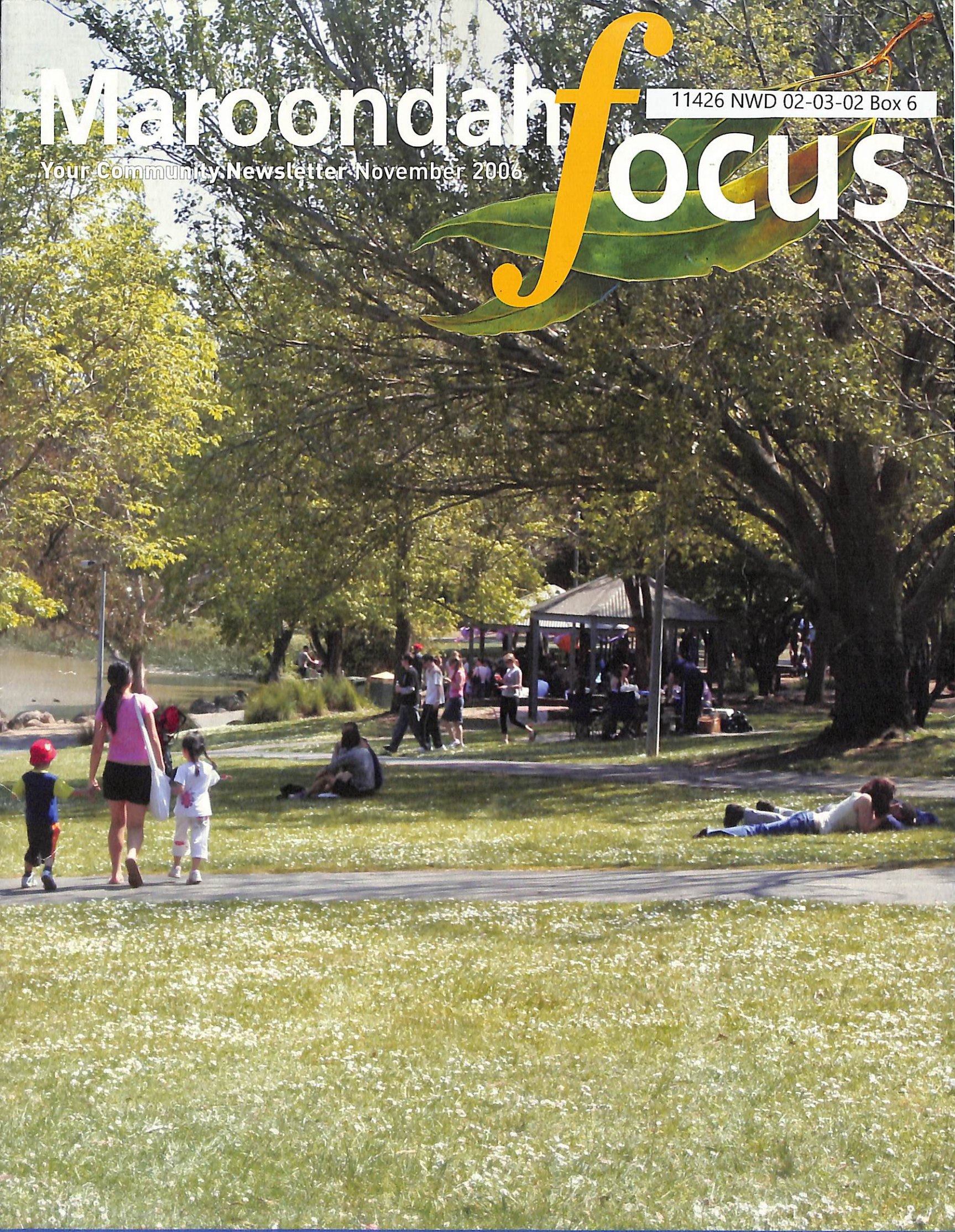


Maroondah focus

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Your Community Newsletter November 2006

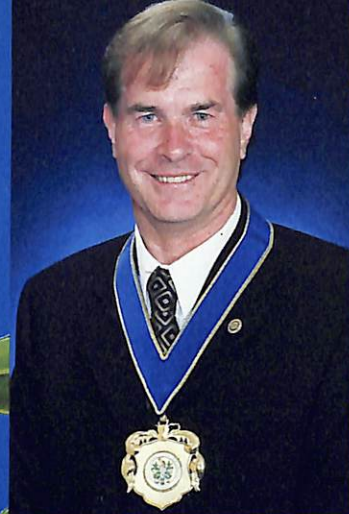


3 Update on Ringwood & Croydon

4 PM launches Business Week

7 Maroondah's environmental future





Mayor's message

Welcome to the November issue of Focus, and the last for me in my current term as Mayor.

