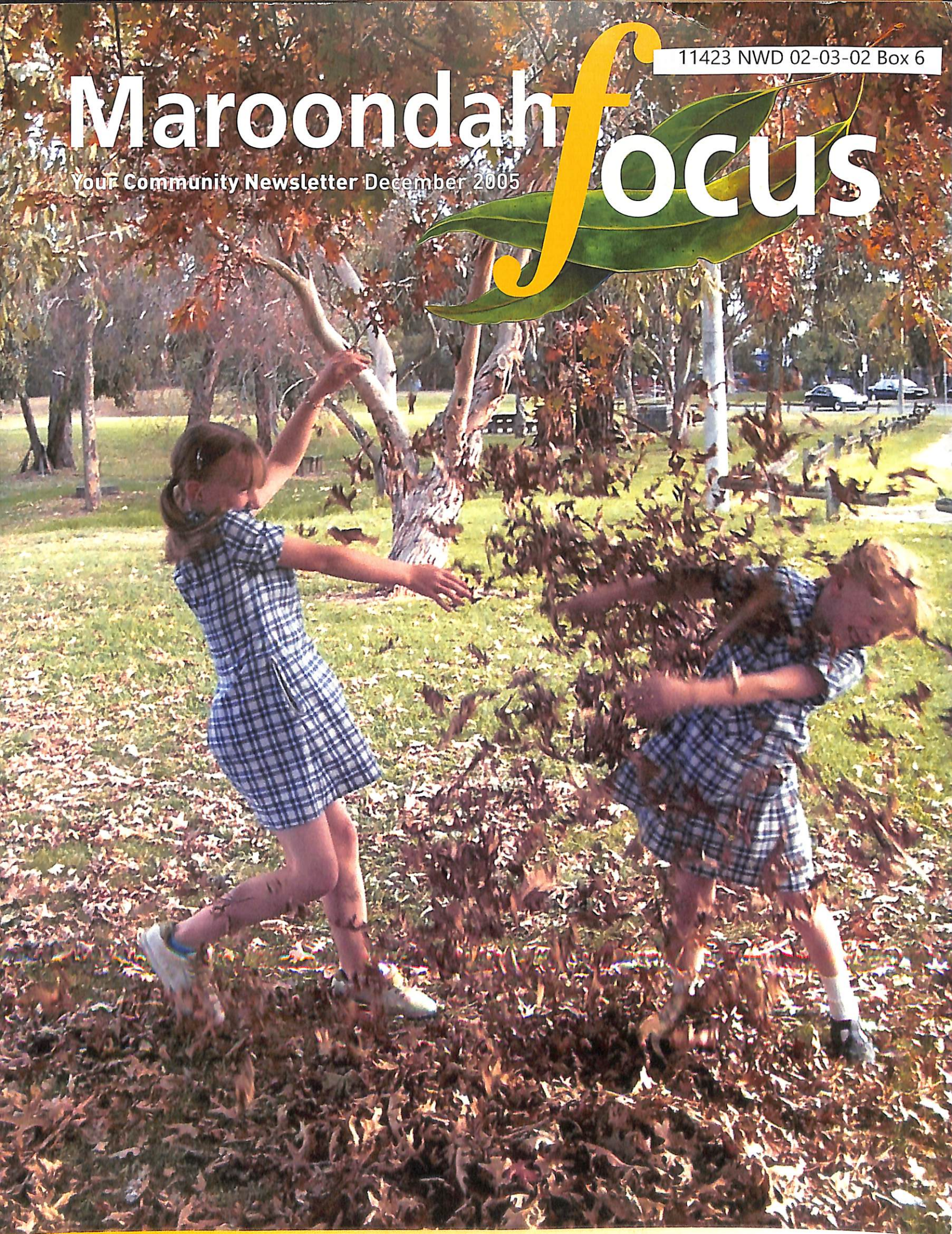


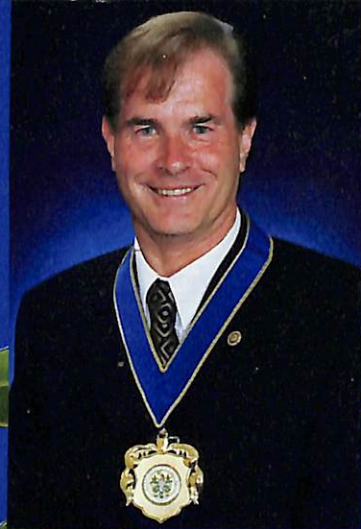
Maroondah *f*ocus

Your Community Newsletter December 2005



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a lively city centre

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introducing your Councillors



