

Maroondah focus

Your Community Newsletter

11420 NWD 02-03-02 Box 6

May
2004



4 Planning for Maroondah's future



7 Winter ArtsFest Dont miss this wonderful arts festival



8 Maroondah Grand Prix coming soon

Maroondah

Winter Arts Fest

July 1 to 18



Mayor's Message

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

It is an honour to serve as Mayor and I look forward to an exciting and busy term of office.

This year the Mayoral term will end in December due to the State Government's decision to align Council elections. Although my Mayoral term is less than the usual 12 months, it will be no less busy with commitments to the community and with some large projects underway. The State Government's Melbourne 2030 plan for urban development will involve Council and the community in much planning and decision making in how we cater for future growth. Our Neighbourhood Character Strategy Committee has been consulting to determine precinct profiles. These will be the driving force behind strengthening the character of Maroondah through planning scheme controls.

The Ringwood Transit City and Town Centre Project has attracted substantial government funding and will put Maroondah firmly on the map as a transport hub and thriving local business and residential community. The Ringwood Transit City Urban Design Masterplan has been made available for community consultation and there will be continuing opportunity for your input. We also have the Croydon Activity Centre Structure Plan, which will create a more vibrant and accessible suburb and encourage local jobs and services.

Another vital project is the Mitcham-Frankston Freeway. Council has not changed its stance - tolls are not acceptable for our community. Our annual community survey reinforced this with a resounding ninety per cent of those surveyed stating that the freeway should be funded and not tolled. We will continue to be a voice for our community on this issue. A great deal of work has been undertaken by Council to firstly canvas for the freeway and then to have it declared a Road of National Importance to attract Federal funds. At the time, these challenges looked insurmountable, but with perseverance we achieved our aims. We will continue to support the building of the freeway but we will also continue to stand firm against tolls.

The Mayoral term has many community highlights and Maroondah is fortunate to have an active calendar of events and a community that is supportive and involved. With the marvellous Karralyka Theatre Season now in full swing and the Winter ArtsFest approaching, there will be something for everyone. I look forward to meeting with you at these and our many other community events in the coming months.

Cr Neil Rose
Mayor of Maroondah

SLOW DOWN

Councillor Paul Denham would like to remind local drivers to slow down near schools following the introduction of arrive alive! school speed zones in June.

Cr Denham said that school speed zones of 40km/h are great news for children, parents, schools and road safety in the local community.

"School speed zones will help to protect the lives of children on our roads.

"Small reductions in travelling speed can have huge road safety benefits and might mean the difference between a pedestrian saved or a pedestrian lost," he said.

A number of schools in the area will have a time based speed zone of 40km/h or 60km/h, meaning the speed limit only operates from 8am to 9.30am and 2.30pm to 4pm.

"Schools on local streets with a 50km/h limit will generally attract a

THERE ARE NEW SCHOOL RULES

permanent 40km/h speed limit to make these roads safer for children at all times of the day," said Cr Denham.

Speed signs will be introduced outside schools to ensure motorists are aware of the reduction in speed limit.

Motorists are also reminded that the speed limit on local unsigned residential roads is 50km/h.

"We have been working closely with VicRoads and schools to introduce school speed zones in the municipality. Schools will have clearly marked signs to indicate the reduced speed limit that applies and the key message for motorists is to look out for the signs and slow down," said Cr Denham.

The State Government is undertaking an information and advertising campaign to inform motorists about school speed zones. Information brochures and posters are on display at Council Customer Service Centres.

Alternatively, contact the VicRoads information hotline on 1300 360 745 or visit www.arrivealive.vic.gov.au.

Arrabri Comes of Age

Arrabri Community House celebrated its 21st birthday with the Maroondah community in March at a special Know Your Parks event with more than 300 people sharing in the festivities.



Cr Peter Gurr is pleased with Arrabri Community House's development over the years.

Parents and children took advantage of the warm, sunny autumn evening and took part in bouncing on the jumping castle, playing with farm animals or having their face painted like a butterfly! Others played on swings and slides and munched on free barbecue food.

