

VOLUNTEERS: THE LIFEBLOOD OF OUR COMMUNITY

Community Update Autumn 2024

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*Pictured: Our 2023 Central Goldfields Shire Australia Day winners.
Photo courtesy of The Maryborough District Advertiser*



FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our Community Update magazine.

Volunteering has been a huge part of my life for over 30 years. I started off with helping out in an op-shop, then meals on wheels delivery, toy library, playgroup, childcare centre, reading with kids at primary school, school committees, Bowenvale CFA, Bowenvale Hall, school boards, Energy Breakthrough and most recently the Central Goldfields Bushwalking and Hiking Club Inc. Not to mention three service clubs over the years – Soroptimist International, Y Service Club and Zonta International.

I have always found that I get so much more out of volunteering than I actually put in.

It gives me a real buzz knowing that I'm making a difference. In fact, it is well known that volunteers are happier, healthier and sleep better than those who don't volunteer because they:

- act on values, passions and interests
- make new friendships and create professional networks
- gain work experience and learn new skills
- enjoy new social and cultural experiences
- develop personally and build confidence
- enjoy better physical and mental health
- are challenged in a supportive environment
- feel warm and fuzzy about helping their community
- have fun!

I was blown away recently when many volunteers stepped up at our Relief Centre at Princes Park which hosted, at one point, around 165 people from neighbouring shires who had left their homes due to bushfires. I was so proud of our community for making them feel welcome, feeding them, donating goods, helping out and more.

Whichever way you help, with much gratitude, I thank you all for making a difference.



Councillor Liesbeth Long (Mayor)

Flynn Ward

☎ 0429 108 007

✉ Liesbeth.Long@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

Follow the Mayor on Facebook @centralgoldfieldsmayor

Cr Long appointed Mayor in November

Flynn Ward Councillor Liesbeth Long was elected Mayor in November last year. Cr Long's term will run until October – the end of the current Council's four-year term.

Thank you to outgoing Mayor Cr Grace La Vella for her leadership, dedication and contribution to Council during her tenure.



COUNCIL MEETINGS

Our community is invited to attend our monthly Council Meetings which are held at 6pm, on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Community Hub, 48 Burns Street, Maryborough.

Upcoming Council Meetings will be held on 26 March, 23 April and 28 May.

Council Meetings are also live streamed on our Facebook page, and the recordings are published at:

📍 www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings

CONNECT WITH OUR COUNCILLORS



Councillor Grace La Vella

Maryborough Ward

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Councillor Wayne Sproull

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Councillor Anna De Villiers

Tullaroop Ward

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Councillor Chris Meddows-Taylor

Paddys Ranges Ward

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National **Volunteer** Week
20-26 MAY 2024
Something for Everyone

YOU'RE INVITED!

To celebrate National Volunteer Week, we'll be hosting a thank you evening to recognise and thank our wonderful volunteers for their dedication and contribution.

All volunteers in the Shire are invited to join us on:

Monday 20 May

5:30pm for 5:45pm start

Bull & Mouth Hotel, High Street, Maryborough

To register email events@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au or call 5461 0610.

CELEBRATING OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Here in the Central Goldfields we are fortunate to have so many locals who go above and beyond to make our community a wonderful place to live. That's why our annual Australia Day awards are so special! It's an opportunity for our community to come together and recognise and celebrate those who have made a significant contribution through volunteering. Congratulations to this year's nominees and winners and thank you for all that you do:



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR **Aileen Marshall**

Aileen has been a dedicated leader and committed volunteer for the Riding for the Disabled Association for Victoria in Maryborough for over 40 years. She has dedicated much of her life to being a staunch and tireless advocate for adults and children with disabilities. Aileen's lifetime contribution to our Shire makes her a worthy recipient of the 2024 Central Goldfields Citizen of the Year Award.



YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR **Khoa Do**

Khoa is an enthusiastic, impressive young person with a strong social conscience, admirable leadership skills and is a role model to his peers at Maryborough Education Centre. Khoa was a Central Goldfields Shire Youth Councillor and in 2023 held the position of Youth Mayor. Khoa has held various leadership positions at Maryborough Education Centre.



COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR **Goldfields Reservoir Parkrun** Represented by Belinda McKnight

Every week for the past four years in rain, hail or shine, local residents have gathered at Goldfields Reservoir to enjoy a 5 kilometre walk, run or jog at 8am on a Saturday. The free event is well attended and supported by wonderful volunteers. Parkrun encourages health, mental and physical benefits and also facilitates new friendships and connections across generations.

*Inset photos:
The Maryborough and District Advertiser.*

Congratulations to our newest Australian citizens!

Congratulations to the 10 residents who became Australian citizens at the Citizenship Ceremony held on Australia Day.

