GREAT news for parents in the Lake Boga and Nyah areas – your local Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Centres will re-open next month.

In October last year, state-wide nurse shortages saw the temporary closure of the centres, with resources only allowing Swan Hill and Robinvale to continue operating.

Council’s MCH Team Leader Robyn Burns said the decision to close the Lake Boga and Nyah centres was a tough one to make.

“We know how important convenience is for parents and it was a decision that wasn’t made lightly. We are extremely grateful for the patience and understanding our community has shown,” she said.

“We’re thrilled to be able to offer our services to Nyah and Lake Boga again and know that parents are too.

“I also want to highlight the incredible effort from our MCH nurses, who went above and beyond during the staff shortage to make sure we could continue to offer this essential service to our community.”

The Nyah MCH Centre will re-open on Tuesday, 7 August and will operate every Tuesday morning.

The Lake Boga MCH Centre will re-open on Friday, 24 August and will operate every Friday morning.

Maternal and Child Health is a free primary health service available to all families with children aged from birth to school age.

The service provides information and support to new parents and babies, and child health and development checks. It is staffed by Maternal and Child Health Nurses, who are registered general nurses with qualifications in midwifery and maternal and child health.

To make an appointment, or for more information, call 5032 0300.

See page 5 for information on the new MCH app.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Do you like to stay up to date with news and information from Council?
To have a say on decisions that affect your local community?
To know what’s happening around our region?

Fill out our survey, and you can help improve the way we communicate and how you can get involved in local decision-making.
Your answers will remain anonymous and confidential.

Fill out the survey online at www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/yoursay
Or pick up a copy from Council offices.
Survey is open until 31 July.

WIN $200!

FILL IN THE SURVEY AND GO INTO THE DRAW TO WIN $200 SWAN HILL SHOPPING DOLLARS!
A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

CR LES MCPHEE
Mayor
0427 319 394
les.mcphee@swanhill.vic.gov.au

WE are proud to be part of the Murray River Group of Councils’ (MRGC) recent research project, looking at the personal cost and impacts of the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

It involved interviewing people from across northern Victoria, from places like Swan Hill, Mildura, Kerang and Cohuna.

It included irrigators, water brokers, business operators, rural financial counsellors and family support services.

It is just one tool that the group has used to lobby ministers and the Murray Darling Basin Authority to listen to our communities as they make decisions about the future of the Plan.

You can see a video produced as part of the MRGC research, and read all the details, at Council’s website.

The group includes the Swan Hill, Mildura, Gannawarra, Loddon, Campanzine and Moira councils – an area ranging along the river from Mildura to Yarrawonga. It was originally set up to lobby governments on water issues and continues to play an important advocacy role today.

The team approach of the Murray River Group is a good demonstration of how councils working together can get a lot greater impact than going it alone.

Similarly, we are working with six neighbouring councils to establish a major funding application to the Federal Government for projects right along our local rivers.

Once again, pooling our resources and efforts will allow us to take part in this grant scheme, but acting solo would not.

And just a few quick plugs for some of the items you will read more about in this newsletter.

Our 2018/19 budget has just been adopted. Through this budget, we will deliver more than 100 Council services across the municipality, as well as $17.6 million in major capital projects, including $5.4 million to improve our vital sealed and unsealed road network. We will deliver these within the State Government mandated rate cap, with the rate increase for 2018/19 being 2.05 per cent.

I encourage you to go online or call into a Council office to complete our Communication and Engagement survey. It will help shape the ways we communicate Council and other local information with you, and shape how we get local people involved in local decision-making.

And I draw your attention to a story about the housing situation in Robinvale. Council has been working hard following up on reports of potentially illegal rooming houses in the Robinvale area.

A WORD FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

Central Ward
Deputy Mayor
CR ANN YOUNG
0409 503 711
ann.young@swanhill.vic.gov.au

I’ve been in the role of Councillor and Deputy Mayor for just over a year and half and I am continuing to enjoy the experience as well as learning a lot about this region and our community.

Recently it’s been really pleasing and positive to see a number of initiatives moving forward through unified approaches. Collaborating and working together at all levels is vital to growth and stability for our region.

This has been especially apparent in the developments around farming, manufacturing, tourism and new planning applications. Some great examples include the riverfront and health precinct developments and working closely with the agribusiness committee to raise awareness of the issues currently affecting this industry.