Mayor's message

Welcome to this special December edition of Focus, which formally introduces the new Maroondah Council to our community. The new Council was officially sworn in on November 30 and I was elected to serve as Mayor for the next twelve months.

A very warm welcome to civic life to our new Councillors, Tony Dib, Alex Makin and Natalie Thomas. I am also very pleased to welcome back Peter Gurr, Maureen Naylor and Jo-anne Taylor. I look forward to continuing to serve the residents of Wyreana, having been returned for another term unopposed.

This is the third time I have served as Mayor of Maroondah, and my fourth term as a Maroondah Councillor. I am honoured to serve the community and I thank my colleagues for their faith and trust in me to lead the new Council in its first year of office.

Maroondah is great place to live and we, as a Council, are charged with maintaining our wonderful environment and protecting our heritage. Already much has been achieved in this regard with our local planning controls and our neighbourhood character studies. We also have a great deal to look forward to with the Ringwood Transit City project and the work being undertaken with the Croydon Structure Plan. These major projects will bring great opportunities for business renewal and growth for our two town centres, and in the next three years much will be achieved under the leadership of this new Council.

In the new year we can look forward to Australia Day in January and the naming of our Citizen, Young Citizen and Community Event of the Year. There will be family activities at Ringwood Lake and of course the Australia Day Citizenship ceremony where we will welcome our newest citizens. This will be followed in February by the Maroondah Festival, our long standing and highly successful family day. Come and join in the fun and I hope to be able to meet with many of you on the day.

On behalf of my fellow Councillors, I extend best wishes for the festive season to you all and have a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Cr Les Willmott

Front cover picture 'Autumn Fun' by Elizabeth Adeney, winner of the 2005 Maroondah Photographic Competition
Miners Cottage picture on page 7 by Annemarie Irwin
Australia Day picture on page 8 by John Wilson

Paint your masterpiece

It's time for artists throughout Australia to begin thinking about a submission in Maroondah's prestigious R & M McGivern Art Prize for 2006.

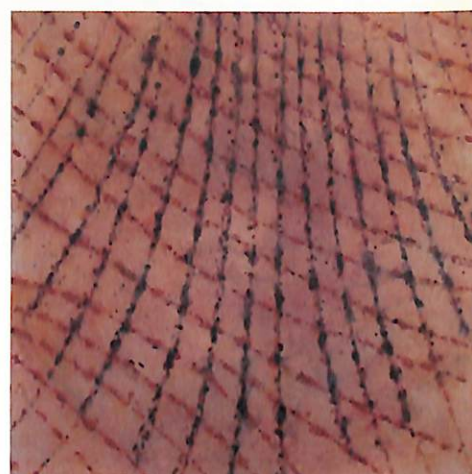
The acquisitive award is held once every three years and promotes artistic excellence in oil, acrylic and watercolour painting.

The theme for the 2006 prize is Re-union: Cities and Natural Sites.

There is \$13,000 in prize money across five prize categories. The major prize of \$10,000 is the R & M McGivern Art Prize. The winning work then becomes the property of Maroondah City Council for exhibition within the City and for all the people of Maroondah to enjoy.

The R & M McGivern Art Prize is administered in conjunction with Maroondah City Council and short listed entries are exhibited at the Maroondah Art Gallery.

For further information and an entry form contact the Maroondah Art Gallery on 9298 4542 or visit Council's website at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au



First Rain II by Martin King, the inaugural winner of the R & M McGivern Art Prize 2003

Don't be surprised to hear a YELL of enjoyment from EV's Youth Centre in Croydon over the coming 12 months.

