MOTORSPORT MANIA

The Guardian Swan Hill Festival of Motorsport is gearing up to be one of the region’s biggest events.

Eight of the region’s motorsport clubs will host racing over the weekend, including the sporting car, motor racing, 4WD, kart, motorcycle, Mallee Cruisers, drag racing and Ulysses clubs.

The hugely successful Lions Club Show and Shine will also join the festival this year.

And on the Saturday night, cars from all clubs will line the streets of the Swan Hill CBD for the Vehicle Showcase, including a mass vehicle start-up.

Mayor Les McPhee said the completion of the city’s new quarter-mile drag strip had sparked the idea for the event, but all of Swan Hill’s motorsport clubs had banded together to make it a reality.

“The drag strip sits alongside speedway, autocross, karting, motocross and four-wheel driving at Chisholm Reserve, making Swan Hill an absolute motorsport hub,” Cr McPhee said.

“We want to tell everyone about the unique facilities we have here, and hope that people will travel from around Victoria and other parts of Australia to be part of the festival.”

He said Council hoped the festival would become a signature event on the Swan Hill region calendar.

“We expect the event will continue to gain significant momentum over the next few years, showcasing Swan Hill as the new home of motorsport for Victoria.”

Festival committee member and president of the Swan Hill Sporting Car Club Chris Gibson said the festival would highlight Swan Hill’s unique position in the world of motorsports.

“Being in a regional location can sometimes mean we don’t have the same opportunities as the bigger metro places, but here in Swan Hill we actually have access to an impressive amount of motorsport disciplines.

“There aren’t many places that boast a facility that caters for motorbikes, go karts, speedway racing, four-wheel drives, autocross and now drag racing.

“This festival has brought all of these clubs together and formed a motorsports community of sorts. It’s been a really positive process so far, and by working together we now have the opportunity to put Swan Hill on the map as the premier home of motorsports in Victoria.”

The festival will be held from 29-31 October. Like the Swan Hill Festival of Motorsport Facebook page to find out more.
We are only two months out from the 2016 Council elections. In the Swan Hill municipality, elections will be held on 22 October. Between 6 and 21 October, with candidate nominations open from 15 to 20 October, I really encourage community members to consider standing for this year’s election. The better mix of candidates we have offers the community a chance when they vote. Being a Councillor gives you a chance to have a say on the future direction of our municipality. On a personal level it is also very rewarding - you have an amazing opportunity to be involved in our community and all the services that Council provides. If you are thinking about standing, please talk to one of our sitting Councillors and, if you can, talk to Councillors from other municipalities. It is important to understand what’s involved and taking a call to a Councillor will give you a first-hand account of that. You can also find out more about the day-to-day activities of a Councillor and check your eligibility to stand, at www.standforcouncil.com.au.

Spotlight on MotorSport

You will read in this newsletter some of the exciting plans for celebrating our city’s new focus on motorSport, as well as some updates on work at Chisolm Reserve.

The new quarter-mile drag strip sparkled the idea for a Swan Hill Festival of MotorSport, to be held on Saturday 29-31 October. Swan Hill’s motorsport clubs have banded together to run the festival, with each hosting an event during the three days. All kinds of racing will take place at Chisolm Reserve, along with tours around the region and a Vehicle Showcase in Swan Hill’s CBD. The hugely successful Lions Club Show and Shine will also be part of the festival.

We expect motorSport enthusiasts to travel from around Victoria and interstate for the festival, and hope it will become a signature on the Swan Hill region calendar.

You can follow the event’s Facebook page to find out more, and please spread the word to all your friends and family.

A Word from your Councillors

Central Ward

CR Greg Cruickshank
0419 754 174
greg.cruickshank@swanhill.vic.gov.au

Murray Mallee Ward

CR John Katis
Deputy Mayor
0419 077 532
john.katis@swanhill.vic.gov.au

Swan Hill Rural City Council and its employees do not guarantee that this publication is without error or liability. They do not accept any responsibility for any loss or other consequences which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

CONTACT COUNCIL

Swan Hill Business Centre
45 Splatt Street Swan Hill 3585
Phone 5051 8000, Fax 5051 8101
Both offices are open Monday to Friday 8.30am until 5pm

www.swanhill.vic.gov.au
Email: council@swanhill.vic.gov.au
PO Box 488, Swan Hill VIC 3585

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

30 August at Robinvale Community Centre
13 September at Swan Hill Town Hall
18 October at Swan Hill Town Hall
15 November at Swan Hill Town Hall
20 December at Robinvale Community Centre

Council meetings are held at 2pm. All members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings. Agendas are available at www.swanhill.vic.gov.au in the days leading up to the meeting.

Special Council meetings will also be held from time to time. Visit www.swanhill.vic.gov.au for details or check local media.

A WORD FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

I had the privilege of attending the Regional Tourism Awards in Echuca last month and to see the Pioneer Settlement take out the Silver Award for Cultural Tourism. Being the first year the Settlement had been nominated for the awards, it was a fantastic outcome and will act as an incentive to build on the already significant improvements to the Settlement and hopefully take home the gold next year.

