



NEWSLETTER

March 2017

LET'S TALK – WE ARE LISTENING



Strathbogie Shire Councillor Malcolm Little (left) sits down with Euroa Community Action Group chairman Neville Harris and Euroa resident June Lomer at Council's Conversation Café in Euroa recently.

Strathbogie Shire Council has just completed a successful community engagement campaign with well over 250 residents sharing their thoughts on the future of the region.

What makes a community tick?

Or, what makes a good community, great?

Where do you want the Strathbogie Shire to go over the next few years?

The campaign was a series of opportunities for the local community to become involved in making the Strathbogie Shire an even better place to live, work, study, invest and more.

All of the information and feedback received from the community as part of the campaign is currently being moulded into a community-focussed Council Plan driven by the community, for the community.

And this Council Plan will drive the 2017-18 Budget, which will be out on public display soon, for implementation in June.

The Let's Talk campaign saw all seven Councillors attend Conversation Cafes in Strathbogie, Avenel, Nagambie, Euroa, Violet Town, Graytown, Ruffy and Longwood, where hundreds of residents had their say on community issues and what they were most passionate about.

Every ratepayer and resident of the Shire was sent a simple postcard to fill out, which was sent back to the Council offices in Euroa and Nagambie via Australia Post or left in drop boxes at our visitor information centres and libraries.

Residents were also encouraged to fill out an online survey via social media and Council's website, which was also quite successful.

This is without a doubt one of the most successful community engagement campaigns Council has facilitated and one which will continue for years to come.

A full report will be made available to the public in April via Council's website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Strathbogie
shire

RAILWAY UNDERPASS COMING TO BIRKETT STREET

In a bid to improve pedestrian safety in Euroa, Council received \$75,000 from the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources' Transport Investing in Regions initiative.

Funding (together with \$138,000 from Council) will go towards a pedestrian underpass at Birkett Street, which intersects with the end of Campbell Street.

There has been significant demand for the underpass from residents and recognition of the safety risk to a range of pedestrians crossing using the road carriageway, which does not include a formal level crossing.

Last year, Council extended the footpath along Campbell Street with pedestrians utilising it going to and from Euroa Secondary College as well as the Good Start Early Learning Centre.

There has also been an increase in the number of vehicles accessing the road at school drop-off and pick-up times.

The project is still in its design phase and will include plans for surface drainage consideration, configuration of pump pit and pump arrangement, retaining wall structure and departure ramps on suitable pavement.

The footpath on Campbell Street will continue from the corner of Hinton Street to the underpass, finishing metres from the railway line on Birkett Street.

The project will include coordination with various rail authorities



Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes, Mayor Amanda McClaren, Seven Creeks Ward Councillors Mick Williams and John Mason, with Chief Executive Officer Steve Crawcour at the Birkett Street railway crossing.

and an engineering consultant, revision of drawings and acceptance of detailed design plans with the appointment of an approved rail corridor contractor via a tender process.

It is expected construction will take about six months in the second half of 2017.

MAYORAL GREETINGS

Council have had a busy start to the year with the 'Let's Talk - We are Listening' program around the Shire. This initiative of the new Council was to enable us to hear from our Shire communities as we begin to develop our Council Plan and Budget. We had a great community response and we heard from eight of our communities around the Shire including Avenel, Euroa, Nagambie, Strathbogie, Ruffy, Graytown, Violet Town and Longwood. The whole process was informative with Councillors hearing and discussing both local and Shire-wide issues, challenges and opportunities.

Council is now working through collating all that we have heard and the information collected under our five key strategic areas and to prioritise these into the four year Council Plan and Budget. It is a big challenge, but one we are working through and very grateful to all our community members and groups who've helped inform and challenge us.

Of course, the Let's Talk initiative was not limited to the Conversation Cafes, we also had submissions via the reply paid postcards, emails and the Let's Talk Survey. A summary of the findings will be made available to those who've shared their email addresses with us and via the website.