Operation YELL (Youth Events Live and Local) has been chosen by the latest Maroondah FReeZA group as a name that truly represents the activities of the group.

Maroondah FReeZA is part of the State Government's FReeZA program, and continues to grow and get better each year. Run by Maroondah City Council's Youth Services team, the program provides young people with an excellent opportunity to develop new skills and get hands-on experience organising gigs at the youth centre.

Aged between 14 and 18 the enthusiastic group of eleven recruits has recently participated in a range of informative sessions in music industry skills and event management.

Their first and very successful event was a "battle of the bands" consisting of 8 battlers and a main headliner - *Tiltmeter*. The bands competed for a spot on the Youth Precinct Stage at Maroondah Festival in February 2006.

Wired for sound the FReeZA group prepare for the coming months



Yell to be heard

Update on Ringwood

Nominated by State Government as a major centre bringing together transport, a lively city centre, active local economy and lifestyle options to meet the projected community needs as we move toward the year 2030.

The construction of new retail, residential and office premises within Ringwood provide a visible sign of progress towards achieving a lively city centre, and the Ringwood Transit City Public Transport Options & Feasibility Study is nearing completion.

According to two members of the Ringwood Transit City Community Reference Group, this important study is developing a number of options for the future upgrade to assist in solving some outstanding community concerns.

"The study is looking at access, security and future improvements to service frequencies and I hope to see many of the issues that were raised in community consultation addressed," Don Jolley said. "If we are to realise the vision for Ringwood as a key centre, making the station facilities open to everyone is a must and is long overdue."



Maroondah CEO and Chair of the Ringwood Transit City Advisory Group, Mike Marasco (centre) discusses station upgrade options with Senior Constable Linda Hancock and Don Jolley (members of the Ringwood Transit City Community Reference Group)

Senior Constable Linda Hancock is looking forward to the station upgrade. "Community safety is a fine balance between the perception of feeling safe and reality. The station should be an open and welcoming focal point for the city. Works by Council in creating a paved station forecourt have already helped tremendously," she said.

"The study, with funding announced by Transport Minister Peter Batchelor during Community Cabinet's visit to Maroondah earlier this year, was another opportunity for the community to talk about their concerns and contribute ideas about the station precinct," Chair of the Ringwood Transit City Advisory Committee, Michael Marasco said. "Whilst addressing access and community safety issues, we also see the station upgrade as a vital ingredient to the revitalisation of the Ringwood retail and business precincts."

A village is planned

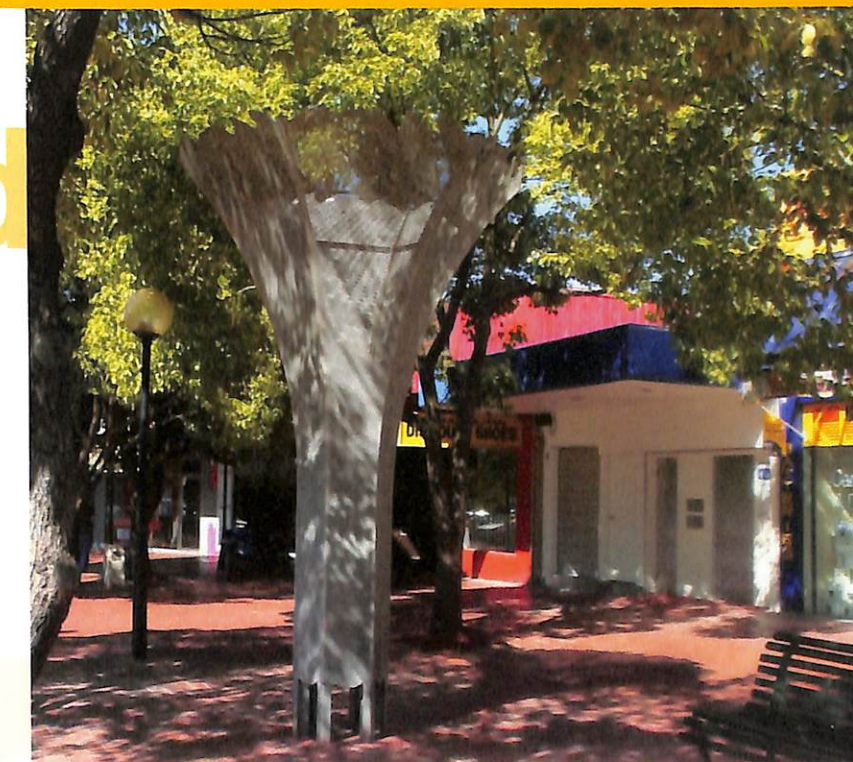
As part of Melbourne 2030, Council and the State Government are developing the Croydon Town Centre Structure Plan to ensure Croydon becomes a more attractive and diverse place to visit, work and live.