It's been a particularly busy last few months, with many events and activities around Maroondah.

We were extremely privileged to have the Prime Minister, the Hon. John Howard, launch our annual Maroondah Business Week at an early morning function with 150 representatives of business and community organisations in attendance. The week's activities were very well attended, and culminated in the Business Excellence Awards recognising eight local businesses.

In recognition of the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, Council hosted a function for Vietnam veterans in Maroondah. With assistance from the local media, and working with a number of associations, we saw over 75 Vietnam veterans enjoy a great evening of fellowship and memories.

Walk to Fitness month was held again this October, with thirty walks getting Maroondah residents of all ages and abilities out and about. I joined with many of the community at the World's Greatest Pram Stroll as my young grandson and I strolled around our wonderful Ringwood Lake.

The coming Summer months are going to be tough in some ways with the Stage 2 water restrictions now in place. We will have to work together as a community to ensure potential effects are minimised, and to save as much water as we can wherever is practically possible.

However, there are many highlights coming up for Summer, so write them into your diary as they are tremendous family activities. The Diary Dates in this issue provides details on the annual Carols by Candlelight in December, the Australia Day celebrations in January and of course our fabulous Maroondah Festival in February.

In addition there are a range of concerts, movies and activities at Wyreena Community Arts Centre and the Ringwood Lake Soundshell as part of the Summer Events series.

I wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season, and thank you all for your encouragement and support throughout my Mayoral year.

Cr Les Willmott JP

Front cover picture: A beautiful Spring afternoon ensured a great day for Ringwood Lake Park's 80th birthday celebrations.



Ringwood Going Places

Nominated by the 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.

Light up a life

Christmas is a time of happiness and excitement for children all over the world, bringing smiles and laughter for the festive season.

Mayor of Maroondah, Councillor Les Willmott said, "You can help bring many smiles and Christmas wishes to children less fortunate by getting involved with the Make-A-Wish Foundation's Wish upon a Christmas Light competition."

"Each year Maroondah residents, business traders and shopping centres join in the Christmas cheer by decorating their houses and shop fronts with decorations and lights. This year residents can extend the festive cheer and grant many children's wishes by registering their decorated homes," said Cr Willmott.

The competition aims to raise funds to grant wishes for Australian children with life threatening illnesses. All homes involved are in the running to win the major prize of \$10,000, or one of the state prizes.

For more details on how to enter and vote visit www.makeawish.org.au

WISH UPON
A CHRISTMAS LIGHT



The Maroondah community responded in their hundreds to a public information evening held at Eastland Shopping Centre to view the Ringwood Precinct Plans and the most recent footage of the EastLink construction.

It's a great time for the Ringwood community as the area continues to come alive under the State Government's Transit Cities program, with more exciting plans ahead.

Maroondah City Council, in conjunction with the State Government, has just approved the Overall Development Plan for the Ringwood Town Centre under the Maroondah Planning Scheme.

Ringwood Precinct Plans have been on exhibition, with community feedback indicating a high level of support now that things are really moving. The Precinct Plans were prepared by Eastland Property Holdings, and if approved, will provide a framework over a five to 20 year period against which future land use, and development applications, will be assessed by Council.

The Precinct Plans take in land north of Maroondah Highway from Ringwood Street to Warrandyte Road and propose to include a variety of uses. These include restaurants and cafes, business, retail, residential and community, entertainment, leisure and open space, with the addition of a large town square which links to the station precinct - everything required for a vibrant and lively city centre.

Supporting our youth

Chill out, have a chat, get advice, feel supported, access resources and take a positive step into the future.

Councillor Alex Makin said "EV's Youth Centre in Croydon, and its numerous programs available to guide and support young people, provides all of these experiences for Maroondah youth aged between 12 and 25 years."

Info HQ is an information, support and referral program providing a safe and supportive space to speak with friendly youth workers, while the Free 2B Me program for young women incorporates topics such as self-esteem building, body image and healthy living.

The Personal Development and Young Leaders programs assist young people to tackle relevant issues in their life and gain confidence for the future, and an exciting teenage school holiday program for young people aged 12 to 15 years offers plenty of amusement and entertainment.

Croydon Town Centre

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

Following the adoption of the Croydon Town Centre Structure Plan, Council is now working to implement actions to ensure the "village feel", so valued by the Croydon community, is maintained.

One of the first requirements is to incorporate the Structure Plan into the Maroondah Planning Scheme. This will provide the guidelines for future development of the Croydon Town Centre over the next thirty years.