- Teng Li – China
- Qinyan Li – China
- Elizabeth Louise McQueen – United Kingdom
- Rubina Ojha – Nepal
- Donna Sarmiento – Philippines
- Hannah Sarmiento – Philippines
- Brazil Sarmiento – Philippines
- Jobell Ahern – Philippines
- Michele Elizabeth Robson – United Kingdom
- Keith Robson – United Kingdom

We're proud to officially welcome you as Australians into our great country and community.



The changing face of volunteering

Volunteers are the lifeblood of communities across Australia – including ours.

Volunteers not only help make the lives of everyone around them happier – they too are happier as a result.

Whilst the social benefits of volunteering are significant, we know that many volunteers, community groups and organisations in our Shire are doing it tough.

Recognising that volunteering is changing, the Maryborough Volunteer Resource Centre initiated the formation of a Volunteer Stewarding Group with Council staff to try and tackle these challenges together.

The next step is to shape what comes next with the broader community through **'The Changing Faces of Volunteering – Something for Everyone' Forum** on Thursday 30 May.

Why you need to go to the Forum:

- Learn about the latest trends in volunteering and why you need to know this
- Share and learn from other groups – what's going well for them and what isn't
- Meet new people and make new connections
- Discover new volunteering opportunities
- Find out how you can get involved in the local community
- Be celebrated, be valued!

Who is the forum targeted at?

Everyone! Whether you are a current volunteer or not we want you to come and share your ideas and shape volunteering locally.

Invitation

TO:

Everyone in the Central Goldfields Shire – no matter your age, background, interests or gender!

Join us for 'The Changing Face of Volunteering – Something for Everyone' Forum

WHERE:

Salvation Army, 27 Wills Street, Maryborough.

WHEN:

Thursday, 30 May – 5.30pm for a 6pm start.

TO REGISTER:

Email events@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au or call 5461 0610

Refreshments provided



Volunteering in Australia: A Snapshot

In 2023, the Federal Government released the National Strategy for Volunteering. It identified:

- **56.7%** of Australians volunteer either formally or informally
- **83%** of volunteer involving organisations need more volunteers
- The rate of volunteering has been gradually **declining** from $\frac{1}{3}$ adults in 2010 to $\frac{1}{4}$ in 2022.
- A significant **mismatch** exists between the volunteering opportunities being offered and what volunteers are interested in.



Thank you!

In July last year, we invited our community to participate in a survey to better understand what volunteers need.

Thank you to the 75 residents who took the time to share their thoughts.

You told us there was a need to:

- Talk about volunteering in a new way
- Make it easy for people of all backgrounds and ages to get involved
- Help people who are at risk of social isolation to benefit from volunteering experiences
- Focus on creating a great experience for volunteers
- Provide support and guidance to groups to adapt to changing expectations of volunteers

Left: Some members of the Volunteer Stewarding Group.



Central Goldfields Shire Councillor Anna De Villiers



It's been pleasing to see how the Volunteer Stewarding Group has come together to address a nation-wide problem in our local context. I feel really optimistic, we are much clearer now about what is needed to help change the volunteering landscape locally and the forum will help us to build on this further."



Volunteer Stewarding Group member Faye Pyke



We know that volunteering can mean different things to everyone. It could be walking the neighbours dog or helping in a group or doing a shift at the canteen during football and netball season. Whatever it might be – volunteering can bring a lot of joy. For me personally it contributes so much to my overall well-being."

How does volunteering make you feel?



"Volunteering at the soccer club is really energising. As someone who is new to town, being involved in local sport has helped me to feel part of the community and it is nice to be able to make a contribution."

Garry George – President, Maryborough Soccer Club Committee



"Volunteering gives you a real sense of connection to your local community. It's great to be able to make a difference."

Carlene Dowie – Carisbrook Football Netball Club and The Carisbrook Mercury



"For me, volunteering is about being community minded. I get much enjoyment out of giving back to the community and helping out local families."

Drew Garraway – Adelaide Lead Hall Committee and Talbot Town Hall Committee of Management



"Volunteering is the opportunity to support my community in a very real and selfless way. I love offering my community an open hand of friendship and support and appreciate seeing for myself the direct impact this support has on the lives of those I help."

Kath Ryan – Dunolly Recreation Reserves Committee of Management, Deledio Reserve Sports Committee and Dunolly Hospital Auxiliary

Need more info?

Visit engage.goldshire.vic.gov.au/volunteering or contact Council's Coordinator Events and Volunteer Development Alisha Chadwick on 0408 326 157. Or, email the Maryborough Volunteer Resource Centre at maryboroughvrc@gmail.com or follow their Facebook page.