Speaking of wine for the community, the latest round of fruit fly traps have recently been set up to household right across the municipality. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in this project - from those working behind the scenes, to the volunteers who have helped set up the traps and to those who have hung a trap in their own backyard. Fruit growing industry makes up an enormous part of our region’s agribusiness industry and is also one of our region’s largest employers. And now with the expanding international export options, it further highlights the importance of being diligent in keeping the fight against fruit fly at the forefront.

Let’s continue to work together to support our local growers and to make the Greater Goulburn Area a pest free area once again.

With the upcoming election I think it’s a great time to reflect on what a fantastic year it has been for Robinvale. The sense of community pride in our town is at an all time high. This was particularly evident with the amount of community participation in the review of the Robinvale Community Plan. I would like to thank everyone who attended information sessions, filled out surveys and gave their ideas on how they would like to see the future of Robinvale progress.

We also recently adopted the Bromley Road Masterplan. This project will see the beautification of the gateway to Robinvale, encouraging visitors to stop and spend time exploring our town’s attractions. Without the input from the community and the Friends of Bromley Road, we would not have such a comprehensive and detailed plan.

Lastly, it was also pleasing to see the level of input into the Draft Rural Land Use Strategy from both Robinvale and Wemen communities. This strategy has the potential to allow for future rural use of our land and therefore the possibility of addressing the current housing shortage.

I am very excited that drainage repairs are well underway at Chisolm Reserve. In recent months I have inspected Chisolm with some of the guys from motocross and speedway, and drainage is one of the main problems for them.

There are great people running all the clubs at Chisolm and as a Council we need to give them as much encouragement as we can. That’s one reason we are behind the Festival of Motorsport being held on the Melbourne Cup long weekend. This event has huge potential and I look forward to seeing locals of all ages there to support it.

On another note, it has been interesting to see the work that Gooburn-Murray Water is doing on its Connections Project. We had a project update from GMWW last week.

With channel closures happening this year, I think we can get on the front foot to make the Loddon River a multipurpose area for the community – maybe some parkland, walking and bike riding tracks away from traffic, and even stormwater catchments.

The winter has been a quiet one for me on the council front due to a massive change on the front. It is such a privilege to serve the Swan Hill community and is also of our region’s largest employers. And now with the expanding international export options, it further highlights the importance of being diligent in keeping the fight against fruit fly at the forefront. Fruit growing industry makes up an enormous part of our region’s agribusiness industry and is also one of our region’s largest employers. And now with the expanding international export options, it further highlights the importance of being diligent in keeping the fight against fruit fly at the forefront.

Lastly, it was also pleasing to see the level of input into the Draft Rural Land Use Strategy from both Robinvale and Wemen communities. This strategy has the potential to allow for future rural use of our land and therefore the possibility of addressing the current housing shortage.

I am very excited that drainage repairs are well underway at Chisolm Reserve. In recent months I have inspected Chisolm with some of the guys from motocross and speedway, and drainage is one of the main problems for them.

There are great people running all the clubs at Chisolm and as a Council we need to give them as much encouragement as we can. That’s one reason we are behind the Festival of Motorsport being held on the Melbourne Cup long weekend. This event has huge potential and I look forward to seeing locals of all ages there to support it.

On another note, it has been interesting to see the work that Gooburn-Murray Water is doing on its Connections Project. We had a project update from GMWW last week.

With channel closures happening this year, I think we can get on the front foot to make the Loddon River a multipurpose area for the community – maybe some parkland, walking and bike riding tracks away from traffic, and even stormwater catchments.

I welcome the election. I think it’s a great time to reflect on what a fantastic year it has been for Robinvale. The sense of community pride in our town is at an all time high. This was particularly evident with the amount of community participation in the review of the Robinvale Community Plan. I would like to thank everyone who attended information sessions, filled out surveys and gave their ideas on how they would like to see the future of Robinvale progress.

We also recently adopted the Bromley Road Masterplan. This project will see the beautification of the gateway to Robinvale, encouraging visitors to stop and spend time exploring our town’s attractions. Without the input from the community and the Friends of Bromley Road, we would not have such a comprehensive and detailed plan.

Lastly, it was also pleasing to see the level of input into the Draft Rural Land Use Strategy from both Robinvale and Wemen communities. This strategy has the potential to allow for future rural use of our land and therefore the possibility of addressing the current housing shortage.

I am very excited that drainage repairs are well underway at Chisolm Reserve. In recent months I have inspected Chisolm with some of the guys from motocross and speedway, and drainage is one of the main problems for them.

There are great people running all the clubs at Chisolm and as a Council we need to give them as much encouragement as we can. That’s one reason we are behind the Festival of Motorsport being held on the Melbourne Cup long weekend. This event has huge potential and I look forward to seeing locals of all ages there to support it.

On another note, it has been interesting to see the work that Gooburn-Murray Water is doing on its Connections Project. We had a project update from GMWW last week.

With channel closures happening this year, I think we can get on the front foot to make the Loddon River a multipurpose area for the community – maybe some parkland, walking and bike riding tracks away from traffic, and even stormwater catchments.

I had the privilege of attending the Regional Tourism Awards in Echuca last month and to see the Pioneer Settlement take out the Silver Award for Cultural Tourism. Being the first year the Settlement had been nominated for the awards, it was a fantastic outcome and will act as an incentive to build on the already significant improvements to the Settlement and hopefully take home the gold next year.