In 2005 Council obtained a Ministerial Amendment introducing interim height controls of four stories for the Croydon Town Centre. The height constraints ensured a relatively low scale of development while the Structure Plan was completed, thereby protecting the views to the Dandenongs, the topography, extensive community facilities and public spaces of Croydon.

With the adoption of the Croydon Town Centre Structure Plan, Council can now develop permanent height controls for the Croydon Town Centre providing ongoing certainty for the local community.

Community feedback has been invaluable in the development of the Plan, and there will continue to be further opportunities to participate during the implementation process, through consultation with community groups, key stakeholders and residents.

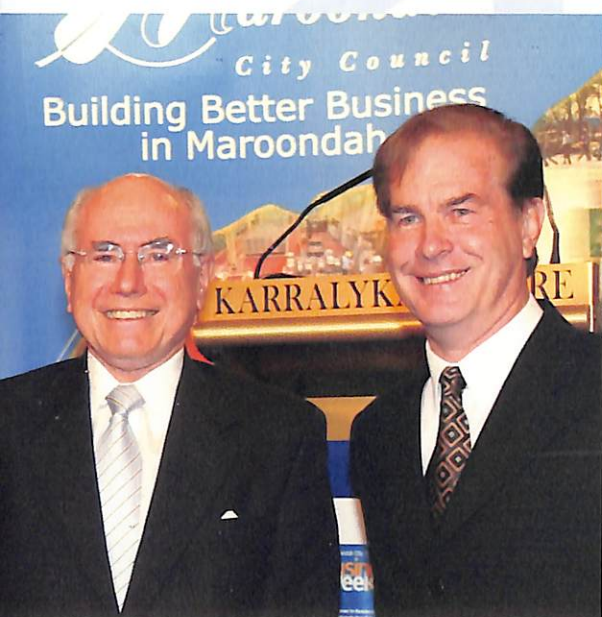
Exhibition of the amendment is expected to commence early in 2007.



Maroondah's FReeZA Group, aptly named Amplified Productions, gets together to plan the Battle of the Bands competition beginning in December.

"One of the biggest successes is the FReeZA program, involving ten young volunteers. The group plan and stage a number of drug, alcohol and smoke free music and cultural events at EV's Youth Centre each year," said Cr Makin.

Business is Booming



Maroondah Business Week 2006 kicked off with a grand opening. The Prime Minister of Australia, the Honourable John Howard, opened the week of events with a presentation to over 150 representatives from the Maroondah community and local businesses.

Maroondah is a great place for business and Maroondah Business Week 2006 provided an opportunity to showcase local businesses of all shapes and sizes.

Business Week presented a number of stimulating events and functions, including the Eastland Women in Business Luncheon with special guest Rhonda Burchmore, who entertained and motivated the entire audience.

Kevin Sheedy drew on his AFL coaching experiences and gave valuable insights into achieving success at the NAB Business Breakfast. A networking function sponsored by RACV Business Insurance was also an evening of inspiration, featuring guest presenter Robyn Henderson, an accomplished, global networking specialist.

Maroondah City Council Business Excellence Awards are a key feature of the week's celebrations. This year's deserving winners were:

Sarina Russo Best Micro Business Award – LOTE Marketing

Remington Wright & Co. Best Small-Medium Business Award – New Water Pty Ltd

Croydon and Ringwood Chambers of Commerce Best Large Business Award –

Melbourne East Group Training

The Maroondah Journal 'Women in Business' Award – Karen Myers, Bank of Queensland

RACV Insurance Best Franchise Award – The Cheesecake Shop, North Croydon

Swinburne University Excellence in Innovation Award – Internet Vision Technologies

Australian Automotive Air Best Maroondah Business Award – Melbourne East Group Training

Maroondah City Council Mayoral Encouragement Award – Compleat Angler

Fire danger be prepared

Summer is almost here, and it's a time to enjoy the great outdoors with picnics, barbecues, bush walks, and perhaps the much looked forward to family camping trip.

"Being prepared is the key. Whether it is a family outing, a camping holiday or taking care to clean up our homes and gardens, it's important to be ready for what is promised to be a very hot summer. We should plan and be mindful of the risks as a fire can take hold so quickly in a hot summer," according to Councillor Jo-anne Taylor, who has a keen interest in community safety as a member of the Maroondah Municipal Emergency Management Plan Committee.

"We are all aware of the rules on days of total fire ban, but how many of us know how to protect ourselves and our families when camping or bush walking in unfamiliar areas. I encourage the community to familiarise themselves with the precautions they can take to stay safe this summer."