Goldfields

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL



Saturday 27 April 2024, 11am – 4pm
Phillips Gardens, Maryborough

A free and fun festival for the Central Goldfields Shire
with Music, Art, Games, Rides, Information and Activities
for Community Connection and Celebration!

gogoldfields
COMMUNITY FESTIVAL



www.gogoldfields.org/goldfieldscommunityfestival

Around 7,000 visitors have streamed through the doors of the Central Goldfields Art Gallery since it reopened in March last year following a \$2.28 million redevelopment.

Visitors have included local community members of all ages as well as a growing number of visitors from across the broader region, Melbourne and beyond – impressed by the world class facility and engaging exhibition program featuring local, national and internationally recognised artists.

Central Goldfields Art Gallery is open Thursdays to Sundays from 10am to 4pm. Entry is free and all are welcome. For more information visit: www.centralgoldfieldsartgallery.com.au or follow the Facebook page for updates.

ON NOW AT THE GALLERY!

LOVE

To Sunday 14 April 2024

Engine Room



Love has been a source of inspiration for visual artists throughout history.

This exhibition presents works that explore diverse aspects of this universal human emotion from the love of nature to the love of self and others.

Women on Women

To Sunday 16 June 2024

Ramp Space



Three Central Victorian artists (including Bealiba artist Tenar Dwyer) and three Melbourne artists unite to present artwork about women by women.

This is a collaborative exhibition between the Gallery and Satellite Projects in Melbourne, presented as part of International Women's Day.

Above: Tenar Dwyer, Wonder Woman (detail), 2024. Oil on hemp lines.

INDIGENOUS INTERPRETIVE GARDEN

Construction of the new Indigenous Interpretive Garden is now underway.

A new Indigenous Interpretive Garden is currently being constructed in the open space on the corner of Neill and Campbell streets, Maryborough – just next to Central Goldfields Art Gallery.

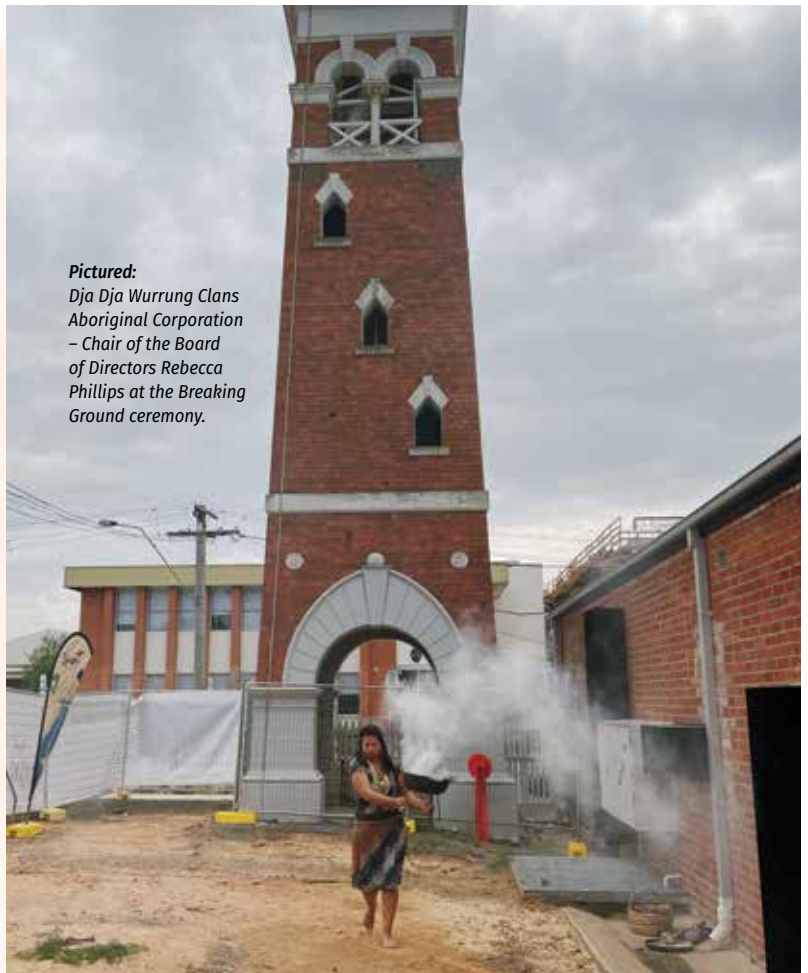
Jointly funded by the Victorian Government and Council, the Garden will be a public place inviting the whole community to come together in a spirit of reconciliation to understand and celebrate culture.

The Garden has been designed collaboratively with Djaara elders and artists through a Wartaka process, with Dja Dja Wurrung elders and artists to weave their story and reflect natural elements of Djaara country in an inspiring way.

Once complete, the Indigenous Interpretive Garden will be accessible via the Gallery and a separate street entrance. The project is expected to be complete mid-2024.

For more information visit:

engage.cgoldshire.vic.gov.au/gallery



Pictured:
Dja Dja Wurrung Clans
Aboriginal Corporation
– Chair of the Board
of Directors Rebecca
Phillips at the Breaking
Ground ceremony.



