

# Maroondah

MARCH TO MAY 2012

## IN FOCUS



Community, Lifestyle, Opportunity

*your community newsletter*



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Maroondah Mayor, Cr Rob Steane.

# Mayor's message

*Welcome* to the first edition of Maroondah in Focus for 2012, and my first as Mayor.

I was extremely proud to be elected as Mayor and look forward to serving our community to ensure that Maroondah remains a wonderful place to live, work and visit.

With this edition of Maroondah In Focus you will have also received the 2012 Maroondah Community Guide. This is a wonderful resource that is produced to provide the community with information and access to a wide range of local community and regional resources.

The Guide lists organisations and community groups that operate in our community — local sporting clubs, schools, referral and self-help groups and places of worship.

For those who are internet savvy the Community Guide is also available on Council's website, and internet addresses have been included in the Guide for those community groups who have supplied one.

So make sure you keep the Guide on hand throughout the year and refer to it if you're looking for a way to get more involved or active in the local community.

Of particular focus for me during this Mayoral term will be community safety and sustainable development across Maroondah. We should start to see a lot more happening around the centre of Ringwood with design works well underway for the redevelopment of the Ringwood Station and bus interchange.

Early development works have started at Eastland with heavy machinery working on the site since the end of January.

I am excited by the major developments I am sure will take place in the very near future. Council will update the community further as soon as information comes to hand.

I also encourage the community to get behind the upcoming Youth Week events held between 13 to 22 April, to celebrate the wonderful contributions that young people make to our community.

Best wishes,

Mayor Cr Rob Steane

**Council meetings are open to the community, so why not join your Councillors at one of the next meetings:**

**March 26**

**April 16**

**May 14 (Budget meeting)**

**May 28**

Meetings start at 7.30pm and are held in the Council Chambers, Braeside Avenue, Ringwood.

## Seeking funding assistance?

Got great ideas for your community group, but not sure how you're going to fund it?

Now is your chance to share in funding made available through Council's Community Grants Funding Program.

The annual funding supports incorporated, not-for-profit community groups who are developing programs, projects and events that will make a positive contribution to our community.

Last year funds were allocated to assist groups with a variety of initiatives including establishing cooking programs for the needy, collating historical memorabilia and driver education programs.

Applications for the 2012-13 grants open on Monday 2 April with funding offered to eligible groups who are providing programs which increase opportunities for community partnerships in social and leisure activities, enhance wellbeing and address a need in the community.

A workshop to assist with the application process will be held on Thursday 19 April. Applications close on Friday 1 June, with the funding distribution to take place in September.

For more information and a list of criteria, visit Council's website or call Council on 1300 88 22 33.



Skylarkers entertainment group members Glen, John and Enid are thankful for the funding assistance the group received through Council's Community Grants Funding Program last year. The group host musical performances at senior citizens centres, nursing homes and retirement villages.



**Fast facts**

Last financial year Council's Community Grant Scheme provided more than \$95,500 to assist 46 community groups.

**Front page:** The Ramm and Carter families were among the many community members who joined in the Australia Day celebrations at Ringwood Lake.



# Home run for sporting clubs

There were smiles, and a few tears of joy, at the official opening of the \$933,000 AG Lavis Pavilion in Heathmont Reserve.

The Heathmont Baseball Club and Heathmont Baptist Cricket Club are sharing use of the new multipurpose pavilion.

The new facility includes two changing rooms and associated showers, female and male all-access toilet facilities, a kitchen, social area and bi-fold doors that open onto a timber deck overlooking the oval and baseball batting mound.

Heathmont Baseball Club committee member and former president Mark Le Grew said the new state of the art pavilion would really put Heathmont on the map.

"For us our big hurdle all along has been attracting new juniors, parents and partners of players to come to the club and enjoy the social aspect of it," Mr Le Grew said.

"Before you couldn't see the ground from inside, now we've got a glass fronted

viewing area that is so close to the action. We think it's the best spectator facility in Victorian baseball," Mr Le Grew said.

"This facility offers us everything that we have been missing for years," Mr Le Grew said.

Mr Le Grew said the club was extremely grateful for the support received from Council.

"With Council's help we were able to engage with the people we needed to make this happen and that's when we started to see progress," Mr Le Grew said.

The redevelopment works were funded with \$687,000 from Council's Capital Works Program and \$246,000 from the Federal Government's Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program.