Whilst we heard about issues we anticipated such as the key deliverable areas of roads, rates and rubbish - we also were pleasantly surprised by some of the areas raised across the Shire, such as becoming a Refugee Welcome Shire and the issue around single use plastic bags - all local areas of entrepreneurship and ideas for economic development and growth.

We recognise there are always areas for improvement - and we are working on these. We were pleased to have had the conversations with our communities around their priority areas. We hope to come back to your communities with the Council Plan and Budget in the next month.

Thank you to all our community members and groups for sharing their time, their energy and their expertise to help inform Council as we develop the Council Plan.



LONGWOOD OVAL GETS A FACELIFT

Council provided funding in the capital works program for upgrade works at Longwood Recreation Reserve including \$30,000 for tree removal and a further \$30,000 to upgrade the surface of the oval.

The Recreation Reserve Committee has worked closely with Council and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on this project.

A planning permit was sought for the removal of two large red box trees on the boundary fence of the oval.

An arborist's report recommended that the risk to the public could be reduced by sympathetic pruning of the trees and providing bollards to exclude people and cars from the area under the tree canopy.

This recommendation also meant that the boundary fence around the oval would be moved away from the trees and coach's box relocated.

DELWP provided a contribution of \$7000 to assist with this work so that the trees could be preserved.

The Committee has been working very hard to organise additional surface drainage, upgrade of sprinklers and reshaping the surface of the oval with new topsoil.

The oval has now been fertilised and seeded and is being watered to establish a good growth of turf.

New boundary fencing on the grandstand side of the oval is to be erected shortly.



RIDE THE RANGES

The annual Ride the Ranges weekend returns in 2017 with a new town favourite, with the second Euroa Town Criterium taking place on April 22.

Organisers, the Rotary Club of Euroa and Melbourne Cycling League (Criterium), will clear the streets to make way for the 1.3km circuit, with parts of Kirkland Avenue, Railway Street, Binney Street and Brock Street closed for part of the day.

Three grades (both men and women) will be vying for the coveted prizes (\$275 A Grade, \$135 B Grade and \$85 C Grade), which kicks off at 1.00pm at Kirkland Avenue West.

There is no doubt the race will be highly spectated by locals and visitors.

On Sunday April 23, Euroa, Violet Town and the Strathbogie Ranges will be showcased in spectacular fashion with a 30km, 85km and 130km ride.

All starting (and finishing) on Kirkland Avenue West, all three rides will test even the most professional of cyclists:

- 30km - a clockwise loop around to Shean's Creek Road (start time 8.30am)
- 85km - travel north to Miepoll, east to Violet Town (via Violet Town-Murchison Road), south up the difficult Harry's Creek Road and back down to Euroa via Kelvin View...and one hell of a ride down Euroa-Strathbogie Road (start time 8.15am)
- 130km - north to Miepoll, north along Pine Lodge Road, then turn south to Violet Town, up Harry's Creek Road, then loop around through Strathbogie, returning to Euroa down from Kelvin View (start time 8am).

The 30km ride costs \$35 (or \$45 if paid after April 14), with the 85km and 130km rides costing \$60 (or \$75 if paid after April 14).

To book your place in the cycling event of the year and for more information, go to www.ridetherangeseuroa.org.au.



Neil Tubb and Chris Berry training for Ride the Ranges this year

MEET YOUR COUNCILLOR

DEB SWAN - LAKE NAGAMBIE WARD

What is your key focus over the next four years?

Re-connecting with the community, grow economic development of the area and to provide a better lifestyle at an affordable cost for ratepayers.

What is one thing the people of the Strathbogie Shire don't know about you?

I enjoy painting in my spare time.

Use one word to describe you as a Councillor.

Authentic.



TREE ROOTS CAUSING DAMAGE IN EUROA CBD

Tree roots in Euroa's CBD have caused significant damage to pavers along Binney Street.