Recent Council works have created an enhanced environment and have provided improved amenities for Main Street.

The extension and refurbishment of the CRAMP building provides a kiosk with a counter opening onto Main Street for Community and Charity Groups and a new meeting room has been created for trader and community use. The new facility also has a state-of-the-art automated public toilet, with direct entry from Main Street. It offers full disability access, with Braille signage and has baby-changing facilities.

As part of the *Don't waste Croydon* campaign five recycling bins have been installed in the central section of Main Street alongside existing rubbish bins to encourage public place recycling and reduced littering.

A public artwork installation at the Hewish Road intersection entitled "Sound of Flight" funded by Vic Health and Council adds colour and movement to the area.



The community has welcomed the reopening of the CRAMP building with improved community facilities and a new state of the art public toilet

The feedback received from members of the community on these improvements and during the development of the Croydon Town Centre Structure Plan has been excellent. It is in response to this feedback that Council has applied to the State Government for interim height controls to retain the village feel of the Croydon Activity Centre.

Stay tuned for more exciting happenings for Croydon.

Keeping young families active & healthy

Strong, happy, effective and dynamic families, and the communities they reside in, provide the best environment for the early years of children's lives.

In recognising this statement the Early Childhood Services team at Maroondah City Council offer a variety of opportunities to enhance the health and wellbeing of children and their families by assisting them to keep active, meet people and build strong support networks.

Recently Maroondah families joined The World's Greatest Pram Stroll by participating in the locally organised stroll at Ringwood Lake.

An initiative of the Parks Victoria *Healthy Parks Healthy People* Program the pram stroll is held annually and is an enjoyable way for Maroondah parents and their children to get out and about, discover the Ringwood Lake surroundings and meet other families in their community.

To celebrate International Children's Day in October, the Early Childhood Services team organised a Pre-School Activity Day at Maroondah Federation Estate for children

aged 0 - 5 along with their parents, grandparents or careproviders.

Children enjoyed the opportunity to play with farm animals or get up close to visiting reptiles and crocodiles. Face painting, bubble blowing, a treasure hunt, sound sculptures and other interactive displays kept everyone amused while community groups provided a range of activities and promoted their services.

A new and vital tool is about to be added to the Early Childhood Services provided by Council for the Maroondah community.

The Maroondah Early Years Plan is a local area plan designed to provide a strategic direction for the implementation and coordination of early childhood care, education, health and social programs and activities that impact on all children.

The plan recognises the vital importance of local government's role in early years planning, coordination, advocacy, service provision and community strengthening. The Maroondah Early Years Plan is an integrated, comprehensive and coordinated planning approach designed to achieve positive educational, care, health and social outcomes for young children and their families.