*Heathmont Baptist Cricket Club made first use of the shared pavilion following its opening in November. The Heathmont Baseball Club is now using the facility during its season.*

## Your Councillors...

**Cr Natalie Thomas | Arrabri Ward  
Mobile 0400 560 253**

2012 is the National Year of Reading, so what better way to celebrate than discovering the Ringwood and Croydon branches of Eastern Regional Libraries.



Croydon Library has recently undergone an extensive refurbishment, including a significant upgrade to its book handling process making it more user-friendly and creating more time for staff to spend assisting visitors.

The works also included an expansion to the computer and children's areas and the establishment of a Family History room. Our libraries are a gateway out of social exclusion, so I encourage people to head down to their nearest library to check out what is available.

Libraries no longer just offer books - they have a range of resources, as well hosting events and activities such as children's story time, family history sessions and interest groups.

There is even more planned for the future, with Eastern Regional Libraries currently working on how it can broaden its reach into the community.

For details on the National Year of Reading visit [www.erl.vic.gov.au](http://www.erl.vic.gov.au)

## Make your mark

Women considering getting involved in local government can find out more about what's involved at a number of events throughout March.

Council has endorsed the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter, aimed at building the numbers and diversity of female candidates for local government.

The events, including a networking forum and expo, are intended to provide information on local government activities and services, and what is involved in the role of a Councillor.

Led by Maroondah's Women's Charter Champions, Councillors Nora Lamont and Natalie Thomas, these events are a great opportunity to discover if you've got what it takes in the lead up to the next Council election on October 27.

Visit Council's website for more information on the range of events during March.

# New space for all

Maroondah's young people will soon have another place to call their own, with Croydon Y Space officially opening to the community on Saturday March 31.

The much anticipated project, in the south western section of Croydon Park along Mt Dandenong Road, is an area that can be embraced by Maroondah's younger residents as well as providing recreation opportunities for the whole community.

The elements of the project were developed following extensive community consultation.

A major highlight of the facility will be the 1100m<sup>2</sup> skate area catering for skateboarders, scooters and BMX riders. The area includes a street plaza, mini ramps and open ended bowl which will greatly improve on the previous facilities in Croydon.



*The new \$616,000 Croydon Y Space, currently under construction, was jointly funded by Council and the Federal Government.*

A concrete activity court can be used by people of all ages to play a range of informal ball sports including soccer and volleyball, and the stage area provides an opportunity for live performances inside the park.

A new all-abilities toilet block has also been installed near the tennis club carpark, with wider paths now linking the two areas.

Visitors to the area will also be able to access free WiFi, and speakers within the Y Space can be used to broadcast music, managed from EV's Youth Centre across the road.

Parents can also have greater peace of mind when their children visit the playspace, as the area is fitted with lights and a CCTV camera with direct feedback to Croydon Police Station.

## Did you know?

The former skate park in Croydon's Town Park will be transformed into a hard court area with basketball hoops and space for other ball sports.

## Your Councillors...

Cr Rob Steane | Wyreena Ward  
Mobile 0407 519 986

The best thing about being a Councillor is having the chance to work on projects that benefit our community.



One such project currently underway is the Croydon Y Space. After touring the construction site, and seeing the final pieces of the development come together, I am now even more excited about the official opening later this month.

There is no doubt the Y Space will become a popular meeting point for our young people and families, as it creates more opportunity to join in a range of physical activities including skating and BMX riding.

The facility was designed in consultation with our young people, so the Y Space has all the popular features that people of all ages and abilities can enjoy.

The location of the community facility is ideal, with a clear sight line from Mt Dandenong Road, as well as having a CCTV camera connected directly to the Croydon Police Station, making it an even safer place for young people to meet.

## Park makeover nearly complete

Croydon Park has been a hive of activity the past few months with major oval redevelopment works underway.

Council is literally rebuilding the oval from the ground up - installing a new drainage and irrigation system as well as replanting with warm-season grass.

The extensive works will ensure the ground surface is better prepared to cope in all weather conditions, maintaining a playing surface during both the warm and wet seasons.

New coach's boxes and fencing around the oval have also been installed.



*A total redevelopment of Croydon Oval is currently underway, including new drainage, irrigation and playing surface.*

Council has also invested a further \$70,000 into upgrading facilities within Croydon Park, including upgrading shared pathways, providing more seating, constructing new fences, improving drainage and installing additional lighting and garden beds.