In the 1990s, several Manchurian Pear trees were planted along Binney and Brock streets and were selected, at the time, for their suitability and on the proviso that the roots would grow down rather than causing damage to the pavers circling the trees.

While it is unclear as to what has caused the roots to grow so erratically, droughts over the last 25 years may be a factor.

The invasive root system on the trees have popped the pavers and cracked the asphalt.

Council is urging the local community to give feedback on what should be done with the trees.

Some of the pavers around the trees will need to be removed for safety reasons, with the worst case scenario to remove the trees and replace them with a non-invasive root system.

Contact Council on 1800 065 993.



Seven Creeks Ward Councillors Mick Williams and John Mason inspect the damage caused by invasive tree roots on Binney Street.

EVENTS DIARY



For more information go to www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au or like us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/StrathbogieShireCouncil.

Euroa Gift and Fun Run – Saturday, March 18, from 9am

The region's premier athletics gathering at the picturesque Euroa Memorial Oval. A Rotary-organised event, the Gift features eight professional races, ranging from the 70m Open Sprint to the 1600m Open. The day will start with the traditional Fun Run events along the Apex Track at 9am, to be followed by the new Joss Family Football Club Relay (4x100m) in which football clubs from across the region will vie for \$2000 in prize money. For more information call David Rutledge on 0488 433 688.

Scotch Mercantile Rowing Regatta (Nagambie) – Saturday, March 18

The Mercantile Rowing Club will be hosting a major rowing regatta on Lake Nagambie, the winners of which will head to Sydney to the National Rowing Regatta or through to APS Head of the River held the next weekend in Nagambie. An exciting innovation for this regatta is that EFX Video Productions will be providing live video streaming of this regatta. For more information, go to www.mercantile.org.au/events.

APS Head of the River Regatta (Nagambie) – Saturday, March 25

Contested by boys and girls from the 11 schools that form the Associated Public Schools of Victoria and it is the last regatta of the summer rowing season – and has the most prestigious prize for the winning crew and school. This year it celebrates its 150th year. For more information go to www.apssport.org.au.

Fast Track Talent Competition (Euroa) – Saturday, April 8

Calling all singers, dancers, bands, duos, trios, classical musicians, comedians, DJs, poets, dance troupes, rappers and anyone else with talent. Apply now to be part of Strathbogie Shire's largest talent competition with industry judges and guest performers to be announced. Fantastic prizes to be won. Performance workshop on the Friday, Heats and Grand Final on the Saturday. To be involved, email your name and contact details to strathbogie@fasttracktalent.com.au.

FAST TRACK
AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST
TALENT SHOWCASE IS COMING TO STRATHBOGIE SHIRE!

CALLING ALL
singers, dancers, bands, duos, trios,
classical musicians, comedians,
DJs, poets, dance troupes, rappers
and anyone else with talent!!

APPLY NOW
TO BE PART OF THE
STRATHBOGIE SHIRE'S
LARGEST TALENT COMPETITION
WITH
INDUSTRY JUDGES
AND GUEST PERFORMERS
TO BE ANNOUNCED!

Euroa Criterium/Ride the Ranges Weekend - Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23

Choose from a recreational 30km ride (\$35 or \$45 after April 14, start time 8.30am), a challenging 85km ride (8.15am start time) or a hard 130km ride (8am start, \$60 or \$75 after April 14 for both distances). Tour the Strathbogie Ranges by departing Euroa, riding to Violet Town then heading up to the beautiful Strathbogie Ranges in the 85km or 130km rides, or to Shean's Creek and back for the 30km ride. Proudly supported by the Rotary Club of Euroa (who provide a complimentary BBQ and refreshments at the end), be part of the action by visiting www.ridetherangeseuroa.org.au.

Anzac Day Celebrations - Tuesday, April 25

Avenel - 11am start with a march from Jubilee Park to the Avenel RSL, followed by the service. Contact Joyce White on 0429 962 398 for more information.

Euroa – 5.50am Dawn Service, 10am march on one lane of Binney Street to the Euroa RSL for a 10.20am Service. Contact Neville Mawson on 0418 588 868.