Finally, I would like to thank Council and the community for their help and assistance in recent difficult times.

Central Ward
CR JOHN KATIS
0459 077 532
john.katis@swanhill.vic.gov.au

2018 - what a great year it has been so far.

Right across our municipality our primary industries have had a great boost from both local and export markets. And the only thing that’s missing is some good rain for our dry country.

The celebrations of the end of the Great War saw Robinvale come to life with the construction of a new memorial along Bromley Road and the commemorations that followed as part of ANZAC Day.

The community groups that co-ordinated this should be congratulated, as this will go down in Robinvale’s history, and never to be forgotten.

It really does just go to show what a community can achieve when working together towards a common goal, and I’m proud of the contribution that Council made throughout the two day commemorations.

Central Ward
CR CHRIS JEFFERY
0429 447 802
chris.jeffery@swanhill.vic.gov.au

Our municipality is growing.

There have been big movements in the retail sector, with new businesses on the way in and current businesses expanding and re-branding.

Solar farms are either producing power or are very close to this stage - and there is more news in this area on the horizon. Horticulture is also booming, especially in the Murray Mallee and Robinvale wards.

And there’s new housing going up at Lake Boga’s Haven Lake and in Swan Hill at Ironbark and Tower Hill.

This hive of activity is a fantastic show of support from local business and our community, highlighting that they believe in our region and the direction it’s taking.

And with all this development going on, I’m now looking forward to seeing work start at the South West Development Precinct in Swan Hill. Because a growth in industry means a growth in population - and we need to keep up.

Central Ward
CR LEA JOHNSON
0487 770 456
lea.johnson@swanhill.vic.gov.au

At the time of writing, I am attending the National General Assembly for Local Government in Canberra with Deputy Mayor Ann Young.

There have been some fabulous examples, case studies and research presented to us over the past few days by experts in their fields.

Just some of the topics covered have been reducing the risk of gambling harm and how to implement policies for councils to support their communities, cross border collaboration (two towns/one community), gender diversity in local government and skills initiatives and programs for unemployed youth.

This trip has been extremely worthwhile. We’ve met with leaders, gained some invaluable insights and advocated for our Council and I am looking forward to sharing some of our learnings with our community when we return.

Central Ward
CR BILL MOAR
0429 496 194
bill.moar@swanhill.vic.gov.au

It’s certainly been a busy few months.

As a Council we prepared and adopted the 2018/19 Budget, attended briefings to learn more about the direction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme Reforms and continued to tour our smaller communities and witnessed firsthand their passion and resilience.

Last month I also attended the Loddon Mallee Organics Recovery Series. I’m passionate about resource recovery, and organics is definitely our next big challenge. As our population continues to grow, it means waste volumes could nearly double over the next 30 years. So we need to get on the front foot.

Overall, it’s going to need a combined effort from all levels of government, but right now you can help too. Taking small steps like reducing food waste or having a compost bin at home can make a big difference over a lifetime and stop more organics from going to landfill.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

17 JULY, SWAN HILL TOWN HALL 4PM
21 AUGUST, SWAN HILL TOWN HALL 4PM
16 OCTOBER, SWAN HILL TOWN HALL 6PM

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.

CONTACT COUNCIL
WWW.SWANHILL.VIC.GOV.AU
COUNCIL@SWANHILL.VIC.GOV.AU
PO BOX 488, SWAN HILL VIC 3585

Swan Hill Business Centre
45 Splatt Street
Swan Hill VIC 3585
Phone 5036 2333, Fax 5036 2340

Robinvale Resource Centre
68-72 Herbert Street
Robinvale VIC 3549
Phone 5551 8030, Fax 5551 8010

Both offices are open Monday to Friday 8.30am until 5pm.
GEM CONSERVED

WORK to conserve and maintain public access to the Pioneer Settlement’s PS Gem is now complete. An assessment identified that urgent work was needed on the hull, timber floor and walls of the iconic paddle-steamer, and Heritage Victoria allocated $500,000 to carry out the following repairs:

- Stabilising the middle deck
- Replacing doors and floorboards
- Caulking the main deck
- Reinstalling portholes
- Protective paint coating
- Restoring the winch and jack staff.

Mayor Les McPhee said the repairs ensured that residents and visitors to our region could continue to enjoy and appreciate the Gem for many years to come.