## Getting mobile in Croydon

Getting out and about in Croydon has never been easier with the new Croydon Mobility Map now available.

The detailed brochure highlights the accessible services available in the Croydon retail precinct including accessible parking bays, toilets, ATMs, public transport and recharge points for mobility devices.

Also included in the brochure are important safety tips for scooter users,

such as information on what to consider before purchasing a scooter.

The brochure was developed by Council's MetroAccess Officer in conjunction with Scoot, Wheel 'n' Move, a disability advocacy group.

Pick up your copy of the Croydon Mobility Map at a Council Service Centre.

# Businesses join forces

Are you a business wanting to get more involved in the local community, but not sure where to start?

A new dedicated Business Community Partnerships portal on Council's website has everything you need to know about establishing working relationships with community groups.

The portal includes information on how to establish relationships with groups; local success stories; and a list of community groups currently seeking partnerships.

There are many benefits to be gained by businesses which establish partnerships within the community, including greater leverage in the marketplace; improved community standing; increased public profile; improved customer loyalty and greater staff retention.



To find out more about Council's Business Community Partnerships program visit [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/CBP.aspx](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/CBP.aspx)

2011 Australian of the Year, Simon McKeon, an avid believer in the benefit of Community Business Partnerships, met with Judy Duff of Melba Support Services, Clare Grundy of Monkami and Lisa Lawler of Irabina Childhood Autism Services at the launch of Council's Community Business Partnerships web portal.

## Dogs and cats have their day

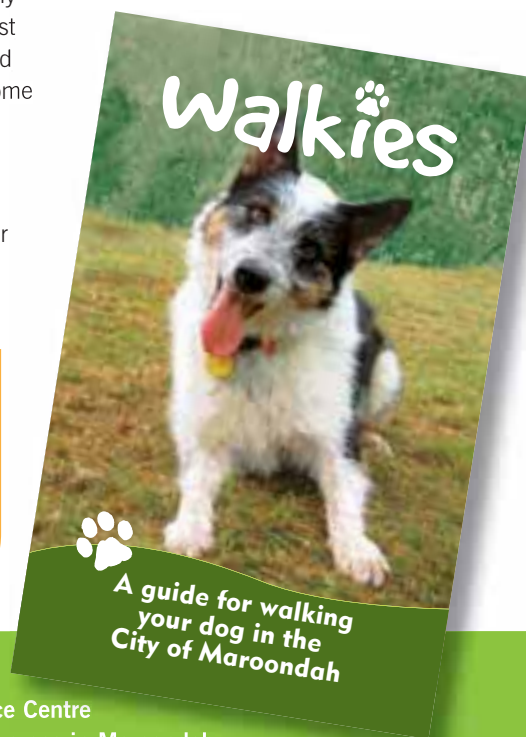
All dog and cat owners in Maroondah should make sure Tuesday April 10 is in your diary.

This is the day all dogs and cats in Maroondah, that are over three months old, need to be registered with Council.

Keeping your pet registration up to date and having your pet microchipped is not only required by law, it is also one of the best ways to ensure your pet can be returned safely if they happen to get lost or become injured.

Pet registration renewal notices will be arriving in letterboxes soon with new yellow tags that should be worn by your pet at all times.

For people with new pets or those who have just moved into Maroondah, registration forms are available on Council's website, at any of Council's Service Centres or by calling Council.



### Fast facts

More than 20,000 dogs and cats are registered with Council every year.

Pick up a copy of the Walkies brochure from a Council Service Centre for a full list of on and off lead areas in Maroondah and other handy hints on responsible pet ownership.

## Your Councillors...

Ann Fraser | Mullum Ward  
Mobile 0428 526 311

Local sport has always been a passion of mine, so it is extremely exciting that we now have Maroondah's first female cricket team, part of the Ringwood Cricket Club.

Creating a new team has its challenges and it wouldn't have been possible without the determination of the team members and community support. Council was happy to assist, providing a training ground at Proclamation Park in Ringwood, and installing a new turf wicket at the ground so they can host home matches. The team has come a long way since its first game in October, when they made just seven runs, to now having a number of wins under their hat.

There are a number of benefits that come from getting involved in the community, and joining a sporting club is just one of the ways to do it. After all, being an active member of society is what makes a good community.

To get in contact with one of Maroondah's many sporting clubs look at the 2012 Community Guide, Council's website or phone 1300 88 22 33.