Nagambie – 11am start with a march along High Street to the Cenotaph Memorial, service to be held in Mechanic's Hall. Contact Di Grant on 0487 478 091.

Violet Town – 5.50am dawn service, 10am parade along Cowslip Street with 10.20am service at Violet Town Community Complex. Contact Rand Alexander on 5762 7544 for more information.

Euroa Urban Fire Brigade 125th Anniversary Celebrations – Queen's Birthday Weekend

Friday, June 9 – Torchlight March through Euroa. Starting on DeBoos Street at the North Eastern Hotel at 7.30pm, the marchers will continue to the overpass and down to Railway Street, turning right into Binney Street and concluding in Brock Street at the Burton's IGA car park. It will be a magic sight with the brigades marching down the overpass, but there will be many great viewing spots all the way along.

Saturday, June 10 – 125th Anniversary Dinner at St John's Mercy Centre, Euroa. From 6pm at \$30 a head, BYO drinks and come and enjoy a two course meal with live entertainment and music with past and present members of the Euroa Urban Fire Brigade. Tickets are available at the Euroa Newsagency.

Sunday, June 11 – Euroa Fire Station Open Day

The station doors will be open from 10am-12pm. Sausage sizzle, jumping castle and drinks will be available across the road at the Lions Park.

For more information on these events, call Damon Rieusset on 0413984858 or Neville Mawson on 0418588868.

YOUR LOCAL MARKETS

Euroa Village Farmers Market - Saturday, March 18, Saturday, April 15 and Saturday, May 20 – Rotary Park, Kirkland Avenue, Euroa – 9am-1pm

Nagambie Farmers Market – Sunday, March 26, Sunday, April 23 & Sunday, May 28 – High Street, Nagambie – 9am-1pm

Nagambie Lakes Community Market – Saturday, April 1, Saturday, May 6 & Saturday, June 3 – Jacobson's Outlook, High Street, Nagambie – 9am-1pm

Avenel Market – Sunday, April 9, Sunday, May 14 & Sunday, June 11 – Jubilee Park, Queen Street, Avenel – 9am-1pm

Violet Town Market – Saturday, April 8, Saturday, May 13 & Saturday, June 10 – Recreation Reserve, Tulip Street, Violet Town – 8.30am-1pm

WORK ON SHIRE-WIDE AQUATIC STRATEGY BEGINS

Council's Shire-Wide Aquatic Strategy is slowly taking shape, with the working group meeting recently to discuss the four pools' future.

This strategy will go straight to the Councillors, looking at the operational requirements (short and long term), long term sustainability, social/community benefits and future improvements (subject to funding).

Council's Pools Working Group discussed recent visits to Ararat, which has a pool similar in age to Euroa.

With significant community support and in-kind work, the pool was transformed into an attraction of choice for residents and visitors.

Patronage increased with a splash park and the pool didn't need to be replaced, with its close proximity to a park a bonus. Initial quotes for the redevelopment were \$4 million, which was less with in-kind support.

With that in mind, the group members made the following suggestions:

- Include the Nagambie pool in the upcoming Nagambie Recreation Reserve Master Plan
- All pool groups in Avenel, Euroa, Nagambie and Violet Town to obtain costings for heating their pools



Hughes Creek Ward Councillor Malcolm Little (left) with three of the Avenel Pool's original founders Ken Sloper, Ken Kelly and Len Underwood at the pool's 50th birthday party which had almost 300 in attendance.

- Councillors will decide on the future of free pool passes as part of the 2017-18 Budget. Finally, the group recommended that all four pools will remain open for the 2017-18 season.

SALEYARDS STAGE 2

Stage two of the Euroa Saleyards roof project is in full swing, with the installation of steel columns and trusses for an 1800m² roof extension.

The successful contractor for these works is Don Newnham Engineering of Euroa. This company also undertook the successful stage one project in 2015.