Arrabri Ward Councillor Peter Gurr said he was delighted to be a part of this special celebration and to officially welcome the well-wishers.

"Arrabri is a wonderful facility that brings people together, enhances the life of the community and gives opportunities and choices to people," said Cr Gurr.

"We are fortunate to have a place like Arrabri - a place where people of all ages can come together and share or gain skills and knowledge. Arrabri has provided a wide and varied range of term programs for many years, including recreation, education, health workshops and social activities," said Cr Gurr.

Of course Arrabri received a wonderful present for its birthday - refurbishment of the combined tennis and netball courts, which Cr Gurr officially opened with ribbon cutting, followed by birthday cake.

After the official proceedings took place, visitors enjoyed a lively performance from local rock band, Falling Sky, and were treated to a colourful dance performance from Bayswater North Primary School.

Photo albums with pictures of years gone by and other memorabilia were on display - showing Arrabri's growth and development over the years.

"The Know Your Parks series gives local residents a chance to get to know their park, their local Councillor and to enjoy a free fun family evening. Look out for the next Know Your Parks event and take advantage of the beautiful surroundings," said Cr Gurr.

Arrabri Community House is home to playgroups, childcare, occasional care, facilities for hire, tennis and netball courts and a walking group. A variety of courses are also offered each term, including computer training, yoga, calligraphy and photography.

Cr Gurr said, "Arrabri is committed to growing and expanding with the community and would like to hear of new ideas. If there isn't a group already established, the team are happy for you to have a chat with them."

Arrabri Community House is located at Allambanan Drive, Bayswater North. For further information please contact 9294 7530.

Mayoral Changeover

The new Mayor of Maroondah is Councillor Neil Rose, who was elected at a special Council Meeting on 17 March 2004.

Outgoing Mayor, Cr Les Willmott, wished Cr Rose all the best in his role.

"I wish Cr Rose every success in his Mayoral year and I know that he will do Maroondah proud. I have immensely enjoyed my time as Mayor and I know that Cr Rose will also find it extremely rewarding," said Cr Willmott.

Cr Rose's career in local government first began in 1990 as a Councillor for Croydon City Council. He was first elected in March 1997 as a Councillor at the newly amalgamated Maroondah City Council. Cr Rose is the second-longest serving Councillor after Cr Les Willmott. He was last elected Mayor in 2001.

Cr Rose has lived in South Croydon for over 28 years. On retiring from the Victoria Police after 16 years, Neil established his own business. Cr Rose enjoys spending time with his family, wife Alison and his two adult children in his leisure time.

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

"There is already a strong foundation for quality leadership and high level community consultation and I will be continuing this," he said.

"This is going to be an exciting year with the Croydon Golf Course development, Hewish Road residential development, the draft Ringwood Traffic Study nearing completion and the upgrading of Greenwood Avenue and Ringwood Street is to be completed by the end of the year."



Former Mayor Cr Les Willmott congratulates and welcomes new Mayor, Cr Neil Rose.

Planning for Maroondah's future

Planning is a subject in which many Maroondah community members take a strong interest. Maroondah Council welcomes community input on planning issues that are of concern to residents within the municipality.

Neighbourhoods will change and grow - to replace older unsuitable buildings or to cater for demand. Maroondah is fortunate its community is passionate about the environment in which they live and care about how their neighbourhood grows.

What influences urban growth and what the rules are for development are common questions. There are State regulations and local planning controls. There is also an appeals process through the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) open to developers, the community and to Council. And we now have Melbourne 2030, which sets out the big picture for all of metropolitan Melbourne.

Balance and character

Maroondah's Statutory Planning Services team are generally the first point of contact and are an important link between the community and developers. A developer may want to invest in Maroondah whilst the community want to make sure that the municipality retains its charm and character.