# \$3 million for Ringwood District Aquatic Centre

The State Government has thrown its support behind the development of the Ringwood District Aquatic Centre - committing \$3 million to the project.

Sport & Recreation Minister Hugh Delahunty visited Ringwood in December to announce that Council had been successful in its application for funding through the Community Facility Funding Program - Better Pools category.

Three million dollars is the maximum that can be allocated through the Better Pools funding initiative.



Maroondah Mayor Cr Rob Steane (left) shows Sport & Recreation Minister Hugh Delahunty and Bayswater MP Heidi Victoria around the Ringwood Aquatic Centre with Maroondah CEO Frank Dixon.

Peddle Thorp Architects is currently working on the design of the facility to ensure it takes in best practice and continues to cater for the future needs of our community, sporting clubs, user groups, individuals and families.

The facility will be fully accessible, featuring a gymnasium; fitness rooms; a 50 metre pool; a diving pool and tower; dry diving training area; a warm water pool; dedicated learn to swim pool; and a water leisure and play space.

Other key aspects of the new facility will include family and accessible change rooms, which will be in close proximity to the main water bodies.

The current Ringwood Aquatic Centre will close on Saturday 30 June, 2012, at which time demolition work will begin in preparation for the construction of the new facility.

## Your Councillors...

Cr Les Willmott | Wyreena Ward  
Mobile 0417 391 743

One of the main things that I love about living in Maroondah is the expanse of green canopy that we have right across the municipality. In fact Council is responsible for more than one million trees across Maroondah.

Every year Council plants more than 30,000 new trees and shrubs, ensuring the green canopy we all enjoy is maintained for future generations to come. In 2007, to mark the 100th birthday of Croydon Tennis Club, I planted a commemorative tree to honour the occasion. Unfortunately, while the club has continued to thrive, the original tree fell victim to Melbourne weather patterns. Not wanting to see this momentous milestone go unnoticed in the years to come, late last year I had the great pleasure of donating a replacement tree on behalf of Council.

Joined by various members of the club, I planted a new White Cedar next to the Croydon Tennis Club, near James Kerr Way. Players will be able to see the tree from the courts, as will people visiting the new Y Space at Croydon Park.



## Croydon upgrade proposed



An artist impression of the proposed redevelopment at Croydon Central.

A multi-million redevelopment of the Croydon Central Shopping Centre is one step closer, with Council recently receiving a planning application for the site.

The proposed redevelopment, on the corner of Kent and Wicklow avenues, would nearly triple the current floor space of the centre,

incorporating a mix of retail and non-retail premises such as a food court, discount department store and community meeting space.

Council officers are currently reviewing the planning application, which will be advertised to the community for comment later this year.

# Ringwood update

Ringwood is designated by the State Government as a Central Activities Area. One of only six key regional centres in metropolitan Melbourne – it will bring together transport, a lively city centre, active local economy and lifestyle options to meet the projected community needs as we move towards the year 2030.

## Park brings new growth

Larissa Park has grown into a popular new community space within the Ringwood Central Activities Area.

The park, on the corner of Larissa Avenue and Khassa Parade, is one of the final pieces of the Larissa Avenue Lake to Creek Link project.

The grassed leisure area has become a community meeting point, with many people using the space for activities including picnics and ball sports. Local residents have also benefited from a range of herbs and vegetables planted in the raised garden beds. A variety of fruit trees have also been scattered throughout the park.

An accessible drinking fountain and bottle refill station has proven popular with cyclists and walkers who are taking advantage of the easy access to and from Ringwood Lake, Mullum Mullum Creek trail and the EastLink shared path network.

Council is currently working on designs for another park within the Ringwood Central Activities Area. The State Government allocated \$200,000 to transform 3000sqm of grassland on the corner of Sherbrook Avenue and Grant Crescent into a community open space.

Council will soon be consulting with the community as to the proposed elements to be considered as part of the park design.



A planting day with local residents was organised as part of the official opening of Larissa Park.

## Station design takes shape

The State Government remains committed to upgrading Ringwood Station – it recently conducted an extensive community consultation following the release of detailed concept designs of the proposal.

More than 10,500 questionnaires were distributed and various ‘drop in’ sessions were held at Ringwood Library. More than 300 people provided feedback on the proposed plans, with the majority of people in support of the design.

The State Government will now review all of the feedback before developing a final concept design.