“Paddlesteamers played such a vital role in our history, and we’re thrilled that we can continue to tell their story and the vital role pioneers in the Mallee, like Mr McPhee said.

“We’re extremely grateful that Heritage Victoria felt the same way and provided us with the funding we needed to keep our Gem afloat.”

Cr McPhee said.

The PS Gem took its maiden voyage in 1876 and was the largest paddlesteamer on the Murray River. Used to carry a variety of cargo and even passengers later.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE CHANGE

As of 1 July 2018, there have been some changes to the Swan Hill Mobile Library Service timetable.

After a review of the service, consultation with members and discussions with Murray River Council, the new timetable was put in place.

To find out when and where the Mobile Library Service will next visit, head to the Swan Hill Regional Library website at www.library.swanhill.vic.gov.au.

MALLEE ALMOND BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

The 11th Mallee Almond Blossom Festival is on next month.

Starting at 10am on Sunday, 9 August, this year’s festival will be held the grounds of the Robinvale Community Centre withocusing on the beautiful Murray River.

Head along for a family fun day, to sample and purchase local produce such as almonds, honey, olives, stuffed olives and salad dressings, avocados, sultanas, fresh garden produce, decorations and enjoy live entertainment.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ZONES REVIEW

A review of the commercial and industrial zones for Swan Hill and Robinvale has been undertaken and a draft report is now out for public comment.

Focusing primarily on the existing or partially developed industrial and commercial areas and the respective CBD areas of Swan Hill and Robinvale, the review examines current uses and future needs, identifies areas of industrial development and identifies a planning framework to accommodate future development.


MOBILE LIBRARY ON BACK ROAD

In February this year a film crew from ABC’s Back Roads came to Robinvale to visiting to and showcase the area’s colourful characters. The crew will be back to air on 16 July at 8pm on ABC 1.

Don’t forget to tune in and learn more about one of our incredibly diverse and resilient communities.
BUDGET ADOPTED, 2.05 PER CENT RATE RISE

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

BEVERFORD
- Community Plan implementation: $11,000

BOUNDARY BEND
- Community Plan implementation: $68,000

LAKE BOGA
- Plan and build the Lake Boga education hub: $420,000*
- Lake Boga Recreation Reserve playground: $54,000
- Community Plan implementation: $50,000

MANANGATANG
- Community Plan implementation: $27,000

NYAH DISTRICT
- Resurface Nyah netball court: $63,000
- Nyah West Senior Citizens kitchen renewal: $25,000
- Scope and design performance stage and public toilets in Nyah West: $20,000
- Community Plan implementation: $15,000

ULTIMA
- Community Plan implementation: $10,000

WOORINEN
- Spoon drain work at Palmer and Monday streets, Woorinen South (Roads to Recovery): $28,000
- Community Plan implementation: $10,000

ROBINVALE
- Beautify Bromley Road: $805,000*
- Design and construct the Robinvale town levee: $600,000*
- Robinvale Community Centre building refurbishment: $102,000
- Robinvale Recreation Reserve playground: $58,000
- Community Plan implementation: $34,000

SWAN HILL
- Deliver projects identified from the Swan Hill Riverfront Masterplan: $1.87M
- Upgrade facilities at the Swan Hill Regional Livestock Exchange: $1.15M
- Build Ken Harrison Reserve: $520,000*
- Group fitness room at Swan Hill Leisure Centre: $400,000*
- Design for Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery redevelopment: $300,000*
- Swan Hill Aerodrome lighting upgrade: $230,000
- Upgrades to the Pioneer Settlement day product: $150,000
- Swan Hill CBD drainage upgrade stage 3, from Splat to Beveridge: $147,000
- Millco Street boat ramp extensions and upgrades: $120,000
- Swan Hill indoor Sports Centre refurbishment: $60,000

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Sealed road reconstruction, rescaling and shouldering (includes some Roads to Recovery projects): $3.12M
- Unsealed road resheets (includes some Roads to Recovery funded projects): $978,000
- Footpaths major repairs and renewal: $170,000
- Disabled kerb crossings, Swan Hill and Robinvale: $31,000
- Bicycle paths construction: $31,000*
- New bus shelters: $51,000
- Library collection purchases: $130,000
- L2P Learner Driver Program Swan Hill and Robinvale: $69,000
- Playground equipment renewal and fittings: $105,000

*INDICATES TOTAL PROJECT COST IS CONDITIONAL ON EXTERNAL FUNDING

YOUR RATES NOTICE

RESIDENTS will have recently received their first rates notice for the 2018/19 financial year.