SPOTLIGHT ON CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS

Above: Presenter Catriona Rowntree with The Station Café Restaurant and Bar owners Simon and David.

Our wonderful Shire featured in the popular Nine Network Australia TV show, Country House Hunters, presented by TV personality Catriona Rowntree in February.

The episode was supported by Council staff to enable the program to profile some of Maryborough's great attractions including the Station and the Central Goldfields Art Gallery.

It is estimated that 697,000 viewers tuned in to see if Simon and David (owners of The Station Café Restaurant Bar and Whisky June) found their forever home. Whilst they didn't on the show – we are pleased to report they did after the episode was aired.

At the time of this magazine going to print, the episode was still available to watch on 9Now.



Paradise in the heart of Maryborough

Next time you visit Phillips Gardens, be sure to check out the paradise that has been created in the greenhouse (pictured above).

Our Parks and Gardens team recently replanted the greenhouse with a mix of ferns which will see it remain green and lush all year round.

The new plants have flourished in their new home and the wet forest paradise is now a sensory experience for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.



Councillor Geoff Lovett Maryborough Ward

Locally, throughout 2023 and 2024 there has been a focus on volunteering.

However, volunteering has many guises, from an individual who does a good deed to joining an organisation that strives to benefit others. Altruism is a word that has fallen out of favour but sums up perfectly what volunteering is.

In today's world where 'what's in it for me' is normal, volunteering with an altruistic attitude is a pleasant change.

Throughout the Shire there is a long history of people who give freely of their time, simply to benefit others: service clubs, school councils, sporting club committees, cemetery trusts, historical societies etc., members give freely of their time, only to benefit others.

As I sit here writing this column in 38-degree heat, surely the CFA and SES can be classified as volunteers? So, if you read this and have thought 'I'd like to get involved', please do, you will feel so much better for doing so.



Councillor
Grace La Vella



Councillor
Gerard Murphy



Councillor
Wayne Sproull

MAJOR PROJECTS



Octagonal Pool rebuild takes shape

Whilst we await news of our application to the Federal Government's Growing Regions Program for the funding needed to restore the heritage listed Maryborough Outdoor Pool precinct, work continues on the Octagonal Pool.

The project to re-build the Octagonal Pool commenced in 2023 and is on track for completion mid-year.

The project involves the construction of an entirely new pool shell, recovery of as many of the original tiles as possible and repairs to the concourse.

For more information on the Maryborough Outdoor Pool complex, and the work Council is doing behind the scenes to secure funding to reopen the facility, visit:

engage.cgoldshire.vic.gov.au/maryboroughoutdoorpool

New tiles for the indoor pool

The 25-metre indoor pool at the Maryborough Sports and Leisure Centre is now closed to make way for an upgrade.

The current pool tiles are almost 25 years old and are at the end of their life. They'll be replaced, along with the tiles surrounding the pool concourse, so that the pool can be enjoyed for many more years to come.

To ensure our community has access to aquatic facilities for as long as possible, the outdoor pool season will be extended at both the Talbot and Dunolly pools until Monday 1 April.

The upgrade to the 25-metre pool is expected to be complete late May.

For more information visit:

centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/poolretilingproject



Princes Park Grandstand

A project to scope and design an upgrade to the Princes Park Grandstand is underway. There will be opportunities for community groups to help develop concept plans in the coming months, so keep an eye out!

This will provide us with the detailed planning we need to advocate for the funding required to preserve and upgrade this much-loved community asset.

For more information visit:

engage.cgoldshire.vic.gov.au/grandstand



Another step closer to re-opening

Contractors have commenced work to replace and upgrade the electrical switchboards and emergency lighting systems at the Maryborough Town Hall.

Long term, we will continue to seek funding opportunities that would enable us to restore the Town Hall to its former glory.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

We've recently completed the following projects:

- ✔ Worsley Cottage upgrade – jointly funded by Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program
- ✔ Termite damaged beam at Princes Park Grandstand repaired
- ✔ Frost Avenue upgrade – funded through Federal Government's Roads to Recovery program →
- ✔ Safety fencing installed around Maryborough Toy Library
- ✔ Footpath, drainage and road pavement along a section of Burns Street, Maryborough replaced
- ✔ Victor, Webb and Hillview Courts, Maryborough resealed





NEW NETBALL COURTS FOR DELEDIO

Since early 2023 we've been working in partnership with the Dunolly Football Netball Club to design and deliver a new netball court and a multi-use tennis and netball court and lighting at Deledio Reserve.

The project commenced in December but was stalled in mid-January due to wet weather.

Council Officers have been working closely with contractors to make up for lost time on the project, and it is continuing full steam ahead. With solid foundations in place, contractors will work on laying concrete and acrylic surfacing, as well as the installation of light poles, shelters and other supporting elements in March.