The Statutory Planning team give advice and guidance on planning issues and help interpret the various schemes and regulations to developers and the community. They are responsible for ensuring that the controls of the Maroondah Planning Scheme are administered correctly.

Activities covered by these controls include proposals to change the use of land, subdivision of land, advertising signage and the removal of vegetation.

Community consultation also plays a big part in Maroondah's planning process.

How Melbourne 2030 affects Maroondah

The 'Melbourne 2030 - planning for sustainable growth' plan is a 30-year strategy to manage growth and change across metropolitan Melbourne and the surrounding region. It emphasises the city's interdependence with regional Victoria, to provide maximum benefit to the whole State.

Melbourne is expected to grow by up to one million people, or 620,000 households, during the next 30 years and the State Government's strategy aims to accommodate this demand.

Council will work with Melbourne 2030 in mind to protect and enhance the things that you love most about Maroondah.

Protecting our unique environment - the Maroondah Planning Scheme

A significant change to the Maroondah Planning Scheme was the inclusion of Amendment C16 - an important stepping-stone in meeting the scheme's strategic intentions.

As a result of the amendment unit development must now include an increased amount of private open space to 80 square metres per dwelling, an increase in rear setback to five metres and a decrease in the maximum height of front fences. The amendment also identifies the Ringwood and Croydon Activity Centres as places where higher density residential development is appropriate.

The identified 'Neighbourhood Character' of an area, deriving from the Neighbourhood Character Study, aims to incorporate what people value about their neighbourhood. The study will encourage residential development that reflects the aspirations and values of the community and will eventually become a part of the overall Maroondah Planning Scheme.

Maroondah is proud of its leafy green environment.



Planning permits

Planning permits are a common request. Permits are required for certain uses and/or developments, such as: construct a building or carry out works; multi-dwelling development; subdivision of land; erection of advertising signs; or office/warehouse use and removal of vegetation.

Once Council has received an application, an interview is set up with a Statutory Planner for preliminary discussions. The proposal is then advertised in local newspapers and the community has the opportunity to lodge an objection.

Following public consultation and detailed assessment of the application, Council then

has three possible outcomes - **grant the permit, refuse the permit, or issue a notice of decision.** If a **permit is issued**, it indicates that there have been no objections to the proposal and Council considers that the application meets the objectives and requirements of the planning scheme.

A **notice of decision** signifies that Council supports the application, but cannot issue a permit as objections have been submitted. The applicant or objectors then have 21 days to make an appeal to VCAT. If VCAT does not receive any objections, it directs Council to grant the permit with appropriate conditions.

If Council issues a **refusal notice**, the applicant can then appeal directly to VCAT. Once VCAT has received an appeal application (from the applicant or the community) about a proposal, a hearing date is set. Council then presents to VCAT the facts of the application and reasons why they believe a permit should be issued. VCAT then listens to the applicant's plea and will reach a decision. VCAT's decision is rarely made or refused on the spot. This process can often take weeks or months.

At Maroondah, we encourage discussion on planning issues and hold public consultation meetings with the applicant, community members, Ward Councillor and Council Officers for certain developments. The issues can be discussed in an open manner and quite often a compromise can be reached by all parties involved.

VCAT has the final decision

Sometimes, however, Council does not have complete control over the final outcome. Once VCAT has made its final decision, it cannot be changed. It can be disheartening for community members who have put up a strong fight. Council aims to help all parties concerned with a development to reach an amicable compromise - for everyone's benefit.

Council success at VCAT

Council has a good record with having VCAT support its decisions relating to applications. Recently, Council was able to convince VCAT to support its refusal over the planning application to sub-divide the Benedictine Monastery site. Another win was ensuring the inappropriate medium-density development on Bonnie View Road did not proceed.

VCAT's decision in these matters strengthens Council's position, which supports its local community to ensure inappropriate developments do not occur within Maroondah.

For further information regarding planning visit the Maroondah website www.maroondah.vic.gov.au or contact Council's Statutory Planning unit on 9298 4287.