INSTALLMENTS
DUE dates for instalments are:
- First instalment – 30 September 2018
- Second instalment – 30 November 2018
- Third instalment – 28 February 2019
- Fourth instalment – 31 May 2019

LUMP SUM PAYMENT
COUNCIL also offers a one per cent discount on rates and charges if all four instalments (the total rates charge) are paid in full by 30 September 2018.

CONCESSIONS
If you receive a pension, you might be eligible for a rebate on rates, charges and the Fire Service Levy.

The appropriate pension card (Health Care Cards are not eligible) must be produced when submitting an application for a concession at Council offices. Concession applications must be made by 30 June 2019.

RATES VIA EMAIL
You can 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.

HAS YOUR VALUATION CHANGED?
As of 1 January 2018, all properties in Victoria had new valuations assigned by Council valuers.

The valuers analyse property sales and rental data trends, and consider other factors such as the highest and best use of the land, house value and other site improvements, land size, location and soil type.

The new values will be first used from 1 July 2018. From 2019 valuations will be updated annually.

The rates and charges for your property might have increased or decreased by more or less than the average rate rise for the following reasons:

- The valuation of your property relative to the valuation of other properties in the municipal district.
- The application of any differential rate by Council.
- The inclusion of other rates and charges not covered by the Victorian Government's rates cap or the Fire Services Levy.
- Changes to the property such as demolition, erection new structures or alterations.

Valuation alterations can also occur if a portion of the property is sold, is subdivided, a consolidation of property takes place or a re-zoning is applied. This is called a supplementary valuation.

Ratepayers have the right to object to a new valuation, either from supplementary or general revaluation, within two months of the associated rate notice being issued. Forms are available from Council offices or on Council's website.

ACCESS FOR ALL: Footpaths around the municipality will have new tactile surfacing installed to assist the visually impaired.

ROBINVALE: A new playground will be installed at the Robinvale Recreation Reserve.

Total revenue: $52.25 million
Revenue raised from rates: $23.89 million
Capital works and assets expenditure: $17.59 million

SWAN Hill Rural City Council's 2018/19 budget includes a low 2.05 per cent average rate rise.

While the average rate rise is 2.05 per cent, the actual change for individual property owners will vary and will depend on the property's new valuation, which is based on a property's value on 1 January 2018.

Dryland farmers will also find that a higher discount has been applied to their rates this year, to counteract higher increases in property values and in a bid to distribute rate increases more equitably across property types.

Under the budget, which was adopted in June, core Council services will be maintained, along with the delivery of a wide range of new capital projects.

Features include:
- $17.6 million in capital works, with additional funding for road and building maintenance across the municipality.
- Additional funding allocated for local communities to deliver projects from their Community Plans.
- Mayor Les McPhee said the 2018/19 budget was prepared to support the key result areas in the Council Plan 2017-21, as well as other community goals identified through a range of forums and consultations.
- “Councillors and staff worked hard to get the balance right in this budget,” Cr McPhee said.

And while the rate cap poses challenges as we formulate and deliver each annual budget, we were determined to minimise financial pressure on the community, while maintaining, and in some cases enhancing, community services.”

Cr McPhee also thanked the community for taking the time to get involved.

“We received two submissions to the budget this year, and I would like to thank those members of our community for taking the time to read the document and provide feedback.

“I'm confident that what we have developed is both practical and delivers for our communities, and I look forward to working with Councillors, staff and the community to deliver the promised.”

NEW MCH APP

A NEW smartphone app has been developed for Maternal and Child Health. “Sometimes is can be hard to keep track of all the booklets, brochures and information we give to parents about their child’s health, learning and development,” MCH Team Leader Robyn Burns said.

“On this app, parents can access this information anytime anywhere. It has essential and trusted information, useful contacts and can even remind parents of upcoming appointments.”

To download the app just search MCH in your app store, and it’s at the top of the list.

FRESH: New backboards and a coat of paint on basketball rings have them looking brand new.

JAYCEE PARK FIRST STEPS

MINOR work has started to upgrade Jaycee Park after community consultation in March this year. Upgrades to the picnic shelter have made the area safer and stronger, the basketball rings have brand new backboards and are sporting a fresh coat of paint, as have the football goal posts.