The project is jointly funded by the Victorian Government and Council.

New toilets at Rene Fox Gardens

The upgrade to the Rene Fox Gardens public toilet facilities has moved a step closer.

We now have Heritage Victoria approval and the contract for the works is expected to be awarded late March.

The project is fully funded by Council.



Councillor Liesbeth Long Flynn Ward

Flynn Ward has some great individuals who make our community the wonderful place it is. Two were recognised at the Dunolly Australia Day celebrations recently in Gordon Gardens – Jan Brock (senior) and Grace Freemantle (junior).

Volunteers are what make Flynn so great – The Dunolly Goldrush Festival is 100% organised by volunteers, as is the management of our fabulous Historic Precinct – the Town Hall, Court House & Police Stables & Lock Up. We have our own CFA and hopefully the SES will be back sometime too. The Dunolly Community Bus is driven by volunteers, and let's not forget our wonderful weekly newspaper – *The Welcome Record*, published every Wednesday!

In Bealiba there is the hard-working Res Committee who manage the Bealiba Reservoir and hold regular working bees to keep this magnificent asset looking pristine for our many visitors. The Town Hall committee have done a power of work getting the hall looking like new with a huge refurbishment in recent years.

You guys are all terrific and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Please contact me if I can assist with anything, by phone, text, email or on social media. **#mayorliesbethlong**



Advocating to other levels of government in the interests of our community is an essential role of Council.

Through our advocacy we are the voice of the community, working to deliver key projects in partnership with other levels of government to meet current and long-term needs.

Priority Projects Plan

Our Priority Projects Plan is used to advocate to government to secure funding for key projects.

The 2022 version was successful in securing funding for eight projects. Given the economic climate and the tight State and Federal Government budgets, the latest version has been refreshed to focus on a smaller number of projects that align with government priorities and funding opportunities.

It's essentially our investment invitation list and our hope is that it will support us to secure further funding to keep creating a Central Goldfields we can be proud of.

To find out more and to view the Priority Projects Plan 2023 visit

www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/priorityprojectsplan2023

Letter to the Prime Minister

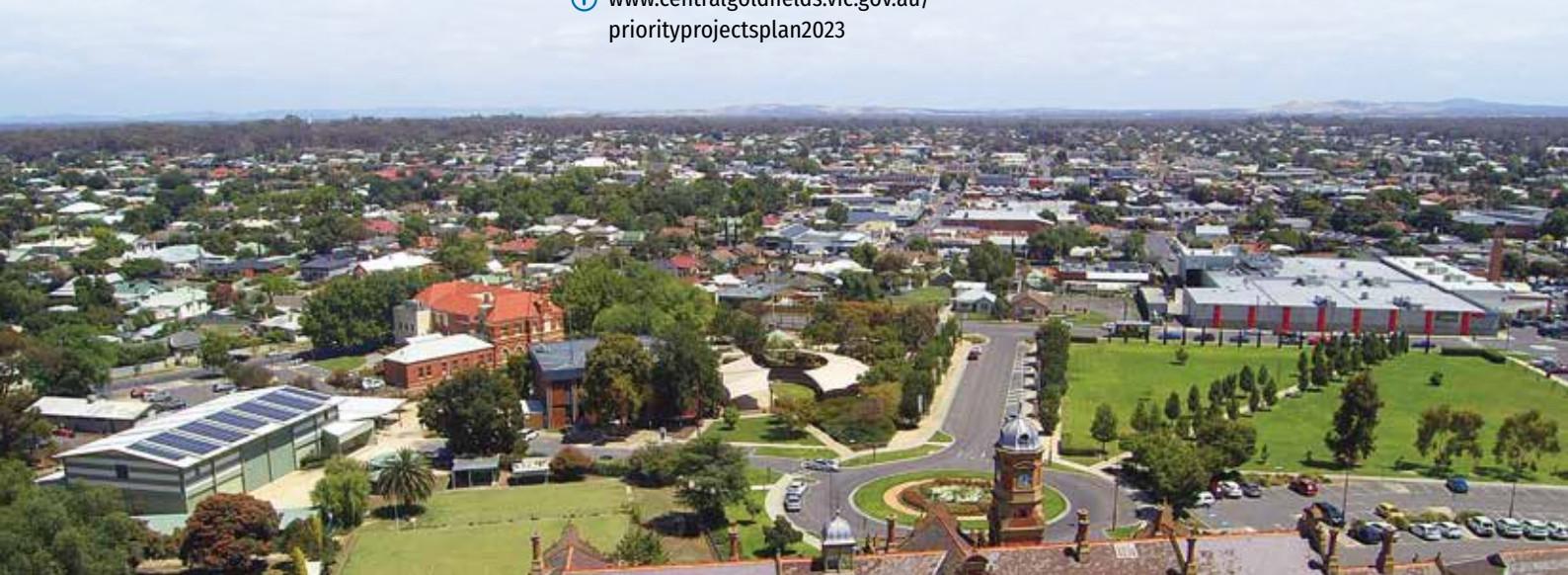
In December, our Mayor Cr Liesbeth Long wrote a letter to The Honourable Prime Minister Anthony Albanese MP to seek support and leadership to address key challenges facing regional Australian towns.