Speaking of wine for the community, the latest round of fruit fly traps have recently been set up to household right across the municipality. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in this project - from those working behind the scenes, to the volunteers who have helped set up the traps and to those who have hung a trap in their own backyard. Fruit growing industry makes up an enormous part of our region’s agribusiness industry and is also one of our region’s largest employers. And now with the expanding international export options, it further highlights the importance of being diligent in keeping the fight against fruit fly at the forefront.

Let’s continue to work together to support our local growers and to make the Greater Goulburn Area a pest free area once again.

With the upcoming election I think it’s a great time to reflect on what a fantastic year it has been for Robinvale. The sense of community pride in our town is at an all time high. This was particularly evident with the amount of community participation in the review of the Robinvale Community Plan. I would like to thank everyone who attended information sessions, filled out surveys and gave their ideas on how they would like to see the future of Robinvale progress.

We also recently adopted the Bromley Road Masterplan. This project will see the beautification of the gateway to Robinvale, encouraging visitors to stop and spend time exploring our town’s attractions. Without the input from the community and the Friends of Bromley Road, we would not have such a comprehensive and detailed plan.

Lastly, it was also pleasing to see the level of input into the Draft Rural Land Use Strategy from both Robinvale and Wemen communities. This strategy has the potential to allow for future rural use of our land and therefore the possibility of addressing the current housing shortage.
Silver for Settlement

Swan Hill’s Pioneer Settlement took out the Silver Award in the Cultural Tourism Category at the 2016 Regional Tourism Awards in July.

Each year the Regional Tourism Awards are held to acknowledge excellence in tourism in the four regional tourism areas of Central, Inland, Murray and Riverina.

Swan Hill Rural City Council Mayor Les McPhee was there on the night to accept the award. “Council has been working extremely hard to enhance the offering of the Pioneer Settlement and the riverfront to attract more visitors to the region,” Cr McPhee said.

Tourism plays a major part in boosting the local economy, and ensuring we have a state-of-the-art attraction to draw visitors to the region results in a flow on effect for our local traders.

“Council was held to acknowledge excellence in tourism in the four regional tourism areas of Central, Inland, Murray and Riverina.

“This award comes after another fantastic achievement for the Pioneer Settlement after it was recently selected as a category winner at the 2016 National Awards for Local Government. The Pioneer Settlement Redevelopment - Heartbeat of the Murray project trumped a number of high quality projects from across the country to take out the Contributing to Regional Growth category. The Pioneer Settlement is open 9.30am to 4.30pm every day, excluding Christmas and Boxing Day. The Heartbeat of the Murray Laser Light show screens every night.

A Message From the CEO

The rain has been an almost permanent fixture in our region this winter, creating renewed optimism, and in some cases new challenges, for our region’s farmers. This positive vibe was felt when I attended the Manangatang VFF branch meeting recently. They are a lively and active group of farmers working together to explore the interests of local growers are well represented.

Similarly, the Swan Hill Rural City Council Agribusiness Committee is providing guidance to Council about issues relating to the agriculture and horticulture industries.

The group, chaired by Ann Young, has been running for one year and has already had input into the Draft Rural Land Use Strategy, attracting diversified agriculture and young people to the region, and has provided advice on simplifying Council processes. The group has also been involved in discussions on fruit fly and water modernisation, and have visited a number of farms.

If you are interested in agribusiness – either on your own farm or in a farm-related business – please consider joining the group. They are also looking for more and diverse representation, contact the group through Council’s Economic Development Committee on 53 3033 or ecodev@swanhill.vic.gov.au.

Tourism Projects At Boga, Swan Hill

I look forward to seeing upgrades at two of our region’s key tourism areas in coming months.

At Lake Boga, the Catalina Museum will become home to a coffee shop and wine bar, with a large alfresco dining area beside the lake. This will create an entirely new experience for visitors and local residents, and provide a unique space for special events like birthdays and weddings. An adventure playground will also be built next to the museum in 2017.

At Swan Hill’s riverfront precinct, the shared pathway will be extended from the PS Gem, past Spoons Riverside and to the Little Murray levee bank. A new deck and lawn area will also be built in front of Council CEO John McLinden

Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery.

Both these projects have been jointly funded by Council and Regional Development Victoria, and we were pleased to have RDV Regional Director Stan Laioces here in June to announce funding and visit the project sites.

Silver for Settlement

Swan Hill’s Pioneer Settlement took out the Silver Award in the Cultural Tourism Category at the 2016 Regional Tourism Awards in July.

Each year the Regional Tourism Awards are held to acknowledge excellence in tourism in the four regional tourism areas of Central, Inland, Murray and Riverina.

Swan Hill Rural City Council Mayor Les McPhee was there on the night to accept the award. “Council has been working extremely hard to enhance the offering of the Pioneer Settlement and the riverfront to attract more visitors to the region,” Cr McPhee said.

“Tourism plays a major part in boosting the local economy, and ensuring we have a state-of-the-art attraction to draw visitors to the region results in a flow on effect for our local traders.

“Council was held to acknowledge excellence in tourism in the four regional tourism areas of Central, Inland, Murray and Riverina.