Strathbogie Shire has received \$500,000 from Regional Development Victoria, with Council contributing \$25,000.

The project will provide shade and protection from the elements for both cattle and clients, enhancing the saleyards' standing and competitiveness in the region – and ultimately its longevity and economic benefits. Work is expected to be complete by late April 2017.



FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING SNIPPETS

Strathbogie Shire Councillors have met for the first time in 2017, leading a well-attended Ordinary Meeting in Nagambie.

Below are the key highlights from the meeting, held at the Regatta Centre:

Discontinuation of Chinaman's Bridge

Councillors have voted to discontinue the road across the old Chinaman's Bridge, having received and heard submissions from two people.

The heritage-listed bridge opened in 1891 and was declared Main Road, connecting Nagambie and Heathcote. In 1995, following realignment of the Nagambie-Heathcote Rd onto a new replacement bridge, VicRoads removed the Main Road status from the bridge but retained a more general road status in its place.

This is no longer appropriate as the structure is unsuitable for public access and the bridge has fallen into a state of disrepair and is hazardous to the public using the Goulburn River Reserve and boating traffic on the river.

Although Councillors have voted to close the road across the

bridge, Council will advise VicRoads of its historical significance and will work on creating a sign explaining its connection to the gold mining era.

Nagambie waterways

Two volunteer coastguards have been appointed for the Nagambie waterways, primarily overseeing the activity along Lake Nagambie and the Goulburn River most weekends.

Short-term local road closure – Violet Town

The Australian Rail Track Corporation will be carrying out works on a railway crossing that will affect traffic on High Street, Violet Town. They have requested a full road closure to carry out routine maintenance works that includes concreting the road surface on the eastern side of the level crossing.

The road will be closed for five days (from March 11-16) to allow the concrete to cure.

Alternative routes will be available for intending users of High Street, Foreman Street and Ramage Road.

POTENTIAL CHANGES TO MANAGEMENT OF CINEMA

Cinema-goers are invited to a public meeting with Council to discuss the option of giving the Euroa Community Cinema to the community to operate and manage.

A meeting held Wednesday, March 15 will aim to inform community members of the following:

- Public participation and community control allows the community to be engaged and empowered with the operational functions and direction of the Euroa Community Cinema.
- The proposal has been presented to the Euroa Community Cinema Operating Committee, exploring a number of different operating models.
- The community will manage the cinema as an incorporated entity, with elected positions such as President, Vice-President,

Secretary/Treasurer and various sub-committees focusing on film selection, ticketing, projection and more.

- Council will still own the cinema but complete operation and control lies with the community.

Based on feedback from the community meeting, a recommendation will be made to Council and if successful, an Expression of Interest for Committee positions process will commence.

Once this committee is assembled, training will begin, as will the official handover from Council.

To have your say on the proposed incorporation of the cinema, come to the Euroa Community Cinema on Wednesday, March 15 at 7pm on Bury Street, Euroa.



PUBLIC NOTICES / COUNCIL MEETINGS

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS MARCH – JUNE 2017

The next three Ordinary Meetings of Strathbogie Shire Council are scheduled to be held on the following locations and dates:

- Tuesday, March 21st, 2017 – Euroa Community Conference Centre, Bury Street, Euroa at 6pm.
- Tuesday, April 18th, 2017 – Strathbogie Hall, Main Street, Strathbogie at 6pm
- Tuesday, May 16th, 2017 – Euroa Community Conference Centre, Bury Street, Euroa at 6pm
- Tuesday, June 20th, 2017 – Euroa Community Conference Centre, Bury Street, Euroa at 6pm

The agendas for the meetings will be available on Council's website on the Friday afternoon prior to the meetings.

Prior to the commencement of the Council meetings, community members are invited to meet with Councillors and the Executive Management Team at 5.30pm (at the same venue) for general discussions.