Narr Maen Wetland development

There has been a lot of action at Narr Maen Reserve recently with the completion of a multi-pond, stormwater treatment, wetland project jointly funded by Council and the Victorian Government Stormwater Action Program. Councillor Maureen Naylor said, "The wetlands have been created by excavating over 7000 cubic-metres of soil and will treat stormwater from the 100-hectare catchment around the reserve."

"All run off from roofs, gardens, driveways and surrounding streets ends up in our stormwater system - along with pollutants such as paint, oil and soil. These pollutants then flow into the nearest waterway, ultimately affecting the aquatic life in our creeks and Port Phillip Bay," she said.

The Narr Maen wetland area acts as a retaining basin, capturing rubbish and solids through the installation of a Gross Pollutant Trap. School groups will analyse the contents of the trap to determine the quantities and possible sources of the debris - it's like having an ecological mini-lab right in Maroondah! Once students have finished their analysis, Council will clean the contents of the trap and the cycle will continue.

The stormwater enters a sediment pond to allow small particles to settle. The water then filters through the series of wetland ponds that will be planted with many fascinating aquatic species that will naturally clean the pond.

At a forthcoming community planting day, local residents will have the opportunity to help in the improvements to the reserve. This will bring to life the Development Plan for Narr Maen Reserve that was endorsed by Council last year.

"Twenty-two thousand plants will be in place in the wetland soon, with more planting of the

wetland surrounds planned in the future," said Cr Naylor.

"Local schools have been involved in a competition to design a stencil that will be applied to stormwater drainage pits along the surrounding streets to remind residents of the impact of pollutants entering the river system," said Cr Naylor.

A student from Warranwood Primary School produced the winning design, from over 100 entries. Schools closest to the reserve will also be undertaking an education program, as part of this project, to learn about water quality and how to protect our natural environment.

For further information, contact Council's Open Space unit on 9298 4432.



Cr Maureen Naylor says the future of Narr Maen Reserve looks bright.

NEW STUDIOS for Eastern FM

Local community radio station, Eastern FM, hosted an open day to celebrate the launch of its new studio complex, at Wyreena Community Arts Centre in March.

Councillor Les Willmott was delighted that Eastern FM is back in the new studio complex, after spending eight months in temporary studios at Wyreena.

"The fire at Wyreena Community Arts Centre in July last year was a shock to the whole community. I am very pleased Eastern FM is now settled into its brand new studios," said Cr Willmott.

"Having a community radio station is such an important part of a City. It enables people to be brought together - whether they are in the car driving, outside gardening or simply relaxing at home," he said.

"The open day was a great success - with many members of the Maroondah community turning out to show their support. Visitors to the studios were given a tour, offering an insight into how the studios operate," said Cr Willmott.

Eastern FM is very grateful to all who contributed to the rebuild and hopes that the community will continue to support them.

The station caters for different age groups and musical tastes with a great variety of shows including jazz, swing, country, interviews, community information and much more.

Tune into 98.1FM and support your local community radio station. For more information about Eastern FM, visit their website at www.easternfm.com.au or telephone 9722 9981.

Adlibbing in Maroondah

Maroondah Council's Karralyka Theatre and children's theatre company, Adlib Entertainment, have formed a partnership to help encourage young Maroondah actors to get up on stage.

"Adlib is a theatrical production company, run by Donna and Peter Dowler. They have been performing children's theatre productions such as Beauty and the Beast and Peter Pan at the Karralyka Theatre for a number of years during school holidays," said Councillor Jo-anne Taylor.

"Staff at the Karralyka Theatre thought it would be a great idea to encourage young members of our community to act in their own backyard and suggested to Adlib that they hold drama and performance classes in Maroondah," she said.

Cr Taylor said, "Budding thespians can learn all about stagecraft, scripts, the audition process, character development, improvisation, vocal production. All of this, while increasing their confidence, making new friends and most of all - having lots of fun in the process."

Classes are held at two locations - North Ringwood Community House and Arrabri Community House.