“This award comes after another fantastic achievement for the Pioneer Settlement after it was recently selected as a category winner at the 2016 National Awards for Local Government. The Pioneer Settlement Redevelopment - Heartbeat of the Murray project trumped a number of high quality projects from across the country to take out the Contributing to Regional Growth category. The Pioneer Settlement is open 9.30am to 4.30pm every day, excluding Christmas and Boxing Day. The Heartbeat of the Murray Laser Light show screens every night.

A Message From the CEO

The rain has been an almost permanent fixture in our region this winter, creating renewed optimism, and in some cases new challenges, for our region’s farmers. This positive vibe was felt when I attended the Manangatang VFF branch meeting recently. They are a lively and active group of farmers working together to explore the interests of local growers are well represented.

Similarly, the Swan Hill Rural City Council Agribusiness Committee is providing guidance to Council about issues relating to the agriculture and horticulture industries.

The group, chaired by Ann Young, has been running for one year and has already had input into the Draft Rural Land Use Strategy, attracting diversified agriculture and young people to the region, and has provided advice on simplifying Council processes. The group has also been involved in discussions on fruit fly and water modernisation, and have visited a number of farms.

If you are interested in agribusiness – either on your own farm or in a farm-related business – please consider joining the group. They are also looking for more and diverse representation, contact the group through Council’s Economic Development Committee on 53 3033 or ecodev@swanhill.vic.gov.au.

Tourism Projects At Boga, Swan Hill

I look forward to seeing upgrades at two of our region’s key tourism areas in coming months.

At Lake Boga, the Catalina Museum will become home to a coffee shop and wine bar, with a large alfresco dining area beside the lake. This will create an entirely new experience for visitors and local residents, and provide a unique space for special events like birthdays and weddings. An adventure playground will also be built next to the museum in 2017.

At Swan Hill’s riverfront precinct, the shared pathway will be extended from the PS Gem, past Spoons Riverside and to the Little Murray levee bank. A new deck and lawn area will also be built in front of Council CEO John McLinden

Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery.

Both these projects have been jointly funded by Council and Regional Development Victoria, and we were pleased to have RDV Regional Director Stan Laioces here in June to announce funding and visit the project sites.

Silver for Settlement

Swan Hill’s Pioneer Settlement took out the Silver Award in the Cultural Tourism Category at the 2016 Regional Tourism Awards in July.

Each year the Regional Tourism Awards are held to acknowledge excellence in tourism in the four regional tourism areas of Central, Inland, Murray and Riverina.

Swan Hill Rural City Council Mayor Les McPhee was there on the night to accept the award. “Council has been working extremely hard to enhance the offering of the Pioneer Settlement and the riverfront to attract more visitors to the region,” Cr McPhee said.

“Tourism plays a major part in boosting the local economy, and ensuring we have a state-of-the-art attraction to draw visitors to the region results in a flow on effect for our local traders.

“Council was held to acknowledge excellence in tourism in the four regional tourism areas of Central, Inland, Murray and Riverina.

“This award comes after another fantastic achievement for the Pioneer Settlement after it was recently selected as a category winner at the 2016 National Awards for Local Government. The Pioneer Settlement Redevelopment - Heartbeat of the Murray project trumped a number of high quality projects from across the country to take out the Contributing to Regional Growth category. The Pioneer Settlement is open 9.30am to 4.30pm every day, excluding Christmas and Boxing Day. The Heartbeat of the Murray Laser Light show screens every night.

A Message From the CEO

The rain has been an almost permanent fixture in our region this winter, creating renewed optimism, and in some cases new challenges, for our region’s farmers. This positive vibe was felt when I attended the Manangatang VFF branch meeting recently. They are a lively and active group of farmers working together to explore the interests of local growers are well represented.

Similarly, the Swan Hill Rural City Council Agribusiness Committee is providing guidance to Council about issues relating to the agriculture and horticulture industries.

The group, chaired by Ann Young, has been running for one year and has already had input into the Draft Rural Land Use Strategy, attracting diversified agriculture and young people to the region, and has provided advice on simplifying Council processes. The group has also been involved in discussions on fruit fly and water modernisation, and have visited a number of farms.

If you are interested in agribusiness – either on your own farm or in a farm-related business – please consider joining the group. They are also looking for more and diverse representation, contact the group through Council’s Economic Development Committee on 53 3033 or ecodev@swanhill.vic.gov.au.

Tourism Projects At Boga, Swan Hill

I look forward to seeing upgrades at two of our region’s key tourism areas in coming months.

At Lake Boga, the Catalina Museum will become home to a coffee shop and wine bar, with a large alfresco dining area beside the lake. This will create an entirely new experience for visitors and local residents, and provide a unique space for special events like birthdays and weddings. An adventure playground will also be built next to the museum in 2017.

At Swan Hill’s riverfront precinct, the shared pathway will be extended from the PS Gem, past Spoons Riverside and to the Little Murray levee bank. A new deck and lawn area will also be built in front of Council CEO John McLinden

Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery.

Both these projects have been jointly funded by Council and Regional Development Victoria, and we were pleased to have RDV Regional Director Stan Laioces here in June to announce funding and visit the project sites.
FAIRFAX FESTIVAL IS BACK!

