

# Reaching milestones together

Maroondah City Council's achievement of the fifth milestone in the Cities for Climate Protection Program has been formally acknowledged.

Cr Neil Rose accepted an award acknowledging Council's commitment to the reduction of greenhouse gases as evidenced in its progression through all five of the program's initial milestones.

"The program has taken Council through a number of steps, including undertaking an initial inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, establishing a reduction goal, developing an action plan, implementing various actions and now, for the final milestone, undertaking a follow-up inventory to calculate our greenhouse gas savings," Cr Rose said.

"Everyone in Maroondah who participates in Council's recycling scheme and makes a concerted effort to reduce their usage contributes to ongoing greenhouse gas reduction."

Other strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the consumption of natural resources include obtaining 10 per cent green-power for municipal street lighting, changing from mercury vapour lamps to high pressure sodium lamps, obtaining 5 per cent green-power for electricity supply to Council buildings.

"We've even introduced recycling and composting into the offices of the Ringwood Civic Centre and the Depot. So you can see, there are always ways to keep reducing, reusing and recycling," Cr Rose said.

Cr Rose said further initiatives and actions would be implemented and monitoring and reporting would continue, ensuring further reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

# Don't waste those wonderful leaves

As autumn draws to a close our gardens are full of fallen leaves. But don't think of them as a messy nuisance, autumn leaves offer a rich and wonderful source of nutrients and moisture retention for our drought thirsty gardens.

Cr Jo-anne Taylor said autumn leaves used as a layer of mulch on garden beds make great compost for recovering gardens.

"Leaf mulch traps moisture in the soil around plant roots and gradually releases nutrients into the soil as it breaks down. It's such a waste to leave them to block your gutters, or sweep them away to create problems with our drains. Instead, collect them up and give your garden a treat," she said.

"It's easy to turn leaves into mulch. Just run the lawn mower over your collected leaves to chop them up for use on garden beds. Or you can make compost by mixing 20 buckets of leaves to 1 bucket of vegetable and fruit waste in your compost bin. Leave it to break down and make a rich plant food to benefit your garden," Cr Taylor said.

Council's Parks & Works Depot has a range of compost bins and worm farms for sale and a ready supply of composting worms. The castings and liquid fertiliser from worm farms are rich in nutrients.

Bags of mulch are also available from the depot. Packed in 30 litre bags, plain mulch is \$6 per bag and mulch with added manure is \$8 per bag.

Visit the depot at 28 Lincoln Road, Croydon during business hours or contact Council on 1300 88 22 33 for information on composting and worm farms.

\*Council will hold FREE Composting Workshops throughout the year. Register your interest by ringing Council's Waste Inquiry Line 9294 5666.

## Have you taken your prize winning photo yet?

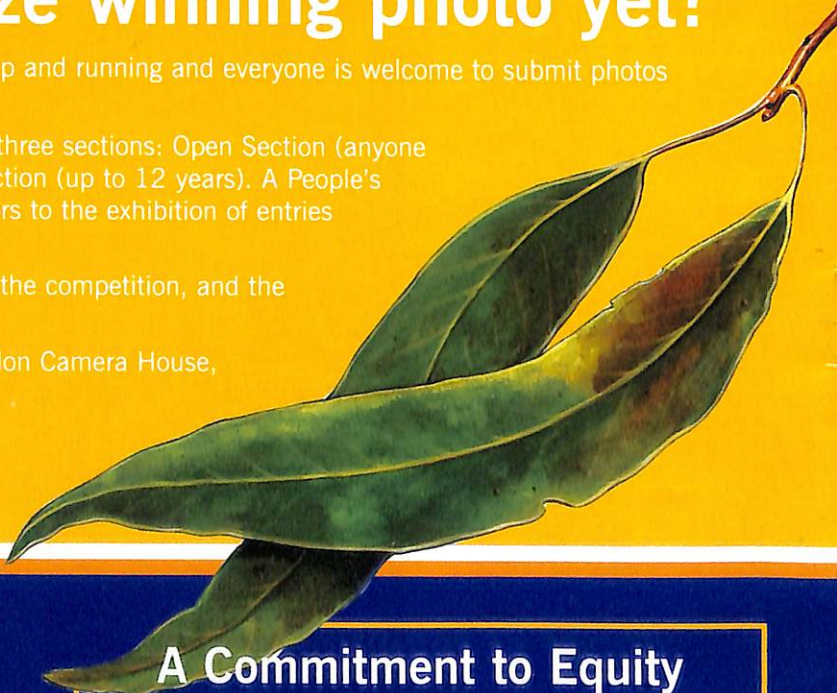
The seventh annual City of Maroondah Photographic Competition is up and running and everyone is welcome to submit photos taken after 1 July 2002, with the appropriate form by 31 July.

This year's theme is Capture Your City and prizes will be awarded in three sections: Open Section (anyone over 18 years), Intermediate Section (13 to 17 years), and Junior Section (up to 12 years). A People's Choice Award will also be made for the photo voted the best by visitors to the exhibition of entries displayed at Eastland.

A selection of entries will be published by *Maroondah Journal* during the competition, and the winning entries will be published in a special supplement.

Entry forms are available from Croydon and Ringwood libraries, Croydon Camera House, Eastland Shopping Centre and Council's Service Centres.

*The cover of this issue of Focus features a photo from last year's Maroondah Photographic Competition, taken by Jill Hardie in McAlpine Reserve.*



## At your service . . .

Council's Service Centre staff are happy to assist you with any Council business. Contact Council on 1300 88 22 33 or visit one of our Service Centres:

- **City Offices Service Centre** Braeside Avenue, Ringwood
- **Main Street Service Centre** 50 Main Street, Croydon
- **Eastland Service Centre** Level 2, Eastland Shopping Centre, Ringwood
- **Civic Square Service Centre** Civic Square, Croydon

or visit Council online at: [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au)

### A Commitment to Equity

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

If you would like to receive this newsletter in a format more appropriate to the visually impaired, please contact us on 1300 88 22 33.