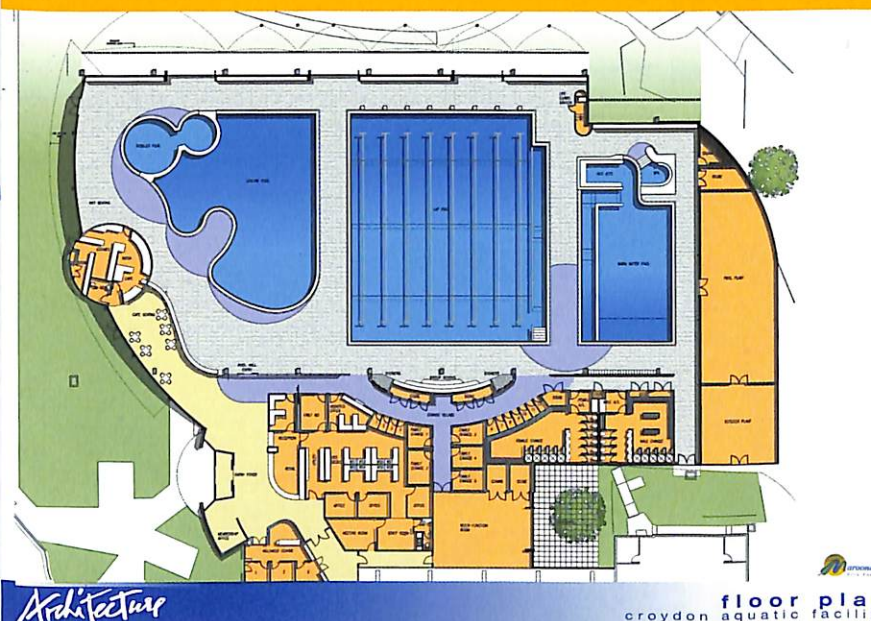
Over the next five years, the key goals outlined in the draft Plan will be: Improving Health Outcomes for all Children; Ensuring that all Children Have Access to Quality Care Environments; Enhancing Educational Opportunities for Children; and Facilitating Social Connections in the Community.

The Maroondah Early Years Plan is targeted at children 0 - 12 years of age and complements the *Maroondah 2025: A Community Planning Together* document and Council's *Health, Safety and Community Wellbeing Plan*.

Maroondah's Early Years Plan

Exciting new pool for community

With the biggest funding grant received to date, Croydon is set to have a fabulous new aquatic facility.



Plans for the new Croydon Aquatic Facility show how it will integrate with the existing Croydon Leisure Centre

Maroondah received \$2.5million in funding from the State Government Sport and Recreational Victoria 'Better Pools' program early this year to assist with the development of a new all year round aquatic facility at the Croydon Leisure Centre.

The new Croydon Aquatic Facility will offer three bodies of water - a 25 metre, 8 lane pool; a leisure pool with beach entry and an interactive water play area; and a warm water program pool.

The planned activities and programs include lap swimming, squad training, cross training for fitness; hydrotherapy, physiotherapy and rehabilitation programs, both structured and unstructured; water aerobics and gentle exercise

classes; learn to swim programs for schools and the general public, water familiarisation and baby swim; and unstructured water play in the leisure pool and outside wet decks.

Associated facilities and activities include pool side access to the cafe and seating for adults to relax while supervising children; multi purpose room that may be used for contemplative activities such as Yoga, Ti Chi and relaxation classes; a wellness centre that may include massage and other therapeutic services and outdoor lawns with shade structures.

Physical works are expected to commence in May 2006 with completion expected in November 2007.



Companion Card
accepted here

Members of the Maroondah community with a disability and who require the assistance of a companion will soon be able to use their Companion Card to attend Council facilities, programs and events.

The Companion Card can be presented when booking or purchasing a ticket and the cardholder will be given a second ticket for their companion at no charge.

Get involved

The Commonwealth Games is fast approaching and the Getting Involved Team at Maroondah City Council is ready to go!

A funding grant of \$45,000 has been provided by the Department of Victorian Communities Getting Involved Grants Program to assist in the staging of a range of activities and events in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games to involve and excite the Maroondah community.

The next opportunity for the community to get involved will be at the Maroondah Festival on 19 February. A range of special events are planned along with the opportunity to view a colourful display of community produced art & craft representing the Commonwealth regions.

The Queen's Baton Relay is another way members of the Maroondah community can get involved. View the Baton Relay when it comes to Maroondah on 13 March next year.

During early March, Maroondah plans to welcome the Sri Lankan Commonwealth Games Team with a community celebration at Proclamation Park, Ringwood.

The final event will be a community viewing of the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony with a large outdoor screen erected at Ringwood Lake Soundshell on 15 March.