The 2016 Swan Hill Fairfax Festival is back next month, with the event’s official opening on Tuesday, 13 September. Now in its 20th year, the festival will see young people from Mildura through to Bendigo learn from leading artists and theatre companies during three days of workshops.

In line with this year’s theme Site Specific Storytelling, participants will work with some of the best physical theatre practitioners in Australia, learning new performing techniques including circus, hip hop, voice work and theatre.

On Thursday, 15 September the community is invited to see the results of the participants’ hard work at the free Gala Performance event at the Swan Hill Town Hall. Festival Manager Dominique Haslam said the Fairfax Festival is specifically for young, geographically isolated people wanting to connect with others through their love of the arts.

“This year’s participants will be learning the performance styles and techniques from a number of very different companies, to help them create their own stories through art” Ms Haslam said.

“Each group will be perfecting their own performance pieces through daily rehearsals with their partnered company as well as working with the other companies in daily workshops.”

Ms Haslam added that on the opening night, participants would also be treated to a special performance by renowned production company Y Space.

“Y Space is a project based performing arts company that works with rock climbers and dancers to create works in unusual and high places, so we are absolutely thrilled to have them on board.”

The 2016 Gala Performance event will be held at 7pm on Thursday, 15 September at the Swan Hill Town Hall.

For more information visit www.fairfaxfestival.com.au or visit the festival’s Facebook page.

The event is supported by Swan Hill Rural City Council, Hugh Williamson Foundation, Festivals Australia, Robert Salzer Foundation, The Arts Centre Foundation, Festivals Australia, Robert Salzer Foundation, The Arts Centre Foundation, and the Swan Hill Town Hall.

How good does this look?

This is the new look Brown Street shopping precinct in Swan Hill.

New footpaths, trees and street furniture have been installed, creating a more vibrant and up-to-date shopping area. Carparking spaces have also been re-aligned to make them easier for shoppers to use.

The Gray Street Shop owner Barbie Rowe said the upgrades were wonderful.

“Brown Street is one of a few outer retail areas in Swan Hill that are so important to our local economy, and in some cases provide a really unique experience for local shoppers,” Barbie said.

“They have modernised the area and we now have a beautiful space for outdoor dining. It has great to see this transformation happen so smoothly, thanks to the cooperation of retailers and a great team of Council staff."

In line with Council’s commitment to a sustainable environment, some materials used in the project have been taken from Council’s store of materials saved from previous projects. This includes the blue stone and balustrades used in the new retaining wall.

A life-long connection to engineering and construction led Council’s new Director of Infrastructure Oliver McNulty to Swan Hill.

Mr McNulty heads a team of almost 80 staff, working in the areas of engineering, design, major projects, roads, parks and gardens, waste and saleyards. Getting to know this team, as well as the Swan Hill region and its people, were among his first priorities when he started in July.

“Every Council does things differently, so understanding what the differences are and getting to know the systems, people and the community groups is one of my initial challenges,” he said.

“I’m looking forward to getting out in the community and hearing what they say.”

Mr McNulty comes to Swan Hill from Campaspe Shire, where he worked as the Road Services Manager. He sees many similarities between the two regions, like industry types and community issues, and hopes his experience there will stand him in good stead.

“Reactivating small rural communities, making sure people can get around, giving people the ability to live and grow in this area – these issues are very similar to Campaspe,” he said.

Originally from Ireland, Mr McNulty’s association with the engineering industry started young.

“My father was a professor of engineering, and I grew up seeing my brothers and sisters, and five of us are in engineering,” Mr McNulty said.

He studied Bachelor of Science in Engineering and later ran his own consultancy in County Sligo.

“I had a consultancy with civil and structural engineers and architects. We had about 15 or 16 staff. We also ran a small construction company, building housing developments and small shopping centres,” he said.

“Unfortunately I was impacted by the economic collapse and had to make the call to close my office down.”

Soon after, his brother James – already working as a planner at Campaspe Shire - called to tell him about an engineering job there. Mr McNulty moved to Australia in 2012, with his wife Leah and their two sons Cathal, 18, and Senan, 15.

Both Oliver and Leah enjoy getting involved in the community. Mr McNulty is a keen athlete, having played county-level Gaelic football for 20 years before taking up cycle and triathlons after moving to Australia.
Swan Hill residents should register their interest in having natural gas connected to their home. Brookfield Infrastructure and Tas Gas Retail hope to start delivering natural gas to homes and businesses in the Swan Hill township before the end of 2017. Work to build the unique natural gas compression and delivery system is already well underway.

Brookfield’s Todd Henderson said construction of the gas receipt station in Swan Hill’s industrial area, and the supply main, was in its final stages.

“We’re progressing very well with the supply main that will supply gas into town ... then we will be moving onto the smaller reticulation network,” Mr Henderson said.

“We’re keen to gain expressions of interest from the public on connections so that we can really understand where the key areas of interest are in the township,” he said.

After Swan Hill is connected to natural gas, Robinvale will be the next town to be supplied.

The natural gas connection is thanks to funding from the Victorian State Government, and an advocacy project in conjunction with Council and Murray River Group of Councils.

To register your interest, and find out more, visit www.vic.tasgas.com.au or call 1800 760 771.

Swan Hill Rural City Councillors threw their support behind, and unanimously endorsed, the updated Robinvale Bromley Road Masterplan at the June Ordinary Meeting of Council.