Juniors (six to nine years of age), Intermediates (10 - 12 years of age) and Seniors (13 years onwards) all have the opportunity to improve their dramatic skills.

Junior students will be offered the opportunity to participate in school holiday productions with Adlib Children's Theatre at the Karralyka Theatre if they wish - giving them ample experience in the limelight. Senior students will have the opportunity to audition for the larger roles available.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for young Maroondah performers to get out into the theatre world and show what they can do. Who knows, we may have the next Nicole Kidman or Heath Ledger right under our noses!" said Cr Taylor.

Enrolments are now open and for more information telephone Adlib Entertainment on 9729 3348.

Around the Wards



Peter Gurr — Arrabri

The new Council year has begun and I am pleased to be serving on many of Council's committees including the Ringwood Town Centre Working Group. I also chair the Maroondah Partners in Health, Safety and Well-being Committee and I am pleased to report that we already have our plan launched. Arrabri Community House has benefited with a safety audit and lighting and visibility improvements. Planning is well underway for the Maroondah Grand Prix and I would love to see all of our local schools involved - there are plenty of sponsors and mentors ready and willing to help. Last year was a huge success and students learn a great deal about the auto industry as well as teamwork.

Closer to home, unsuitable street trees in Stanley Avenue are in the process of replacement and safety



tended to with kerb and channel replacement.

Peter can be contacted on 0417 377 145.

Paul Denham — Clocktower

The children of the ward will have great fun with the newly renovated 'elephant' at Jubilee Park playground and another great project for our smallest citizens was the launch of the Walking School Bus. Great Ryrrie Street Primary was the launch venue and the program has been very popular.

This Council year, I will be serving on the Maroondah Environmental Consultative Committee. There are a number of projects on our agenda, from waste minimisation to flora protection. I spent some time on Clean Up Australia Day at Dandenong Creek Reserve and was pleased with the community's commitment to our environment. We will see some of this first hand with the Ringwood Community Gardens, which received a Community Grant for the preparation of plots. I will also be serving on the Melbourne 2030 Committee, which must address our municipality's growth in line

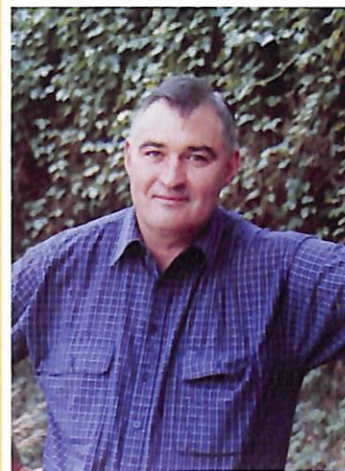
with State Government urban development policy. I will also be chairing the Eastern Regional Library Corporation, the largest provider of public library services in the State. Paul can be contacted on 0417 106 016.



Neil Rose — Eastfield Mayor

The Croydon shopping district now has an added attraction with the opening of the refurbished cinema. There has also been the up-grading of public conveniences at Croydon station car park to include dedicated disabled access and baby change facilities - much needed for attracting shoppers to the area. Another exciting project is the residential development in Hewish Road. This will give us a blend of residential alongside commercial, bringing people back into the area.

The Woodland Park picnic area has a new shade shelter and



playground equipment has been replaced at Kyamba Court. We also had a successful Know Your Park event at Eastfield - it was a great opportunity to meet many of you.

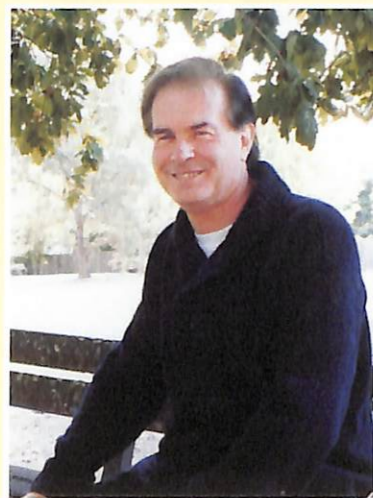
This year I will serve as Mayor, but will continue my involvement in ward issues. The committees I will be working on will include the Ringwood Town Centre Working Group and the Roadsafe Committee. Neil can be contacted on 0417 375 798.