Maroondah City Council has adopted a second team to support during the Games building on the community's understanding of other nations and cultures in the Commonwealth. Maroondah has adopted the Sri Lanka Commonwealth Games team.

More recently, the community enjoyed an entire day of events to Warm Up for the Games



Around the Wards

Introducing your Maroondah Councillors

Maroondah is made up of seven wards, with each ward represented by one Councillor. Results of the recent Council elections saw four Councillors returned to office and the election of three new Councillors. The following Councillors are serving our community.



Mullum

Jo-anne Taylor
Mobile 0409 003 048

Jo-anne has lived in Maroondah for 15 years and has been an active participant in many local groups including Neighbourhood Watch, Safety House program, Maroondah Red Cross Unit and ANTaR (Australians for Native Title & Reconciliation).

With husband Alistair, Jo-anne has three children and is very involved with school programs. This is her second term of office.



Yarrunga

Maureen Naylor
Mobile 0417 371 017

Maureen has lived in the area for 40 years and has three adult children and five grandsons.

She is a registered civil marriage/funeral celebrant. Maureen served on the former Croydon Council and was the first woman Mayor of Maroondah.

This will be her fourth term as a Maroondah Councillor. Maureen was heavily involved in the concept and development of the Yarrunga Community Centre in Croydon Hills and she has a keen interest in the arts.



Loughnan's Hill

Alex Makin
Mobile 0408 311 645

Alex has lived in Ringwood for 22 years. He is well known to the community through his advocacy and representation for the Public Transport Users Association and through his membership on the Ringwood Transit City Community Reference Group. Alex has a keen interest in theatre and the arts and is a committed community advocate.



Clocktower

Natalie Thomas
Mobile 0400 560 253

Natalie has long-standing ties with Maroondah as she grew up in Heathmont and now lives here with her teenage son. A successful businesswoman, Natalie runs her own marketing business and has professional associations with Maroondah Homebiz and the Chambers of Commerce. She is also well-known to many local school committees as an active participant.



Arrabri

Peter Gurr
Mobile 0417 377 145

A Maroondah resident for over 30 years, Peter has extensive experience in senior management plus 13 years experience operating his own business. Peter is married to Helen, and has one adult son.

This is his fourth term as a Maroondah City Councillor. Peter has a great interest in Arrabri Community House and has been Chair of the Committee of Management for some years.



Wyreena

Les Willmott JP
Mobile 0417 391 743

With his wife Lorna and five children, Les has lived in the Maroondah area for around 40 years. He served as a Councillor with the former Croydon Council for over nine years, four of which he served as Mayor. Les is Publicity Officer for the Croydon Branch of the Bone Marrow Donor Registry and a Director of the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Institute.

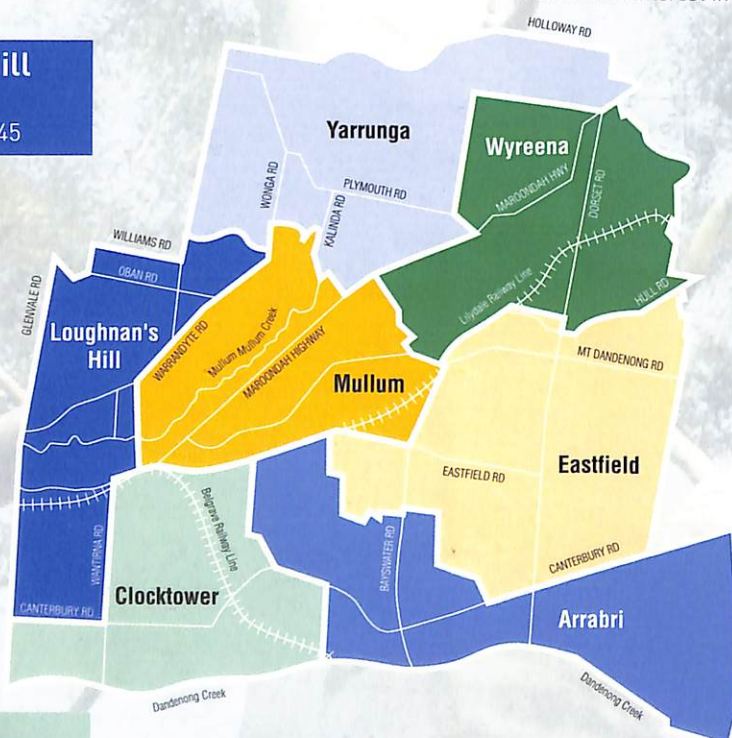
Les was returned unopposed and this is his fourth term of office. He will be serving as Mayor of Maroondah for the third time.