LAKE CLOSURES

- Saturday, March 18, 2017 – Scotch Mercantile Rowing Regatta – Whole lake closed from 6am-6pm
- Saturday, March 25, 2017 – APS Head of the River Regatta – Whole lake closed from 6am-6pm
- Saturday, May 6 - 7, 2017 – Victorian Masters Rowing Regatta – Whole lake closed from 6am-6pm
- Sunday, May 14, 2017 - Carrum Masters Rowing Regatta - Whole lake closed 6am-6pm'
- Tuesday, May 16-Sunday, May 21, 2017 – Australian Masters Rowing Regatta – Whole lake closed 6am-6pm

ROAD CLOSURES

Euroa Criterium Cycling Race
Saturday, April 22 – 12pm-6pm

- Kirkland Avenue (between Bury Street and Railway Street)
- Railway Street (between Kirkland Avenue and Binney Street)
- Binney Street (between Railway Street and Bury Street)
- Bury Street (between Binney Street and Kirkland Avenue)
- Brock Street (between Binney Street and Kirkland Avenue)

Anzac Day Parade – Euroa

Tuesday, April 25 – 10am-10.20am

- Binney Street (between Railway Street and Brock Street) – north-east bound lane only
- Brock Street (between Binney Street and Kirkland Avenue) – north bound lane only

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meetings of the Planning Committee are scheduled to be held as follows –

- Tuesday, March 28
- Tuesday, April 11
- Tuesday, April 25 – NO MEETING AS ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
- Tuesday, May 9
- Tuesday, May 23 and
- Tuesday, June 13, 2017

Meetings are held at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, commencing at 4pm.

The Agendas for Council and Planning Committee meetings are available on Council's website on the Friday afternoon prior to the meeting.

Council officers can also confirm if there are items listed for consideration – please call 1800 065 993 during office hours.

If there are no items listed for consideration for a Planning Committee meeting, the meeting will not go ahead. This information will also be advised on Council's website.

Steve Crawcour
Chief Executive Officer
Strathbogie Shire Council

2017 ANIMAL REGISTRATION RENEWALS

Council has introduced intelligent Customer Reference Numbers – iCRN's – on the Animal Renewal notices for 2017.

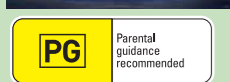
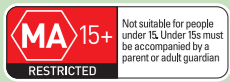
If you are a BPay customer and use this method to renew your animal registration, your customer reference number has changed to incorporate the "intelligent" number.

The registration fee will now be part of your reference number, to eliminate people paying multiple animals to one reference number.

Registration fees for animals are payable by 10th April 2017 and notices will be forwarded by mid March.

Euroa Community Cinema

Bury St, Euroa
Tickets: \$10.00
(pre-school children FREE)



I, Daniel Blake – Saturday, March 18th at 8pm & Sunday, March 19th at 4pm
A middle-aged carpenter who requires state welfare after injuring himself is joined by a single mother in a similar scenario.

Manchester By Sea – Saturday, March 25th at 8pm & Sunday, March 26th at 4pm
An uncle is asked to take care of his teenage nephew after the boy's father dies.

Rosalie Blum – Friday, March 31st at 8pm
A witty and ingeniously crafted comedy about a random encounter that has unexpected and life-changing consequences.

A Street Cat Named Bob – Saturday, April 1st at 8pm & Sunday, April 2nd at 4pm
When James Bowen found an injured, ginger cat curled up in the hallway of his sheltered accommodation, he had no idea just how much his life was about to change.

Hidden Figures – Saturday, April 15th at 8pm & Sunday, April 16th at 4pm
A team of African-American women provide NASA with important mathematical data needed to launch the program's first successful space missions.

Ballerina – Monday, April 17th at 4pm (Easter Monday) – Run by EVOLVE Youth Committee
Felicie is a young orphan from Brittany with only one passion: dance. With her best friend Victor, who wants to become a great inventor, she devises a madcap plan to escape the orphanage for Paris, the City of Lights where the Eiffel Tower is still being built. Felicie will have to fight like never before to surpass herself and to learn from her mistakes, to make her wildest dream come true: becoming a prima ballerina at the Paris Opera.