Challenges include lack of housing and under-investment in crucial services and infrastructure including public transport, telecommunications and digital connectivity.

Using the SBS documentary *Meet the Neighbours* as a catalyst, the letter called on federal and state governments to address the disparity between metropolitan and regional Australia.

Find out more, and read the letter here:

www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/pmletter



Community support for climate action

Community members gathered together in February at Phillips Gardens to celebrate our community's achievements in climate action.

Congratulations to the Climate Action Stewarding Group (CASG) on a successful Climate Rally Anniversary.

The day included inspiring and compelling speeches from DJAARA's Rodney Carter and Lewis Brown, 2023 Youth Mayor Khoa Do, primary student Cal Armstrong and CASG members Tony Macer and Mayor Cr Liesbeth Long. A variety of sustainability information and kids activities were also on offer with stalls set up by local Climate Alliance partners including Maryborough Girl Guides, Zonta, ASTERIA, Mill House Neighbourhood House, Upper Loddon and Avoca Landcare Network and the Goldfields Sustainability Group.

Speeches were followed by Devonshire Tea prepared by the Maryborough Senior Citizens Centre as a fundraiser for their solar project.

The new Central Goldfields Climate Action website was also launched on the day. You can check it out at www.cgca.org.au



AN ADVISORY GROUP FOR TULLAROOP CREEK

In 2021 – with the help of the local community – we developed a Waterway Management Plan for Carisbrook.

The purpose of the Plan was to identify priorities for the future management of the Tullaroop Creek and the two public reserve areas – Bucknall and Bland Reserves.

The Plan recommended that an advisory group be created to support its delivery.

This is an opportunity for interested community members to be part of a group that will provide advice and guidance to Council on the management, development and maintenance of Tullaroop Creek over the next two years.

Expressions of Interest will open in April. Keep an eye out in *The Carisbrook Mercury* for updates.



Many hands make light work

The storm event in mid-February came quickly and hit hard. It created varying degrees of damage and was widespread throughout our Shire.

Big shout out to Maryborough SES and their volunteer team as well as our Operations Team for their hard work in getting our Shire back to looking its best.

Flood Works Update

Works to repair and restore our road infrastructure following the 2022 flood event are continuing across our Shire.

Four packages of works are now complete.

Sealed road and shoulder repair upgrades will commence shortly along with culvert and structure erosion repairs.

To find out more, including progress to date and a list of locations, visit:

www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/floodrecoveryworks



Councillor Anna De Villiers Tullaroop Ward

The past four months have been exciting for Carisbrook.

Going back to December 2023, we had a Christmas Market organised by the Carisbrook Disaster Recovery Committee Inc.

The Maryborough Harness Racing Track was a hive of activity on Christmas Day, with the Carisbrook Lions Club hosting their annual lunch. Lunch was served to 300 people. What an amazing effort.

Australia Day was also very well attended with approximately 100 people present. Congratulations to the Carisbrook Australia Day awardees: Tilly Aston Award recipient Geoff Lucas, Jack O'Connor Mayor of the Day Sue Purchas, and Tilly Aston Award recipient Thea Allan. Thank you to all the volunteers who help contribute to making the Carisbrook and district community a great place to live.

We saw the completion of stage 4 of the levee in Carisbrook. The Community Asset Committee for Tullaroop Leisure Centre was confirmed at the December 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Thanks to the amazing effort of our Flood Recovery Officer appointed in 2023, a lot of work has been done and a range of ideas have been suggested to support the flood-affected community in Carisbrook. The main focus is the continued development of resilience in Carisbrook.



PLAN FOR EMERGENCIES AT HOME

The fire events during February are a reminder to all of us of the importance of being prepared for an emergency situation.

Experience shows that those who plan and prepare for emergencies can reduce the impact of the emergency and can recover quickly afterwards.

Emergencies can happen anywhere, at any time. It's important to have a plan, know what to do and where to find information in an emergency.

Here is some information that will help you get started – as well as a series of websites and phone numbers where you can find additional information and support.

Warning levels

There are three different levels of warning:



Emergency warning

- You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted



Warning (Watch and Act)

- An emergency is developing nearby. You need to take action now to protect yourself and others.



Advice

- An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions.
- Can also be used as a notification that activity in the area has subsided and is no longer a danger to you.