After extensive community consultation and the dedicated efforts of the Bromley Road Working Group, the original Bromley Road Masterplan has been combined with new concept road design and landscape plans to create one working document.

Members from the Friends of Bromley Road Committee teamed up with Council officers, Councillor John Katis and local police to form the Bromley Road Working Group, collaborating to produce a new road design that was strongly supported by the Robinvale community.

Council’s Director Development and Planning Adam McSwain said the local knowledge the group provided was integral in developing a plan that would fit the needs and wants of the Robinvale community.

“The new road design was a concept put forward by the Friends of Bromley Road,” Mr McSwain said.

“The group took an idea from the original Bromley Road Streetscape Masterplan and adjusted the design to create a road plan they considered to be more practical and simplified.

“The new landscape concept design was also developed based on community ideas and feedback after extensive community consultation during the Robinvale Community Plan review weekend.

“This input has resulted in a masterplan that essentially has been developed by the Robinvale community for the Robinvale community.”

Surveying of Bromley Road has now been completed and a consultant engaged to begin mapping the new road design to assist with development and project timelines and to support future funding applications.

Copies of the Bromley Road Masterplan are available from Council’s website at www.swanhill.vic.gov.au or from the Robinvale Resource Centre.

For more information, contact Council’s Economic Development Officer Amanda Young on 5032 3033.
COMMUNITY PLANNING UPDATE

WALKING PATHS
Council is finalising a project that will see four new walking paths constructed throughout the region. These paths, which also link with Council's Active Transport Strategy, have been identified as priorities in Community Plans by the following communities:
- Manangatang Improvement Group – path from the Community Centre to the pool.
- Nyah District Action Group – path joining Nyah West to Nyah Two Bays.
- Nyah District Action Group – a path loop from AN Lewis Park around the recreation reserve.
- Boundary Bend Progress Association – a path loop along the highway and along the river.

BIKE RACKS
Seven new artistic bike racks will be installed through the region later this year. Nyah, Parndee and Robinvale will each receive a new Murray Cod bike rack, while Lake Boga will receive four pelican bike racks around the lake.

COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES

Residents will have recently received their first rates notice for the 2016/17 financial year. Council offers payment of rates by three methods:
- Using your telephone or internet banking.
- Payment online or by phone - Pay online at auspost.com.au/postbillpay or phone 13 18 18.
- Direct payment from your bank account.

LUMP SUM PAYMENT
Council also offers a one per cent discount on rates and charges if all four instalments (the total rates charge) is paid in full by 30 September 2016.

PAYMENT OPTIONS
Residents may pay by cheque or money order payable to Swan Hill Rural City Council to: PO Box 488, Swan Hill VIC 3585. Late payment will be subject to interest penalties regardless of the date of posting.

At Australia Post - Present your rates notice intact.
Payment online or by phone - Pay online at auspost.com.au/postbillpay or phone 13 18 18.
By Bpay - Using your telephone or internet banking.
Check the biller code and reference number are on your rates notice.
Centrepay Use Centrepay to arrange regular deductions for your Centrelink payment.
Direct Debit - Direct payment from your bank account. Write your back account number on your rates notice.

HAVE YOUR NOTICE EMAILLED
We’ve introduced a new email service for our rates notices. You can now register to receive your rates notices via email instead of post.
Receiving your rates notice via email will not only help cut down on paper and reduce your carbon footprint but also give you faster and easier access to your notices. To register visit www.swanhill.formsport.com.au and follow the prompts.
The safety and smells of the saleyards are a world away from the usual confines of a Council office. But for Hannah Robins and Robert Evans, it’s all in a day’s work.

MeET THE TEAM: Hannah Robins, Robert Evans, Michelle Berg and Carolyn Harrop.

The pair has overseen operations at the Swan Hill Regional Livestock Exchange for the past eight and a half years, with Shorty having spent another eight years working there on a casual basis.

The exchange is the largest in north west Victoria. In the last financial year, a massive 212,105 sheep and 27,081 cattle were sold, with a combined value of more than $54 million.

For Hannah and Shorty, it means both a busy and rewarding job. They plan sales, maintain and clean the yards, and are continually working to improve safety and efficiency.

On sale days they work alongside local stock agents and casual saleyards staff to run the sales, record and document sale information, and ensure the welfare of livestock.

According to Hannah, sale days can be fast-paced.

“On a cattle sale day there can be up to 40 staff working at the yards,” she said. Before joining Council, Hannah grew up on a sheep farm at Kangaroo Island, studied agriculture and then worked at Wakool’s Yambinya Feedlot. She said that since starting as the saleyards supervisor, she had seen throughout and livestock prices continually increase.

“As the prices have climbed and our facilities continue to improve, people are also travelling further to sell at Swan Hill,” she said.

“We are running a successful Council-run livestock exchange, and that is one of the most rewarding parts of my job, as well as working alongside such a diverse group of people.”

The future is looking bright for the exchange too – a major redevelopment is planned, and Council has submitted an application for funding.

Hannah said the redevelopment would include new yard sets up-to improve efficiency, which will allow for weekly sales of cattle and sheep rather than the monthly fortnightly cycle.