Ringwood Station and bus interchange will be transformed into a safer, more accessible and attractive place for residents and visitors to Maroondah.

### Did you know?

The original Ringwood Station building, which still stands, was built in 1889 at a cost of 1374 pounds.

## Eastland works begin

Some major changes are now taking shape around Eastland with \$5 million worth of preliminary works starting on site during January.

The works are preparation for Eastland owners, Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC), to start its proposed multi-million dollar redevelopment of the shopping centre.

These works are an enormous statement of confidence and commitment to the future development of the Ringwood Activities Area.

### The early works include:

- Relocating the Kmart Tyre and Auto Service Centre from its current site to the north west carpark off Ringwood Street
- Modifying the eastern multi level carpark
- Modifying and upgrading the existing underground electrical and mechanical services

## Your Councillors...

Cr Nora Lamont | Mullum Ward  
Mobile 0428 394 581

As a Mullum Ward Councillor my number one priority has been to actively work with the State Government on designs for a new Ringwood Station and Bus Interchange, and with Queensland Investment Corp (QIC) to secure the much awaited redevelopment of Eastland.

As a resident and business owner in Maroondah, I understand the frustrations that some members of the community have with the timelines associated with these redevelopments.

Works of this scale unfortunately take time and Council is doing all it can to ensure that the works commence as soon as possible. The community has been very patient, but 2012 is looking bright with preliminary works now underway at Eastland. Machinery was moved onto the site in January, and we are already starting to see some changes.

I am extremely confident that all of Council's work with QIC and other developers will soon result in very large scale retail and community facility developments taking place at numerous sites all at the one time.



# Top artists on your doorstep

If you're an art lover there's no need to travel outside Maroondah to see works by some of the country's top artists.

Maroondah is home to two galleries, Maroondah Art Gallery and Wyreena Gallery, which showcase a range of exhibitions throughout the year.

From March 22, Maroondah Art Gallery will display two exhibitions: *Freeze – The Directorial Turn in Contemporary Photography*, and *Suspended Frames* a Maroondah Youth Week exhibition displaying the artwork of local students.

The highlight of the year will be the \$25,000 R&M McGivern Art Prize which



*Maroondah's two art galleries will feature a cross section of artworks by local and national exhibitors throughout the year.*

will be exhibited between Thursday 10 May and Saturday 23 June. The triennial event was established in memory of Muriel and Reginald McGivern in recognition of their support of the arts in Maroondah.

The exhibition attracts an outstanding array of original oil, acrylic or watercolour paintings from Australian artists. At the end of the exhibition, the winning entry is

acquired as part of the City of Maroondah Art Collection.

Wyreena Gallery will also come alive in March with Karen Scott exhibiting her range of Mandala paintings and prints.

This will be followed by Amanda Tuohy's exhibition during April of animal portraits in gouache paint.

To find out what's coming up at Maroondah's art galleries visit [www.artsinmaroondah.com.au](http://www.artsinmaroondah.com.au)

## Your Councillors...

Cr Alex Makin | Mullum Ward  
Mobile 0408 311 645

We have many community facilities in Maroondah, including renowned art and cultural centres. The Maroondah Art Gallery, at Maroondah Federation Estate, features a mix of local and renowned artists.

The first exhibition for 2012, on until Saturday 17 March, is *A Jar of Stars* by Dean Bowen, who also created public art for the new Glen Park Community PlaySpace in Bayswater North. From Thursday 22 March, the gallery features photographic works created through the Maroondah Artist in Residency program. Also on display is an exhibition from local schools encouraging students to become involved in the arts through Youth Week.

Maroondah has a rich artistic history with the Ringwood Arts Society promoting artists through its annual exhibition. The Maroondah Photographic Competition provides an opportunity for amateur photographers to showcase their work. Both of these exhibitions begin on Thursday 28 June. Community art is also celebrated at the Wyreena Community Arts Centre and the Long Gallery at Maroondah Federation Estate.



## Art on show

A new public artwork has been installed at Glen Park Playspace in Bayswater North.

*Boy with an Owl and Playful Echidnas*, created by artist Dean Bowen (pictured), is reflective of the playspace's backdrop, the Dandenong Ranges.

## Picture perfect Maroondah

Entries are now open for the 2012 Maroondah Photo Competition, so grab your camera and start clicking!

Council's annual competition once again has great prizes on offer in four award categories that cater for people of all ages and abilities.