Additional messages

Additional messages that may be issued are:



Evacuation

- An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.



Community update

- Specific information and updates for affected communities regarding a particular event or incident.

Prepare

It's important to have an emergency plan so you know how to prepare yourself & your home in the event of a flood, fire or other emergency. For more information on how to prepare visit the Australian Red Cross website: www.redcross.org.au/emergencies/

Stay informed

- Know where to go for the most up-to-date information
- Monitor the Bureau of Meteorology website for latest weather forecasts and warnings: www.bom.gov.au
- Download the VicEmergency app to stay informed of incidents and warnings in your local area, or view here: www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond or call **1800 226 226**
- Know your flood risk, and view your local flood guide here: www.ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe/flood-guides
- Know your fire risk: www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare
- Visit Council's website for the latest news and information: www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au

In an emergency

- Triple Zero:** Dial **000** for life threatening medical and emergency assistance
- SES:** Call **132 500** or visit www.ses.vic.gov.au (calls to this number are encouraged – as it alerts the SES of the scale of the emergency)
- Police:** Only in an emergency dial **000**

Accessibility

The following services can help you, or someone you know, access information during an emergency.

- To access this information in other languages, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** (freecall) and ask them to call VicEmergency Hotline **1800 226 226**.
- If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech/communication impairment contact National Relay Service on **1800 555 677** and ask them to call the VicEmergency Hotline **1800 226 226**.

Emergency Relief Centre

A big thank you to the generous support by volunteers, agencies and surrounding shires whilst the Relief Centre was open at Princes Park, Maryborough.

The Relief Centre was opened in response to the Pyrenees Shire bushfire so that those who needed to leave home had somewhere safe to go.

It is the role of Council to coordinate the Relief Centre with support from the following agencies: Red Cross, Salvation Army, Victoria Police, St John's Ambulance, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, and Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry.



THANK YOU!

Big shout out to all the emergency services volunteers who keep our community safe! Whether it be fire, flood or any emergency situation – we are grateful for all that you do.

PADDYS RANGES WARD NEWS

Talbot Town Hall
Committee of Management
Secretary Tina Fowler and
President Aileen Marshall,
with Paddys Ranges Ward
Cr Chris Meddows-Taylor and
Committee Member Kevin Marshall.



Much-loved community market re-launched

The Talbot Town Hall Community Market, which runs alongside the Talbot Farmers Market, was re-launched in February with a new name.

Managed by a passionate group of volunteers as part of the Town Hall Committee of Management, the Market, formerly known as the Talbot Town Hall Market, is now known as the Talbot Town Hall Community Market.

As a significant fundraiser for the Talbot Town Hall, the Market is returning to its strong community-based roots.

New stallholders and volunteers are always welcome – to get involved call Tina on 0461 526 865.

Like the new Facebook page – Talbot Town Hall Community Market, for updates.



Councillor Chris Meddows-Taylor Paddys Ranges Ward

Volunteering creates the rich community spirit which we enjoy, but in our busy lives it's so easy to take this for granted.

The Talbot Town Hall Community Market has been run by the Council established Talbot Town Hall Committee volunteers since 1968 and its income supports the beautiful Talbot Town Hall. After half a century some issues last year created a need for change.

What was very special is the number of volunteers, former and new, young and older, and those from Talbot and elsewhere, who came forward offering to support Committee President, Central Goldfields Shire Citizen of the Year Aileen, to ensure this wonderful market continues for decades to come.

Our hall committees create community life and happiness in small communities. Engaging community activities at Adelaide Lead and Daisy Hill have led to new volunteers supporting their communities.

An exciting community celebration is being planned at Bowenvale when the new playground is completed.



Talbot Futures

Talbot Futures Structure Plan

The plan will be submitted to Council for adoption shortly. This will guide Talbot's growth potential while protecting its heritage identity and all the other things residents love about living in Talbot.


Sewerage for Talbot

The business case to install a sewerage system in Talbot is being finalised in partnership with Central Highlands Water. It will be submitted to Council for endorsement alongside the Talbot Futures Structure Plan.

Talbot Heritage Review

Thank you to everyone who attended the Talbot Heritage review session in February (pictured above). Community ideas and insights will help the consultants create a report that will better identify places to protect and where potential growth can happen. This is the first step of a much longer process until a new heritage overlay is implemented, and you will be kept informed and have opportunity for input along the way.

For more information:

 engage.cgoldshire.vic.gov.au/talbotfutures

Congratulations and a big happy birthday to the Talbot Farmers Market on their 20th anniversary!

The infamous Talbot Farmers Market is this year celebrating two decades of supplying fresh, home-grown produce to thousands of visitors and locals.

To help mark the occasion, the Market Committee have an exciting calendar of events planned with live entertainment, historic demonstrations, dancing in the street and cooking masterclasses.