“Back in March we had a great consultation session at Jaycee Park, speaking to kids from nearby primary schools as well as residents from nearby and we got lots of great ideas. Council’s Community Planning Officer Felicity O’Rourke said these smaller works were just the beginning of the bigger picture and we got lots of great ideas. Council’s Community Planning Officer Felicity O’Rourke said these smaller works were just the start.

“We drew pictures on concrete, made clay models and spoke about what improvements they would like to see happen in the park and what would make them visit the park more.”

“A path around the park, bike racks, painting the play equipment, gaga ball and a flying fox were popular ideas, but are ideas that rely on us getting funding.

“No, for now, we’ve made a couple of smaller upgrades, just to get the ball moving, and hope in 2018/19 we’re successful in grant funding and can start implementing some of the bigger changes.”

STARS COMING TO SWAN HILL!

ELVIS, THE EAGLES, CAROL KING, ONLY A STAR STUDDED LINE UP IS COMING TO SWAN HILL TOWN HALL THIS JULY AND AUGUST.

ON Friday, 27 July Nikki Nicholls and King’s Rule will be performing their ‘You’ve Got a Friend’, with a touch of James Taylor tour. This performance is set to be an unforgettable evening of Carole King’s songs and story, covering her amazing life and musical career. The show will also include songs that Carole King wrote for other artists including James Taylor, The Beatles, Blood Sweat and Tears, The Drifters and more.

Friday, 10 August will bring Mark Anthony and his internationally renowned Elvis tribute to town in his brand new production ELVIS – The King in Concert. This Elvis experience will recreate the electrifying magic of the Madison Square Gardens and On Tour performances. The stage presence, incredible vocal ability, authentic costuming and backing by an amazing band brings Elvis back to life through Mark’s performance. This will definitely be a performance you won’t want to miss!

The Eagles Story is playing on Saturday, 25 August with their recreation of the amazing music of The Eagles. This story delivers scintillating harmonies, memorable melody lines and the incredible guitar duels in a commitment to replicate the true west coast vibe of the original Eagles sound. The Eagles Story continues to take it to the limit, more than one time – and you will not want to miss this opportunity to relive the musical memories of The Eagles.

TO purchase tickets to any of these performances you can book online at www.swanhilltownhall.com, visit the Swan Hill Region Information Centre or call 03 5032 3033.

YAMAGATA GARDEN

TO commemorate the 40th anniversary of our sister city relationship with Yamagata, Council is designing and developing an authentic and traditional Japanese garden within the Swan Hill Riverfront precinct.

To be opened in 2020, the garden will highlight and reinforce the commitment, growth of understanding and friendship that has evolved between Swan Hill and Yamagata since its conceptual sister-city relationships began in 1980.

The garden’s design will incorporate significant elements that are typical of the Yamagata region, while taking into consideration the contrasting environment of the Swan Hill region. These elements include water, earth and wood and will be represented by:

- A waterfall, streams and pond
- Dry garden landscape with gravel raked into patterns
- Granite stones, rocks, stepping stones and bamboo
- Almond tree, pear and pine trees,
- Benbarra-Safflower
- Stone lantern

A draft version of these designs will be available in the coming weeks, with works on site expected to begin in late 2018.

Construction of the garden will be coordinated over an 18 month period, with the completion date set for April 2020.

ROBINVALE NAIDOC WEEK EVENTS

Monday 9 July
MVAC Flag Raising and Morning Tea, Robinvale
10.30am

MDAS Flag Raising, March and Barbecue
11am

Tuesday 10 July
Robinvale Police NAIDOC Barbecue
12pm

An Aboriginal History of Robinvale
11am-12pm, Community Centre

Wednesday 11 July
Aboriginal Art Competition/Display
12pm

Thursday 12 July
RDHS Luncheon
12pm

Friday 13 July
MVAC Family Basketball and Disco
11am-3pm

Saturday 14 July
MVAC Family Picnic
1pm

Sunday 15 July
Robinvale Welcome Baby To Country
12pm, MVAC Hall

SWAN HILL NAIDOC WEEK EVENTS

Monday 9 July
NAIDOC March and Flag Raising
Commence at Swan Hill Memorial / Clock Tower 9.30am ending at MDAS for morning tea and flag raising.