Council is encouraging people to think beyond the typical landmarks of Maroondah. So why not get creative and capture images that show what it is that you love about Maroondah - it could be an event, a person, your neighbourhood or street.

All photo entries will be displayed at a special exhibition at Maroondah Art Gallery from Thursday June 28.

To be eligible, photos must be taken in Maroondah after 1 July 2011.



*2011 Mayoral Encouragement Award winner Arch D Treeumph by Mary Willemsen.*

To enter pick up an entry form at a Council Service Centre or visit Council's website.

Get in quick as entries close Thursday 31 May 2012.

# Karralyka under the spotlight

The Karralyka Centre in Ringwood East has all you need for a local, regular dose of top class performances.

The 2012 Theatre Season is jam-packed with an entertaining line-up from musical theatre to comedy.

The season kicks off on Wednesday 28 March with an all-new Australian play by David Williamson *Let the Sunshine*, starring well-known television star Peter Phelps, followed by a Cabaret performance of *On the Prowl* with Frankie J Holden and Wilbur Wilde.

In April the *Comedy Festival Road Show* returns with a performance showcasing a range of comedians from the best shows during the Melbourne Comedy Festival in the city.

There won't be a shortage of drama with performances like *Syncopation*, a fusion of comedy, romance and ballroom dancing;

and *Sarajevo Suite*, the story of three women who share their experiences of the siege of Sarajevo.

And there's loads of entertainment lined up for the young ones, with school holiday performances including Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach*; *Happy Birthday Peter Rabbit* and *Treasure Island*.

The ever-popular Morning Music Series is now into its 15th year at Karralyka, with the next show being a performance by stage favourite Simon Gallaher, to be held on Tuesday 17 April.

For a full Karralyka Theatre program visit [www.karralyka.com.au](http://www.karralyka.com.au) or pick up a program at the venue or one of Council's Service Centres.



Experience life in New York City during 1912 when *Syncopation* comes to Karralyka Theatre on May 11 and 12.

*Did you know?*

Each year more than 13,000 people perform on the Karralyka Theatre stage.

## Dates for your diary

### Maroondah Triathlon

**Sunday 15 April**

Croydon Leisure and Aquatic Centre, Civic Square, Croydon

Put your fitness to the test in this family-friendly event. The fun event includes a swim, cycle and run/walk element for both individuals and families and is ideal for ages 8+ and all fitness levels. To find out more visit [www.maroondahleisure.com.au](http://www.maroondahleisure.com.au)

### Dress-up immunisation session

**Thursday 24 May | 4pm-6pm**

Keystone Hall, Civic Square, Croydon

Turn your four-year-old's immunisation into a fun outing. Children are encouraged to come along in dress-up and there will be a range of free activities and games on offer before and after their immunisation. Details: 9294 5627.

### Reconciliation Week

**Sunday 27 May to Sunday 3 June**

Maroondah Federation Estate,  
Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood

Take part in a range of activities that reflect on Australia's shared histories, contributions and achievements. For more information visit Council's website or call 9298 4545.



## Your Councillors...

Cr Paul MacDonald | Arrabri Ward  
Mobile 0428 352 046

Great things are happening in Maroondah - from constructing sporting facilities to major road improvements. These fantastic projects would not be possible without the strong working partnerships Council has formed with both levels of Government.

Significant funding was provided from the Federal Government for the construction of the new AJ Lavis Pavilion at Heathmont Reserve and Croydon Y Space. Both levels of government also contributed to the Ringwood Multipurpose Sports Pavilion and Soccer Pitch. Council is extremely grateful and openly publicises funding from either level of Government, likewise Council also provides substantial funding. For example, this financial year alone Council has allocated \$20.56 million to Capital Works initiatives to ensure that our assets continue to meet the needs of our community.

So next time you're out and about in Maroondah I encourage you to look around and see how our community funds are being invested back into the future of our facilities and services, making Maroondah an even greater place to live.



It's no easy task managing Maroondah's \$1.2 billion of community assets. But advances in technology are proving to be a vital tool in Council's day to day management of its assets and infrastructure.

## Protecting community assets

A new works management solution has been developed by Council's engineering team to better utilise Council's existing corporate systems, meaning that all the information needed while working on site is literally sitting in the palm of our hands.

As Council officers inspect and maintain community assets including buildings, roads, pavements, and shared pathways, they are now armed with new mobile communications devices which link them directly into Council databases.