Stay safe outdoors

- Before heading out listen to the radio for any alerts or warnings.
- On a high fire risk day perhaps give a bush walk a miss and go to the beach.
- Camping can leave you exposed. A tent or caravan is not adequate protection. Caravan parks have emergency assembly

areas and procedures so take the time to understand them.

- Always pack some clothes that could be used in a fire emergency. You will need to protect yourself from radiant heat. Long sleeves and pants made of natural fibres are the best
- If you are caught on the road, don't get out. Pull to the side, preferably in an area clear of tall trees and long grass. Put your hazard lights on, close the windows, cover any exposed areas with a woollen blanket and get down as low as possible.

Prepare on the home front

- Families should do their bit to help reduce the risk of fire by having a good clean-up

and by maintaining a clear area around their properties.

- Simple things like clearing spouts, gutters and roofs of combustible material and ensuring boundary fences are clear of long grass and rubbish can make a big difference.
- Keep the storage of flammable liquids to a minimum
- Clear vegetation around trees and clear beneath timber decks and pergolas.
- Inside the home, make sure that all electrical appliances work properly, including your smoke alarms and their backup battery

The number for the Victorian Bushfire Information Line is 1800 240 667.

Information on developing a family action plan is available from the Country Fire Authority (Croydon Hills and Warranwood residents) on 9735 0511 or the Community Education Department of the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (all other areas) on 9665 4464.

To report a fire emergency call 000 and ask for the fire brigade.



Splash into summer

Imagine yourself filling in the day by lounging in the sun's warmth, laughing with friends and family and dipping in the cool water of a swimming pool.

Stop imagining! You can dive straight into the summer fun and activities at an outdoor swimming pool in Maroondah.

From 18 November, Ringwood Aquatic Centre opened the 25-metre outdoor pool and a children's wading pool surrounded by landscaped gardens. Croydon Memorial Pool also opened the gates to its three outdoor pools.

"During the hot days of summer, be sure to be sun smart by using and reapplying sunscreen, wearing protective clothing and staying in the shade," said Councillor Peter Gurr.

The excitement at Ringwood Aquatic Centre is not only outdoors. The Centre has pumped up the fun with a giant inflatables program during the weekends and school holidays.

"The usual inflatable play equipment will be on offer as well as a new giant five metre inflatable slide, which has already proven to be extremely popular with Maroondah's younger residents," said Cr Gurr.

Croydon Aquatic Facility is also coming along swimmingly and is about to take the next step toward completion. Construction is set to begin early in 2007 and is anticipated to take approximately 18 months to complete.



Giant inflatables keep the children amused on weekends and school holidays at Ringwood Aquatic Centre and Croydon Memorial Pool.

Maroondah is proud of its leafy, green environment, providing all the modern luxuries of the inner city, accompanied with the clean air and beautiful parklands of the country.

Councillor Tony Dib said, "Maroondah City Council manages a tree and park maintenance and regeneration program to keep our green landscape looking great, continually replanting and caring for the existing flora."

Council is utilising the vegetation life cycle, by using the dead tree stumps of previous plants to feed the newly planted trees and shrubs. The dead stumps of the older trees degrade and the natural organic materials and nutrients from the stumps filter into the soil, feeding the growth of the new trees planted beside them.

"This is a rich natural fertiliser and an excellent way to assist the strong growth of the new vegetation, keeping Maroondah a beautiful city to live in," said Cr Dib.

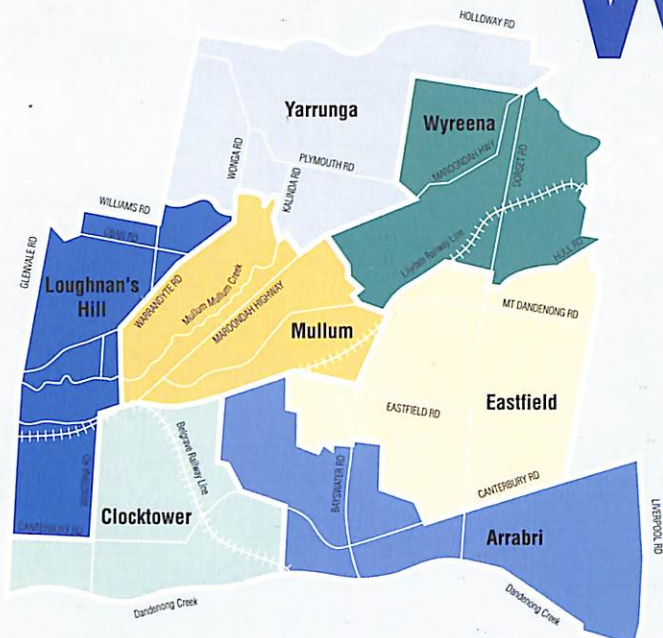
The importance of naturestrip trees is also highly regarded and each tree is maintained and watered on a regular basis by Council. You can do your bit to keep our city clean and green by helping care for the tree in your naturestrip. Be careful when mowing and gardening around it, and spare it a drink of water when you are looking after the rest of your garden.