Joe Cossari — Loughnan's Hill

As your ward Councillor, I am very pleased to inform you that I am Council's representative on the Mitcham-Frankston Freeway Community Advisory Group. I will also be serving on the Eastern Integrated Transport Committee. If you have any issue to be addressed on these matters, please contact me.

The new office building on Ringwood Street, the Aldi supermarket and the new development along Maroondah Highway will enhance the commercial district and supply more shopping opportunities.

We had a very successful Know Your Park event at North Ringwood Reserve. Justin Madden, Sport and Recreation Minister, officially opened



Les Willmott JP — Wyreena

The work of the Neighbourhood Character Strategy Committee, which I chair, has produced a number of precinct character profiles available for community consultation and review. The work of this group is tremendously important to the future of Maroondah.

I am also pleased to be serving on the Ringwood Town Centre Working Group and this year I have taken on the responsibility of representing Council on the Eastern Regional Waste Management Group.

Closer to home, the playground

at San Martin Drive has been upgraded and we have a new picnic shelter at Nangathan Way Reserve.

We are all keenly following the proposed development of the Croydon Golf Course. I will be keeping a close watch to ensure maximum benefit to the community.

Our recent VCAT win on the Benedictine Monastery site was great news and an endorsement of our planning controls.

Les can be contacted on 0417 391 743.

Jo-anne Taylor — Mullum

Works will commence soon to construct a suspension bridge over the Mullum Mullum Creek to complete the Cultural Heritage Trail. Also, our Mullum Mullum Festival received a grant. Families at the festival enjoyed Stargazing, guided walks and lots of activities.

This year I will be working with some new committees, but I feel real pride in the Branching Out project, in which Council won an award. It's a marvellous illustration of Ringwood Community Corrections, Council and the Magistrates Court working together. It's a win/win for the community and young offenders who complete the program. I am also pleased to report improvements to footpaths, pedestrian crossings, car parks and bus stops following the successful Disability Forums. I am really enjoying being the chairperson of the Emergency

Management Committee. Councils have a key responsibility in times of crisis. After the Emergency Services, Councils provide first hand assistance and help.

Jo-anne can be reached on 0409 003 048.



Maureen Naylor — Yarrunga

The works at Narr Maen Reserve are very exciting, and we now have shade shelters installed at picnic areas and playgrounds at Packham Place, Lipscombe Park and Yarrunga Reserve. Hughes Park Reserve has an extension to its pavilion due to funding from the State Government, Council and other supporters. Sport and Recreation Minister, Justin Madden, officially opened the rooms in April.

Yarrunga Community House is gearing up for another tremendous year of activities and arts had a real boost with Karralyka receiving funding to upgrade theatre facilities. Karralyka launched its major theatre program earlier in the year - really putting Maroondah on the arts map.

As we gear up for the Winter ArtsFest, planning for the 50th anniversary of the Ringwood Eisteddfod is underway,



which will be a real treat for all. As chair of the Maroondah Tourism Advisory Board, I am delighted with our promotional programs. Maureen can be contacted on 0417 371 017.

Chasin' the Winter Blues Away

Don't have the blues this winter; visit one of the many exciting performances and exhibitions offered by the Maroondah Winter ArtsFest from July 1 - 18. In its sixth year, the dynamic program features arts and cultural experiences including art and craft workshops, children's activities, art exhibitions, musical performances, dance and cultural development opportunities.

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

Polyglot Puppet Theatre

Puppetry is the perfect art form for making theatre that is rich with imagery and emotion. It allows for huge imaginative spaces for an audience to leap into, it demands suspension of disbelief and creates fantasy. Polyglot will be running a puppet-making workshop for youth between the ages of 12 and 15.