For more upcoming cinema listings from April to June, visit the Strathbogie Shire website, the Euroa Community Cinema Facebook page or check the Euroa Gazette.

RUBBISH TIPS

Ever wondered what happens to your rubbish when it gets to our waste transfer stations? Here are a few tips:



• Mattresses are collected from our transfer stations and put through an automated deconstruction process. 85 per cent of the materials within a mattress are recovered. Textiles (covers and padding) are used to manufacture carpet underlay and metals (springs etc) go into the recycled metal market.

• Tyres are collected and shredded into granules. The shredded rubber is then used in the manufacture of things such as playground surfaces, brake pads, building insulation, road surfaces, tile adhesives and new tyres. Steel is also removed and recycled.

• Fridges/air conditioners are degassed on site by approved contractors to ensure harmful gases are not released into the atmosphere. They are then placed in with other scrap metal products for recycling.

MEET YOUR COUNCILLOR

ALISTAIR THOMSON
– MT WOMBAT WARD

What is your key focus over the next four years?

I hope to be part of a strong Council team that listens to residents and ratepayers. We need to understand the issues that our stakeholders have and fix the problems. We need to explore the opportunities presented to us and capture the possibilities. Fairness is key in relation to rates and charges paid and services delivered. I hope to be part of a Council that develops a strong plan for economic growth and lobbies other government agencies to increase essential services to residents.



What is one thing the people of the Strathbogie Shire don't know about you?

What you see is what you get. Feel free to ask me anything.

Use one word to describe you as a Councillor. Advocate

PERMITS TO BURN NOW PERMITTED

Weather conditions are now suitable for the consideration of applications for permits to burn under Schedule 13 of the CFA Act in the Strathbogie Shire.

Schedule 13 Permits for the burning of grass, stubble or vegetation may be issued for agricultural purposes.

Burning off grass, stubble, weeds, undergrowth or other vegetation during the Fire Danger Period is permitted only if the land holder has a written permit issued by the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer, a Fire Prevention Officer of a public authority or by the CFA District 22 office.

A permit is only valid if all conditions are followed, including light up times, notifications, weather conditions and required means of extinguishment.

CHANGES TO PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Public Question Time is undergoing an overhaul at Strathbogie Shire Council's meetings.

As part of Council's commitment to transparency, and to ensure all customer enquiries are dealt with efficiently and effectively, residents can now submit their questions before the monthly Ordinary Meeting takes place.

Now, residents can fill out a form either in person at our Council office in Euroa, the Ordinary Meeting location or online, and indicate their intention to ask a question and give further detail on any issue/s at hand.

This will ensure the issue is dealt with promptly and Councillors/Officers are well-informed ahead of the Ordinary Meeting.

Any question asked will need to ensure it meets the requirements of Council's Meeting Procedure Local Law Number 1 (2014)

The questions (and answers) will also be made available in the Council Minutes.

Visit Council's website to download the Question Time form or fill it in online before the third Tuesday of every month.



BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS

Strathbogie Shire's business community has revealed that a lack of internet and mobile phone coverage and substantial cost of property rates are among the biggest concerns they face.

Results from Business Euroa's first Business Survey also show that, of the 140 responses, agriculture and equine businesses make up half of the results, followed by professional, manufacturing and retail.

Asked about opportunities to grow businesses and employment, respondents' suggest attracting new businesses to the Shire, promoting potential growth industries, promoting the Shire region and obtaining government infrastructure grants.

Run in conjunction with Strathbogie Shire Council and Nagambie Lakes Tourism & Commerce, the survey was released online and mailed directly to rural areas in September last year.

For the full business survey report, visit our website www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Disclaimer The information in this publication is of a general nature. The articles contained herein are not intended to provide a complete discussion on each subject and/or issues canvassed. Strathbogie Shire Council does not accept any liability for any statements or any opinion or for any errors or omissions contained herein.

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