The next sheep sale will be held on 1, 15 and 29 September (at 1pm), and cattle sales on 8 and 22 September (at 7.30am). Special sheep sales will also be held on Friday, 2 September at 12.30pm and Friday, 30 September at 10am.

Mr Young was just one of the growers who met with delegates from the National Fruit fly Council and the Victorian State Government when they visited the region in July. The group was conducting a case study on the Swan Hill region to determine if it was possible to be a great example of industry, Council and community working together.

“Mr Young told the group about the strict and high-cost control standards that commercial growers must meet to sell overseas and domestically, after the suspension of the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area status.”

This includes fumigation, cold storage, fruit fly trapping, fruit and orchard inspections, and a range of administrative processes.

He said many growers were also going beyond that to improve control methods on-farm. One of those processes, he said, was post-harvest hygiene and waste disposal to deter fruit fly, including composting, raking, treatment and deep burial.

To find out more about how you can help control fruit fly, visit Council’s website or www.pestfreearea.com.au

HOME: Swan Hill Genealogical and Historical Society President Lyn Cunningham, volunteers Dot Harvey and Barbara Patterson and Library OH&S Officer Tracey Free with the Library’s AED.

LIFESAVER: Swan Hill Genealogical and Historical Society President Lyn Cunningham, volunteers Dot Harvey and Barbara Patterson and Library OH&S Officer Tracey Free with the Library’s AED.

The campaign to rid the region of Queensland fruit fly is ramping up again ahead of the 2016 summerfruit season.

And there’s extra reason to keep the fly at bay this year, with neonicotinoid growers having access to the Chinese market for first time. After their crop’s import/export protocols were agreed in May.

“It’s a massive opportunity for fruit growers, so the importance of fruit fly control is even higher this year,” Mayor Les McPhee said.

“Please, if you live in Swan Hill or another township in our municipality, get hold of a fruit fly trap, ensure you maintain your back yard fruit tree and dispose of fruit properly,” he said.

Mr Young ended the seminar by encouraging all industry members to leap for the Chinese market when the time comes to ensure long-term sales.

“It’s starting to create awareness. People are asking me about what they can do and when the next traps are coming. It’s starting to work and that’s a really good thing,” he said.

After extensive community consultation, the development of Council’s Community Access and Inclusion Strategy (CAIS) is in its final stages. Replacing the Disability Action Plan 2012-15, the CAIS will have an accompanying action plan to identify how Council can contribute to removing barriers of all kinds for people with a disability.

The CAIS will detail Council’s commitment to improve the overall quality of life of people living in and visiting our region and ensuring that services and facilities provided by Council are accessible and equitable.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- The key objectives of the CAIS are:

1. Reduce barriers to Council services, programs and facilities for people with a disability.
2. Reduce barriers to people with a disability obtaining and maintaining employment.
3. Increase inclusion and participation in the community for people with a disability.
4. Improve community attitudes and perceptions that discriminate against people with a disability.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

If you are interested in keeping up-to-date with the development of the CAIS, register your details by one of the following methods:

Online: www.swanhill.vic.gov.au
Email: mmonk@swanhill.vic.gov.au
Phone: (03) 5036 2404

1. Application forms are available at www.swanhill.vic.gov.au or in person at the Swan Hill Region Information Centre and Robinvale Recreation Centre.
2. Funding will be provided for applications that target projects such as structural repairs or minor upgrades to community facilities, current OHS or risk management issues, promote local sustainability initiatives including responsible water use and conservation, creating proud community spaces, equipment upgrades, local community events or new programs and activities within a community.
3. Council’s Director Development and Planning Adam McSwain said projects cost up to $3,000 from Council’s Community Grants Program. "Applications forms are available at www.swanhill.vic.gov.au or in person at the Swan Hill Region Information Centre and Robinvale Recreation Centre.
4. A record 70 applications were received last year, with 43 projects receiving funding. We look forward to seeing more community projects come forward in the 2016/17 funding round,”

Groups and organisations based in the Swan Hill Rural City Council or organisations based outside the municipality with a Swan Hill project delivering services to residents of the municipality are eligible to apply. Groups and organisations must also be an incorporated body, or be auspiced.

For more information, contact Group Development Officer Megan Monk at Council on 5032 3202 or email mmonk@swanhill.vic.gov.au.


The purchase of these machines was made possible thanks to funding from the Made Possible thanks to funding from the Woorinen grower Mick Young talks to National Fruit Fly Council Chairman John Durham, new National Manager Darryl Barbour, and new Victorian Government State Wide Fruit Fly Co-ordinator Kathy Mansfield.

MEET THE TEAM: Hannah Robins, Robert Evans, Michelle Berg and Carolyn Harrop.