The mobile devices mean no matter where Council officers are working in Maroondah, they still have access to a wide range of information including images, works orders and property information.

Having direct access to this information while working onsite means Council officers can be more efficient in the management of our assets to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of our community now and into the future.

*New mobile devices mean council officers can operate more efficiently and effectively while working out and about in the community.*



## Your Councillors...

Cr Michael Macdonald | Wyreena Ward  
Mobile 0408 106 177

Young people are the future leaders of our community. So I was understandably impressed to meet an inspiring group of youth who donated their time to assist Council to undertake its largest ever youth consultation project.



The group worked for a number of months on the project undertaking surveys, interviews, forums, and producing a video. The final product is a report bringing together the thoughts, concerns and opinions of Maroondah's young people aged 12 to 25. The report has provided Council with a greater insight into how we can best support and provide services for our young people now and into the future.

I congratulate each of the young people who participated in the project for their hard work and thank them for ensuring the voice of Maroondah's youth was heard.

For those young people looking for something to do during the school term, don't forget EV's Shack and Lounge drop-in programs offer a safe and friendly venue for young people to relax and mix with their friends in a supportive environment.

## Path, Camera, Action

Maroondah's public roads, carparks and pathways have been put under the spotlight recently as part of Council's long term asset management program.



*Residents may have seen the specially designed quad bikes travelling around the municipality.*

Specially modified quad bikes and utility vans, fitted with state-of-the-art filming equipment, have spent more than a month trekking across Maroondah to capture vital footage and information on the condition of Council's 550km of local roads and 700km of pathways.

The data collected during this process is linked directly into Council's mapping and asset management systems, and is currently being assessed to identify defects or hazards which can then be included in Council's maintenance and capital works programs.

This is one of the many ways Council is using new technology to assist in ensuring that Maroondah's infrastructure continues to cater for the needs of residents and visitors to our municipality.

## Drainage works in the pipeline

Drainage has been a major focus for Council over the past few years given the unusually high levels of rainfall Melbourne has experienced recently.

One of the most significant projects was the drainage and stormwater improvement works undertaken in Williams Road, Park Orchards - in Maroondah's northern corner. As part of the \$73,000 works, the existing table drain was improved to allow it to capture more water during times of high rain fall.

Council is in the design stages of the Croydon Civic Precinct Flood Mitigation project, with construction works to start in the coming months. The work will provide greater flood protection within the Civic Square, Lusher Road and Birdwood Road areas.

# Working to improve our community

Every day, Council officers are out and about working to improve the infrastructure that we all rely on – our local roads, footpaths and drainage.

The past few months have been extremely busy with many major road projects completed and more about to commence.

On-street parking and line-markings have been improved in sections of Allambanan Drive, Bayswater North.

Council has also responded to resident safety concerns, lobbying VicRoads to have a right turn ban installed at the intersection of Unsworth Road and Warrandyte Road. Signs were installed at the intersection late last year.

New sections have also been added to the footpath network along Bayswater Road, Croydon South, with various missing links in the path now complete. The \$8500 project also included installing an accessible crossing at the intersection of Bayswater Road and Belmont Road West.

Cyclists and walkers along Tarralla Creek may have also noticed improvements to the shared pathway between Canterbury Road, Heathmont and Bayswater Road, Croydon South. The \$12,500 project included installing new signage and specially designed tactile linemarking at the approach to major bends, to remind cyclists to reduce their speed.

Changes will also be happening along Kent Avenue, Croydon, with safety improvements due to commence in the coming months. The \$314,000 project involves constructing a central median strip at various sections of the road to slow cars as they approach bends.



Works are nearing completion in Brysons Road, Warranwood, (pictured above), thanks to funding by the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery program. The major reconstruction project includes complete reconstruction of the road, installing kerb and channel along both sides of the road and constructing a pedestrian refuge island near Braden Brae Drive. These works incorporate a variety of water sensitive urban design elements to ensure there will be no impact on the established habitat corridor next to the road reserve.

In line with Council's Croydon Pedestrian Priority Plan, works have been undertaken to improve access and safety for pedestrians and vehicles in the James Kerr Way carpark. The \$140,000 project included reconstructing a section of the carpark, establishing a wider pedestrian link between Main Street and Croydon Park and installing a raised pedestrian crossing on James Kerr Way.

Design works are nearing completion for the installation of a roundabout at the intersection of Eastfield Road and Blazey Road, Croydon South, (pictured below).