Eastfield

Tony Dib JP
Mobile 0400 873 350

Tony and his wife Janet have lived in Croydon for 10 years. He runs a busy restaurant and has a keen interest in local sports, especially football and cricket. Tony has a large family of five children and eleven grandchildren. He has experience in public office having served as a Councillor some years ago in a northern Melbourne suburb prior to making his home in Croydon.



Magnificent Morning Music

Sail along with Gilbert & Sullivan on HMS Pinafore, take a Waltz through Vienna and enjoy timeless classics such as The Student Prince and The Merry Widow, be entertained by music man Brendan Scott or travel the world in music and song in 80 minutes.

Alternatively you could listen to the wonderful voice of Deborah Robertson as she treats you to Songs from the Silver Screen and revel in John MacNally's voice of romance as he presents some of the most inspiring love songs. Finish the year off with the Gaslight Company with a show to get you into the Christmas spirit.

Enjoy all this and more when the ever popular Morning Music program returns to the Karralyka Centre for 2006.

Sponsored by Greenwood Shoes and Grand Pacific Tours, this year's seven daytime concerts are sure to feature some of your favourite songs and entertainers.

For further information, pick up a brochure from the Karralyka Centre, Mines Road, Ringwood East, Council's Customer Service Centres or local libraries; telephone 9879 2933 or visit the website at www.karralyka.com.au.



Travel back in time

Take a trip back in time to a period when there was no such thing as electricity, computers or 4WDs.

Visit the Miners Cottage at Ringwood Lake and you'll find an authentic reproduction of an 1870s cottage that once stood at 367 Maroondah Highway.

The simple cottage is built using Hessian and split paling walls, with a roof made partly of iron and timber shingles. The rooms are fitted out with furniture and fixtures of the era.

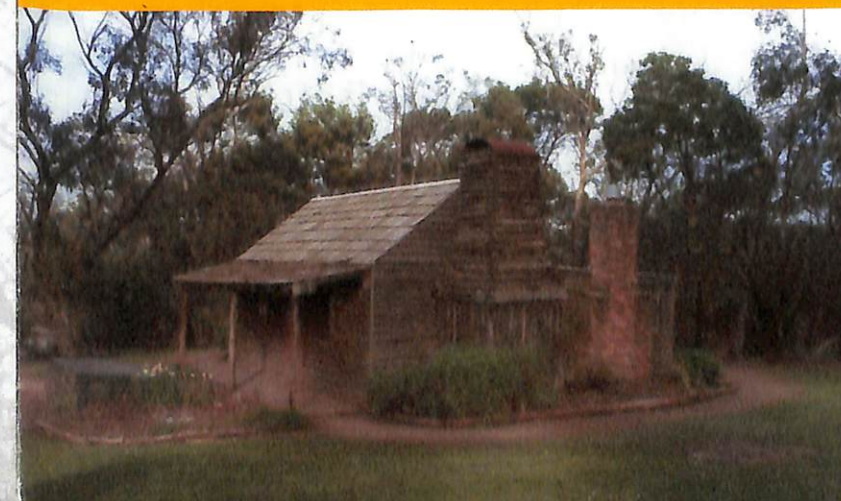
The Croydon Historical Society will be managing the opening of the Miners

Cottage and will have a photographic display of the early days in the Maroondah area.

The building will be open from 11am to 4pm on Saturday 7, 14, 21 and 28 of January, 4 February and 4 March. Admission is free.