The key objectives of the CAIS are:

- 1. Reduce barriers to Council services, programs and facilities for people with a disability.
- 2. Reduce barriers to people with a disability obtaining and maintaining employment.
- 3. Increase inclusion and participation in the community for people with a disability.
- 4. Improve community attitudes and perceptions that discriminate against people with a disability.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

If you are interested in keeping up-to-date with the development of the CAIS, register your details by one of the following methods:

Online: www.swanhill.vic.gov.au
Email: mmonk@swanhill.vic.gov.au
Phone: (03) 5036 2404

1. Application forms are available at www.swanhill.vic.gov.au or in person at the Swan Hill Region Information Centre and Robinvale Recreation Centre.
2. Funding will be provided for applications that target projects such as structural repairs or minor upgrades to community facilities, current OHS or risk management issues, promote local sustainability initiatives including responsible water use and conservation, creating proud community spaces, equipment upgrades, local community events or new programs and activities within a community.
3. Council’s Director Development and Planning Adam McSwain said projects cost up to $3,000 from Council’s Community Grants Program. "Applications forms are available at www.swanhill.vic.gov.au or in person at the Swan Hill Region Information Centre and Robinvale Recreation Centre.
4. A record 70 applications were received last year, with 43 projects receiving funding. We look forward to seeing more community projects come forward in the 2016/17 funding round,”

Groups and organisations based in the Swan Hill Rural City Council or organisations based outside the municipality with a Swan Hill project delivering services to residents of the municipality are eligible to apply. Groups and organisations must also be an incorporated body, or be auspiced.

For more information, contact Group Development Officer Megan Monk at Council on 5032 3202 or email mmonk@swanhill.vic.gov.au.
performing arts: my life in boxes

my life in boxes is the story of elise, a hoarder of stories, with everything that she has lost.

elise welcomes you into her life near its end as council workers are sent to clear up the hoarded relics of her short, 35 year life, and the memories her dead husband teddy.

before this reality is even allowed to sink in, the story relocates to elise’s mid-twenties, where she and teddy fall in love and marry soon after.

their love is overwhelming, but their dreams are in contention. teddy longs to start a family, a proposition elise likes to a prison sentence. fate will not let them resolve their differences; teddy dies of a heart attack and elise is left to carry on her journey alone. but she is not alone.

comforted by the all too realistic memory of her late husband teddy, elise continues life like he never left, until, he suggests a deadly truth: either ghosts exist or there is something wrong with her. she then must choose, receive treatment and lose teddy forever, or hoard her memories, hoard their interactions, hoard their love, and let her illness consume her.

my life in boxes is a bittersweet journey; elise and teddy’s love and interactions so enduring, their fight so human. it is a beautiful, fragmented story explored both through text and circus, sequences on stage and public holidays

what’s on

september

sat 3 sept neil murray live in concert, swan hill regional art gallery. don’t miss this intimate performance from one of australia’s most engaging and acclaimed songwriters.

to book call 1800 625 373 or online at www.visitswanhill.com.au.

fridays 2 and sat 3 sept inner wheel table settings display and fundraiser for riding for disabled. contact 0402 800 086.

thurs 1 sept and 15 sept create, women of all ages are invited to inspire each other through the sharing of stories and craft activities. the create program is being held at the grain shed, 2 king street, swan hill 10am to 12pm.

for more information contact the grain shed on 5032 9440.

wed 7 sept to sun 2 oct dancing with threads, swan hill regional art gallery. richly embroidered works from swan hill textile artist and dance professional raylene tmodity.

tues 13 september – thurs 15 sept fairfax festival, workshops and activities for youth between the ages of 12 to 17. free gala performance on thurs, 15 september at swan hill town hall paccc.

october

oct 2 – sun 16 october seniors week festival. held each year to celebrate the inspiring contribution of older victorians. events held across the region. contact 5038 4700 for more information.

fridays 7 oct – 9 october swan hill country music association inc. naugural “walk up, walk up” campbell street, from 9am.

seo 30 oct – 15 nov 2016 swan hill agricultural and pastoral society show, swan hill showgrounds.

what’s on

what’s on

MARKETS

1st sat of the month MIRRABITT MARKET (about 45km south east of swan hill, 8.30am to 1pm. contact 5457 2205.

1st Sun of the month SWAN HILL FARMERS MARKET, riverside park, swan hill 9am to 1pm. contact 0456 531 606.

2nd sat of the month NYAH LIONS CLUB MARKET, nyah recreation reserve, 9am to 12pm. contact 5030 2519 or 0409 302 519.

2nd Sat of the month ROBINVILLE COUNTRY MARKET, cov square, robinville, 8.30am to 12.30pm. contact 5026 3095.

3rd sat of the month ANGICAL BOAT SALE MARKET, angical ferry, st. lawrence street, swan hill, 9am to 12pm. contact 5032 2506 or 0417 372 654.

3rd Sun of the month ROTARY CLUB OF SWAN HILL MARKET, railway car park, curlew street, swan hill, 8am to 12pm. entry by gold coin donation. contact 0417 372 654.

email option

Would you like to receive a copy of our newsletter delivered straight to your inbox? Just send an email with “newsletter” written in the subject line to media@swanhill.gov.au.

running time: 60 minutes

Swan Hill Town Hall PACC

Saturday, 6 October at 7:30pm

Tickets: Adults $30, seniors and concession $25, children $15

Show contains mild course language.

Tickets available online at swanhillperformingarts.com.au or at the door 45 minutes before show, if not sold out prior.

Running time: 60 minutes

Swan Hill Town Hall PACC

Saturday, 6 October at 7:30pm

Tickets: Adults $30, seniors and concession $25, children $15

Show contains mild course language.

Tickets available online at swanhillperformingarts.com.au or at the door 45 minutes before show, if not sold out prior.