ELDERS Afternoon Tea
3pm SunTAFE

Tuesday 10 July
Youth Basketball Day
10am-3pm
Swan Hill Basketball Stadium
Barbecue lunch, Basketball Clinic, competitions, prizes and youth match against VicPat and Justice Workers.

Wednesday 11 July
Tiny Tots Ball
11am, ages 0-5

Youth Neon Dance Parties
4pm-6pm, Ages 6-11
7pm-9pm, Ages 12-17

Swan Hill Ibis Resort
403-415 Campbell Street

Swan Hill Hospital
Our Community in Pictures
2pm-3.30pm, Hospital Cafeteria

Thursday 12 July
Kerang Community Barbecue
12noon
Barbecue lunch at the Kerang Police Station

Friday 13 July
MDAS Family Fun Day
10am-3pm
MDAS, 70 Nyah Road

Saturday 14 July
In Tabor’s Shadow – Indigenous Fashion Show
3pm

Sunday 15 July
Swan Hill Indigenous Communities Festival
11am-4pm

BECAUSE OF HER, WE CAN!

THIS year, NAIDOC Week is celebrating the invaluable contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have made, and continue to make, to our communities, our families, our rich history and to our nation.

Council is proud to support and join 12 other organisations to host a range of community events, and encourages residents to attend and get involved.

In addition to these events pop up cultural workshops will be held throughout the week at 268 Campbell Street, Swan Hill and a Swan Hill Dream Time Ball will be held in October, with more details closer to the date.

For further details on Swan Hill events contact Nicola Perry on 0429 866 880 or Vicki Clark on 0418 374 306 and for Robinvale events contact Thelma Chilly on 0437 684 783.
**SUPERIOR CENOTAPH**

THE Swan Hill Cenotaph has been upgraded and beautified thanks to a joint Swan Hill RSL and Council project.

The $2.5 million VicRoads project to improve safety and traffic flow along McCallum Street is expected to start in February 2019.

Thanks to Blackspot funding, the section of McCallum Street between High and Splatt streets will be upgraded to address the high number of accidents that have occurred there over the past five years.

Council’s Director Infrastructure and Engineering, Karinie Petkova, said the streets will be realigned. The intersection was also moved by joining the centre of Splatt Street into McCallum Street, Ms Petkova said.

"The new design includes narrowing the section of McCallum Street to two lanes and there would be significant changes and improvements to the road layout and traffic flow in the area.

"The new design includes narrowing the section of McCallum Street to two lanes and there would be significant changes and improvements to the road layout and traffic flow in the area."

The priority was to make this section of road safer for our community - and that’s what this design is all about," she said.

It is anticipated work will take approximately six months to complete.

**WHAT’S BEEN IN THE WORKS?**

> The Swan Hill Showgrounds oval was over-sown with rye grass, working towards the Central Murray football grand final, Swan Hill and District cricket grand final and Swan Hill Show weekend for 2019.

> A new entrance to Chisholm Reserve was built, with a left hand turning lane installed and the entrance sealed to the ticket box. This was a joint project of Council and VicRoads.

> A drainage project at Chisholm Reserve is almost complete. New drainage pits, pipes and other earthworks has been completed between the drag strip and the dam near the sporting car club. Earth from this work was transported to the Swan Hill Landfill for cell capping - a time and cost saving for Council and ratepayers.

> The Swan Hill Cricket Grand Final and the VicRoads Swan Hill Show Weekend will be held at the Swan Hill RSL and Community Reserve.

> The Woornin Recreation Reserve playground is complete and new shade sails installed.

> Equipment has arrived for the Robinvale Recreation Reserve playground, which will be installed in July.

> Equipment has also arrived for the Lake Boga Recreation Reserve playground, and this will be installed later in the year.

**PROJECT SET TO RAMP UP**

> The Millioo Street boat ramp extension project is progressing, with Council waiting on a final permit from New South Wales before proceeding with the works.

Once approved it will be full steem ahead with the installation of new public toilets, car and long vehicle parking, and an extension of the boat ramp from one lane to two lanes.

Council’s Economic and Community Development Manager, Zac Fremling, said Council was still keeping its fingers crossed that the upgrades will be completed in time for the season.

"We’ve come up against a few roadblocks throughout this project, and believe it or not, we get bogged down with red tape too sometimes! But we’ve been working hard on getting all the approvals we needed, because we know how much this project means to our community.

"When we get started, we aim to have the entire project complete within a month.

"We’ll continue to keep the community updated, and as soon as we have the green light, will advise of a construction start date.