We encourage the community to join the celebrations and support the Market which is held on the third Sunday of every month.

Like the Talbot Farmers Market Facebook page for updates.



COFFEE WITH A BOSS

MARYBOROUGH CAREERS

expo

**WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH, 1 TO 2PM
MARYBOROUGH RAILWAY STATION**

**Unsure what to do when you leave school?
Looking for work or considering a career change?**

Join us at the Maryborough Careers Expo to learn about local career pathways and employment opportunities.

To help connect you to your dream career, the expo will feature interactive and engaging presentations from a diverse range of local employers and industries.

FREE ENTRY

An earlier dedicated schools session will be held for our local year 10, 11 and 12 students.

INDUSTRY OPEN HOUSE

As a follow up to the Expo, planning is underway for series of 'Industry Open House' events between 8 to 12 April. This will be an opportunity for job seekers to visit local businesses in person for a tour to learn more about the opportunities available.

For more information visit: www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/careersexpo



A LEARNING HUB FOR THE CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS

Our local business community has been working together over the past 18 months on a project to create a Learning Hub in Maryborough.

The vision is to provide residents with access to higher education without having to leave our local community. The Learning Hub would provide a safe study space and face-to-face support – essentially campus-style facilities for students who study online.

The next step is for the Learning Hub Leadership Group to prepare a grant application to the Federal Government's Regional Universities Learning Hub program which closes in July this year.

To learn more visit:

engage.cgoldshire.vic.gov.au/learninghub



Flu season has arrived

Did you know the flu vaccine is recommended for everyone?

The vaccine is free for children aged six months to five years, people with chronic medical conditions, pregnant women, and those over 65 years. If you aren't eligible for a free vaccine, the cost is \$16.10.

Dedicated flu vaccination sessions will also be offered in Talbot, Dunolly, Carisbook and Maryborough in April to July – depending on demand.

To make a booking through Council's Immunisation Service call 0428 894 724 or visit: www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/immunisation

Council to move to single-councillor wards

Central Goldfields Shire Council will move to a single-councillor ward structure for the 2024 Council Election.

The change is the result of the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) electoral structure review, which takes place every 12 years.

Currently, our municipality is divided into four wards with a total of 7 Councillors – one ward with four Councillors (Maryborough Ward) and three wards with one Councillor each (Flynn, Paddys Ranges and Tullaroop).

The electoral structure will move to a single-councillor ward structure with a total of 7 councillors across 7 wards – with one councillor per ward before the October 2024 local government general election.

The wards will be titled:

Flynn Ward, Maryborough Central Ward, Maryborough East Ward, Maryborough North Ward, Maryborough West Ward, Paddys Ranges Ward, and Tullaroop Ward.

To find out more about running for Council at the October Local Government Election visit *Become a local council candidate | Victorian Electoral Commission* (vec.vic.gov.au) and *Council Elections 2024* (localgovernment.vic.gov.au).

You can learn more about the electoral structure review here:

www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance/electoral-representation-advisory-panels-eraps

Connect with us

Customer Service

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Website


Council website


www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au

Engagement opportunities

www.engage.cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

Socials

 @centralgoldfields

 @CG_Shire

 Central Goldfields Shire Council

NRS-Friendly Hearing or Speech Impaired?

Call via the National Relay Service on 133 677

Need translation services?

Call 131 450 or visit www.tisnational.gov.au

Cover photo

Central Goldfields Shire Citizen of the Year Aileen Marshall, Young Citizen of the Year Khoa Do and Community Event of the Year Goldfields Reservoir Parkrun – represented by Belinda McKnight.

Photo credit: *The Maryborough and District Advertiser*.

Community Update magazine

Our Community Update magazine is designed to keep our community up-to-date with the latest Council news and information.

All information is correct at the time of going to print.

Join our team

Have you ever considered joining our team?

Central Goldfields Shire isn't just a great place to live – it's a fantastic part of the world to build a life.

If you are passionate about delivering great customer service and making a difference in your local community – consider a career with us!

For more information, including current job opportunities, visit:

www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/currentvacancies

ENGAGE WITH US

Have your say... We want to hear from you

Your insights help shape Council decision-making and create a Central Goldfields Shire you can be proud of.

We regularly have opportunities to provide feedback via surveys, workshops and written submissions.

Keep an eye out for opportunities to provide input into the development of the 2024/2025 Council Budget and the Princes Park Grandstand just to name a few.

To participate:

- Visit our dedicated engagement website at www.engage.cgoldshire.vic.gov.au or scan the QR code
- Call our Customer Service team on 5461 0610
- Visit our Customer Service Centre at 22 Nolan Street, Maryborough



We acknowledge and extend our appreciation for the Dja Dja Wurrung People, the Traditional Owners of the land that we are on. We pay our respects to leaders and Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Dja Dja Wurrung People.