The workshops are held at EV's Youth Centre in Croydon, with a performance outcome on 18 July. Enquiries: 9298 4373.



Polyglot's puppet workshops are a festival highlight.

The Australian Government is proud to be associated with the Maroondah Winter ArtsFest. This project was made possible by Festivals Australia, an Australian Government program which supports cultural activity at regional and community festivals.

National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA)

Break into circus with a series of workshops for women 25 and older, run by the National Institute of Circus Arts. Workshops will focus on the three building blocks of circus - acrobalance, juggling and tumbling and will culminate in a group performance to be held on 18 July.

If you're tired of trying to juggle too much in your life, or want more from your tumbling than just dry clothes, come learn from the professionals and pick up some great skills along the way! Enquiries: 9298 4537.

Diversity Discovery Day

Thursday 1 July, 10am - 4pm

Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood

Supports the inclusion of children with additional needs and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The day will provide a range of art and craft activities as well as musical performances. Children from local special schools and early intervention programs will participate in an art exhibition. Enquiries: 9298 4254.

Winter Theatre & Music

Thursday 1 July, 8pm - My Brilliant Divorce by Geraldine Aron. The West End theatre smash

premiers in Australia. Wednesday 7 July, 11am & 2pm - School holiday panto' Robin Hood.

Take a journey back to the days of swashbuckling and chivalry when Adlib Children's Theatre presents a bright new musical adaptation of the legendary tale.

Thursday 15 July at 8pm - A Night of Grandguignol - an enjoyable collection of three plays that evoke a pre-film and television era of melodramatic horror.

All these performances are showing at the Karralyka Theatre, Mines Road, Ringwood East. Enquiries: 9870 2888.

Wyreena Music Café

Friday 16 July, 7.30pm - presents Celtic Dreaming, an evening of Celtic inspired music and poetry with highly acclaimed vocalist Maireid Sullivan & partner Ben Kettlewell. Wyreena Community Arts Centre is located at 13-23 Hull Road, Croydon.



Head down to Wyreena for a variety of winter arts events.

Enquiries: 9294 5590.

Ringwood Eisteddfod 50th Anniversary Grand Final

Saturday 17 July at 8pm, Karralyka Centre, Mines Road, Ringwood East.

Enquiries: 9879 2161.

Free Community Day

Sunday 18 July, 12 - 4pm.

Visit Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood for a great day of free fun. There will be a barbecue, art workshops, performances, face painting and an art exhibition all for no cost! Enquiries: 9298 4545.

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

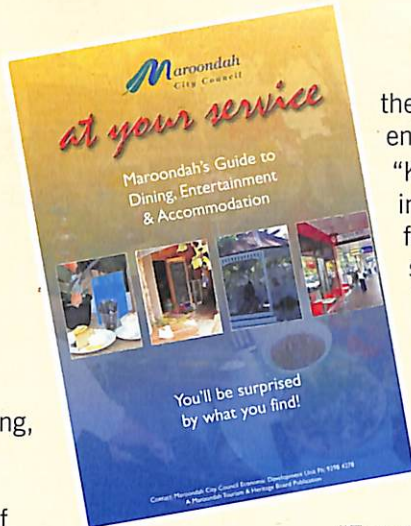
Bon Apétit!

Want to have an all in one guide to dining, accommodation and entertainment in Maroondah in the palm of your hand? Look no further than the latest edition of Maroondah's Guide to Dining, Entertainment & Accommodation.

Councillor Joe Cossari said the guide offers great benefits to local businesses who offer these services.

"Now in it's fifth edition, the Maroondah Dining, Entertainment & Accommodation Guide is one of Council's most popular initiatives," said Cr Cossari.

The 2004-05 edition is produced by Council in conjunction with



the Maroondah Tourism and Heritage Board. It aims to enhance business and tourism in Maroondah.

"Keep this handy guide at the office, by the home phone or in the glove box of your car, so you can have instant ideas for entertainment in Maroondah right at your fingertips," said Cr Cossari.