"This project has been made possible thanks to funding from Better Fishing Funds Project, Boating Safety and Facilities Program and Council.

> The Swan Hill Outdoor Pool has received a makeover, with new footpath and pram crossings installed, garden beds tidied and new lawn laid on the nature strip.

> New guide rails have been installed at the Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery, along with new pathways and new lawn, creating a welcoming, functional space that can also be used for events. The new features were installed as part of the Swan Hill riverfront development and funded through Regional Development Victoria.

> Reconstructed a 220m section of Frederick Street, Nyah West, with that section now 6.2m wide and sealed.

> Fully reconstructed a section of Karinie Street, Swan Hill, from Murong Road to Richards Road.

> A contractor re-sealed 180,000 square metres of roads throughout the municipality as part of our annual sealing contract.

> The intersection of David and Moore streets, Robinvale, was asphalted.

> Just over 80km of lining work has been completed in Swan Hill, Platil, Tresco, Chinkapook and Lake Boga. Work included repainting centre lines and edge lines as needed.

> The Nyraby and Chinkapook-Nyah West roads intersection has been realigned. The intersection was dangerous and needed to be squared up to the Chinkapook-Nyah West Road for safety reasons.

> Robinvale artist Rhonda Avery created a red gum bollard representing Captain King, which Council staff installed near the PS Gem. The bollard replaces the previous painted bollard, which had sustained bad termite damage.

> The area in front of The Stadium in Swan Hill received a makeover, with new footpath and pram crossings installed, garden beds tidied and new lawn laid on the nature strip.

> The entrance to the Swan Hill Outdoor Pool was refreshed with a new Murray Cod bike stand, new plants and mulch.

> The Woornin Recreation Reserve playground area was re-sealed 180,000 square metres of roads.

> A new entrance to Chisholm Reserve was built, with a left hand turning lane installed and the entrance sealed to the ticket box. This was a joint project of Council and VicRoads.

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> The Swan Hill Cricket Grand Final and the VicRoads Swan Hill Show Weekend will be held at the Swan Hill RSL and Community Reserve.

> The Woornin Recreation Reserve playground area was re-sealed 180,000 square metres of roads.

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REGIONAL FAMILY DAY

LOOKING for a career change? Want to run your own business from home? Love kids and flexible working hours? Then read on...

Council is looking for more people to become Family Day Educators in Robinvale and our smaller townships. At the moment, there is little or no childcare available in Robinvale, Nyah West, Manangatang, Piangil, Boundary Bend, Ultima, Wooren, Women and Tresco.

To meet demand and continue to offer quality childcare to residents in all areas of our municipality, Council is keen to talk to individuals interested in becoming educators.

Council’s Family, Youth and Children’s Services Manager Jan McEwan highlighted the importance of providing affordable, quality early childhood education and care services.

“It’s widely recognised that these services have such a positive impact on the health, learning, development and well-being of children,” Ms McEwan said.

“But what’s also important to remember is the impact on parents. Because not having access to formal childcare can have some fairly serious consequences, like an increased financial pressure on families and the inability to return to work,” she said.

“So, if you’ve ever considered a career in childcare, or you’re a member of a local community group that is willing to support the recruitment of educators within your community, we would love to hear from you.”

For further information please contact Jo Spillett on 5036 2381 or email js@swanhill.vic.gov.au.

AT PLAY: Lachlan, Sam and Family Day Care Educator Maryann Gardner.

JPS AT THE LIBRARY

ADDING to their already stellar list of services, the Swan Hill Regional Library now offers a Justice of the Peace signing service.

The new Document Signing Station will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1pm and will be staffed by a dedicated team of local Justices of the Peace (JP) who can assist with the following:

• Attesting to the execution of documents
• Witnessing Statutory Declarations
• Witnessing Affidavits
• Witnessing Power of Attorney documents
• Certifying identity
• Certifying document copies

Council’s Cultural Development and Libraries Manager Camille Culinia explained the idea came about after library staff were regularly asked where JP services could be accessed.

“We then approached John Van Heumen, one of our regular users and a registered JP, and asked him for some assistance. John took on the project, contacted local JPs in the area and co-ordinated a roster.

“So we’d like to say a big thank you to John and to the local JPs who have committed to donating their time each week. With some even travelling in from Nyah, Ultima and Chinkapook, we’re really grateful for their generosity and providing another great service to our community.”