Cr Tony Dib inspects the decomposition of a tree stump which is now feeding and protecting two new eucalypt trees.

Stumped!



Around the Wards



Loughnan's Hill Alex Makin
Mobile 0408 311 645

After much campaigning, I am pleased to announce Maroondah was successful in its recent prosecution against Southern Recycling for noise violations that hampered the amenity of local residents. It was a great outcome. Local government has an important role in advocating for better outcomes for the community and I am very pleased that the state political parties have pledged to abolish zone three fares next year, providing a substantial financial saving for residents. Also, on December 5 I'll be supporting the Maroondah Mobility Access Expo at Maroondah Federation Estate, which will provide information on services and support for people with disabilities. I hope to see you there.



Mullum Jo-anne Taylor
Mobile 0409 003 048

The community celebrated the 80th birthday of Ringwood Lake Park in October in perfect weather conditions with birthday cake and plenty of entertainment. It was great fun. The Croydon SES has been successful in gaining State funding for an additional vehicle to their fleet. Council will provide some assistance towards the purchase of the vehicle, which will be a great asset over the storm season and beyond. An evacuation exercise at Ringwood Aquatic Centre gave staff and emergency services a chance to put their training into practice. Thanks to everyone who was involved for their assistance on the day. Lastly, congratulations to East Ringwood, Norwood and South Croydon football clubs for making the finals.



Wyreena Les Willmott
Mobile 0417 391 743

We are continuing to pursue protection for the Croydon and District Golf Course development, with an independent panel hearing currently considering submissions for a Maroondah Planning Scheme Amendment, which will ensure key environmental and neighbourhood character issues are adequately addressed by the developer. I joined the wonderful Croydon Meals on Wheels volunteers on National Meals on Wheels day and greatly enjoyed meeting the many people who benefit from this essential Council service. Our very own Wyreena Community Arts Centre is a lovely place to visit – art exhibitions, Movies under the Stars and musical evenings – we're very lucky to have this community centre in our own backyard.



Yarrunga Maureen Naylor
Mobile 0417 371 017

The long awaited works at the Kalinda and Plymouth Road roundabout have been completed, with left hand slip lanes installed. This has been helping the traffic flow much more easily, particularly at peak periods. I was delighted to attend the Yarrunga Community Centre 10th birthday celebrations recently and what a success it has become since its initial beginnings in 1996. A memorabilia display really brought back memories. It is truly the heart of our ward with programs that are a credit to the creativity of the organisers. And just to add a further 'feather in their caps', they recently received an \$8,000 Disability Access Grant for doors and handrails.



Arrabri Peter Gurr
Mobile 0417 377 145

Cyclists in Maroondah will be pleased with the new Colchester Road bicycle path, which creates a lovely ride to the Bay and back. It takes in a section of the Dandenong Creek Trail and is a safe and easy ride for a family outing. It's wonderful to have this in our own backyard to enjoy. Improvements to the East Ringwood Community Hall brought a new kitchen and vinyl flooring which is much appreciated by all who use the facility. New play equipment at Gracedale Park, including new toddler and accessible play areas, and the neighbourhood park at Laura Court will also provide hours of enjoyment for local youngsters.



Clocktower Natalie Thomas
Mobile 0400 560 253

The Maroondah Art Gallery open day was a wonderful community event, with African music, tasty food and local dance groups – it was a great way to discover art and our fabulous art gallery and to meet neighbours. I also attended the junior golf day at Ringwood Golf Course, which saw a large turn out of future golfers eager to learn the basics from our resident golf pro. Thanks to the club volunteers who assisted them around the course during the afternoon. And lastly, the opening of the Community Housing Project at Heathmont was truly heart-warming with a number of very excited occupants finally joining our community.



Eastfield Tony Dib
Mobile 0400 873 350

Resurfacing of Croydon Little Athletics track will start early next year, and the extension to the Croydon Park Pavilion has begun, with a new multi purpose room and public toilets including an accessible toilet. Eastfield Road traffic issues are currently being investigated with road counters in place in various locations along the length, unfortunately though some counters are being removing or damaged. I ask that residents are patient during this time and allow the traffic counts to be completed, which are essential to the development of traffic management strategies in response to residents' concerns.