The new edition includes a directory of hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, entertainment venues as well as eateries to suit people on all types of budgets.

"Maroondah is home to such a diverse range of offerings, including Southbank-style restaurants and bars, casual bistro dining, international cuisines or coffee and cake in a stunning garden setting," said Cr Cossari.

"Entertainment is plentiful in the area, with a wide range of cinemas, theatres, sporting clubs and hotels as well as superb conference and reception facilities for special occasions - you'll be surprised by what you find!" he said.

Pick up your free copy of the Restaurant Guide at any of Council's Customer Service Centres, Ringwood and Croydon libraries, Croydon Leisure Centre or Maroondah Indoor Sports Centre. Alternatively, contact 9298 4278 to have one mailed out to you.

Snap some Maroondah Fun

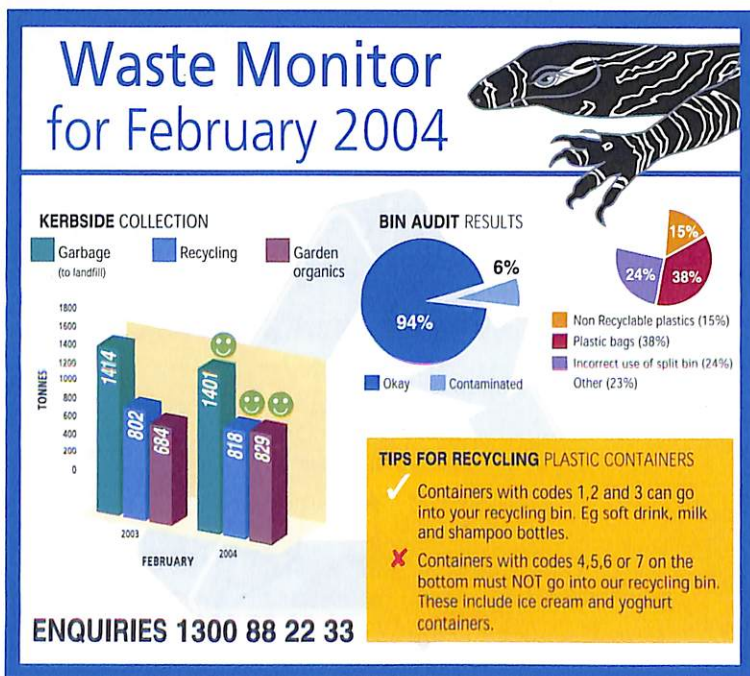
The annual Maroondah City Council Photo Competition is on again - with everyone encouraged to capture 'Fun in Maroondah'.

The competition is free and open to all residents, employees, students and visitors to the City. There are some great prizes up for grabs from Croydon Camera House, Hoyts and Eastland Shopping Centre. Three entry categories: Open (18 years and over), Intermediate (13-17 years) and Junior (up to 12 years)

encourage people of all ages to enter. This year, there is also a Mayor's Encouragement Award.

This year's competition entries will be exhibited at Maroondah Federation Estate, Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood from Tuesday 6 July to Friday 16 July.

Closing date for entries is 30 June 2004. Information and entry forms are available from Croydon and Ringwood Libraries, Croydon Camera House, Eastland Shopping Centre and Council Customer Service Centres.



Rev up your engines

Service clubs, community groups and businesses are invited to contribute to the Maroondah MEGT Grand Prix 2004 as volunteers and sponsors.

We also need flag marshalls, crossing marshalls and event officials for the event day - Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 August at the Metropolitan Traffic Education Centre (METEC) in Colchester Road, Kilsyth.

The Maroondah MEGT Grand Prix also needs local schools to sign up to be part of the race itself!

Local participation last year was instrumental to the great success of the event. Contact Council's Economic Development team on 9298 4348 to get involved in the action.

Photo on page 4 by Rosamaria Crachi, titled "Picture of our beautiful gumtree in our front garden". Entrant in the 2003 Maroondah Photographic competition

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

email: maroondah@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.