The on duty JP will be based at a desk in the library. Library staff can direct customers to the signing area and also assist with photocopying and printing of documents if required.

No charges apply for the services of the JP; however standard charges apply for any photocopying or printing of documents using library equipment.

If the JP on duty cannot fulfill a request, they will direct residents to a centre that can.

SURVEY: HOW SHOULD WE ENGAGE, COMMUNICATE?

• DO YOU LIKE TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM COUNCIL?
• DO YOU LIKE TO HAVE A SAY ON DECISIONS THAT AFFECT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?
• DO YOU LIKE TO KNOW WHAT’S HAPPENING AROUND OUR REGION?

You can help improve the way we communicate and how you can get involved in local decisions by completing our Communication and Engagement Survey.

The survey asks how you find out about Council news and information, what communication channels you use, and what interaction you have with Council and Council decision-making.

It’s anonymous and confidential. And there’s a bonus for everyone who fills in the survey: you can enter to win $200 Swan Hill shopping dollars. That’s $200 to spend in any participating store in Swan Hill.

Importantly, feedback will help us communicate with local residents in the best way possible, will improve how we work and, ultimately, help get better outcomes for you and your community.

We will also use the results to create Council’s new Communication and Engagement Strategy.

The survey is open until 31 July. Find the survey at www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/yoursay. Or, collect a hard copy from Council offices in Swan Hill and Robinvale, the Swan Hill Library and the Swan Hill Region Information Centre.

We look forward to getting your thoughts.
CELEBRATING ALL THAT FLIES AND MOVES

CAR and plane lovers - take a break from tinkering in your shed and pay a visit to Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery this winter.

Locals are lending some unique objects to the Gallery for the new Flight/Motion exhibition, like a 1940s BSA motorbike, model aeroplanes and beautifully painted car parts, as well as Newton Williams’ fascinating, handcrafted cardboardurn. A 1960s Australian-made Goggomobil Dert will also be parked inside the Gallery. Artist Robert Clinch spent more than six months painting the car accessories of the 1960s. It has been travelling to galleries over the past two years, as part of his series of exhibitions Flight/Motion and Object d’Art. Gallery Director Ian Tully and former Director Helen Kaptein are co-curating these two exhibitions at the same time as celebrating Swan Hill’s latest acquisition, Mallee Blue, a stunning outdoor sculpture by artist Judy Holding. We will also celebrate Swan Hill’s Biggest Print - the new public artwork on the Gallery’s west wall, which comprises hundreds of birds, hand drawn and printed by locals, “So please come along, be among the first to see these unique exhibitions, celebrate local art and good conversation. We’ll have a barbecue and hot and cold drinks available on the day, with all proceeds going to the local Cystic Fibrosis Group.”

The launch will be held on Sunday, 22 July at the Gallery from 12pm. The exhibition will be on at the Gallery until 26 August for Goggomobil Object d’Art and 14 October for Flight/Motion. For more information, visit the Gallery’s website or social media channels, or call 5036 2410.

WHAT’S ON

JULY
Sat 14 – Sun 15 Jul FESTA DELLA MADONNA DEL MONTE BARBILLO Saturday. Enjoy dusk to dawn fun at this Italian-themed event. Music, lasagne, pasta, entertainment and more. Come and enjoy the evening and celebrate the Italian way.
Sun 16 Jul SWAN HILL BOWLS CLUB BOWLING ARM CLASSIC. Any combination triples. Contact Bill 0409 339 993 for more details.
Sun 23 Jul ANGOLAN CHURCH OF SHOP FASHION PARADE. Save the date – more details to come.

AUGUST
Wed 1 – Thu 2 Aug MALLEE MACHINERY FIELD DAYS 2018. Located 2kms South of the Sunnyside Highway. For more information email mpmfielddays@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER
Sat 8 Sep SWAN HILL COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB WALK UPS FESTIVAL. Robinvale Winery tour and tastings, poets breakfast and gospel show, campfire jam session, walk ups and lots more. Free camping, showers and toilets. Contact 0428 246 455 for more details.

OCTOBER
Fri 19 – Sat 20 Oct SWAN HILL RELAY FOR LIFE 2018. Starting Friday at 4.30pm at Riverside Park to 10.30pm Saturday. For more details email swanhillrelays@outlook.com.

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.vic.gov.au.