An added attraction on the 14 of January will be a rock and mineral exhibition by the Cheong Park Gem and Mineral Club. On this day the cottage will be open from 9.30am until 4pm.

The whole family will enjoy the experience of travelling back in time and seeing what it was like to live in the 'olden days'



EastLink

It is just 10 months since work started on the \$2.5 billion EastLink Project and already the landscape in Maroondah has changed dramatically.



Workers at the Deep Creek Road tunnel site have made a good start to the 1.6km tunnels under the Mullum Mullum Valley while extensive earthworks near Poynton Avenue and Ringwood Street have cleared the way for the long awaited completion of the Ringwood Bypass.

In early 2006, work will start on the construction of bridges at Maroondah Highway, the Ringwood Interchange, Canterbury Road and Dandenong Creek.

At the Ringwood Interchange, work will start on five bridges as part of a three level interchange where EastLink joins the Ringwood Bypass. This interchange will carry about 150,000 vehicles per day when completed.

At Maroondah Highway, a major diversion road on the south side of the highway will be completed in the new year, ensuring that six lanes of traffic are maintained during construction of the Maroondah Highway bridge over EastLink.

A temporary diversion road will also be built on the south side of Molan Street between Madden and Newman Streets to enable its continued use as a thoroughfare during construction of the Molan St bridge over EastLink.

And at Hillcrest Avenue and Maroondah Highway, work will start on the EastLink Operations Centre, which will include the corporate headquarters of tollway operator ConnectEast.

Residents will be kept informed of construction updates through regular newsletters and letterbox drops. Residents can also view photos and video of current construction as well as maps and other project information at www.seita.com.au.

Anyone who has visited AMazing Space @ Federation will have discovered an imaginative playspace that has also been recognised as one of the best examples of accessible design.

Maroondah's AMazing Space @ Federation was the winner of the National Playspace Accessibility Design Award and a finalist in the Sport and Recreation Victoria Go for your life Awards in the Community Facility Design Award, which recognises innovative design.

The play environment is not that of a typical playground but aims to capture the imagination using landscape and artwork features based on the four elements of earth, wind, fire and water.

AMazing Space @ Federation can be found in the grounds of Maroondah Federation Estate in Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood.

AMazing Space @ Federation captures the imagination of the young as they explore the landscape and artwork features of the innovative playspace



A view of Maroondah

Entrants in Council's 2005 Photographic Competition provided a different view of Maroondah – from the City's people, its many distinguishing landmarks and the leafy green vistas.

Over 90 photographers provided 234 photographs for the judges to select just four photos as prize winners.

The Open Category received the majority of entries with Elizabeth Adeney winning first prize of a Pentax digital camera courtesy of Croydon Camera House for her photo entitled *Autumn Fun*.

First prize in the junior category went to Ringwood North Primary School student Alexander Stratsianis for his photo entitled *Leafland*.

The Mayoral Award was presented to Jarrod Rissón, a university student, for his photo *What time is the next train?*

Congratulations to everyone who entered. We look forward to seeing many more entries in the competition to be run again next year. Look out for more information in the February issue of Focus.



First prize in the intermediate category was awarded to Luther College student Catherine Bradshaw for her photo called *Rock around the clock*

Dates for your diary

Australia Day Celebrations

Thursday 26 January from 10.00am
Ringwood Lake Soundshell

Flag raising ceremony, Citizenship ceremony, Australia Day Awards, free barbeque and community activities – it promises to be a great family day out.

Maroondah Festival

Sunday 19 February, all day
Croydon Park, Croydon

Croydon Park comes alive with an explosion of free entertainment, activities, vibrant performers, stalls, food and much more. A perfect opportunity for clubs and groups to showcase and promote themselves or raise funds.

Your community newsletter

Thank you for your feedback on Maroondah Focus. After carrying out a number of sessions at our Council's service centres, we have made some adjustments, which we hope you enjoy.

Maroondah Focus is your community newsletter and we value your feedback. Please let us know your thoughts by calling on 1800 22 33 88, writing to Council, visit one of our Customer Service Centres or via email through our website www.maroondah.vic.gov.au

At your service

Council's Service Centre staff are able 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

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