The \$680,000 intersection works have been funded by the Federal Government as part of its Black Spot Funding initiative. Construction is expected to start in the coming months.

## Your Councillors...

**Cr Tony Dib | Arrabri Ward**  
**Mobile 0438 515 089**

Council is developing the Heathmont and Ringwood East Structure Plans, with traders and stakeholders providing feedback during an extensive consultation phase held in February.

The plans are being developed by Council to ensure we can manage any future development within the activity centres and ensure they are in keeping with the neighbourhood character of the areas. Once completed, the structure plans will provide guidelines to be followed in the development of the area to ensure that any future development of the areas is done so in a safe, pedestrian friendly and aesthetically pleasing way.

Council will be consulting further with the broader community during March. If you would like to provide feedback on the plans, I encourage you to come along to an upcoming community forum or workshop. Council will be advertising the consultation widely to ensure that everyone in the community has an opportunity to participate. This will be your chance to have a say on the future development of Ringwood East and Heathmont.



# 2012 top citizens

Lending a helping hand to our community has led to some of Maroondah's most valued citizens being honoured during this year's Australia Day festivities.

Peter McArthur was named Maroondah Citizen of the Year following more than 40 years of volunteer work. A former Mayor and Councillor of the former Croydon City Council, Peter was fundamental in establishing and securing a permanent radio licence for Radio Eastern FM in 1974, after 16 years of lobbying. He now hosts programs at the station every Monday and Tuesday morning.

Mr McArthur said he is very proud to accept the award, but honoured others in the community who volunteered beside him.

"There were a lot of very worthy people ahead of me, but it is very nice [to win]," he said.

Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Frances Rowlands for volunteering her time with various community projects, including working with pupils at Croydon Primary School to establish an environmental sanctuary. She was also a vital member of the team of young people who assisted Council to undertake a large scale youth consultation.



Maroondah Mayor Cr Rob Steane with the 2012 Australia Day winners – Event of the Year representative Lyn McGoldrick; Young Citizen of the Year Frances Rowlands and Citizen of the Year Peter McArthur.

Ms Rowlands said she loved volunteering in the community.

"I've always done lots of things in the community, so it is good to get some recognition for it. It's a good feeling."

The Maroondah Community Event of the Year was awarded to Youth Voice for Peace, a community Remembrance Day ceremony, hosted by students from schools within the Maroondah Education Coalition.

## Young people doing it for themselves

A group of Maroondah's young people donated their time to help Council undertake its largest ever youth consultation.

The project began in May last year, when seven graduates of the Maroondah Young Leaders Program were recruited to assist Council with a consultation aimed at identifying the current needs and issues of young people in Maroondah.

More than 800 people, including young people, parents, service providers and members of the community, took part in the consultation.

Feedback from the consultation has been collated into a detailed consultation report highlighting the key issues for young people

aged 12-25 years. This report and a video created during the consultation process are available online at [www.maroondahyouthservices.com](http://www.maroondahyouthservices.com).

These findings will prove to be a valuable tool for Council and local youth service providers, as they provide a better understanding of the thoughts of young people, and what needs to be improved to better support them.

Council will use the results to develop a detailed Youth Plan that will guide how Council can best work towards improving Maroondah by addressing the issues identified by young people including advocacy and the facilitation of projects and initiatives.

Council currently offers a variety of services to young people including the popular EV's Lounge Program, EV's Shack Program,

FReeZA Program, Festival Crew, Teenage Holiday Program and Young Leaders Program.

This year Council will also be running a Community Action Project with a group of young people to tackle one or more of the issues identified during the consultation.



Maroondah Peer Engagement Program members presented Lachlan Dallii (left) with an iPod Touch – he was the lucky winner of a prize draw for young people who completed the youth consultation survey.

*"I know places like EV's Youth Centre and stuff are always around for kids my age and it helps to know there's somewhere to go when needed. Maroondah is great! Very proud to live in the area!" - 16 year old female comment from consultation report.*

 Are you 12 – 25 years old? Make sure you visit [www.facebook.com/maroondahyouthservices](http://www.facebook.com/maroondahyouthservices) and friend us!

Contact Council on 1300 88 22 33, online at [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au), email [maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au) or visit one of our Service Centres.

Maroondah City Council is committed to providing equitable service to all in our community. Please contact us on 1300 88 22 33 if you would like to receive this newsletter in a different format.

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